

# Our Lady Queen of Peace

January 2, 2022



Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc. - Photos: © PD-Wikimedia, Adoration of the Magi by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo - Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

## The Epiphany OF THE LORD

Magi from the east  
arrived in Jerusalem, saying,  
“Where is the newborn  
king of the Jews?  
We saw his star at its rising and  
have come to do him homage.”

Matthew 2:1-2

### Served by

Rev. Antonio L. Ricarte, Pastor

[frtony@olqp.org](mailto:frtony@olqp.org)

Rev. Paul C. Houllis, Parochial Vicar

[frpaul@olqp.org](mailto:frpaul@olqp.org)

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Zaccardo, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Mr. Joseph L. Mantineo, Permanent Deacon

[dcnjoe@olqp.org](mailto:dcnjoe@olqp.org)

Deacon Anthony A. Balestrieri, Deacon Emeritus

Justine Garcia, Pastoral Associate for Religious Ed.

[ReEd@olqp.org](mailto:ReEd@olqp.org)

Giovanni Longo, Director of Music

[dirmusic@olqp.org](mailto:dirmusic@olqp.org)

Christopher Innis, Principal, St. Peter Academy

Dorothy Feula and Harriet Sottile, Lay Trustees

### Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5:00 PM

Sunday - 8:00, 10:00 AM\* and  
12:00 Noon

Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM

Holy days - See Bulletin

\*Livestreamed on Facebook

### Reconciliation

Saturday - 1:00 PM or by  
appointment

### Emergency Contact

(funerals, anointings, etc.)  
(201) 845-9566 ext. 3

Baptism - Please call to arrange for your child's  
baptism soon after birth.

### RCIA

Adults desiring to be baptized, confirmed or  
become a Catholic, please contact the Parish Office

### Anointing of the Sick

Please call for a priest to schedule this Sacrament  
of healing and forgiveness for someone who is  
seriously ill or in danger of death. Do not wait  
until the sick person is unconscious.

### Matrimony

All Catholics should seek to have their marriage  
blessed by the Church so as to live in God's good  
grace and receive the Holy Eucharist. Contact a  
priest a year prior to the intended date of marriage  
to ensure proper preparation.

**Parish Center Office Hours** Monday through Thursday: 9AM - 12N / 1PM - 3PM; Friday: 9AM - 1PM

[www.olqp.org](http://www.olqp.org)

[parish@olqp.org](mailto:parish@olqp.org)

Parish Center

201-845-9566

Fax: 201-845-3742

Religious Education

201-845-9566 ext. 117

[ReEd@olqp.org](mailto:ReEd@olqp.org)

St. Peter Academy

201-261-3468

[www.spare.org](http://www.spare.org)

## ✝ Mass Intentions

January 2, 2022 to January 9, 2022

### Sunday - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD *Solemnity*

1/2 8:00 am Angelo Pagan  
 10:00 am Frank Buffa  
 12:00 noon Editha G. Cifra

### Monday - Christmas Weekday *[The Most Holy Name of Jesus]*

1/3 8:30 am Al Fierro

### Tuesday - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious *Memorial*

1/4 8:30 am Eric Hagberg

### Wednesday - Saint John Neumann, Bishop *Memorial*

1/5 8:30 am Kathleen

### Thursday - Christmas Weekday *[Saint André Bessette, Religious]*

1/6 8:30 am Lourdes Lingad (Living)

### Friday - Christmas Weekday *[Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest]*

1/7 8:30 am James Schermerhorn

### Saturday - Christmas Weekday

1/8 8:30 am Memorial Mass  
 5:00 pm Barbara Moran

### Sunday - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD *Feast*

1/9 8:00 am People of the Parish  
 10:00 am Mary Brandt  
 12:00 pm Catherine Yokaitis

## Blessing of Prayer Shawls



If you are adding someone to our Parish sick list, please consider the healing power of these beautiful shawls. They are prayed over by the Prayer Shawl Ministry and blessed by our Pastor. If you know of someone you think is in need of a Prayer Shawl, please contact the Parish Center: 201-845-9566 or email [prayershawl@olqp.org](mailto:prayershawl@olqp.org)

## January 2, 2022 - Today's Readings

**First Reading** — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The LORD shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

**Psalm** — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

**Second Reading** — The mystery has been made known that the Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

**Gospel** — Magi from the east arrived, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:1-12).

*The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



## Please Remember in Your Prayers

### Rest in Peace

Rev. Eugene Diurczak  
 Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Granato  
 Sister Charlotte Koch, FSP  
 Sister Ellen McMahon, OP

### Sick Relatives and Friends

Mary Adamo	Gardenia Hougbo	Vallie Pompilio
Cristina Aguilar	Richard Ivors	Mary Pontilla
Josefina Baldoza	Dominic Jengo	Francis Quinn
Mary Ellen Barberia	<b>Lauren Kaczynski</b>	Robert Raimo
Dcn. Anthony Balestrieri	Rosemarie Kaminski	Melissa Finck-Ruisch
Claire Borrello	Rev. Michael Kreder	Elsy Ruiz
Dorothy Brush	Alice Liso	Fran Sampson
Cardinal Burke	Diane Lohrer	Wilbert Santos
Ginny Cattaneo	Deacon Joseph Mantineo	Cindy Sommers
Carmen Cepeda	Gerry Marcincavage	Pat Sommers
Carmen Maria Colon	John McMullen	Joanne Sontag
Brian Connors	Sonia Medrano	Joseph Steiner
Joseph Cortese	Andrew J. Mendez	Carolyn Sobering
Richard DeSpagna	Frankie Monnecka	Jacqueline Sullivan
Sally DeSpagna	Deanna Mooney	Liam Justin Torres
Emily DeStefano	Jim Moran	Maria Viva
Phil Dimitri	Barbara Nelson	Mary Walker
Eileen Diverio	Gemma Olliges	Andrew Wey
Mark Diverio	Sharon Osnowitz	Julia Whitney
Mario Elia	Mike Panasuik	Joyce Wilson
Emily Ferreira	Harriet Pellicione	<b>*Names in bold are new to the list</b>
Yancey Garcia	Mia Pensari	

## Weekly Memorials

**Altar Bread, Wine and Candles**  
 in Memory of Frank Buffa  
*by Mr. & Mrs. I. Graziano and Family*

**Blessed Mother Candle**  
 for the Intentions of Lourdes and Loreal Lingad  
*by Lourdes Lingad*

**St. Joseph Candle**  
 in Memory of Jose Nunes  
*by Teresa Nunes*

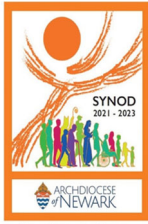
## Memorial Mass - Saturday, January 8th 8:30 am

Manuel Nicholas Acosta	Deceased Members of the
MaryAnne and Matilda Bachia	Lupetin Family
Deceased Members of the Beninca and Scuccimarri Families	William, David and Carmen Martinez
Deceased Members of the Hedrik Family	Maria and Vincenzo Napoleone
John A. Hrablook	Michael Nunes
John Jordan	Bob O'Neill
Deceased Members of the Licaisi Family	Theresa Slomback
	Josephine Soine
	Caterina and Silvio Vosilla



Please keep in your prayers all of our active military personnel here and overseas. We especially pray for Joshua Ashley, Ryan O'Connell, and John Velazquez. May the Lord protect them in their service.

## Update on the Synod



Our Parish will be participating in the Archdiocesan/Universal Church SYNOD.

What is the SYNOD?

The Synod on Synodality is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.

How will we be able to be inspired, hope, stimulate trust, bind wounds, weave deeper relationships, and learn from one another? Let your voices be heard, participate in our Listening Sessions on **Friday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, January 29th at 9:30 a.m.** More information to follow in our upcoming bulletins. For more information on the SYNOD please visit [www.rcan.org/synod2023](http://www.rcan.org/synod2023) or email us at [Justine.garcia@olqp.org](mailto:Justine.garcia@olqp.org)

## Readings for the Week

**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 72:1-4, 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, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30  
**Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

## Christmas Season Schedule

### **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – 5 pm  
Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> - 8 am, 10 am and 12 pm

## Daily Prayer for Pope Francis and Our Clergy



Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving-kindness, in the ways of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Jesus, Savior of the world, sanctify Thy priests and sacred ministers. Amen.

## The Epiphany of the Lord

“Epiphany is a Feast Day within the Church’s liturgical celebration of Christmas. In the current Western tradition, we associate it with the “Visit of the Magi,” or visitors from the East recounted in Matthew’s Gospel. (Mt 2:1-12). Epiphany is traditionally celebrated the 12th day after Christmas, (Twelfth Night), January 6th...

Epiphany takes its name from the Greek epiphania, a manifestation. Jesus, born quietly in Bethlehem’s stable, is revealed, or made manifest, as the Son of God. In the recognition of Him by the Magi, the Christ, He is revealed to the “nations.” (see, for example, Is 42:6; Is 60: 1-6; and Psalm 72:11)

The Feast Day is associated with three events in the life of Christ when His divinity shines through His humanity: the adoration of the Magi; the baptism of Christ in the Jordan (Mt 3); and the first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana, (Jn 2). The latter two of these were designated as Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, by Pope St. John Paul II in 2002. In these “Mysteries of Light,” we meditate on the revelation of Jesus as the Divine Son of the Father.

There are many traditions associated with the Epiphany. Here are three that became special to me at some time in my life.

### **The Blessing of Chalk and Doorways**

One tradition on Epiphany involves blessing chalk, that, then is used to mark the doorways of our homes with the year (2022) and the initials of the traditional names of the Three Kings:

Caspar (C)  
Melchior (M)  
Balthasar (B)

The chalk is blessed by a priest. Families can take the blessed chalk home and the “head of the house,” ideally the Dad, marks the frame with the date and initials:

**20 + C + M + B + 22**

The practice invokes a blessing on those who live in the house, and – in remembrance of the Magi - all visitors to the home.

### **Epiphany Water**

In the older traditional Latin Missal was a very lengthy prayer for the blessing of holy water on the Eve of Epiphany. The bishop, or with the Bishop’s delegation, a priest, would use the extensive litanies and prayers to set aside this water for use throughout the year. The elements of salt (to be added to the water), and the water itself, were first exorcised. Any taint of the devil was cast from them, and then they were blessed. The Rite, still used in the Byzantine Catholic Church, was carried out on the night before Epiphany, because of its association with the revelation of Jesus Christ at His baptism ...”(read the rest at [https://www.catholicaction.org/epiphany\\_traditions](https://www.catholicaction.org/epiphany_traditions))

## A Note About Our New Hymnals



In addition to many beautiful hymns, please note that our new hymnals also contain the readings for all three liturgical years A, B and C.

## Please Consider Donating Your Used Car

We have a family who is great need of a used vehicle. If you are interested in donating your used automobile, please contact the parish center.



## Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena

Wednesdays 7 pm in the Church



## 2022 Calendars



2022 calendars are now available at the doors of the Church. Thank you to Trinkka Faustini for their most generous donation of calendars this year! Every year our friends at Trinkka supply us with enough calendars for our entire parish family.

## Luz Y Vida (Light and Life)



The Luz y Vida prayer group invites the Hispanic community to hear the word of God and receive His blessings every Thursday at 7 pm in the Auditorium. If you have a questions, please call Susana - (201) 403-6319.

Él Grupo de Oración Luz y Vida . Invita a la comunidad Hispana a escuchar la Palabra de Dios y recibir sus bendiciones cada Jueves a partir de las 7pm en el Auditorio de la iglesia. Él Señor les espera con los brazos abiertos. Preguntas, (201) 403-6319.

## New Email List Sign-Up!

**Sign Up** ▶

For announcements, bulletin updates, and the latest news happening at Our Lady Queen of Peace, please sign up for our email mailing list by visiting [www.olqp.org](http://www.olqp.org)!

## Act of Contrition



O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven, and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

## Devotions Before Holy Communion

### An Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that by the words of consecration spoken during Mass, bread truly becomes the Body of Christ and wine His most Precious Blood, and that Thy Divine Son is offered to Thee upon the altar under appearances representing that separation of His Body and Blood which took place on Calvary. Therefore, do I believe with my whole heart, that this holy Victim is the same as that of the cross, whom I am about to receive, in order to unite my sacrifices to His own, by immolating myself with Him for Thy glory. Amen.

### An Act of Hope

O my God, I place all my hope in Jesus, my loving Saviour, truly present before me on the altar. He, who on the cross offered to Thee the superabundant merits of His Divine Blood, shed for our sins. Do Thou graciously accept the offering, which I now make to Thee at the hands of Thy priests, of the holy Victim who has reconciled us to Thyself, and being fully appeased by Him, grant to my soul the graces it needs in order to receive my Lord worthily and obtain through Him all the effects of Thy Fatherly goodness. Amen.

### An Act of Contrition

O my God, at the moment of receiving within myself the Divine Victim of Calvary, I confess sincerely before Thy Divine Majesty and before the whole court of heaven, that I have offended Thee by thought, word and deed. By my sins I have contributed to the death of Jesus on the cross; but Thou hast forgiven me, washing my soul in the Blood of Thy Son and clothing it with the wedding garment of Thy grace. I come, therefore, contrite and repentant, but with a heart overflowing with boundless gratitude, to the holy table which Thou hast prepared for the prodigal child, who had abandoned Thee, and whom in Thy goodness Thou wouldst nourish with Heavenly Bread. Amen.

### An Act of Love

O my God, I love Thee with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength and with no other desire than to be inseparably united to Thee. It is through Thy Divine Son that this union is about to be realized within me. In Holy Communion I long to identify myself with Him, that it will no longer be myself, but Him, who lives in me; and when I have received Jesus within myself, then I shall love and be loved by Thee in that same measure, in which I am united to Him. Hasten then, to give me Thy Divine Son, at the hands of Thy priest, that through Jesus, I may unite myself forever to Thee, O God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Journey Toward God

In our celebration of the Epiphany, two interwoven themes are present in the readings today. God is beginning something new, and God gathers all of humanity to participate. For Isaiah, God's bright light, manifested in the people of Israel, attracts and summons people from many nations to Jerusalem. In the letter to the Ephesians, God's grace makes the Gentiles co-heirs and co-partners in the gospel. Matthew tells the story of the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel through the birth of Jesus, and simultaneously leading foreigners to share in these same promises. With the birth of Jesus, God chose a particular people, in a particular time and place, to enter most directly into the human story. Today's readings teach that God did this in order to gather all people, all cultures, into unity with God. Like the magi, we are drawn into a journey toward God, becoming co-partners in God's work. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, behold I come to the Sacrament of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: I come as one infirm to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the light of everlasting brightness, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Therefore I implore the abundance of Thy measureless bounty that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to heal my infirmity, wash my uncleanness, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty and clothe my nakedness, that I may receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, with such sorrow and devotion, with such purity and faith, with such purpose and intention as may be profitable to my soul's salvation.



Grant unto me, I pray, the grace of receiving not only the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, but also the grace and power of the Sacrament. O most gracious God, grant me so to receive the Body of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He took from the Virgin Mary, as to merit to be incorporated into His mystical Body, and to be numbered amongst His members. O most loving Father, give me grace to behold forever Thy beloved Son with His face at last unveiled, whom I now purpose to receive under the sacramental veil here below. Amen.

## The 2022 Mass Book



The Church teaches us that our prayers are invaluable to the living as well as those who have died. We commend them to God's mercy when we pray for them. The living and the dead are helped not only by our daily prayers, but by the offering of Masses in their name for the benefit of their souls. Please visit the Parish Center to select your preferred dates for 2022.

## Thank You for Your Support of Our Parish During These Challenging Times

For those of you who would like to continue to give through envelopes or cash, please place it in the designated collection boxes in the church, mail your donation to the Parish Center address (410 Maywood Avenue), or hand it to Kathy or Maria at the Parish Center. Thank you for your generosity!

## Thanksgiving after Holy Communion



### Anima Christi (Soul of Christ)

SOUL of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesus, hear me.  
Within Thy Wounds hide me.  
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee.  
From the malignant enemy, defend me.  
In the hour of my death, call me,  
And bid me come to Thee.  
That with Thy saints, I may praise Thee.  
Forever and ever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, may the whole world burn with love for Thee! (x3)

## Bible Study Reboot Coming Soon!

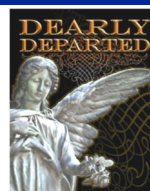
Mark your calendars for a Bible Study reboot coming soon! Please reply to Paul to the below email to get more information.

[OLQPBibleStudy@gmail.com](mailto:OLQPBibleStudy@gmail.com)



Please park in designated parking spaces only. To ensure everyone's safety, please do not park on the fire lanes by the driveways. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Prayer for Our Dearly Departed



V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.  
R. And let the perpetual light shine upon them.  
And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## Stewardship Results

	12/19/21	Weekly Goal
Offertory	5,448	5,000
Repairs	6,815	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,263</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>



**We met our Offertory and Repairs goals on 12/19. Thank you for your faithful contributions and may God reward you for your generosity!**

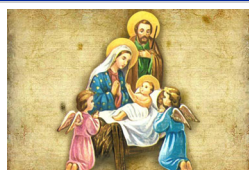
## On-Line Giving Program



Please consider participating in our on-line giving program. Registering takes just a few minutes. Please visit:

[www.olqp.org/parish-giving.html](http://www.olqp.org/parish-giving.html)  
or call 1-866-307-7140

## Treasures from Our Tradition



This week Christmas Day is observed in Russia and in much of the Orthodox world. This curious difference in schedule has a lot to do with how calendars have been

developed and changed over the years. In the year 45 B.C. Julius Ceasar gave the empire his Julian Calendar, with the winter solstice on January 6. This put an end to a system in which officials called "pontiffs" were able to tweak the calendar by adding extra days in as needed. He invented two new months at that time, December and January; and in order to correct the mess the pontiffs had made, forced a year of 445 days on the empire in what he named "The Last Year of Confusion." The new months varied in number of days according to a complex schedule, but the calendar was still off by nearly twelve minutes a year, and lost a full day every 130 years. Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1583, but not everyone appreciated his efforts. England held out for two hundred years. The year 1700 was a leap year in England, but not in France; they were eleven days apart! George Washington was really born on February 11; when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in the English colonies shortly before the Revolution, he had to move his birthday to February 22. Now the calendars are thirteen days apart, which accounts for Russia's Julian calendar Christmas. And Caesar thought he had brought confusion to an end! James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Saints and Special Observances

**Sunday:** Epiphany of the Lord;  
National Migration Week  
**Monday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus  
**Tuesday:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
**Wednesday :** St. John Neumann  
**Thursday:** St. André Bessette  
**Friday:** St. Raymond of Penyafort; First Friday  
Julian Calendar Christmas

### PRAYER OF THE WEEK

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

*At the Mass during the Day*

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### Reflection question:

What can I do this week to come to know God better?

Collect text from the English translation of *The Roman Missal*, © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Company, Inc.

### LITTLE MINUTES

Little drops of water,  
little grains of sand,  
make the mighty ocean  
and the pleasant land;  
so the little minutes,  
humble though they be,  
make the mighty ages  
of eternity.

—Julia A. Fletcher Carney

### Why should I register in the parish?

All members of the parish should be formally registered as members of the parish. You must be formally registered if you wish to arrange a Baptism, a Confirmation, or a Wedding in the parish Church or wish to register in the Parish School or the Religious Education (CCD) Program. You must also be a registered member of the parish for at least three months before you can obtain a Sponsor Certificate or schedule a Baptism or a Wedding.

**Please call the Parish Center at 201-845-9566 to register or visit our home page at [www.olqp.org](http://www.olqp.org), scroll down to the middle of the page and click where it states "Parish Registration" to download the form. Thank you and welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace!**



THEY OPENED  
THEIR TREASURES  
AND OFFERED HIM GIFTS  
OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE,  
AND MYRRH.

MATTHEW 2:11

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022

## GIFTS

Gifts are everywhere at this time of year. Christmas gifts. Hostess gifts. Hidden gifts. Wrong-size gifts. Unexpected gifts. Unwanted gifts. Unreciprocated gifts. And in today's readings we hear about even more gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But we know intuitively (or, one hopes, eventually!) that gifts are symbols of something much deeper and less tangible. The gift of God's Son is, of course, at the heart of our Christmas festivities. We are not—and never—alone, because “God is with us.” (Thus the name Emmanuel.) But wait, that's not all! The liturgy reminds us over and over that this is a “holy exchange.” As Christ came to share in our humanity, we come to share in his divinity. The full significance of that mystery is a gift we have yet to unwrap completely.

## WHAT KIND OF GOD IS THIS?

Christmas is a season of abundance. Christmas cookies and carols. Parties and presents. Mangers and mistletoe. The same is true in our church. Within a period of nine days we celebrate Christmas, the Holy Family, Mary Mother of God, and today the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Truly an embarrassment of liturgical riches. (And we are not finished yet!)

However, for many people, Christmas is already over. Trees litter the curbside or make their way back to the attic. Presents are put away or returned. We prepare to go back to school or work. But as Christians we have barely dipped our toes into the profound mystery of a God who walks among us. What kind of a God is this whose kingdom is not limited by our borders, fears, expectations, or imaginations? Today's psalm reminds us, “Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.” Diversity and inclusion are not new to God's agenda.

## TRADITIONS UNCOVER MEANING

Two traditional rituals, one liturgical and one domestic, help underline the meaning of the Epiphany. The Proclamation of the Date of Easter is an option for inclusion at Mass today. This text which formally announces the dates of the upcoming major feast days reminds us that Christmas is best honored in the context of the whole story of salvation that culminates in Easter. Or as writer Nathan Mitchell reflects, the wood of the crib becomes the wood of the cross.

The second tradition connected to Epiphany is the blessing of the door of one's home with chalk. It includes a prayer for protection for all who enter therein. One explanation of this tradition ties it to the Passover in the Book of Exodus: the marking of the doorposts with the blood of the lamb kept the Israelites safe. This tradition too offers a connection between Christmas and Easter.

As we continue to mine the richness of this season we hum along with the angels, *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## TODAY'S 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