



## The Feast of the Epiphany

January 6, which is 12 days after Christmas in the Gregorian calendar, marks not only the end of the Christmas holidays but also the start of the Carnival season, which climaxes with Mardi Gras. In some European countries, such as the Czech Republic and Slovakia, children dress as the three kings and visit houses. In their roles as the kings, or wise men, they sing about the Jesus' birth and pay homage to the "king of kings". They are rewarded with praise and cookies.

*Día de los Reyes Magos* is the Latin American celebration of Epiphany. In many Latin American countries, it is the three wise men and not Santa Claus who bring gifts for children. Children write letters to the wise men telling them how good they were and what gifts they want. In France *Le Jour des Rois* (the Day of Kings), sometimes called the *Fête des Rois*, is celebrated with parties for children and adults. The *galette des rois*, or "cake of kings", highlights these celebrations. This cake is round and flat, cut in the pantry, covered with a white napkin and carried into a dining room.

Children in Spain fill their shoes with straw or grain for the three kings' horses to eat and place them on balconies or by the front door on Epiphany Eve. The next day they find cookies, sweets or gifts in their place. The "three kings" make an entry in many cities in Spain on Epiphany Eve, accompanied by military bands and drummers in medieval dress.

Epiphany is commonly known as Twelfth Night, Twelfth Day, Three Kings' Day, or the Feast of Epiphany. It means "manifestation" or "showing forth". It is also called Theophany ("manifestation of God"), especially by Eastern Christians. Epiphany refers not only to the day itself but to the church season that follows it – a season that has a varied length because it ends when Lent begins, and this depends on the date of Easter.

It commemorates the first two occasions on which Jesus' divinity, according to Christian belief, was manifested: when the three kings (also known as wise men or Magi) visited infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and when John the Baptist baptized him in the River Jordan. The Roman Catholic and Protestant churches emphasize the visit of the Magi when they celebrate the Epiphany. The Eastern Orthodox churches focus on Jesus' baptism.

Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts. It was celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was established. Like other Christian seasons, the church appropriated Epiphany from an old pagan festival. As early as 1996 AD, the Egyptians celebrated the winter solstice (which then occurred on January 6) with a tribute to Aeon, the Virgin. It is important to note that the holiday was established prior to the Gregorian calendar's introduction.

## Symbols

Various paintings, artworks and sketches show the three wise men and Jesus. Some paintings artworks show the three wise men on the way to Bethlehem or adoring baby Jesus. The kings are important because their visit illustrates that Jesus was the king of all kings who came for the Jews and the Gentiles.

The star that guides the wise men to Christ also symbolizes Epiphany, as well as the three gifts they gave to Jesus:

- Gold (fit for a king).
- Frankincense (used to worship at a temple).
- Myrrh (used for embalming, as well as a salve for irritations such as diaper rash).

Many Orthodox churches consider Jesus' baptism to be the first step towards the crucifixion. The liturgical color for the Epiphany season is white.

## Public life

Epiphany is a public holiday in countries such as Austria, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland, Ethiopia (but on different date that varies annually), parts of Germany, Greece, Italy, Slovakia, Spain, and Uruguay. It is not a public holiday in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States (except the US Virgin Islands where it is a public holiday).

*O star of wonder, star of light, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.*



Because of timing conflicts between our actually taking up collections and the printer's holiday production schedule with regard to deadlines we had to forego until now the printing of Money Matters for the following dates:

### MONEY MATTERS:

Third Sunday of Advent, (December 16, 2012)

185 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 1,715.10 of which \$ 133.00 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	<b>190</b>	# Used	89	# Unused	101
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Fourth Sunday of Advent, (December 23, 2012)

196 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 2,603.50 of which \$ 186.00 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	<b>190</b>	# Used	95	# Unused	95
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The Nativity of the Lord, (December 25, 2012)

337 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 4,652.53 of which \$ 521.53 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	<b>190</b>	# Used	93	# Unused	97
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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, (December 30, 2012)

179 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 2,378.00 of which \$ 149.00 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	<b>190</b>	# Used	67	# Unused	123
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Total Christmas Envelope contribution through the month of December = \$6,932.53.

Total Christmas Decoration contributions (Wreaths, Flowers, Fir Tree, Nativity Scene, etc.) to date = \$1,423.00

Money Matters for The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (January 1, 2013) along with the Epiphany (January 5, 2013) will be available in the January 13, 2013 bulletin.

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2 Prize = 32" Insignia Flat Screen HDTV LED

**\$10.00 per chance**

**(Only 300 tickets printed)**

Drawing, Friday, February 1, 2013

6:30 PM OLF Rectory Front Porch

(Winners notified by phone)

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Please Print Clearly

Name:

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Phone #:

Second Phone #:

Seller:

Printed on backside of buyers portion (below perforation) of ticket

Winners need not be present at drawing  
Winners notified by phone from the drawing  
Drawing on Feb. 1, 2013 at 6:30PM  
Winners must claim prize by Feb. 28, 2013

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political events for the next five years!

***KNOW and TEACH the FAITH:*** To receive a partial indulgence, you have to recite the prayer or do the act of charity assigned. You have to be in the state of grace at least by the completion of the prescribed work. The rule says "at the completion" because often part of the prescribed work is going to confession, and you might not be in the state of grace before you do that. The other thing required is having a general intention to gain the indulgence. If you perform the required act but don't want to gain the indulgence, obviously you won't gain it.

The requirements for a plenary indulgence are tougher than for a partial. After all, a plenary indulgence removes all the temporal punishment due for the sins committed up to that time.

(If you sin later, of course, the temporal punishment connected with the new sins isn't covered by the earlier plenary indulgence, but, at least the punishment for the old sins isn't revived.)

"To acquire a plenary indulgence," says the Enchiridion [the official book explaining all this], "it is necessary to:

1. Perform the work to which the indulgence is attached
2. Receive sacramental confession, (Reconciliation)
3. Receive Eucharistic Communion, and pray for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff.
4. It is further required that all attachment to sin, even venial sin, be absent."

## THE TOUGHEST REQUIREMENT

The greatest hurdle is the last. Making a good confession is not particularly difficult, and going to Communion and praying for the Pope's intentions are easier still. It's being free from all attachment to sin that's hard and it's quite possible that even evidently good people, who seek plenary indulgences regularly, never, in their whole lives, obtain one, because they are unwilling to relinquish their favorite *little* sins.

There is an account of St. Philip Neri, who died in 1595, preaching a jubilee indulgence in a crowded church. A revelation was given to him that only two people in the packed church were actually getting the plenary indulgence, an old char-woman and the Saint himself. Not exactly encouraging, huh? But don't worry. If you aren't perfectly disposed and can't get the plenary indulgence, you'll at least come away with a partial.

It should be pointed out that the first three conditions may be fulfilled several days before or after doing the prescribed work, through receiving Communion and praying for the Pope are usually done the same day the work is performed.

By the way, the standard prayers for the Pope are one Our Father and one Creed, though you're at liberty to substitute other prayers.



**Mon. 01/07**     *A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer*  
*Feast*     Saint Raymond of Penyafort, priest  
 8:00 AM Mass     Marcella Ianniello, *Genevieve Musto*  
**Tues. 01/08**     *A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases*  
*Feast*     Christmas Weekday  
 8:00 AM Mass     Laura Itle, *Jones Family*  
**Wed. 01/09**     *A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis ?*  
*Feast*     Christmas Weekday  
 8:00 AM Mass     Denise Keagy, *Bill and Carol Adams*  
**Thur. 01/10**     *A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders*  
*Feast*     Christmas Weekday  
 8:00 AM Mass     M/M Mathias Law, *Catarina Wong*  
**Fri. 01/11**     *A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders*  
*Feast*     Christmas Weekday  
 8:00 AM Mass     Austin Hallinan, *Richard and Cecelia Haines*  
**Sat. 01/12**     *A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes*  
*Feast*     The Baptism of the Lord  
 4:30 PM Mass     Sally Colledge, *Husband Pete*  
**Sun. 01/13**     *A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions*  
*Feast*     The Baptism of the Lord  
 9:00 AM Mass     Clementine Kawtoski, *M/M Stephen Flanagan*  
 11:00 AM Mass     Liv/Dec Members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish

**Lord  
 Jesus  
 Christ  
 Son  
 Of  
 God  
 Have  
 Mercy  
 On  
 Me  
 A  
 Sinner**

**Happy Birthday:**

01/03     Kevin Hallinan     Louise Marshman  
            Josephine Smith  
 01/05     Jim Byrne     Chris Galant  
            Ellen Kelly  
 01/06     Paul Kowalski

**Additional Birthdays:**

01/13     Elizabeth Knott  
            Bryan Starr  
 01/14     Millie Maucieri  
            Mark Tomlinson

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

*We apologize for missing above Birthdays in previous bul.*     01/13     Tom and Connie Andros

01/08     Jennifer Adams  
 01/09     Tom Smith  
 01/11     Kayla Conrad  
 01/12     Tom Hofer  
            Avery Wallace

Remember: There is a plenary indulgence attached to the saying of (any) five decades of the Most Holy Rosary in a church or chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is present. All other conditions must be met in order to gain the plenary indulgence. See page two of the insert for the full list of the conditions.

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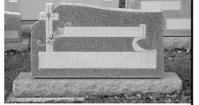
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