



# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021

*Behold, the star that they had seen  
at its rising preceded them,  
until it came and stopped over  
the place where the child was.*

*Matthew 2:9*

## IN A NUTSHELL

When I tell a story, I have a friend who prefers the “nutshell version” first. After that she’ll listen to me ramble, but she wants to know the main point right off the bat. When reading and hearing Sunday scriptures one may often find the nutshell by looking at the responsorial psalm or the Gospel acclamation. From Psalm 72 we hear “Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.” The verse for the Gospel acclamation is Matthew 2:2 “We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” As a weary world, we need to see the light, to follow with our actions and our words. This is the same hope that is echoed in Isaiah 60:2 “See, darkness covers the earth, / and thick clouds cover the peoples; / but upon you the LORD shines, / and over you appears his glory.” Don’t give up, friends. You must shine!

## SEARCHING

In Matthew’s Gospel today we see two extremely different perspectives, two different reasons for searching for Jesus. In some ways, this resembles the polarization of our nation in today’s time. What one group sees as good for the nation, those with opposing views think will wreck the country. The Magi were astrologers who saw a vision in the sky and were trying to find a way to follow it and discover the new king of the Jews. Herod heard about this king, and his reaction was dark and negative. He saw the birth of such a king as a threat to his power as the Roman leader of the country and wanted the Magi to pass on to him what they knew about this Christ child. Similarly, on a more personal level, we can either feel threatened or excited by changes that may come, depending on our perspective.

## GIVING HOMAGE

In our minds, it is easy to mix up bits and pieces from Luke’s account of the shepherds coming to see Jesus in the stable and the story of the magi. Clearly, it has taken the magi time to get here, and the reading speaks of them coming to the house where the star led them. Nevertheless, they “prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures . . .”

How do we do this? Do we continue looking for Jesus, even if it takes a while and he is not where we expect to see him? Are we paying attention to the signs showing us the way? What gifts do we have with which to pay him homage? After seeing him, the Magi were warned in a dream not to go back the way they came. But if we have seen the Christ child, how can we go back to where we were? We must continue to respond to God’s call to move forward and grow in our lives. We must seek the right and just path and turn away from the “Herods” and inherent evils in our life.

Nutshell: Seek God. Pay homage. Amen.

## 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

# ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: See Mass Schedule & Intentions section of bulletin

CONFESSIONS: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

### EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**PROMISE FULFILLED:** Isaiah reminds the people of God that the land shall be restored to their possession, they shall rejoice to see their people return from the bondage of exile, and they shall be a light to the nations. In other words, through the people of Israel, the Savior shall come to all people who seek God with a sincere heart. This brings joy and the radiance of God's glory to all the world and to all people everywhere. Through the fidelity of the people of God, and through God's fidelity to them, all people shall become God's children and rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

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**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS** see bulletin cover.

### **SCRIPTURE 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 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6;  
Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

### **MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (1/4-1/10)**

Monday-Saturday Morning: NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK

Saturday 4:30 PM: For the Parish

Sunday 8:30 AM: Oscar Blandford

10:30 AM: Edd Alford

2:00 PM (Spanish Mass): Presider's Intention

## LITURGICAL ROLES

Weekday Lectors & Weekday Sacristans are not needed, no weekday masses this week.

Weekend Liturgical Roles for the month have been sent via email.

**St. D Prayer List:** Coronavirus Pandemic, Healthcare Workers, U.S. Military, David Smith, Perry Carrico, Fabian Cambron, Lauraetta Smith, Tommy Bartley, Johnathan Bradshaw, Kenny Peterson, Doris Purdom, Megan O'Bryan, Stephanie Bueschel Warner, Kim Pinkston Spalding, Ted McNeal, Edwin Thompson, Jim Smith, Steve Smith, Beth Hellman, Dennis Rust, Margaret Faye Martin, Corbin Noel, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. *Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569.*

**FEAST OF FAITH:** The Liturgy of Emmanuel -The assembly has gathered from near and far, on foot, by bus, by car, by subway, singly and by twos and threes: single people, couples, families. Now that movement is ritualized and made visible in the liturgy's entrance procession. We are not alone on this journey; Christ is with us. The procession is led by the cross, with the image of Christ upon it. Candles, signs of a living presence, are carried around the cross. Candles also accompany the Book of the Gospels, another sign of Emmanuel, God-with-us. The priest presider is likewise a sign of Christ's presence in our assembly; he will act in persona Christi, in the person of Christ, who presides at every Eucharist. As the procession begins, we stand and sing together in our first act as a community. The joining of our voices begins to turn many into one. The songs we sing range from ancient chants to contemporary hymns, but they have the same purpose, to foster our unity and turn our thoughts to the mysteries we gather to celebrate. We may feel that we can't sing well, but "Christ always invites us to enter into song, to rise above our own preoccupations, and to give our entire selves to the hymn of his Paschal Sacrifice" (USCCB, Sing to the Lord, 14). —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**Tithing Contributions** for this past week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$14,273.00

## MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

**School News:** The governor recently amended his plan for schools to resume in-person instruction on January 4. The plan requires public schools to continue NTI until January 11; however, the requirement does not include private schools. We will return to in-person instruction as planned on January 4, but we will not have bus transportation until January 11. Be safe and healthy, and we will see you soon!

**Wednesday Masses as of January:** Archbishop Kurtz has appointed Fr. Pepper as administrator pro-tempore of St. John the Apostle, in Brandenburg, KY. His assignment is expected to last about six months. Starting in January, there will be no weekday Mass offered up on Wednesdays, until further notice. Please continue to keep Fr. Pepper in your prayers as he continues to do the Lord's work in his retirement years.

**Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction:** **There will be no Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction on Thursday of this week.** However, it will be held as normal on Sundays from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (Adoration at 4:00 p.m., Vespers at 5:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Music &/or Liturgical Prayer at 6:00 p.m., Closing with Benediction at 7:00 p.m.)

**Masses:** Call ahead (**Monday through Thursday**) if you plan to attend Mass this coming weekend, space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Please contact us in one of two ways, by calling 859-336-3569 or by email at [stdom@bellsouth.net](mailto:stdom@bellsouth.net). Seating charts are finalized at 2 p.m. on Thursdays.

**Possibly interested in joining the Catholic Church?** Contact Fr. David at 336-3569.

**2021 Collection for Opportunities for Life:** The four Kentucky dioceses will take up a collection on, **January 16-17**, the Sunday in the week of the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade (January 22), as part of the Kentucky bishops' unified message advocating for a pro-life culture in our Commonwealth. In the Archdiocese of Louisville, funds from this collection will provide resources to pregnant women and new families in crisis, including material assistance and grant support for programming at Catholic Charities and other organizations providing support to pregnant women and families.

**The St. D Newspaper Recycling** drive is held the second Monday of the month, weather permitting. If you live within city limits & participate in our newspaper drive, please have your papers by the curb **no later than 9 A.M.** This will help accommodate the volunteers who need to do pick-up in the morning hours. Pick-up times vary from driver to driver. There is no pick-up during the months of July & December.

**IGA Receipts, BOXTOPS for Educations & Campbell's labels** are all fundraisers for our school. We ask that you continually save them and drop them in the wooden boxes in the back of church.