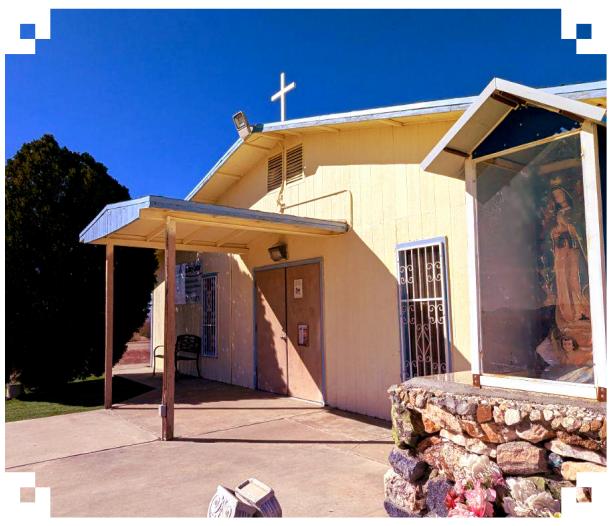


# OUR LADY OF THE DESERT



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Teléfono: (928) 767-3397

**Padre:** Rev. Chris Axline,  
Pastor

**Padre:** Rev. Johnson Vadakkumcherry,  
Vicario Parroquial

**Confesión el Sábado:**  
Con cita previa (Español y Inglés)

**Rosario el Sábado:** En la iglesia  
(privadamente) 3:20pm

**Misa el Sábado:** (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00pm  
**Rosario el Domingo:** Con las Letanías de la  
Santísima Virgen María— 9:40am  
**Misa el Domingo:** Español - 11:30am

***Liturgia en los Días de la Semana***  
**Cada Día a las Doce:** Angelus

**Lunes, Martes, Miércoles, Viernes:**  
Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am

**Jueves:** Misa 6:00pm Para Vocaciones:  
Soltero Vida Consagrada, Matrimonio,  
Sacerdocio

**Viernes:** A Las 6:00pm, Rosario Reina de la Paz  
con Adoracion

**Sábado:** Adoración a las 7:30am y a las 8am.  
Misa en honor a la Virgen María

**Rev. Chris Axline, Pastor**

**Rev. Johnson Vadakkumcherry, Parochial Vicar**

**Confession on Saturday:**

By appointment English/Spanish

**Saturday Rosary:** At the Church (privately) 3:20pm

**Saturday Mass (Vigil):** English -4:00pm

**Sunday Rosary:** With Litanies of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary—9:40am

**Sunday Mass:** Spanish - 11:30am

***Liturgy of the Weekdays***

**Every day at Noon:** The Angelus

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday:**  
Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am

**Thursday:** Mass 6:00pm **for Vocations:** Single  
consecrated Life, Matrimony, Priesthood

**Friday:** 6:00pm Rosary of Queen of Peace with Adoration

**Saturday:** Adoration at 7:30am & at 8am. The Mass in  
honor of the Virgin Mary

**SUNDAY, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



• THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD •

**THEY SAW THE  
CHILD WITH MARY,  
HIS MOTHER.**

Reflection for THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - January 04, 2026: Year A

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 04, 2026

Tracy Earl Welliver

Readings: • Isaiah 60:1-6 • Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. • Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
• Matthew 2:1-12 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010426.cfm>

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP – RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### Penances and Prayers

*God's glory, now, is kindled gentler than candlelight  
under the rafters of a barn:  
Eternal Peace is sleeping in the hay,  
And Wisdom's born in secret in a straw-roofed stable.\**

When I was younger, I wrote music to and recorded Thomas Merton's poem, "Epiphany Carol." If you have never read it, search it out on the internet. Merton's words are profound and paint a picture of the awesomeness of Jesus, the newborn King of Kings, lying in a simple straw bed. The shepherds and Wise Men are drawn to pay homage to the One who has been born above all others and brings with him hope for a broken world.

As Merton correctly points out, the gifts we are called to bring to this baby and lay at his feet are our prayers and penances, next to those gifts of worldly wealth. What is it that you have to bring to the stable on this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord? Unless those prayers and penances lead to a new way of living, our gifts will be void of meaning. What we lay before him speaks to the change in us that he has given to us by his birth. Our daily stewardship is resembled in those gifts. If we are to truly echo the kingdom of God in our lives and actions, what we ultimately offer to him is no less than our entire selves. This baby will give his entire self for us, and his work must continue through our hands and feet.

*While we unnumbered children of the wicked centuries  
Come after with our penances and prayers,  
And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay  
Beside the wise men's golden jars.\**

\*Excerpts from "Epiphany Carol" by Thomas Merton — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



### LA ORRESPONSABILIDAD DIARIA – RECONOCE A DIOS EN TUS MOMENTOS ORDINARIOS

#### Penitencias y Oraciones

*La gloria de Dios, ahora, es más suave que la luz de las velas.  
debajo de las vigas de un granero:  
La paz eterna está durmiendo en el heno  
Y la Sabiduría nace en secreto en un establo con techo de paja. \**

Cuando era más joven, escribí música y grabé el poema de Thomas Merton, "Epiphany Carol." Si nunca lo has leído, búscalo en Internet. Las palabras de Merton son profundas y pintan una imagen de la maravilla de Jesús, el recién nacido Rey de Reyes, acostado en una simple cama de paja. Los pastores y los Reyes Magos se sienten atraídos a rendir homenaje a Aquel que ha nacido por encima de todos los demás y que trae consigo esperanza para un mundo roto.

Como Merton señala correctamente, los regalos que estamos llamados a traer a este bebé y poner a sus pies son nuestras oraciones y penitencias, al lado de esos regalos de riqueza mundana. ¿Qué es lo que tienes para traer al establo en esta fiesta de la Epifanía del Señor? A menos que esas oraciones y penitencias conduzcan a una nueva forma de vida, nuestros dones no tendrán sentido. Lo que ponemos ante él habla del cambio en nosotros que nos ha dado con su nacimiento. Nuestra corresponsabilidad diaria se refleja en esos dones. Si realmente queremos hacer eco del reino de Dios en nuestras vidas y acciones, lo que finalmente le ofrecemos es nada menos que todo nuestro ser. Este bebé dará todo de sí por nosotros, y su trabajo debe continuar a través de nuestras manos y pies.

*Mientras in-numeramos niños de los siglos malvados  
Ven con nuestras penitencias y oraciones,  
Y ponlos en el heno de olor dulce  
Al lado de los frascos de oro de los Reyes Magos. \**

\* Extractos de "Epiphany Carol" de Thomas Merton

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

## Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

### Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

### Monday:

1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/  
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

### Tuesday:

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/  
Mk 6:34-44

### Wednesday:

1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/  
Mk 6:45-52

### Thursday:

1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/  
Lk 4:14-22a

### Friday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/  
Lk 5:12-16

### Saturday:

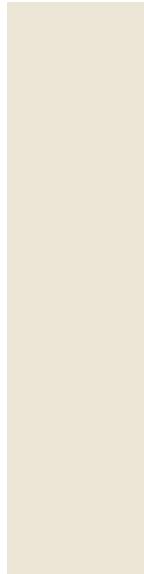
1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and  
9b/Jn 3:22-30

### Next Sunday:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/  
Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— Father John Muir

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

### Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

### Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body. (Eph 3:5-6)

### Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The journey of the Magi reflects how treacherous our Christian life on earth can be. Always, evil works against us — Satan lays traps. He sows confusion. May we, like the Magi, recognize the will of God as our guiding star.

## Observances for the week of January 4, 2026

**Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord  
**Monday:** St. John Neumann, Bishop  
**Tuesday:** St. André Bessette, Religious  
**Wednesday:** St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest  
**Next Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord



## Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of love seeks the good of the other, a reflection of the love of God who created us for this very purpose. In practicing this virtue, we express the fullness of our identities as sons and daughters of God. In true Christian love, we find freedom.

## Epiphany Blessing

Dear God,  
It was You who inspired the Magi to follow the star to find You. Inspire us to seek You, as well. Bless our homes and families this season, make them places where we can encounter You through prayer and community. Amen.

# (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase? Point to it. And go forth.

## The Stars We Follow

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak — to say, “I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough.” Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking — really, truly knew. They were seeking “the newborn king of the Jews,” yes, but did they understand who he was? *What* he was? I don’t see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don’t know how many of them there were. We don’t know their religion. We don’t know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men... who were they?

#### Answer:

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There’s a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men *magoi*. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean “magician,” but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We’re not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says “the east.” History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts “from afar” at the prompting of their astronomical calculations.

# Our Lady of the Desert and St. Mary Kingman Parish News and Events



## Señor Santo Niño Novena

**January 8th - 18th, 2026**

All parishioners are invited to join us for our annual Señor Santo Niño Novena from January 8-18th!

Who: Everybody!

What: Novena for Señor Santo Niño

When: Thursday, January 8th -  
Sunday, January 18th. 2026

Where: St. Mary Church

***See you there!***

---

Need help activating your Hallow account? Here are some tips to get you started...

A promotional image for the Hallow app. It features a blue background with a stylized illustration of a church with a red roof and a cross. The text "Pray Every Day with Hallow." is displayed in white. Below the illustration, the word "Hallow" is written in a smaller font. The overall design is clean and modern.

**1. Hallow is a free app!**

Anyone can download it, create an account, and join a parish page completely for free. This however, means when users do this they start with basic access to Hallow and its content. Tons of content is free! But some content (premium content) is still behind a paywall (the subscription the users are receiving messages for).

**2. Through your parish partnership, you are able to unlock 8 pieces of those premium contents per contract year with the goal of your parishioners engaging and praying with that content at the same time through a prayer challenge.** Think of these as take home retreats meant to draw your parish deeper in faith and bolster what is already happening at your parish in person.

**3. Parishioners are able to access Hallow premium at a huge discount through your partnership (if they so desire to have access to all content at all times) instead of waiting for those premium content to be unlocked through your partnership.** This is done by purchasing a subscription which is available for 50% off through the partnership. Instructions to redeem that are as follows:

**If you do NOT have a Hallow account yet, go to [hallow.com/parish](https://hallow.com/parish).** Then search for your parish by entering the zip code. You will be prompted to create an account and pay. After you do this, you will have a premium subscription and be joined to St. Mary in Kingman.

**If you DO have a Hallow account, go to [hallow.com/redeem](https://hallow.com/redeem).** You will be asked to put in a promo code. Use code "ExpansionSub50" (no quotes). Once you do, you will be asked to log in to your already existing account (so please use the same log-in credentials as when you created your account). The discount will then be applied and you can access all content on Hallow. Don't forget to still join your parish page if you haven't joined already!

# Religious Formation and Sacraments

## FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION



## INSCRIPCIÓN PARA LA FORMACIÓN EN LA FE



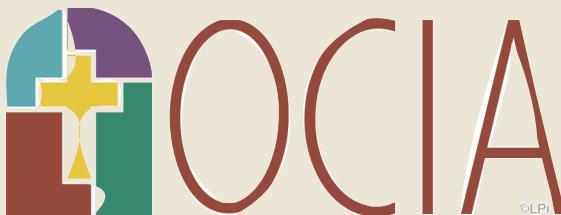
Registration for the 2025-2026 Religious Education session has ended.

Classes are held on Thursdays from 5:30-7:00pm at the St. Mary's Parish Center.

No payments will be accepted at class times. Payments can be made at the Parish Office during business hours, or online at this QR code →



We look forward to a great year with our St. Mary's families!



## OCIA Class

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults  
meets weekly on **Wednesdays at 7pm**  
in Rooms 5, 6, 7 at St. Mary's Parish Hall



BAPTISM INFORMATION  
AND REQUIREMENTS



## Baptism Information

(children ages 6 and younger)



### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD

To have your child baptized in our parish, a parent of the child to be baptized must come to the Parish Office to obtain an outline describing the required forms.

After submitting these required forms to the office, the parents and godparents will be scheduled to attend a pre-baptism class. Only after all requirements have been met can the baptism of your child be scheduled.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please call the Parish Office: (928) 377-3435.

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS

### EDUCATION

Thursdays: 5:30-7:00pm



### Early Childhood (ages 4-6):

No sacramental preparation

### Elementary Catechism, Year 1 (ages 7+):

1st Reconciliation (if baptized)

\*Unbaptized children complete two years of catechism, with Baptism being received in the second year, along with Confirmation and 1st Holy Communion

### Elementary Catechism, Year 2 (ages 8-12):

1st Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptism (if unbaptized)

### Catecismo en Español, año 1 (7+ años):

1a Reconciliación (si está bautizado)

\*Los niños no bautizados completan dos años de catecismo, recibiendo el bautismo en el segundo año, junto con la Confirmación y la Primera Comunión.

### Catecismo en Español, año 2 (8-12 años):

1a Santa Comunión, Confirmación, Bautismo (si no está bautizado)

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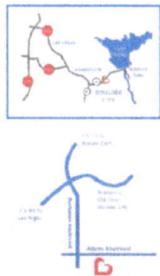


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