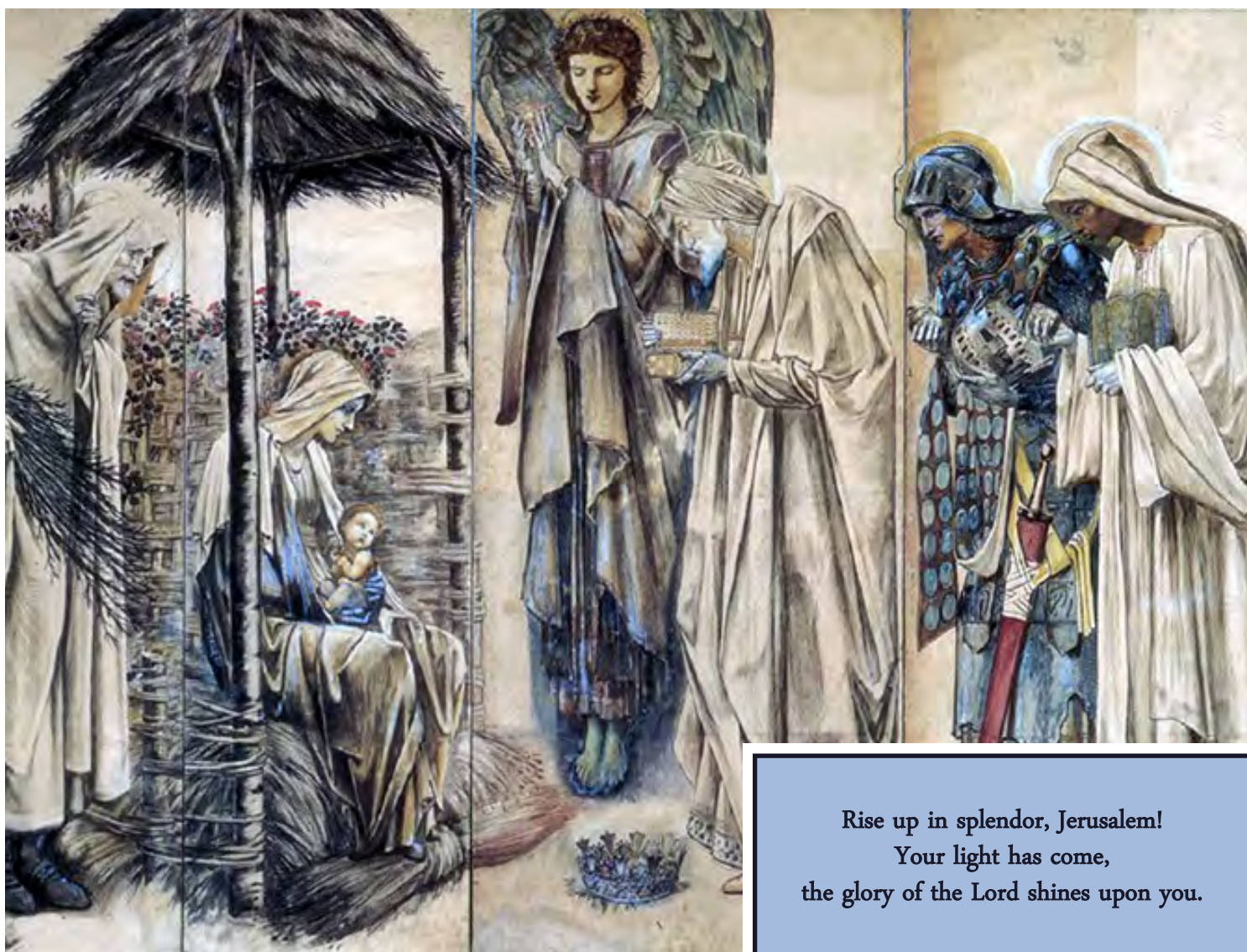




TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

January 2, 2022 | VOLUME 51 NUMBER 1 | The Epiphany of the Lord



Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.



In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is



tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

***Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see:
heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man,
one whom the whole universe cannot contain
now enclosed in a tiny body.
As they look, they believe and do not question,
as their symbolic gifts bear witness:
incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.***
—St. Peter Chrysologus

Cover art is a cartoon by Morris & Co. for the Adoration of the Magi tapestry by Edward Burne-Jones

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JOIN US FOR PART 2 (Part 1 is not a prerequisite!)

Thursdays @ 7-8 pm
January 27 thru April 7
Activity Center

OR

Fridays @ 9:30-10:30 am
January 28 thru April 8
Mother Teresa Room

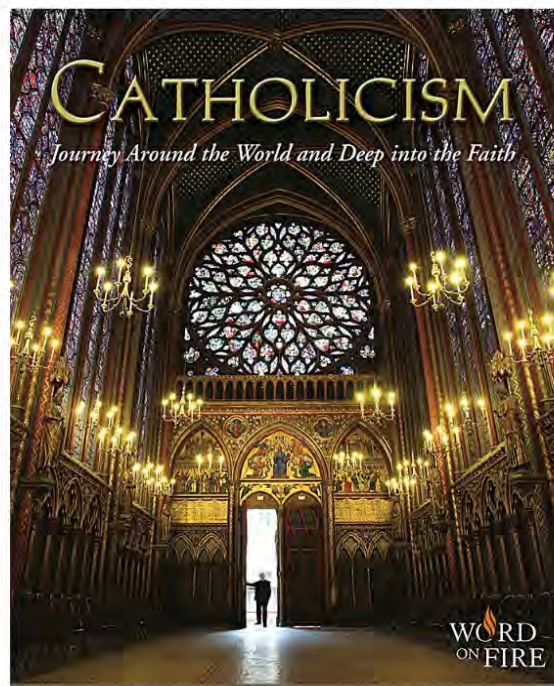
Each one hour session of this study is being offered twice weekly on Thursday evenings and Friday mornings beginning January 27. Babysitting will be provided if requested during registration. The registration fee is \$25 per individual/couple to cover the cost of the workbook, if needed. (If the registration fee presents a burden, please contact Sister Janelle Sevier in the church office.)

Registration is through our online giving platform, FaithDirect, but you do not need a FaithDirect account to register. Simply choose the number of participants under SELECT REGISTRATION, and proceed. Be sure to note if babysitting is needed.

REGISTER HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ec5zh>

- Registration closes January 24. If babysitting is needed, please register by January 17. -

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Kayla Pollet at pollet.kayla@gmail.com, Mrs. Joyce Jackson at joycetwjackson@gmail.com, or Sister Janelle Sevier at srjanelle@stmbr.org.



FLOWER DONATIONS

The sanctuary flowers on the altar are donated in memory of Jane Gelpi this weekend, Jan. 1-2, as requested by George Gelpi.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Jan. 4 - 6 p.m.: Ruby Hickman, Clarence Lorio, Jane Gelpi, Janet Landry

Thursday, Jan. 6 - 8:45 a.m.: Anna Nguyen

Saturday, Jan. 8 - 4:30 p.m.: Joyce Graham

Sunday, Jan. 9 - 8 a.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **10 a.m.:** Thomas Webre; **5 p.m.:** Lucille Tuminello, Martha Kim Anh

PRAYER LINE

For serious or urgent prayer requests, call Sharon Hebert at 225-978-1246 (leave your name and phone number if there is no answer), or send a request by email to prayerline@stmbr.org.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers the following seriously ill persons:
Annagrace Fremin, Ruth Fleming, Hudson Hargroder

To add your name, or the name of a loved one if you have their permission, contact Elise Moran at morane@stmbr.org, or call 225.275.3940.

Celebrate the Epiphany by chalking your door

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, Theophany, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of “chalking the doors.” The formula for the ritual is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home or down the side of the door:

20 + C + M + B + 22

The letters have two meanings:

- They represent the initials of the names given to the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, & Balthazar—who came to visit Jesus in His first home.
- They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.”

The “+” signs represent the cross. And the numbers at the beginning and the end mark the year – 2022. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.



Epiphany House Blessing

Use this house blessing on January 2 (when the church in North America celebrates the Feast of Epiphany this year) or on January 6 the traditional day of celebrating Epiphany.

All: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Leader: May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Leader: God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

The following is written in chalk above the door or along the side of the door: **20 + C + M + B + 22**

At this time, go to each room of the home and have a different family member sprinkle Holy Water in the room as each prayer is said and all respond Amen.

Living Room: Jesus, you are the Resurrection and the Life. Bless this room, we pray

Kitchen: Jesus, you give us our daily bread. Bless this room, we pray.

Dining Room: Jesus, bring us to the feast of heaven. Bless this room, we pray.

Bedrooms: Jesus, stay with us when evening comes. Bless this room, we pray.

Bathroom: Jesus, you cleanse us with living waters. Bless this room, we pray.

Return to the front door together.

All: Our Father, Who Art in Heaven ...

Sprinkle all who are present with Holy Water as the following is prayed:

Leader: Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.



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Pope Francis
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Like the Magi, may we also journey and be attentive, untiring and courageous on the path to find the invisible God who was born among us.

**Make 2022
YOUR YEAR!**

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