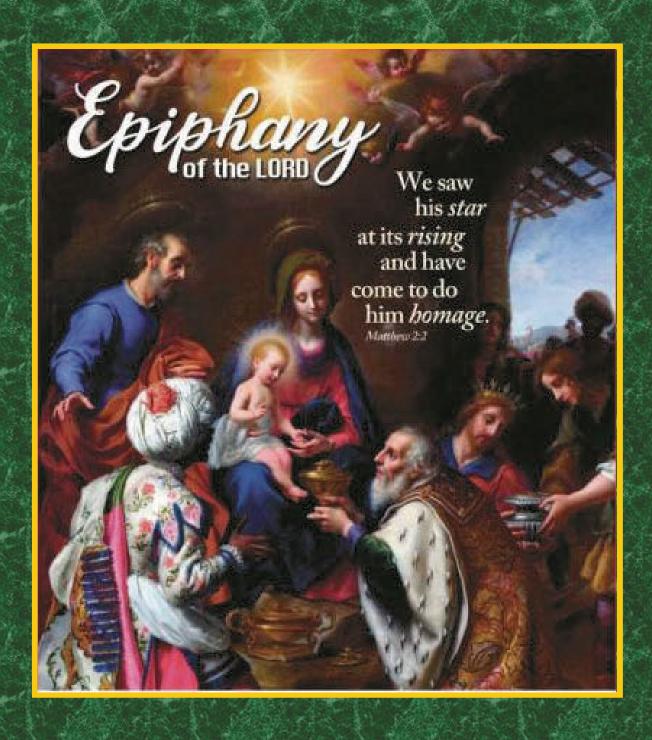
SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

JANUARY 05, 2025



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Rev. Michael Wakefield, Pastor Ms. Lisa Sanders, Office Ms. Tess Lumague, Office

Religious Education

Mr. Jack Lathuras - JLathuras@sfdsparish.com

Little Church/Sunday Pre-School

Ms. Rachel Munyaradzi - RMunyaradzi@sfdsparish.com

St. Francis de Sales School & Pre-School

13368 Valleyheart Drive South, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 Telephone: (818) 784-9573 - FAX: (818) 784-9649 Ms. Myra Goethals, School Principal Ms. Jerri Ford, Pre-School Director

SFDS PARISH REGISTRATION FORM

New parishioners registration or to update your existing information, please complete this form & place it directly in the Collection Basket, hand-it to an Usher, mail-it to or drop-it off at the Parish Center.

You may also call with updates, so we may keep your records current.

Or you may Register on-line at our website: **sfdsparish.com**

Personalized envelopes will be mailed to you from the printing company in about 8 to 12 weeks, after your registration has been processed.

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If you use the envelopes in the pews, please make sure to write your envelope number (if known), your first & last name.

Thank you.



St. Francis de Sales ~ Pray for Us

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday, January 05, 2025
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

MASS Times

Daily: 8:15 AM, Monday thru Friday

Saturday: 8:15 AM and

5:00 PM → Sunday Anticipated Mass

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

Confessions: 4:00 PM on Saturdays

Baptisms and Weddings:

Please make arrangements by calling the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY January 04, 2025

8:15 AM For the Intentions of Diana Chavando

and Iosefo Chavando

5:00 PM For the Intentions of Leticia & Carlos Romero

SUNDAY January 05, 2025

8:00 AM For the Intentions of Sofie & Rocky Lample 10:00 AM In Memory of Zoltan & 2 Brothers Horosny

12:00 PM In Memory of Dr. Lawrence Guziel

MONDAY January 06, 2025

8:15 AM For the Intentions of St. Expedite

TUESDAY January 07, 2025

8:15 AM In Memory of Alan Pando

WEDNESDAY January 08, 2025

8:15 AM In Memory of Marjorie Mitchell

THURSDAY January 09, 2025

8:15 AM In Memory of Ann Meyers

FRIDAY January 10, 2025

8:15 AM In Memory of Vincent Dudkowski

SATURDAY January 11, 2025

8:15 AM In Memory of Ann Meyers 5:00 PM In Memory of Mickelina Bufalini



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially:

Olga Oshiro, Maria Berreondo, Tanya Valazguez, Catherine Crews, Deana Domsten, Jennifer Ormsby, Mary Ann Blees, Kerry Wyse, Louise Brancale, Charlie Ho, Johnny Lopez, Jackie Ward-Smith, Ann Murcia, Rosemary Schreiber, Deb Marsdale, Linda Lucas, Vickie Council, Joan Gore, Victoria Taylor, William Moulprie, Rose Bann, James Armstrong, Sr., Catherine Mwamba, Kathy Polk, Pat Yahnke, Linda Mauleon, Sandra Mitchell, Sharon Crigler, Samiee Nejad, Mary Bailey, Eric Duran, Tina McConnell, Patrick McDougall, Tish Mc Daniel, Nina Barnes, Jana Rattigan, Audrey Rattigan, Jezebel Todd, Lauren Britton, Jen Welch, Bob Dixon, Tony Guadagno, John Proscetto, Dexter Gray, Annie Salazar, Jim Earnhart, Joseph Stockert, Rose Ang, Sheila van der Veen, Leonila Siga-an, Jonathan Jacobs, Sammi Petri, Brett Good, Georgina Nicoletti, Lindsay Dean, Saverio Barbieri, Davis Weld, Kevin Hogan, Catherine Sweeney, Jeffrey Paynton, Tommy Fitzpatrick, Doris McNary, Marilyn Sidley, Karin Quinn Forward, John Knight, Susan Maria, Kevin Patrick, Sean Kevin, Bruce Johnson, Virginia Johnson, Fran Hurton, Arnaud Gregori, Mary Henriksen, Dominic Mantei, Edith Reeves, Stefanie Gabler, Jake Patterson, Rose Rios, Anita & Austen Canzano, David Bell, Marie Schewe, Tom & Judy King, Jonathan Masse, Steve Dee, Darya Williams, Gus Calderon, Robert Willing, Josue Meza, Thomas Oliver, Philip Graber, and Blake Cline

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, 01/05/25 **The Epiphany of the Lord**Monday, 01/06/25 St. Andrè Bessette, Religious
Tuesday, 01/07/25 St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

CONTRIBUTIONS to the CHURCH

Weekend: 12/20 - 12/22/2024

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or E-mail: norma@pregnanthelp.org

9 Things You Need to Know About Epiphany

The *Three Magi* followed the star and found Baby Jesus. What are we to make of this mysterious event?

On January 6 (or in the United States, the first Sunday after January 1), the Church celebrates the Feast of "*Epiphany*"

This feast commemorates the mysterious visit of the *Magis* to the Baby Jesus.

Who were the magi? What led them to visit Jesus? And what lessons should we — and shouldn't we — learn from this incident?

Here are Nine Things you should know...

1. What does the word "Epiphany" mean?

"Epiphany" means "manifestation".

It comes from Greek roots that mean "to show, to display" (phainein) and "on, to" (epi-).

An epiphany is thus a time when something is shown, displayed, or manifested to an audience.

2. What is the feast of the Epiphany about?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great Feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East, together with His Baptism in the Jordan and the Wedding Feast at Cana in Galilee.

In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation.

The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the King of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the Star of David, the one who will be king of the nations.

Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament.

The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel"), [CCC 528].

3. When is Epiphany celebrated?

This varies from country to country.

In some countries, Epiphany is a Holy Day of Obligation (Canon Can. 1246 §1). Where that is the case, it is celebrated on January 6. In the United States, Epiphany is not a Holy Day of Obligation, its celebration and is transferred to the first Sunday after January 1.

4. Why is Epiphany connected with Jan. 6? Pope Benedict explains:

It is hard to say how far back the beginnings of the Christmas feast go. It assumed its definitive form in the third century.

At about the same time, the Feast of the Epiphany emerged in the East on January 6 and the Feast of Christmas in the West on December 25. The two feasts had different emphases because of the different religious and cultural contexts in which they arose, but essentially their meaning was the same: The Celebration of the Birth of Christ as the dawning of the new light, the true sun, of history. [The Spirit of the Liturgy, pp. 106-107]

Eventually, however, the emphasis on January 6 shifted — particularly in the west (and in some parts of the east) — to reflect manifestations of Christ beside that which occurred at His Birth (namely, those that occurred at the coming of the Magi, at His Baptism, and at the Wedding Feast of Cana).

5. Who were the Magi? Pope Benedict explains:

In the relevant sources, the concept of Magi (mágoi) encompasses a wide range of meanings, from the wholly positive to the wholly negative.

To the first of the four principal meanings, Magi are understood to be members of the Persian priestly caste.

In Hellenistic culture, they were regarded as "rulers of a distinctive religion," but at the same time their religious ideas were thought to be "strongly influenced by philosophy," so that the Greek philosophers have often been portrayed as their pupils, (cf. Delling, "mágos", p. 356)

No doubt this view contains some not easily definable element of truth: After all, Aristotle himself spoke of the philosophical work of the Magi, (cf. ibid., p. 357).

The other meanings listed by Gerhard Delling are as follows: Possessors and users of supernatural knowledge and ability, magicians, and finally deceivers and seducers. . . .

For the Magi in Matthew 2, it is the first of the four meanings that applies, at least in a broad sense. Even if they were not exactly members of the Persian priesthood, they were nevertheless custodians of religious and philosophical knowledge that had developed in that area and continued to be cultivated there, [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives]. (Continued)

9 Things You Need to Know About Epiphany (Continuation)

6. Why did the magi come to see Jesus?

They apparently had material of a prophetic nature (some have suggested that they got it from an eastern Jewish community, such as the one in Babylon) that allowed them to identify the birth of the new "king of the Jews" astronomically.

They may have been especially motivated to come see *this* king of the Jews since there was an expectation at the time that a universal ruler would shortly come from Israel. Pope Benedict explains:

We know from [the Roman historians] Tacitus and Suetonius that speculation was rife at the time that the ruler of the world would emerge from Judah — an expectation that [the Jewish historian] Flavius Josephus applied to [the Roman emperor] Vespasian, consequently finding his way into the latter's favor (cf. De Bello Judaico iii, 399–408) [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives].

7. Why did the magi go to Herod?

Probably, because they assumed the newborn king would be a son of Herod — the current "king of the Jews." Pope Benedict comments: It is quite natural that their search for the newborn king of the Jews should take them to Israel's royal city and to the king's palace. That, surely, is where the future king must have been born [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives]. This, of course, played into Herod's paranoia for his throne and led to the slaughter of the innocents.

8. What was the star?

It is hard to know. Some question whether the star was a natural phenomenon at all, pointing out that it seems to lead the magi to Jerusalem, disappear, and then reappear and hover over the house in Bethlehem.

But this isn't what Matthew says. He does not say that the star led them to Jerusalem. They merely report that they had seen the new king's star "in the east" (Matthew 2:2; that is, back in their homeland), which is why they came to Jerusalem.

What he does say is:

When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was [Matthew 2:9].

This does not necessarily mean that the star appeared to move in the sky in a way that stars don't ordinarily.

Departing from Jerusalem at night, they may have noted on the short (6 mile) trip to Bethlehem that the star was in front of them in the sky — a coincidence arranged by divine providence.

Then, when they got to the house, they noticed it was directly over the house — again, a coincidence arranged by divine providence but not necessarily an unusual motion for a star.

Thus, the question of whether it could have been a natural phenomenon remains. Pope Benedict remarks:

Nevertheless, the question whether or not, this was an astronomically identifiable and classifiable celestial apparition was not going to go away. It would be wrong to dismiss it *a priori* on account of the theological character of the story.

With the emergence of modern astronomy, developed by believing Christians, the question of this star has been revisited [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives].

Various proposals have been made, including for rare astronomical phenomena like the conjunction of certain planets in certain constellations, or supernovas. Which of these, if any, might have been the Bethlehem Star depends on precisely *when* Jesus was born, which is too complex of a discussion for this post.

9. Does this mean astrology is okay?

No. As the Catechism explains:

All forms of divination are to be rejected: Recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to "unveil" the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology . . . contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone [CCC 2116]. God may have arranged for certain signs to attend the birth of his Son, but this is the opposite of what astrology involves.

Pope Benedict explains:

The Fathers have emphasized a further aspect. Gregory Nazianzen says that at the very moment when the Magi adored Jesus, astrology came to an end, as the stars from then on traced the orbit determined by Christ (cf. Poem. Dogm. V 55–64: PG 37, 428–429).

In the ancient world, the heavenly bodies were regarded as divine powers, determining men's fate. The planets bear the names of deities. According to the concept prevailing at the time, they somehow ruled over the world, and man had to try to appease these powers.

Biblical monotheism soon brought about a clear demythologization: with marvelous sobriety, the creation account describes the sun and the moon—the great divinities of the pagan world—as lights that God placed in the sky alongside the entire firmament of stars (cf. Gen 1:16f). On entering the Gentile world, the Christian faith had to grapple once again with the question of the astral divinities. Hence in the letters he wrote from prison to the Ephesians and the Colossians, Paul emphasizes that the Risen Christ has conquered all the powers and forces in the heavens, and that He reigns over the entire universe.

The story of the Wise Men's Star makes a similar point: It is not the star that determines the child's destiny, it is the child that directs the star [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives].

Jimmy Akin, National Catholic Register January 3, 2013

Confirmation for Adults — Preparation Sessions

Are you 18 years or over, baptized and received your First Holy Communion, but not yet received Confirmation? Now is the time to prepare for your Confirmation this Spring.

Our Preparation Sessions begins on Monday, Jan. 6th & run for 10-consecutive Monday evenings, at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center.

Please call the Parish Center (818) 784-0105 or E-mail me mwakefield@sfdsparish.com and let me know you will join.

Men of Exodus 90

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"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery". (Galatians 5:1)

It is normal for men to be distracted, addicted, and enslaved by so many things today. Alcohol. Pornography. Social media. Sports. Gambling. Work. Comparison. Achievement. Wealth. Legacy. It is so normal, in fact, that society's stereotypes of men are often associated with the very idols that plague them.

What is uncommon in our time is men who are free. A free man is not a perfect man but one who remembers who he is: A son of God whom God has called forth for love. And the free man knows how much more he can become by the power of grace unfolding in his life over time.

Through contemplative prayer, men open up to a vulnerable relationship with God. Through asceticism, men grow in the power to say "no" to the common things of the world that hold them back. Through fraternity, men have the essential support, encouragement, and mercy of other men striving after the same uncommon ideals.

The freedom of the uncommon man, the Exodus man, is not for its own sake. The world defines freedom as the ability to do whatever you want, whenever you want, with whomever you want. True freedom is for commitment, sacrifice, and love. Like Jesus on the Cross, the free man takes up his life and then lays it down for others. What is returned to him is a life of meaning, integration, and eternal satisfaction. It is for this reason that God brought forth Exodus to serve men today.

Exodus 90 begins on January 20th

We will hold an Informational Meeting on Thursday, January 9th at 7:00 PM , Parish Center located at 13360 Valleyheart Drive, Sherman Oaks. For more information, reach out to either:

Andy Wright (andy.c.wright@me.com) or Brian Campain (briancampain@gmail.com) or Miguel Diaz (mickd70@yahoo.com)

Jubilee Year 2025

December 24, 2024 to January 6, 2026

Pope Francis describes his hopes for the Jubilee Year 2025 (the 2,025th Anniversary of the Incarnation of Our Lord) as an "Event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church."

Pope Francis stated in his February, 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Other Holy Doors will be opened at the Rome Basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

Here in Los Angeles, we will begin our local observance of this year of hope with the ritual opening of the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels on December 29, the Feast of the Holy Family.

OneLife LA Walk with Us! Saturday, January 18, 2025

The mission of OneLife LA is to unite communities and inspire positive action through an annual event that promotes the beauty and dignity of every human life from conception to natural death.

In 2015, OneLife LA began in Los Angeles as a one-day event meant to catalyze a movement of love and mercy in our city and our entire community. Over the years, tens of thousands of people have gathered in downtown LA to witness to the beauty and dignity of every human life. OneLife LA partners with many Southern California-based service organizations that provide life-affirming support to pregnant women, assist immigrants and refugees, the homeless, trafficking survivors, the elderly, the disabled and the dying and help foster children find forever homes. This commitment to service ensures that participants view this event not only as a destination but as a call to build-up their communities. This family-friendly event begins with a solidarity-building walk through downtown Los Angeles, ending with a festival, live music, food trucks, entertainment and inspiring speakers. Our speakers share powerful stories of what they have overcome in life and how they use that struggle to help others. These stories inspire and mobilize thousands of people to do good work every day to help those in need.

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