



# OUR LADY OF THE *Assumption* PARISH

5057 COTTAGE WAY  
CARMICHAEL, CA 95608

(916) 481-5115

WWW.OLAPARISH.NET

PARISH@OLAPARISH.NET

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2005, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### Mass Schedule

**Saturday vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,  
and 7:30 p.m.**

**8:00 a.m. daily Masses  
(Monday-Friday and first Saturday)**

**Holy Days of Obligation:  
8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.**

### Confessions

**Confessions are heard inside the church on  
Saturday afternoons at 3:30 p.m.**

*You may also call the parish office to schedule an appointment.*

### Parish Office Hours

**Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

### **Pastor**

**Rev. Eduino T. Silveira – [pastor@olaparish.net](mailto:pastor@olaparish.net)**

### **Pastors Emeriti**

**Rev. Brendan McKeefry & Rev. Michael F. Kiernan**

### **Office Manager**

Stacie Nieves – [officemgr@olaparish.net](mailto:officemgr@olaparish.net)

### **Worship and Communications**

Casey Oliver – [worship@olaparish.net](mailto:worship@olaparish.net)

### **Communications**

Jane Ricci – [communications@olaparish.net](mailto:communications@olaparish.net)

### **Faith Formation**

Tracy Urban – [faithformation@olaparish.net](mailto:faithformation@olaparish.net)

### **Parish Maintenance**

Jake Benjamin – [olamaint@olaparish.net](mailto:olamaint@olaparish.net)

**Emails from OLA Parish staff will be sent from an  
@olaparish.net email address or sent from OLA Parish via  
Flocknote ([mail@flocknote.com](mailto:mail@flocknote.com)). Please check the sender's  
email address if you receive any suspicious emails. Thank you.**

### **OLA PARISH SCHOOL (Preschool – Eighth Grade)**

Website: [school.olaparish.net](http://school.olaparish.net)

### **Principal**

Robert Love

### **Admissions**

Elisabeth Gustorf – [advancement@olaparish.net](mailto:advancement@olaparish.net)

### **School Office**

Donna Eaddy – [eaddy@olaparish.net](mailto:eaddy@olaparish.net)

### **OLA ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

*Provides assistance for those in need  
within our parish boundaries.*

**Please call: (916) 481-6352**

**Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**Food Locker hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday  
mornings from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Visit our website and join Flocknote for more information  
about our parish, ministries, and upcoming events.**

[olaparish.net](http://olaparish.net)  [flocknote.com/olaparish](https://flocknote.com/olaparish)

**Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!**

 [facebook.com/OLAParish](https://facebook.com/OLAParish)

 [instagram.com/ola\\_parish\\_ca](https://instagram.com/ola_parish_ca)

 [youtube.com/@OLAParishCA](https://youtube.com/@OLAParishCA)

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

### **Love and Serve God. Love and Serve One Another.**

The Mission of the parish community at Our Lady of the Assumption Church is to proclaim the Word of God more fully, to gain a more intimate knowledge of God through our Catholic traditions, and to serve the people of God, especially in our efforts to meet the needs of the poor in our community, and when possible, around the world. We strive to build a sense of community among our parishioners, with the entire family of God.

## PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS

**Pastoral Council: Carmy Baca**

**Finance Council: Joe Selewicz**

**Buildings & Grounds Committee: John Blaschke**

**To reach out to any advisory council chairperson, please call the parish office or email [parish@olaparish.net](mailto:parish@olaparish.net).**

## BULLETIN SUBMISSION INFORMATION

If you have an event to promote or news to share, please fill out the Communications Request Form on our parish website at <https://olaparish.net/communications-committee>. All communications requests are subject to approval by Fr. Eduino. We will do our best to accommodate your timeline. For general questions or bulletin requests, you may also send an email to [communications@olaparish.net](mailto:communications@olaparish.net). \*Due dates may be earlier due to Printer's Holiday Schedule.

### **Bulletin Weekend Dates**

January 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>

January 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>

January 31<sup>st</sup> - February 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Article Due Date**

\*January 9<sup>th</sup>

\*January 16<sup>th</sup>

January 27<sup>th</sup>

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Total donations for December 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>: **\$14,873.17**

Retirement Fund for the Religious: **\$2,713.00**

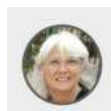
**We are incredibly grateful for your donations.**

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**There will be no Special Collections for the month of January.**

In February there will be the Annual Catholic Appeal Commitment weekend.

## MEET A PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBER EACH WEEK



"I serve on the Pastoral Council because I want to help make our parish vibrant and inviting to all." - Chris Hine

Every parishioner is welcome to express thoughts and concerns to any member of the Pastoral Council at any time. For details contact Pastoral Council Chair, Carmy Baca directly at [cbaca\\_929@yahoo.com](mailto:cbaca_929@yahoo.com) or by leaving a message with the parish office at (916) 481-5115.

**EPIPHANY**



**BLESSINGS!**

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## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



**If you are attending Mass in person or online but not yet registered? PLEASE REGISTER TODAY!** This will enable you to get more information about liturgical and social events. Access our online form by scanning the QR code or go to: <https://olaparish.net/community/register-us>.



## FLOCKNOTE ONLINE GIVING COMMUNICATION & DATABASE

### **PLEASE JOIN OUR FLOCKNOTE ONLINE GIVING**

If you have not already signed up for Flocknote Online Giving, we ask you to please take a minute and sign up for continued recurring giving. Flocknote Online Giving is an integral component of OLA's comprehensive parishioner communication and database system.

Using Flocknote Online Giving is more convenient for both parishioners and parish office staff. **You will have the ability to support OLA with Flocknote Online Giving, and it will allow you to:**

1. **Make one-time donations.**
2. **Set up automatic recurring giving.**
3. **Choose which fund you specifically want to donate to.**
4. **Print your own tax records.**



Sign up for online giving through your existing OLA Parish Carmichael Flocknote account or by visiting <https://olaparish.flocknote.com/give>.

**Please contact us for assistance, at 481-5115 ext. 212 or [flocknotesupport@olaparish.net](mailto:flocknotesupport@olaparish.net).**

*Flocknote Fund It transaction fees are the industry standard amount and the same as WeShare.*

### **FLOCKNOTE SMARTPHONE APP**

Flocknote also offers an app for your smartphone where you can easily:

1. Check parish communications
2. Access educational videos through Flocknote Engage
3. Access Flocknote Online Giving to make a gift
4. View your giving history
5. Update recurring gifts

### **STAY CONNECTED BY SIGNING UP FOR EMAILS**



Keep current with details of OLA parish activities by visiting our Flocknote website by scanning the QR code using your smartphone camera or by visiting <https://olaparish.flocknote.com>.

Once there, be sure to join the **OLA Parish Carmichael News** and the **OLA Parish Carmichael Faith and Catechesis email groups** to receive important updates from OLA, including the weekly bulletin.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>

8:00 AM † **Bill Portillo**  
by Portillo family  
5:00 PM † **Sue Oliver**  
by Murphy family  
† **Trudy Parsley**  
by Agnell family

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>

7:30 AM † **Liam Gleason**  
by Ross family  
9:00 AM **(Sp) Susanna Collins**  
by Gilmour family  
11:00 AM † **Joao Jose Machado**  
7:30 PM **All Parishioners** (Missa Pro Populo)

### MONDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM † **Louis R. Volpicelli**

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM † **Jose Nabor Gomez**  
by Sofia Gomez

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM **(Sp) Tomasa Washington**  
by Anne Perez  
†† **Juan and Amelia San Miguel**  
by Portillo family

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>

10:00 AM †† **Francisco and Adelina Sousa**

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM †† **Fernando and Mary Garcia**

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM † **Helen Gregorio**  
5:00 PM † **Sue Oliver**  
by Murphy family



## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JAN 4<sup>TH</sup>

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord  
Monday: St. John Neumann, Bishop  
Tuesday: St. Andre Bessette, Religious  
Wednesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest  
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

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## PARISH CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am,  
and 7:30 pm Mass – Church  
NO FAITH FORMATION  
9:50 am (After Mass) Pray &  
Play – Preschool Playground  
5:00 pm Adult Fellowship –  
Church & Affinito Hall

### MONDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 am Mass  
9:30 am Meditation Group –  
Church

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 am Mass  
WED., JAN. 7<sup>TH</sup> (office closed)  
8:00 am Mass  
6:00 pm Catholics in  
Recovery – St. Anne's Room  
NO OCIA CLASS

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>

10:00 am Mass  
3:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul-  
Affinito Hall Mtg. Room  
7:00 pm Living the Word –  
Affinito Hall Rm. 3  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 am Mass  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 am Mass  
12:00 pm Mark Mozdy  
Funeral – Church  
3:30 pm Confessions –  
Church  
5:00 pm vigil Mass

For a COMPLETE CALENDAR,  
go to the parish website:  
<https://olaparish.net/calendar>.

## PRAYER FOR OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Assumed into Heaven,  
You reign with your Son in glory.  
We ask for your intercession,  
that we may one day join you in the heavenly Kingdom  
We thank you for watching over our parish  
named in your honor.  
Help us to continue to do the work of your Son.  
Loving Mother, intercede for us in our needs,  
and help us to live lives that are pleasing to God. Amen.



## LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH

Ensure your faith and values live on for generations to come by including OLA in your will or estate plans. Questions? Contact Elisabeth Gustorf, Advancement Director, at [advancement@olaparish.net](mailto:advancement@olaparish.net).

## HOW DO YOU REQUEST A MASS INTENTION

To request a Mass Intention, please come by the parish office or call (916) 481-5115. Mass Intentions refer to the practice of offering a Mass for a specific purpose, such as for living or deceased individuals. This practice allows us to pray for others, both the living and the dead. This is a meaningful way for Catholics to express their faith and support for others through prayer. The "†" means that a person is deceased. The "(Sp)" means that it is a Special Intention for someone in need or an event like a birthday. A suggested donation in the province of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, which the Diocese of Sacramento is part, is \$10.00 but if a person cannot afford it there is no need for a donation.



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

January 4, 2026

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become. — Father John Muir

©LPI



## THANK YOU

We extend our deep gratitude to our Building and Grounds Committee. This group coordinates the regular maintenance and improvement of the parish buildings and grounds. They are behind the scenes but critical for OLA's daily function and long-term survival.

If you are interested in learning more, please leave a message for committee chair, John Blaschke at the parish office or send an email to his attention at: [parish@olaparish.net](mailto:parish@olaparish.net).

## FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY...

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of all the faithful  
departed, through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen.*

Mark Mozdy and Esther Carney



## PRAY FOR OUR SICK BROTHERS & SISTERS

### BULLETIN SICK LIST POLICY

**To ensure the privacy of people who are sick, please make sure you have their permission before submitting their name to the list.**

The names will be added in alphabetical order. Once a name is added, it will be removed either when requested OR after six months, *unless there is a specific request to keep the name on the list for longer.*

*To add a name, remove a name, or if a name has been removed that needs to be added back, you may call the parish office at (916) 481-5115 or email:*

[communications@olaparish.net](mailto:communications@olaparish.net).

**Thank you.**

Doug Abbes  
Cathy Apker  
Shannon Armstrong  
Doreen Baldwin  
Donna Blaschke  
Joan Cotton  
Ryan Daniels  
Yolande De Forge  
Robert DeAnda  
John DeSouza  
Aaron Esselman  
Bobbie Hall  
Kathy Harreld  
Dorothy Heimbichner  
Matthew Holmes  
Christine Jansen  
Sheila Johnson  
Maya Juarez  
Michael Kyalwazi  
Michael and Shannon Langer  
John Lemieux  
Kathleen Lemieux  
David DeLeonardis  
Dave Levin  
Elaine Lyons  
Delilah Macfal  
Bennett Mattingly  
Armie Mauricio

Langford Metzger  
Margaret Mongeau  
Jessica Montgomery  
Nguyen Family  
Kathleen Nolan  
Jane Osborn  
Dave Palmer  
Maria Passarelli  
Camille Peter  
Adam Peter  
T.J. Rapozo  
Rob & Teresa Reavis  
David Rider  
Guadalupe Rodriguez  
Mary Roy  
Marie Schuring  
Hannon Sulochana  
Emily Tuazon  
April Valencia  
Linda Vaughan  
Wesley Villariza  
Rachel Wann  
Tomas Washington  
Charlie Wetherall  
Jack Wetherall  
Cole Miller Whitney (baby)  
Lawrence Wilhelm  
Pat Wood

## HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

**Distribution of the Eucharist to our homebound parishioners is available.**

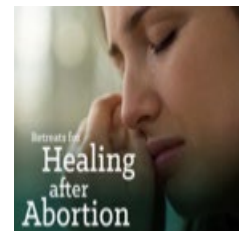
Eucharistic Homebound Ministers are dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners by bringing Christ to them and keeping them connected to our community. **Leave a message for Peggy Vellanoweth at the parish office if you would like to receive the Eucharist.**

## PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE THE GABRIEL PROJECT



**Pregnant? Worried?  
Need Help?**  
**Call (800) 910-0191**  
*The Gabriel Project*

## FINDING HEALING AT RACHEL'S VINEYARD



**Call  
(916) 733-0161  
or email  
[projectrachel@scd.org](mailto:projectrachel@scd.org).**  
All messages are confidential.

## PARISH AND SCHOOL NEWS

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OLA CONF.



For those who need assistance and live within our parish boundaries, the OLA SVdP Food Locker is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00AM - 12:00 PM.

**SVdP would like to thank everyone that made this holiday season so special for those in need.** Your generosity and kindness were in the true spirit of Christmas!

**Congratulations to Mary Klaas Schultz on receiving the SVdP Frederick Ozanam Award.** Mary received this award for her dedication, generosity, and heart she brings to everything she does for SVdP. Thank you Mary!



**DRIVERS are NEEDED** to pick up Food for SVdP! A driver/s is urgently needed to pick up food from Winco every Wednesday between 8-9am. The person should be able to lift 50 pounds and have an SU V or small truck for transport.

**We are also looking for back up and part-time drivers.**

Please contact Dale Stradford at [dstradford@ymail.com](mailto:dstradford@ymail.com) or at (916)471-8527.

### SAVE THE DATE TO GET CRABBY



Mark your calendar for  
the School Crab Feed on  
February 28<sup>th</sup>!



### GABRIEL PROJECT

**The OLA school and pre-school staff adopted Jessica and her son as their Christmas family this year.** As Jessica prepares to begin college classes at the JC in January, the OLA staff generously provided Jessica with school essentials and gifts for her and Nathaniel. Rose and I had the privilege of delivering the Christmas presents. Jessica was deeply grateful for the love and support of the OLA community, making it a truly heartwarming experience for all.

### ADULT FELLOWSHIP

**OLA adult parishioners are welcome to a fellowship of Sunday prayer and a pickup Basketball game in Affinito Hall.** Come to the church as early as 5:00PM if you like. There will be a group rosary at 5:30PM followed by basketball in Affinito Hall. Basketball will wrap up in time for those attending 7:30PM Mass. All players and spectators must be 18yrs or older and a registered parishioner. **The next meetings are on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>!** Please contact Catherine Olguin at 916-223-1257 or [catharina.936@gmail.com](mailto:catharina.936@gmail.com) for questions.

### MORE SMILES FROM SANTA'S ELVES

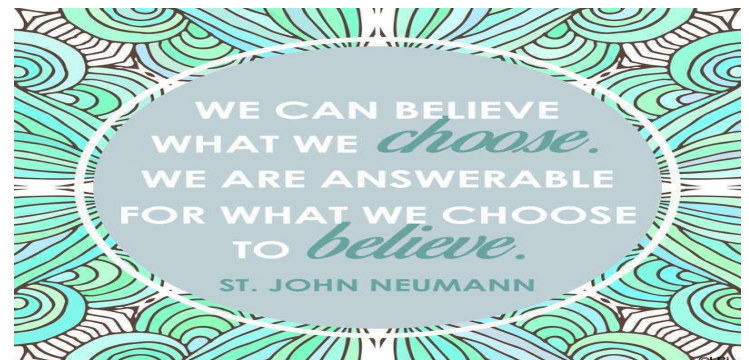


### CATHOLICS IN RECOVERY

**Join Catholic in Recovery Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. in St. Anne's Room.** Meetings combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Join others in recovery as we overlap scripture from Sunday's Mass readings, liturgical themes, and recovery topics with honest discussion and prayer. Confidentiality is protected. We welcome those recovering from any addiction, compulsion, or unhealthy attachment: alcoholism; drug addiction; compulsive overeating; restricted eating; lust/pornography addiction; gambling addiction; technology addiction; compulsive spending; codependency; control, fear, resentment, and grief. For more information, visit our website: [www.catholicinrecovery.com](http://www.catholicinrecovery.com), or Bill B. at (561) 827-0624 or at [bbefort@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbefort@bellsouth.net).

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

**Fr. Eduino is looking for a high school student to be a member of the Pastoral Council.** This student would be an active participant in the advisory council. If you are interested (or know someone who may be interested), please contact Fr. Eduino at [pastor@olaparish.net](mailto:pastor@olaparish.net) or call 916-481-5115.



### THANK YOU FOR THE DECORATIONS

Thank you to all those who helped to decorate the church for Christmas and to all who made donations for the beautiful Christmas flowers! Your generosity of time, talent and treasure elevated our spiritual surroundings at this special time.



## PRAYER AND FORMATION AT OLA

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

All are invited to come to pray in the church on  
Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:30 am – 7:00 pm



**Make time to pray  
in the peaceful presence  
of our Lord.  
All are invited to pray a  
Holy Hour if you have the  
time to do so.**

To sign up for an Adoration time slot, please contact  
Don Thamer at [don.nprz6@gmail.com](mailto:don.nprz6@gmail.com)  
or (916) 549-7195 mobile/text.

### OLA MEDITATION GROUP

**"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD"** This group  
meets weekly on Mondays at 9:30 am in the church and  
follows Christian Meditation practice to help  
participants to grow in relationship with Christ. For  
more information, E-mail [birider2808@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birider2808@sbcglobal.net).



### LIVING THE WORD SCRIPTURE STUDY

All are welcome for Living the Word Scripture Study on  
Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in Affinito Hall Meeting  
Room 3. At Living the Word, we discuss the Sunday  
scripture readings and how they apply to our daily lives.

### RETURNING TO YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

If you are returning to your Catholic Faith, we would like to  
offer an informal conversation with a member of the parish  
staff to help facilitate a comfortable active return to our  
church community by sharing information on topics that may  
have changed in your absence: Sacraments, Explanation of  
Mass, Church Terminology, Divorce/Annulment, etc. as well as  
discussing the many OLA ministry options. Interested? Please  
leave a message for Casey at (916) 481-5115 ext. 212 or send an  
email: [worship@olaparish.net](mailto:worship@olaparish.net). We are very excited to have  
you join our faith family!

### CHOIR IN THE PEWS MUSIC MINISTRY



**Choir in the Pews is a volunteer  
ministry that is open to all ability  
levels.** We need prepared singers in  
the pews who are willing to sing out  
during Mass to support and encourage  
the singing of others. If you have been  
interested in participating in music  
ministry, but have never had the time,  
this ministry is for you!

**Please email Casey Oliver at  
[worship@olaparish.net](mailto:worship@olaparish.net) to learn more.**

### OLA MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

For more information about ministry at OLA, visit our parish  
website: <https://olaparish.net/community/ministries> or  
contact Casey at: [worship@olaparish.net](mailto:worship@olaparish.net). You may also leave a  
message at: (916) 481-5115 ext. 212.

### THE VIRTUE, LOVE

If you've ever been a guest at a Christian wedding, chances are  
you have heard 1 Corinthians 13:4-8: "Love is patient, love is kind ...  
love never fails."

**But what and who we love is just as important as how we  
love.** Loving God, we know, is the greatest commandment of  
Jesus Christ, followed by loving others (Matthew 22:37-40). We are  
called to exhibit this love even – and, perhaps, especially –  
when it is difficult, when it demands we sacrifice our own  
preferences, our own desires and our own prejudices (Matthew  
5:46).

In doing this, we "no longer stand before God as a slave, in  
servile fear, or as a mercenary looking for wages, but as a son  
responding to the love of him who 'first loved us.'" (CCC 1828)

So yes, love is patient, and love is kind – **and, when practiced  
correctly, love is also freedom.** ©LPI

### EPIPHANY HOUSEHOLD BLESSING

The Epiphany household blessing is an ancient practice in the  
Church. **This tradition is a beautiful way to observe the  
coming of the magi while invoking God's blessing on your  
home and all who enter it.** All that is needed is chalk and a  
prayerful heart!

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which can be  
purchased prior to the feast of the Epiphany. There are a few  
different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of  
the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the  
household calls down God's blessing on the house and  
everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above  
the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B  
+ the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B  
represent the names of the magi – Caspar, Melchior and  
Balthasar – and also signify the Latin phrase Christus  
mansio nem benedicat: "May Christ bless the house." ©LPI

### FAITH ENRICHMENT & FORMATION RESOURCES

**Our parish has Flocknote Engage, which includes FREE  
access to Bishop Barron's Word on Fire ENGAGE video library  
and study programs (including free pdf study materials)! All  
that is needed is an OLA Parish Flocknote account. Sign up for  
free at <https://app.flocknote.com/olaparish/>. Login to  
Flocknote by clicking on the sheep icon at the top left of our  
website's home page and visit Word on Fire (WOF) Digital to  
watch any of the videos at any time.**

**Fr. Eduino encourages parishioners to gather in small groups  
to learn more about our faith.** The Flocknote Engage library is  
a great resource if you want to bring together a small group to  
learn about a variety of topics. For more info. email Casey  
Oliver at [worship@olaparish.net](mailto:worship@olaparish.net).

# LOVE AND SERVE GOD, LOVE AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER

## FOLLOWING A STAR

**Everyone follows a star. It is human nature to seek.** If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

**But what are we looking for? Where are we going?** I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking – really, truly knew. They were seeking “the newborn king of the Jews,” yes, but did they understand who he was? What he was? I don’t see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. **They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.**

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don’t know how many of them there were. We don’t know their religion. We don’t know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth. And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power. They found the face of the Child.

**So, tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice – that one deep within you– tell you to chase? Point to it. And go forth.** – Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPI

## PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY EVENT

**Every year, Christian communities and churches join together to pray for the visible unity of the Church, faithfully abiding by the will of Christ,** who prayed, “There is one body, and one spirit, just as you are called to the one hope of your calling”. Ephesians (4:4), **to realign our hearts toward mutual recognition and spiritual transformation.** In our diocese, an Ecumenical Prayer Service, sponsored by the North State Ecumenical Conference, is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19 from 11:30am to 2:45pm at the Pioneer Congregational Church (916-443-3727) 2700 L Street. Event Schedule:

11:30am-12:30pm – Lunch and Presentation

12:45pm-1:45pm – Panel Discussion in Church

2:00pm-2:45pm – Worship Service in Church

For more event details, please contact Deacon Paul Friedrich at [pfried28@gmail.com](mailto:pfried28@gmail.com). There is no charge for this Special Event. Please RSVP via the appropriate Jotform link below: <https://form.jotform.com/233367380273155>.

Donations may be made to Midtown HART. To donate please click on the following link:

<https://www.hartstogether.org/midtown> (when making a donation please make reference to: NSEC Special Event).

Thank you!



**Students:** Please cut out the brick and bring it to school on Monday to add to your class board and help your class “build” their faith!

January 4, 2026

## GOD’S GPS NEVER FAILS

I use GPS wherever I go, and it serves me well most of the time. However, sometimes it leads me to a place that does not exist. Then there are those times when I am about to turn, and the man inside my phone shouts out, “GPS signal lost!” or “Rerouting!” The problem is, when the area is unfamiliar to me, I have no choice but to listen. I could try to get where I am going by simple intuition or by pulling over to look at a paper map, but I don’t trust my sense of direction. And I haven’t bought a paper map in close to a decade!

**Many people move through life without any direction. They find themselves constantly rerouting and wondering when they will ever get to a satisfying final destination.** What they need is a compass and a companion for the journey. Yet they have no idea how to get either.

**Prayer can serve as a compass, and it connects us to a companion for the journey. Stewardship living is impossible without prayer.** If we count on our own will and believe we can become fruitful without daily contact with the Divine, we can find ourselves looking for directions more than moving toward a destination. God, through prayer, will help us see all we have as a gift. God, through prayer, will lead us away from materialism and selfishness and toward freedom and generosity. Even when we fall to sin, the path back is clearer. God’s GPS signal is never really lost. – Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



## YOUNG ADULT WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

Young Adults currently participating in a parish ministry or that are part of a Movement are invited to be a part of this pilgrimage.

**The pilgrimage will include visiting the Catholic Holy Places in Seoul, South Korea, participate in World Youth Day events, an opportunity of being a part of an animation team during the morning catechetical sessions, and visiting the path of the holy martyrs of Nagasaki in Japan.** Also included are flights, daily Mass, registration for WYD, breakfast and some dinners. See Flyer. For more information, sign up for the information meeting on January 20th at the Pastoral Center at 6:30pm or by zoom.

Registration:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKCOzISQhS77\\_kBJvq0pQCfKaLLr-k8d17mPqJV\\_xAYys4q0/viewfoRM](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKCOzISQhS77_kBJvq0pQCfKaLLr-k8d17mPqJV_xAYys4q0/viewfoRM).

## CELEBRATE & HONOR OUR API CATHOLICS

The Jubilee Year was a year filled with much grace and hope throughout our diocese, including the Asian & Pacific Islander (API) Catholic communities. During the Jubilee, we celebrated six API Jubilee Masses for the API communities. **The cultural diversity and expressions of faith are great blessings within our diocese and to the whole Church.** With grateful hearts, we invite you to join Auxiliary Bishop Rey Bersabal on Saturday, January 10<sup>TH</sup> at 11:00am for a Mass of Gratitude with the various API communities to give thanks for the graces received during the Jubilee Year. The Mass will be at St. Anne’s Parish located on 7724 24<sup>TH</sup> Street. **All are welcome to celebrate and honor our API Catholic communities.**



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