



**Saints Peter and Paul Chapel**  
A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA  
**808 N. Mason Road**  
**Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141-6306**  
**(314) 968.7800**

***January 2023 Parish Bulletin***

Parish Web Site: [www.sspp-eccusa.org](http://www.sspp-eccusa.org) or [www.peterandpaulchapel.org](http://www.peterandpaulchapel.org)

Parish Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA](http://www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA)

National Church Web Site: [www.ecc-usa.org](http://www.ecc-usa.org)

National Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/eccusa2001>

**Mass Schedule**

**All In-Person Worship Services are at 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted**

January 1, 2023: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 8, 2023: The Epiphany of the Lord

January 15, 2023: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22, 2023: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 29, 2023: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Pastoral Staff:**

**Pastor:** +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, [pastor@sspp-eccusa.org](mailto:pastor@sspp-eccusa.org)

### **Prayer Intentions**

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass or, if you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact the pastor.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

### **Scripture Reflections**

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

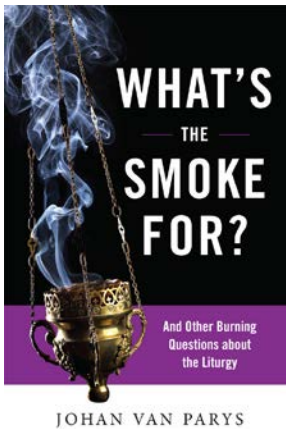
**January 1, 2023 – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God:** “God sent his Son, born of a woman,” proclaims St. Paul. This is the mystery we celebrate today: Mary’s role in our redemption. While contemplating this awesome reality, we prepare to begin a new year, strengthened by the blessing from the Book of Numbers. O Mary, we place this year under your protection and guidance. (Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21)

**January 8, 2023 – The Epiphany of the Lord:** Here comes everyone...it’s the Catholic Church. Today’s passages from Isaiah and Matthew foreshadow the reality proclaimed in the selection from Ephesians: The Church, firmly rooted in the history of ancient Israel, is for all people. We want to remember this in our daily lives and try to let Christ shine through us. (Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12)

**January 15, 2023 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time:** “I saw the Spirit come down...and remain upon him,” proclaims the Baptist in today’s Gospel. Holy Spirit, we ask you to remain with us, too – we who are *called to be holy*, as St. Paul reminds us. We want to be a light to others, like the figure Isaiah described as God’s servant, whom the early Christians identified with Jesus. (Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34)

**January 22, 2023 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time:** This Sunday’s first reading and Gospel focus on how God brings light to his people. In the Gospel, this light may be identified with the *kingdom of heaven*, present in the person, words, and actions of Jesus. We see the rivalries that Paul deplores as a regression – a return to darkness. Lord, help us to bring peace, not division to our homes and workplaces. (Isaiah 8:23-9:3, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23)

**January 29, 2023 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time:** “Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth,” cries Zechariah. “God chose the lowly,” adds St. Paul. “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” proclaims Jesus. This Sunday’s readings exalt the *anawim*, the poor and lowly of the Lord, who “do no wrong and speak no lies.” Jesus, help us to measure up to your standards! (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12a)



**Dear Johan,**

When did we start referring to Three Kings' Day as Epiphany? I prefer Three Kings' Day. It's easier and it tells us what it is.

### ***Gentle Reader-***

Three Kings' Day may be easier but that does not make it correct. Let me reverse the question. When did we start referring to Epiphany as Three Kings' Day?

Today the Christmas season is punctuated by a number of liturgical celebrations, in chronological succession:

- The feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's, unless January 1 falls on a Sunday when it is celebrated on December 30;
- The solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God on January 1;
- The solemnity of the Epiphany, though originally celebrated on January 6, now mostly observed on the Sunday between January 2 and 8;
- The feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany, unless Epiphany falls on January 7 or 8 when the feast of the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated the next day.

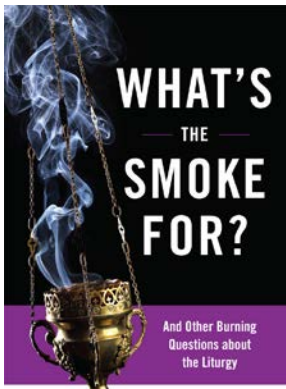
The most ancient of all these is the solemnity of the Epiphany with written evidence dating back to the end of the second century. By contrast the earliest known reference to the celebration of Christmas on December 25 is no older than 354 AD.

The word epiphany is the English transliteration of the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning appearance, revelation, and manifestation.

The feast of the Epiphany is thus the feast of the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God. It was also known as the theophany, *theophaneia* in Greek, meaning the revelation or appearance of God.

The original feast of the Epiphany celebrated the four major epiphanic moments in the life of Jesus all bundled in one:

- The first epiphany is the announcement to the shepherds, which we now celebrate on Christmas.
- The second is the revelation of Jesus as God to the magi, which is currently celebrated on Epiphany in the churches of the West. Thus, your title of Three Kings' Day for this feast.
- The third is the revelation of Jesus as God during his baptism, which is now celebrated on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.



JOHAN VAN PARYS

- The fourth major revelation is Jesus' first miracle during the wedding feast at Cana when he changed water into wine. Though not accorded its own feast, the reading recounting this event is now read on the Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord during Year C, thus in close proximity to the other three celebrations.

The main theological reason why these epiphanic moments are now spread out over several celebrations is due to the importance of each one of them in its own right. The goal of each celebration is twofold: first, we celebrate each epiphany so we come to know God better, and second, we celebrate each epiphany so we may in turn lead lives that reveal God to the world.

Oh, and by the way, there is absolutely no evidence that the magi or wise men were kings. They were more likely astrologers.

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**Pastor's Corner**

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., Pastor

**It's "Tax Time" Again...** Parishioner donation statements will be mailed shortly after the first of the year. Thank you to all who continued to contribute to the church during the year. We are grateful for your generosity.

**Sympathies:** The parish extends its sympathies to the family of Dorothy B. Whitteaker who passed away on December 10, 2022. Her funeral service was held on December 13, 2022 at Schrader Funeral Home, Ballwin, Missouri. She was buried at Bethel United Methodist Cemetery in Pond, Missouri. +Fr. Bob officiated the services.