

# SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

January 8, 2023



## *Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church*

516 East 13th Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.452.6606

[www.ststanerie.org](http://www.ststanerie.org)  
email: [ststaner@outlook.com](mailto:ststaner@outlook.com)

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor  
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate  
Debbie Oldenski, Secretary  
Thaddeus Fryczynski, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30AM - 3:00 PM  
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

**Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**  
**Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM**  
\* Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office

## *Holy Trinity Catholic Church*

2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671

[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
email: [parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org](mailto:parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org)

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor  
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate  
Mary Ann Merski, Secretary  
Jeannie McGinley, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

**Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**  
**Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM**  
\* Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office



## *Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity*

### *Partners in Faith & Mission*



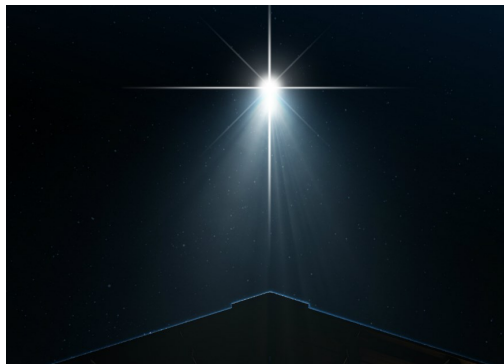
#### January 8, 2023 The Epiphany of the Lord

A friend of mine is a young priest who teaches high school physics at a Catholic boys' prep school. Like many today, the boys often think science and religion are enemies. So, he delights in their raised eyebrows when he reminds them his first full-time job as a priest was to be an astrophysicist. He cataloged the size, shape, and matter of distant stars. He tells them, "Science gave me more love for God, not less."

The Magi were something like scientist-astronomers. Like today's scientists, they employed disciplined methods of discovering dependable patterns in the world. Their rigorous commitment to the truth led them to the joy of discovering Jesus. Their love for knowledge leads them to worship the Source of all knowledge. Luke says of them, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star."

We may see the universe as cold and empty and feel sad. But why should we do that? The Magi, like my priest-friend, show us there is another way to experience the world. We use our intelligence to discover the beautiful patterns in the world — in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology, neuroscience, and so on — and allow this to lead us to greater love for God. So, my fellow Magi: the world needs us to be overjoyed at finding God in science and, finally and fully, in Jesus.

— Father John Muir



#### Readings for the week of January 8, 2023

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12 [Epiphany]  
Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-4, 9-10/Mt 3:13-17 [Baptism of the Lord]  
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2, 5-9/Mk 1:21-28  
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-9/Mk 1:29-39  
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-11/Mk 1:40-45  
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3-8/Mk 2:1-12 [St. Hillary]  
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mk 2:13-17  
Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2-4, 7-10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34 [2nd Sun.]

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

**Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation** programs are hosted at Saint Luke's Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

**Confirmation** preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint Luke's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.6920).

**Sacrament of Holy Orders:** God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Scott Jabo, at 1.814.824.1181.

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

**Leave A Legacy:** Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

**Bulletin Information Deadline:** Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.

# *Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity*

## *Partners in Faith & Mission*

### **"PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN" MINISTRY**

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

### **"PRAYERLINE" MINISTRY**

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Kay (825-7328) or Shirley (452.3395) from St. Stanislaus, or Kathy (392-8974) at Holy Trinity.

### **PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)**

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

### **LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, music minister, or usher/greeter, please let one of your priests know.

### **"PRAYER SHAWL" MINISTRY**

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Sue (450-2987).

### **THE "ZABAWA COMMITTEE"**

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Ray (882-1032).

### **PROLIFE COMMUNITY**

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

### **"PRAYER CANDLE" MAKING MINISTRY**

This ministry makes prayer candles from the church's left over bee's wax. They meet on Wednesdays, from 10AM - Noon in St. Stanislaus Parish Hall. No experience necessary.

### **ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM**

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check: ☐ New Registration ☐ Change of Address ☐ Change of Telephone Number

☐ Change of E-mail ☐ Moving out of Parish ☐ Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.  
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

*A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome*

# Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Jan. 9th - Private Intention  
 Tues., Jan. 10th - Esther Buchmann (Paul & Judy Cummings)  
 Wed., Jan. 11th - Jenks & Lacey Families (Maria)  
 Thurs., Jan. 12th - Betty Koper (Ropewski Family)  
 Fri., Jan. 13th - C. Thomas Barringer (Dr. Hal Angeloff)  
 Sat., Jan. 14th, 4:00PM - Deacon Bob Walker (Eleanor)  
 Sun., Jan. 15th, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns for in memory of **WALTER & BERNICE UMINSKI** as gifted by Alice, Danna, & Connie.



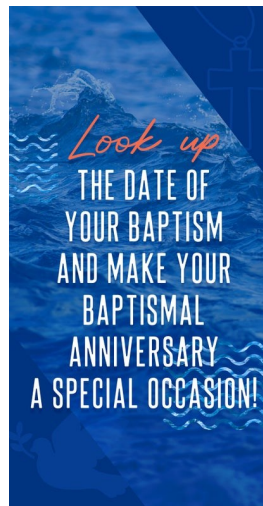
## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

As it is the second Sunday of the month, Eucharistic Adoration will take place following the 9:00AM Mass in the sacristy/chapel until about 11:30AM. Please consider spending some time in prayer as we observe this time of Eucharistic Revival.

## PENANCES AND PRAYERS

God's glory, now, is kindled gentler than candlelight under the rafters of a barn: Eternal Peace is sleeping in the hay, And Wisdom's born in secret in a straw-roofed stable.\* When I was younger, I wrote music to and recorded Thomas Merton's poem, "Epiphany Carol." If you have never read it, search it out on the internet. Merton's words are profound and paint a picture of the awesomeness of Jesus, the newborn King of Kings, lying in a simple straw bed. The shepherds and Wise Men are drawn to pay homage to the One who has been born above all others and brings with him hope for a broken world. As Merton correctly points out, the gifts we are called to bring to this baby and lay at his feet are our prayers and penances, next to those gifts of worldly wealth. What is it that you have to bring to the stable on this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord? Unless those prayers and penances lead to a new way of living, our gifts will be void of meaning. What we lay before him speaks to the change in us that he has given to us by his birth. Our daily stewardship is resembled in those gifts. If we are to truly echo the kingdom of God in our lives and actions, what we ultimately offer to him is no less than our entire selves. This baby will give his entire self for us, and his work must continue through our hands and feet. While we unnumbered children of the wicked centuries Come after with our penances and prayers, And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay Beside the wise men's golden jars.\*

\*Excerpts from "Epiphany Carol" by Thomas Merton  
 — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 25TH

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$108,056.00
Amount Received	\$3,050.00	\$63,404.00
Net over/under	(\$1,106.00)	(\$44,652.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 149; 9:00AM = 39  
 Envelopes: 31/168



## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JANUARY 1ST

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$4,156.00	\$112,212.00
Amount Received	\$3,572.00	\$66,976.00
Net over/under	(\$584.00)	(\$45,236.00)

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = 55; 9:00AM = 52  
 Envelopes: 71/168



## ENVELOPE NOTICE

Many have been asking when our 2023 envelope boxes will arrive. We have contacted our provider (Cathedral Cooperation) and they explained that they are delayed in printing and shipping; they may not arrive by the new year. They will try to ship them as soon as possible. In the meantime, feel free to use a plain envelope and mark your name and/or envelope number on it and we will make the necessary notes for your end-of-year tax filings.



# Holy Trinity Parish Community



The sanctuary candle burns this week in for **THE SICK AND DYING**.



1/8) Alexis Simora  
& Dale Winarski  
1/15) Dorothy Carlson  
& Bob Koziel

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Jan. 9th - All Souls  
Tues., Jan. 10th - Nancy Slubowski (Mary Beth Fiorelli)  
Wed., Jan. 11th - Kulig, Laszczewski, & Habas Families (Estate)  
Thurs., Jan 12th - John Figurski (Harry & Joanne Figurski)  
Fri., Jan. 13th - Allen Ruedy (Ed, Patty, & Anna)  
Sat., Jan. 14th, 5:15PM - Ed & Wanda Majewski (Skip & Theresa)  
Sun., Jan. 15th, 10:30AM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The story of the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus, the newborn King, is a great one, isn't it? They had a great big star in the sky to lead the way. I am no Boy Scout, so I am not sure how well I would do following a star like that. But the important point here is that God led them to the manger. The manger was a place that unless God specifically showed you this was where the Christ Child was born you wouldn't have believed it. You would have passed on by.

In our lives, there are no big stars in the sky leading us where we need to go. It isn't so easy sometimes discerning where God is leading us. We may seek to use our gifts wisely, but in what manner and to what end is not always clear.

This is where prayer can make a huge difference. If we seek to cultivate a prayer life where we are mindful of the presence of God throughout our day, then the call is easier to discern. We can help the process by intentionally offering to God in the morning the entirety of the day to come: all our actions, all our time, and all our decisions. In the evening, we can examine the past hours of the day and reflect on when we responded well to Christ's call and when we fell short. Then we resolve to begin again tomorrow, inviting Christ to be with us every step of the way. God may not offer a star in the sky to lead us, but if we invite us on our journey each day, the path will be much clearer.

## WELCOME!

We would like to welcome Dan Zimmer to our parish family. Dan formally registered at Holy Trinity recently.

## BULLETIN BLOOPERS

"Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion." 🤪

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 25, 2022

Regular Offering: \$1,525.00 (23/130)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$97,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$57,600.00
Total Offertory:	\$1,525.00	\$58,653.00
Net (over/under):	(\$875.00)	\$1,053.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 146; 10:30AM = 65

\*Christmas Collection: \$1,090.00

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR JANUARY 1, 2023

Regular Offering: \$2,800.00 (30/130)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$4,000.00	\$101,000.00
Budgeted:	\$2,400.00	\$60,000.00
Total Offertory:	\$2,800.00	\$61,453.00
Net (over/under):	\$400.00	\$1,453.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = 70; 10:30AM = 46

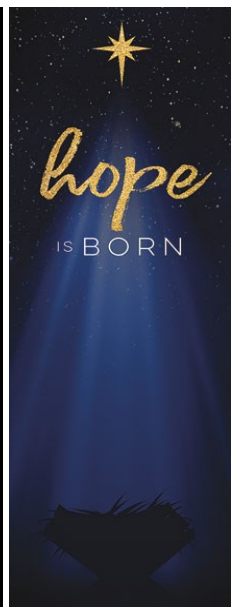
## The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).

Y W A Y L X P H C H M Q D H  
K N N T Y I G R Q V O E G M B  
W I U A W C N N I R U W R Y R  
O V N R T E A C H E R S R O G  
R W Q G X T R V E K S A O M D  
S O M C H R I S T N M T E K E  
H R O V B G H V L M S H S O H  
I S T Y L O O U G I E E H C Q  
P H H U A D U O B L E B R Y J  
E I E Y Z V S E H N M A G I D  
D P R O N Y E T V A E G H L Q  
G B O R N H E E A S T R I B T  
T P B K F B G A V E R H W C E  
P M W I C I N E J Y C S T A R  
M M B Q D D L V M V T X L X Y

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD



"Rise up in splendor... Your light has come"

— Isaiah 60:1

## News for Our Partnership

### FAITH AND FEAR

When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear. But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed.

But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? "All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him." — Psalm 72:11

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but something. It moved him into action.

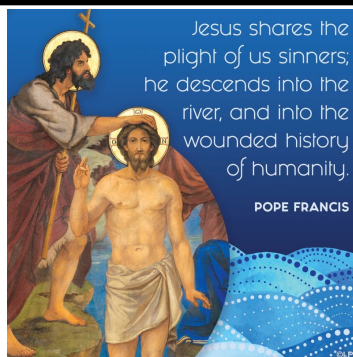
So, then, it should move us all.

"We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage."

— Matthew 2:2



Monday  
January 9th



### BACK TO SCHOOL

Gannon University's spring semester begins Monday, January 9th. Consequently, Fr. Jason will resume his teaching. He will not be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

### TAX INFORMATION

If you need an accounting of your offertory donations for tax purposes, please contact the Parish Office during normal business hours and a form will be mailed to you.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Mia Mangini** who received Second Honors during term one at Mercyhurst Prep. Also, congratulations to **Roman Luniewski** and **Brooklyn Lazar** who received Second Honors from Cathedral Prep. Finally, we congratulate **Christopher Beres** and **Lilliana Moore** who received First Honors from Cathedral Prep. All of these students and their families are active participants in Holy Trinity's PCEP program. You make all of us proud!

### MARCH FOR LIFE: ERIE

The People for Life of Erie is sponsoring its first "post-Roe v. Wade" March for Life on Saturday, January 28th. Participants are asked to arrive at the Pavilion in Perry Square at 10:45AM. The mile long march will begin at Perry Square at 11:00AM and end back at Perry Square with a brief program where Representative Mike Kelly will offer remarks. The entire event will conclude by 12:30PM.

### MARCH FOR LIFE: WASHINGTON, DC

The People for Life of Erie is sponsoring a bus to Washington, DC, on Saturday, January 20th. The cost of the bus trip is \$65 per person. For more information, visit [www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org).



**WHO LOVES YOU MORE, YOUR WIFE  
OR YOUR DOG. TRY THIS QUICK TEST.  
LOCK THEM BOTH IN THE TRUNK OF YOUR  
CAR, THEN LET THEM OUT AFTER AN  
HOUR. SEE WHO'S HAPPY TO SEE YOU.**

### THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

1/9) Edie Luniewski & Rose Marie Radomski; 1/10) Elizabeth Dalton & Eleanor Walker; 1/11) Sandy Kempisty & Ray Przybyszewski; 1/12) Elizabeth Dalton & Debbie Oldenski; 1/13) Mary Brocius & Shirley Widomski; 1/14) Julie Slomski & Katherine Krainski; 1/15) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, Nancy & Art Kujawinski, & Carol Clark

### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

1/9) Fr. John Walsh; 1/10) Fr. John Chaplin; 1/11) Fr. Michael Kesicki; 1/12) Fr. Mike Polinek; 1/13) Fr. David Carter; 1/14) Msgr. Joe Wardanski; 1/15) Fr. Cesar Segovia

### **Sunday, Jan 08, 2023**

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12  
"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."

#### **Bless this mess**

Do a perimeter walk of your home. What do you see? Each corner contains a chapter about who lives here and what happens between these walls. Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers recommends we bless our homes annually on Epiphany in imitation of the wise ones who once followed the divine presence to a humble dwelling. What sort of blessing might each area need? What requires a blessing: the kitchen table, living room sofa, or home office desk? A child's room or elder's sickbed? Don't forget the front door—the passageway to every other story that involves us.

### **Monday, Jan 09, 2023**

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

"He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him."

#### **Be a carrier of peace**

Pigeons and doves are different species within the same family of birds. The homing pigeon is a variety bred for its ability to find its way home over extremely long distances of up to 1,000 miles or more. Because of this skill, they were used to carry messages throughout history. The dove, of course, is a symbol of peace and hope, and famously carried an olive branch to Noah on the Ark after the great flood. If you want to send a similar message, you don't have to go nearly as far. Just extend peace and hope across the dinner table or over the neighbor's fence.

### **Tuesday, Jan 10, 2023**

Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28

"The people were astonished at his teaching..."

#### **Give peace every chance**

On this day in 1920, the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. On this same day in 1946—following World War II—the UN General Assembly met for the very first time, gathering on church property at the Methodist Central Hall in London. And on January 10, 1984 the United States and Vatican City re-established full diplomatic relations after 117 years. It's not enough for Christians to worship the Prince of Peace. "We must work tirelessly to avoid war between nations and peoples," writes Pope Francis. "There is a need to ensure ... tireless recourse to negotiation, mediation, and arbitration." Learn more at Pax Christi USA.

### **Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023**

Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39

"He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up."

#### **Measure with mercy**

On this day in 314—or the day before; the history is unclear—Pope Saint Miltiades died after a life of historic twists and turns that would help define the Early Church. Born to North African parents, Miltiades was the second of the Catholic Church's three African popes, having been elected in 311, shortly after the end of the persecutions of Emperor Diocletian. As pope, Miltiades was most famous for rejecting the Donatists, who argued that apostates who repent needed to be re-baptized (and re-ordained, if priests). In an age of manifestly imperfect priests, may we model Pope Miltiades' mercy and forgiveness for all the fallen—starting with ourselves!

### **Thursday, Jan 12, 2023**

Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45

"Be made clean."

#### **Pull back the curtain with contemplative prayer**

Fans of The Wizard of Oz relish the moment when a curtain is drawn and the Great and Terrible Oz is shown to be an ordinary man. In a way, the tradition of contemplative prayer is an attempt to pull back the curtain but with reverse results. Instead of seeing the wondrous as ordinary, contemplation is meant to move people to see the depth and intricacy and wonder of the ordinary. In other words, contemplative prayer wants us to see God's face everywhere. Consider the times when God's presence became tangible for you. Build a time into today to seek that presence.

### **Friday, Jan 13, 2023**

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12

"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'?"

#### **The word is out**

Saint Hilary, born in Poitiers in southwest France in 315, had a learned education but was not raised Christian. Able to read the biblical languages, however, he was drawn to Christianity by the beauty and power of the prologue of the Gospel of John (John 1:1 - 18) and spent his life in strong defense of the divinity of Jesus, a controversial subject at the time. Recognition of his tireless efforts eventually earned him the high title of doctor of the church. Perhaps John's prologue has a word to speak to you as well. Why not dip into its powerful language today?

### **Saturday, Jan 14, 2023**

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17

"I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

#### **Accepted unconditionally**

Levi was an outcast of his people. Because of his position at the Roman customs post, not only he but also his family were held in disdain. His alliance with the Romans was considered treasonous and his wealth ill-gotten. Levi had many character flaws, yet Jesus chose him as a disciple, and he accepted. This is good news for the outcasts of our generation, the people our society and sometimes our church counts as unacceptable. It's good news for all of us, to be honest, as we all fall short in one way or another. Thankfully, Jesus sees past our shortcomings. Imitate Jesus before judging others.

## **An Epiphany Prayer**

Lord Jesus, may your light shine our way,  
as once it guided the steps of the magi:  
that we too may be led into your presence  
and worship you, the Child of Mary,  
the Word of the Father, the King of nations,  
the Saviour of mankind;  
to whom be glory for ever.

(Frank Colquhoun)

