



And 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

ANTON JANKOVY / SHUTTERSTOCK

Your Light has Come!

Many traditional religions have in some way ascribed divinity to light—either they claim that light emanates from a god or that light itself is divine. This is probably because light is a primal necessity, essential for life. We find such thinking in today's readings.

"Your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1) says today's Old Testament reading. This is Isaiah's glorious message for the people of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed; the people scattered; the future looked bleak. This message must have filled the people with hope. Not only does light bring them hope, but the light actually streams from their God. It is the Lord who shines, bestowing his radiance upon them. This light is filled with promise.

The story of the Magi is not meant primarily for children who delight in moving figurines of the three kings a bit closer to the stable every day. This is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment. The strangers, ignorant of ancient Israel's traditions, were able to read the signs of the times. Because of their openness, they found the Light of the World. The learned men of Jerusalem were well-schooled in the ancient promises, for they knew where to send the strangers. However, they felt threatened by these signs. They closed their minds and hearts to any omens that might imperil their positions of privilege. They had a chance to benefit from this new light, but they turned their backs on it.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * *What is your attitude toward new ways of understanding your faith?*
- * *Pray that all people will be open to read the signs of the times.*



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

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Missions: Des Moines, Folsom, Moses, NENM Detention Facility

www.sfxclayton.org

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jason Pettigrew
Business Manager/Finance: Theresa Gard
Secretary: Laekyn Wagner
Religious Education: Rose Ramirez
Adult Religious Education: Rev. Jason Pettigrew

Parish Office Hours (CCD Building)

Tuesday: 9:00AM-5:00PM
Thurs, 8:00AM -1:00PM
Closed on Mon, Wed, Fri

Sacrament of Baptism

(Classes and Parents Interview)
Contact Pastor

Sacrament of Marriage

(Classes and Couple Interview)
Contact Fr. Jason -6 Months Prior

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

By appointment with the Pastor

DECEMBER 26TH

St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

Weekend Mass: Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 10:30am

Daily Mass: Wednesday: 12:10pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 5:30pm Friday:12:10pm

Confession: Saturday 4:00-5:00pm OR By Appointment

Adoration: Tuesday & Thursday 6pm to 7 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00am (Oct 1 - May 31)

Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt

Honor of Our Blessed Mother Mass 1st Saturday of the Month:10:30am

St. Joseph, Folsom

Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00 am (Jun 1 - Sept 30)

Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt

NENM Detention Facility, Clayton (For Residents/Staff)

1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday's Mass 2:00PM

Confession: Sunday 1:30pm—2:00

Nursing Home, Clayton

Every 4th Sunday 1:30 PM

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*This is my body, which will be given up for you.  
 This is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.  
 It will be shed for you & for all... so that sins may be forgiven.  
 Do this in memory of me.*

**Masses will be offered December 2021**

+ All the Departed Parishioner's & Family Members  
 SI All the Sponsors, Benefactors & Supporters of SFX Clayton  
 SI Good Health & Well Being of all Parishioners & Families

- at, Jan. 1 +Abie Montoya by Lupe Montoya  
 +Deceased of the Zurick Family by Rosa Lee Britt  
 +Jim Sintas by Pete & Teri Mansfield
- an, Jan 2. +Deceased of the Britt Family by Rosa Lee Britt  
 +Deceased of the Rael Family by Joe & Rosie DeHerrera  
 +Deceased of the DeHerrera Family by Joe & Rosie DeHerrera
- at, Jan. 8 +Deceased of the Wyley Family by Rosa Lee Britt  
 +Rebecca Stewart by Ross & Shelley Carter  
 +Clifford Copeland by Ross & Shelley Carter
- an, Jan 9. +Deceased of the Carter Family by Rosa Lee Britt  
 +Ronnie J. Rael by Deano & Danielle Arellano  
 +Leopolo Ontiveros by Mae & Rudy Trujillo
- at, Jan 15. +Rebecca Stewart by Ross & Shelley Carter  
 +Leoray Vigil by Ross & Shelley Carter  
 +Michael Raines by Ross & Shelley Carter
- an, Jan. 16 +Ronnie J. Rael by Deano & Danielle Arellano  
 +Inez Romero by Dolores Montoya  
 +Pula & Petra Valdez by Dolores Montoya
- ed, Jan. 19 +Elida Valdez by Rose Cardenas

The Priest who has been appointed administrator to SFX for the next 6 months:  
 Father Joseph Baltz

Office Hours have changed starting Dec. 16th:

Tuesdays: 9am to 5pm  
 Thursdays: 8am to 1 pm

**Christmas Poinsettias In Memory of:**  
 Phyllis Podzemny  
 Deceased of the Podzemny Family  
 Bill Crisp  
 Deceased Family Members  
 Jonathan Fernandez  
 Jose Valdez  
 Elida Valdez  
 Beto Valdez

**Life: An "Epiphany" of God**

"Life is always a good. ... Why is life a good? This question is found everywhere in the Bible, and from the very first pages it receives a powerful and amazing answer. The life which God gives man is quite different from the life of all other living creatures, inasmuch as man, although formed from the dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7, 3:19; Job 34:15; Ps 103:14; 104:29), is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory (cf. Gen 1:26-27; Ps 8:6). This is what Saint Irenaeus of Lyons wanted to emphasize in his celebrated definition: 'Man, living man, is the glory of God'. Man has been given a sublime dignity, based on the intimate bond which unites him to his Creator: in man there shines forth a reflection of God himself" (St. John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, n. 34.)

**Weekly Collections Summary: Dec. 2021**

|                | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| December 25-26 |            |             |
| December 18-19 | \$5,269.00 | \$ 338.00   |
| December 11-12 | \$8,284.00 | \$ 290.00   |
| December 4-5   | \$2,026.00 | \$ 561.85   |

**Thank you so much for your generosity!**

*Please visit the following very informative websites:*

- [www.archdiocesesantafe.org](http://www.archdiocesesantafe.org)
- [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)
- [v2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://v2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)
- [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- [www.catholic culture.org](http://www.catholic culture.org)

**Lectors for Masses**

- Sat, Jan. 8– Sammie Wood
- Sun, Jan 9– Sandy Vaughn
- Sat, Jan 15– Pat Crisp
- Sun, Jan 16– Johnna & Tailyn Kimble

# Dear Padre,

## How is Twelfth Night related to Christmas?

**T**welfth Night is another name for the Epiphany, which traditionally occurred on January 6, the twelfth day after Christmas. Since the 1980s, United States Catholics have celebrated the Epiphany on the first Sunday after January 1, which is why we're celebrating it today instead of Thursday.

Liturgical celebrations are distinguished as solemnities, feasts, and memorials according to their importance. The two greatest solemnities, Easter and Christmas, continue for an octave (eight days). Since the octave of Christmas runs from December 25 through January 1 (the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God), it's not affected by the transfer of the Epiphany celebration.

Christmas is the great gift-giving day in the United States. In other cultures—for example, the Latino community—the anticipation and excitement of gift-giving is saved for Epiphany, the day the Magi brought their gifts to Jesus.

We often complain about how frenzied Christmas is—how much shopping, wrapping, and baking there is to do. But Christmas should be a time of worship and acknowledging the gift God gave us by sending his Son.

Epiphany, on the other hand, is made for celebration, gift-giving, going all out. Perhaps someday we can return to the traditions of Epiphany and restore Christmas as a day of rejoicing and worship.

*The Redemptorists*  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



A woman holds a figurine of the Christ Child during Mass on the feast of the Epiphany.

CHRISTOPHER REUTERS

## Calendar

### Monday

JANUARY 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 3:22—4:6

Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

### Tuesday

JANUARY 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,  
Religious

1 Jn 4:7–10

Mk 6:34–44

### Wednesday

JANUARY 5

St. John Neumann,  
Bishop

1 Jn 4:11–18

Mk 6:45–52

### Thursday

JANUARY 6

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:19—5:4

Lk 4:14–22a

### Friday

JANUARY 7

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:5–13

Lk 5:12–16

### Saturday

JANUARY 8

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:14–21

Jn 3:22–30

### Sunday

JANUARY 9

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1–4, 6–7

or Is 40:1–5, 9–11

Acts 10:34–38

or Ti 2:11–14; 3:4–7

Lk 3:15–16, 21–22



### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*[The Lord] is our light: a light that does not dazzle but accompanies and bestows a unique joy. This light is for everyone, and it calls each one of us....At the beginning of each day we can welcome this invitation: arise, shine, and follow today—among the many shooting stars in the world—the bright star of Jesus!*

ANGELUS ON EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

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