

# MOST HOLY REDEEMER

## *Parish*



**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
January 7, 2024

**Worship Hours**

Monday - Friday Daily Mass: 8:00am

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am & 6:30pm

Holy Days: 8:00am and 7:00pm

**Reconciliation**

Saturday: 3:45pm to 4:30pm

**Baptism & Marriages**

Please call the parish office  
for an appointment.

For marriages please call the parish  
office six months in advance.

**Our Mission at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church**

Most Holy Redeemer Parish is a Roman Catholic Christian Community. The parish draws people from isolation to community, from searching to awakening, from indifference to concern, from selfishness to meaningful service, from fear in the midst of adversity to faith and hope in God.

The community of Most Holy Redeemer shares God's compassionate love with all people. The parish offers a spiritual home for senior citizens and youth; single people and families; those who are straight, gay, lesbian, and transgender; the healthy and the sick, particularly persons with HIV.

As a parish community, we celebrate God's loving presence in our lives. In worship and sacrament, especially the Eucharist, we are nurtured and challenged to extend God's kingdom of justice, truth, love and peace by growing in the spirit of Jesus, the Most Holy Redeemer.

*God's Inclusive Love Proclaimed Here!*



**MOST HOLY REDEEMER  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
100 Diamond Street  
San Francisco, California  
Phone (415) 863-6259  
[www.mhr.org](http://www.mhr.org)

### **Pastor**

**Fr. Matt Link, C.P.P.S.**  
[frmatt@mhr.org](mailto:frmatt@mhr.org)

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

**Ty Henderson**, Director of Music  
[ty@mhr.org](mailto:ty@mhr.org)

### **PARISH OFFICE**

**Michael Poma**, Business Manager  
[mpoma@mhr.org](mailto:mpoma@mhr.org)  
**Cristy Torres**, Administrative Assistant  
[office@mhr.org](mailto:office@mhr.org)

### **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Michael Kirkland  
Richard Levy  
Trudy Miller  
Cyndy Zimmer  
Shaan Bijwadia  
Marnie Pira

### **FINANCE COUNCIL**

Marc Colelli, Chair  
Steve Adams  
Micaela Connery  
Stephen McCarthy  
John Solaegui  
Diane Trewin

### **LITURGY COMMITTEE**

Ty Henderson, Chair  
Jacque Grillo  
Pablo McLachlan  
Sr. Marilyn Morgan  
Curtis Murray



### **JAN 8 — JAN 15**

**Monday: Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21**  
**Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28**  
**Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 Jn 1:29-34**  
**Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10 Jn 1:35-42**  
**Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51**  
**Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38**  
**Sunday: Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12**

### **MASS TIMES**

**Daily Mass:** 8am (Mon ~ Fri)  
**Saturday Vigil Mass:** 5pm  
**Sunday Masses:** 8am, 10am & 6:30pm  
**Holy Days:** 8am & 7pm  
**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 3:45pm - 4:30pm  
(or by appointment)

### **THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH**

**JAN 8 — JAN 15**

### **Monday - Friday**

Mass - 8am

### **Wednesday**

*Wednesday Night Suppers*

### **Saturday**

Vigil Mass - 5pm

### **Sunday**

Masses: 8am, 10am & 6:30pm

### **Monday**

Parish Office Closed

Mass - 8am

*Join us for Coffee Hour after the  
8am & 10am Masses*

**Livestream the 10am Sunday Mass**

[www.mhr.org/livestream](http://www.mhr.org/livestream)

### **Collection - Week of December 31, 2023**

Saturday 5pm -	\$221.00
Sunday 8am -	\$215.00
Sunday 10am -	\$741.00
Sunday 6:30pm -	\$53.00
Misc. -	\$390.00
<b>VANCO -</b>	<b>\$1,213.00</b>
<b>Total -</b>	<b>\$2,833.00</b>
Budgeted -	\$4,200.00
<b>SVDP -</b>	<b>\$1,110.00</b>

*Thank you for your  
generosity!*







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## **Mass Intentions** FOR THE WEEK

*Our Mass celebrants  
will remember the following intentions  
during the celebration of the Eucharist:*

### **Saturday, January 6**

5pm

### **Sunday, January 7**

8am Ana Maria Abarca & Adam Benitez

10am MHR Parish

6:30pm

### **Monday, January 8**

8am

### **Tuesday, January 9**

8am

### **Wednesday, January 10**

8am Wednesday Night Suppers

### **Thursday, January 11**

8am

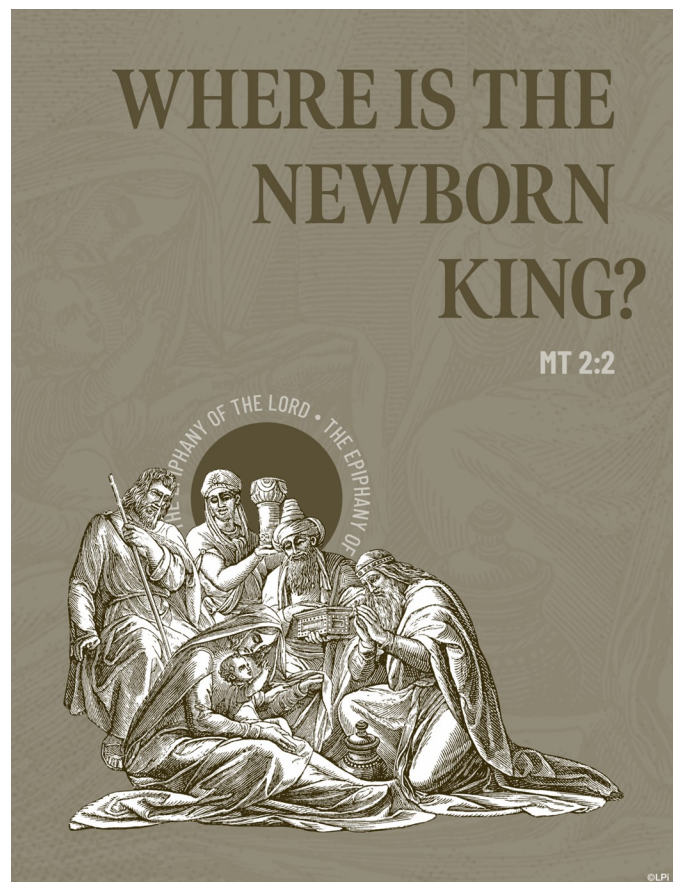
### **Friday, January 12**

8am Barbara Colleli †

### **Saturday, January 13**

5pm

To schedule a Mass Intention  
or sponsor the weekend altar flowers,  
please call the parish office at 415-863-6259  
or email [office@mhr.org](mailto:office@mhr.org).



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**Ryan Zuniga, Maria Palma, Christian Irizary , Joshua  
Filho, Leigh Thorup-Murray and John Johnson**

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

*"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory."  
— Isaiah 60:2*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

### Answer:

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.





COMMUNITY  
LIFE

Visit us:

On the web: [www.mhr.org](http://www.mhr.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mhrsf](https://www.facebook.com/mhrsf)

Instagram: [mhrcatholicsf](https://www.instagram.com/mhrcatholicsf)

**Centering Prayer** is meeting via Zoom on Monday evenings @ 7:00pm.  
Email [centering@mhr.org](mailto:centering@mhr.org) for Zoom login details.

**Bible Study** on upcoming Sunday readings meets via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.  
Email [biblestudy@mhr.org](mailto:biblestudy@mhr.org) for login and for more information.

**Christian Healing Prayer Group:** Please join us on the first Monday of each month at 2pm in the Library. Email [markwbass@yahoo.com](mailto:markwbass@yahoo.com) for information.



### **MOST HOLY REDEEMER HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP**

#### **Volunteers Needed:**

We are looking for volunteers to call, visit and/or help our people.

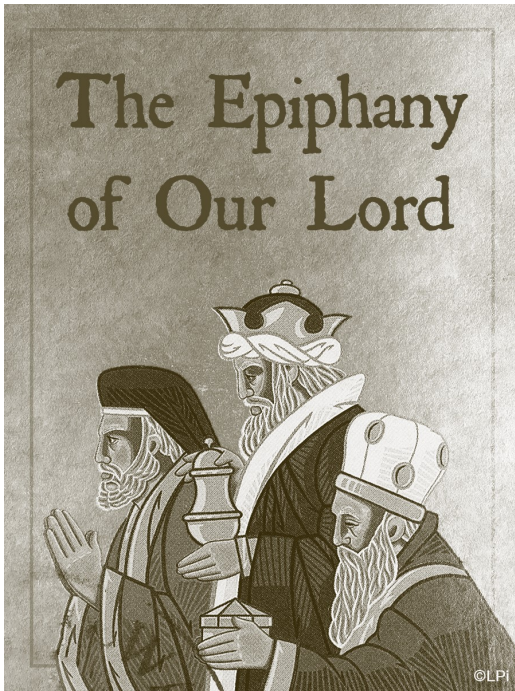
If you are interested in volunteering,  
please contact Pete Toms at 415-612-0651 or email [asg@mhr.org](mailto:asg@mhr.org).



**Parish Office - CLOSED**

**Monday, January 15th**

## January 7, 2024 : The Epiphany of the Lord



The Gospels tell us that, in response to various circumstances, Jesus rejoiced, wept, demonstrated anger and was impatient with his disciples. Of all the divine estimations of earthly situations, irony might be the one that most saddens or delights God. Clearly, tragedy is worse: Catastrophes, wars, plagues . . . God is intensely present to the sufferers in all those events, even though, like Jesus on the cross, they often cry out, feeling abandoned. But the ironic things, the things that happen in the opposite way from the expected, can be the source of profound disappointment or delight. Matthew's story of the Magi is full of irony.

Matthew structured his Gospel so that everything would illumine Jesus' last command and final promise. After telling the disciples to spread the Gospel throughout the whole world, he promised, "Behold, I am with you, until the end of the age." Who knows from what sources Matthew drew his stories about Jesus' birth? Matthew wasn't about writing a history. When we study his stories, we realize that his narrative, although it's been embellished for

centuries, is surprisingly sparse. Even so, Matthew wants us to perceive something important in the events he describes. For Matthew, Joseph, a true son of Abraham, is the chief human actor in the events leading to Jesus' birth (the birth itself is mentioned only in passing). Matthew exhibits more interest in the star than in Mary and Jesus! The star, a symbol visible to the whole world, proclaimed that an extraordinary event had taken place — in obscurity. Who paid attention? Pagans, people who were not of the true faith of Israel. The Magi, practiced at their own kind of discernment, read the signs of the times and had enough humility and courageous curiosity to venture beyond their certainties.

Storytellers have led us to think we know the names of the people (Kings? Religious leaders? Intellectuals?) who visited Jesus in Bethlehem. In reality, the Magi could well have comprised a caravan of pilgrims who knew trade routes and studied the skies. (The number three refers to the gifts, not the travelers.) As diplomatic visitors, they presented themselves to the local people of rank, explaining their quest. When the Magi asked for the newborn king, Herod turned to the religious leaders to ask what the prophecies said about where the Christ was to be born. Illustrating John's statement that "he came to his own and his own knew him not," the leaders demonstrated that they could decipher prophecy while remaining immune to its message. Thus, pagan pilgrims replaced the scribes and priests who could have led the way to Emmanuel. What is Matthew telling us with these details? First, he's warning against religious certainty. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus' enemies are convinced that they have the whole truth and that Jesus is a heretic or worse. To God's grief, their certainty blinded them to the natural wonder of the star and the wisdom of their scriptures.

The Magi were seekers. They observed a sign and desired to understand what it meant. They displaced themselves, seeking something bigger than what they already knew. Although strangers to Israel, they acted more like Abraham than did his descendants who claimed to revere their wandering ancestor. The leaders exhibited no interest in following in Abraham's pilgrim footsteps toward a hope greater than anything he had known before. The Magi exemplified the poor in spirit, people open and inquisitive enough to discover a God bigger than their imagination — a God who would delight in their seeking and finding. Matthew tells on the leaders in Jerusalem to warn us against allowing dogma to close the door on growth in faith. He portrays the wandering Magi as guides to Emmanuel, God with us. Matthew encourages us to cultivate the humility and openness necessary to discover something bigger, deeper, more mysterious than our best teachings or wildest imaginings.

Ironic isn't it? Pagans following a star were open to the manifestation of the God of Israel while religious leaders disregarded all the signs they had at hand. Today's feast is called the Epiphany. "Epiphany" refers to a manifestation of God or an insight into the deep meaning of something. An epiphany is a happening, not an activity or decision. We may journey like the Magi seeking something, but epiphany is beyond our control. Epiphany happens to people willing to have their minds changed. Epiphany is an experience of grace; for those who will receive it, it is an experience of God with us until the end of the age.

For today's feast, in addition to singing "We Three Kings," we might imitate them and sing a humble mantra: "I wonder as I wander out under the sky." Ironically, wandering wonder is the recipe for being open to an epiphany.



# Be My Valentine!?!?



## See's Candies Yum-Raising

Support Most Holy Redeemer & St. Vincent de Paul  
volunteers by purchasing See's Candies  
from our fundraising website before January 26.  
Profits will support the ministry work!



**See's**  
Famous Old Time  
CANDIES



or visit the website:  
<https://shorturl.at/muVW1>