

The Baptism of the Lord - January 8th

Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He passes through the Jordan's waters in order to lead a new exodus, the opening up of the promised land of heaven.

Jesus is the chosen servant, anointed with the Spirit to make things right on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to confirm Him as "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations, the One long expected in Israel, "anointed...with the Holy Spirit and power."

Here the sacrament of Christian Baptism is instituted, different and greater than the baptism of John. Immediately after coming out of the water, the Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove. Another sacrament is now instituted by Christ, that of Confirmation. As the Spirit descends upon Jesus, the Father announces from heaven that this is His beloved Son, a revelation of the Holy Trinity, one God in three persons.

Jesus is the Word made flesh, full of the Spirit, and savior of Israel from the moment of His conception. But on this day, the Spirit anoints His human nature in a new way, empowering and equipping Him for His mission to destroy the oppressive powers of sin, Satan, and death, and to lead His people into freedom. He is anointed or "christened", not just as saviour-king, but as perfect prophet who speaks God's final word, and perfect priest who offers the perfect sacrifice taking away all sin.

We receive the Spirit in Baptism and receive Christ bodily in the Eucharist. At Confirmation, we receive our mission and the power to carry it out. It is about sharing in Christ's anointing to transform the world. That is why we are called "Christians" or anointed ones.

(excerpt: salvationhistory.com)
(excerpt: catholicmom.com/mdambrosio)

Kids Column

Matt.2:1-12

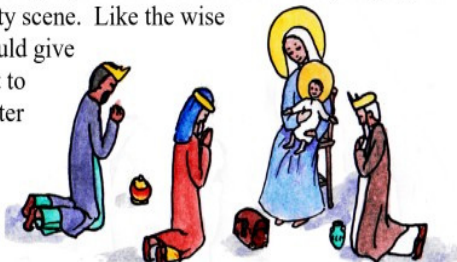
The Magi Come to Worship Jesus



Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, which is when the Magi, or wise men, of the East came to find and worship Baby Jesus. They travelled for many weeks across harsh country to find the new King, bringing their best treasures to give to Him.

Where did these men find the baby King? Not in Jerusalem in the palace, with riches and servants! They found Him in a little town, in a house with just His mother, Mary. But they still knew Who the Baby was, so they bowed down to Him and gave Him their treasures.

The wise men teach us that we can honour God in all sorts of places. Jesus is there when you help ordinary people and poor people. He is honoured when you pray at a little nativity scene. Like the wise men, we should give our very best to Jesus no matter where He is.



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SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Baptisms are usually celebrated on the fourth Sunday of every month. Please contact the Parish Office at least **6 weeks** before the date.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Couples should contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at least **6 months** before the desired date.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Intentions must be booked at least by the Wednesday, one week before the desired date.

Synod 2021-2023: Communion/Participation/Mission



Epiphany of the Lord - 7th Jan 2024 - Year B

The Newborn King.

Today the child born on Christmas is revealed to be the long-awaited king of the Jews. As the priests and scribes interpret the prophecies in the Gospel, He is the ruler expected from the line of King David, whose greatness is to reach to the ends of the earth.

Jesus is found with His mother, as David's son, Solomon, was enthroned alongside his Queen Mother. The magi come to pay Him tribute, as once kings and queens came to Solomon. His coming evokes promises that extend back to Israel's beginnings.

Centuries before, an evil king seeking to destroy Moses and the Israelites had summoned Balaam, who came from the East with two servants. But Balaam refused to curse Israel, and instead prophesied that a star and royal staff would arise out of Israel and be exalted above all the nations. This is the star the three magi follow, and like Balaam, they too refuse to be tangled in an evil king's scheme. Their pilgrimage is a sign that the prophecies in the First Reading and Psalm are being fulfilled. They come from afar, guided by God's light and bearing the wealth of nations, to praise Israel's God.

We celebrate today our own entrance into the family of God, and the fulfillment of God's plan that all nations be united with Israel as co-heirs to His Fatherly blessings, as Paul reveals in the Epistle. We too must be guided by the root of David, the bright morning star, and the light of the world.

As the magi adored Him in the manger, let us renew our vow to serve Him, placing our gifts - our intentions and talents - on the altar in this Eucharist. We must offer to Him our very lives in thanksgiving. No lesser gift will suffice for this newborn King.

(excerpt: stpaulcentre.com)

St. Joseph the Worker Parish
Gros Islet, Grande Riviere & Monchy

CONFESSIONS
Every Saturday

9.00 - 10.00a.m
&
by appointment

Parish Priests: Msgr. Michel Francis, Fr. Joseph X. Savarimuthu
Deacons: Rev. Anthony Louis, Rev. David Popo
P.O Box Choc 8192, Castries LC02 801, Saint Lucia
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Facebook: facebook.com/stjosephtheworkerparish

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading

Is.60:1-6

Second Reading

Eph.3:2-3,5-6

Gospel

Matt.2:1-12

MASS TIMES

Morning Prayers:
5:45a.m.



MONDAY: GROS ISLET

Mass: 6:00 a.m.
12:30 p.m.



TUESDAY: GROS ISLET

6:00 a.m.



WEDNESDAY

6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.

Gros Islet

6:00 p.m. **G/Riviere**



THURSDAY

6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.:

Gros Islet

6:00 p.m.: **Monchy**



FRIDAY

6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.:

Gros Islet



SATURDAY

6:30 a.m./6:00 p. m.:

Gros Islet



SUNDAY

7:30 a.m.:

GROS ISLET/G. RIVIERE

10:00 a.m.:

Gros Islet/Monchy



HOLIDAY

Variable



The Blessing of Homes on Epiphany.

The blessing of homes on Epiphany is a very old Catholic custom, and Catholics are encouraged to perform this rite every year.

When the Wise men or Magi became an important focus in the celebration of the Epiphany, the blessing of homes was a natural conclusion: the Wise Men came to bring gifts to honor the King of Kings, but when they entered the home at Bethlehem, they were blessed by Him whom they came to bless. We, too, are always blessed by those whom we go to bless - to give is to receive.

The Church teaches that a “temple” is not only a building in which we worship, but that *we* are temples of the Holy Spirit, that the Body of Christ is not only that of which we partake at the Divine Liturgy, but that *we* are the Body of Christ. And just as the Gifts of the Eucharist are treated with reverence and kept in sanctified vessels, so should every Christian’s life be full of reverence and sanctity even outside the physical walls of the church.

The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. And just as a Church and sacred vessels, once sanctified and set aside for sacred use, can no longer be used for anything profane, in the same way a Christian washed in baptismal waters, and his home, and all his works, can no longer be the dwelling of sin and the works of satan, but only and always, the temple of the Holy Spirit.

The annual blessing of homes is not as elaborate as the blessing of a new dwelling, but it should not be overlooked, for it is a way that the grace of God is extended to rid a home of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!

(excerpt: frsergei.wordpress.com)



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Iris Macauldy
Patsy Crafton
Martha Mason
Teresa Huntley

DECEASED

Cecil Graham
Andrew Inglis
Kirby Gaspard
Dorothy Daniel
Marie M. Charles
Ferdinand Gomez
Elizabeth Clerville

WEEKDAY READINGS



MONDAY

Is.55:1-11
Mk.1:7-11



TUESDAY

1Sam.1:9-20
Mk.1:21-28



WEDNESDAY

1Sam.3:1-10,19-20
Mk.1:29-39



THURSDAY

1Sam.4:1-11
Mk.1:40-45



FRIDAY

1Sam.8:4-7,10-22
Mk.2:1-12



SATURDAY

1Sam.9:1-4,17-19,
10:1
Mk.2:13-17



MASS INTENTIONS

GROS ISLET

CLERGY / RELIGIOUS

INTENTIONS

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD -YEAR B

Sat Jan 6 - 6:00 p.m.

ALL KINGS WILL BOW

Thks: The Destang family
Guid: Augusta Toussaint
Int: Perlin Verdant & family

Sun Jan 7 - 7:30 a.m.
Epiphany of the Lord

DOWN TO HIM AND ALL

MISSA PRO POPULO

10:00 a.m.

NATIONS WILL SERVE

Thks: Edith Eudoxie
IHO Holy Spirit: Calixte George Jr.
Guid & Protec: Gernell Michaud

Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.

HIM.

B'day: Juliet Joseph
Thks: Catherine Augustin & family

Monchy - 10:00 a.m.

PSALM 72:11

B'day: Agatha Charles
Health & Grace: Teresa Huntley

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS

Mon Jan 8 - 6:00 a.m.
Baptism of the Lord

Fr. Albert Smith
Mother Rosaria Joseph
Sr. Christine Alphonse

Thks: Bernadette Pamphile & family

12:30 p.m.

IHO Holy Spirit: Calixte George Jr.

Tues Jan 9 - 6:00 a.m.

Fr. Amalraj
Fr. Cezar Herrera
Sr. Giovanna Mabunda

B'day: Michael Auguste
Holy Spirit: Anthony Robinson

Wed Jan 10 - 6:00 a.m.

Fr. Joseph Xavier
Rev. Andrew Edward
Sr. Ramona George

Thks: Stennett Bent & family

12:30 p.m.

Dc'd: Jacinta Clement, Jeannette Knight

Grande Riviere - 6:00 p.m.

Parishioners

Thu Jan 11- 6:00 a.m.

Fr. Barnabas Iorgilim
Sr. Benedicta Chanda
Sr. Petronilla Banda

Dc'd: Etheline Lawrence

12:30 p.m.

B'day: Zahra La Force
Sp. Int.: Renoir d' Auvergne

Fri Jan 12- 6:00 a.m.

Fr. Festus Iwuagwu
Rev. Wilfred Harris
Rev. Marcellus Serieux

Dc'd: Matthew Pamphile

12:30 p.m.

Dc'd: Marie Madeleine Charles

Sat Jan 13 - 6.30 a.m.
BVM

Rev. Madison Stanislaus
Rev. Vincent Norbert
Rev. Anthony Pierre

Dc'd: Cecil Graham, Winston Taylor
Charmaine Blanchard- Johnson