

*And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.*

MATTHEW 2:9

ANTON JANKOVY / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Your Light has Come!

**M**any traditional religions have in some way ascribed divinity to light—either they claim that light emanates from a god or that light itself is divine. This is probably because light is a primal necessity, essential for life. We find such thinking in today’s readings.

“Your light has come” (Isaiah 60:1) says today’s Old Testament reading. This is Isaiah’s glorious message for the people of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed; the people scattered; the future looked bleak. This message must have filled the people with hope. Not only does light bring them hope, but the light actually streams from their God. It is the Lord who shines, bestowing his radiance upon them. This light is filled with promise.

The story of the Magi is not meant primarily for children who delight in moving figurines of the three kings a bit closer to the stable every day. This is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment. The strangers, ignorant of ancient Israel’s traditions, were able to read the signs of the times. Because of their openness, they found the Light of the World. The learned men of Jerusalem were well-schooled in the ancient promises, for they knew where to send the strangers. However, they felt threatened by these signs. They closed their minds and hearts to any omens that might imperil their positions of privilege. They had a chance to benefit from this new light, but they turned their backs on it.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *What is your attitude toward new ways of understanding your faith?*
- ★ *Pray that all people will be open to read the signs of the times.*

# Saint Francis Village Catholic Chapel

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Father Ken Robinson, Chaplain

## REFLECTIONS

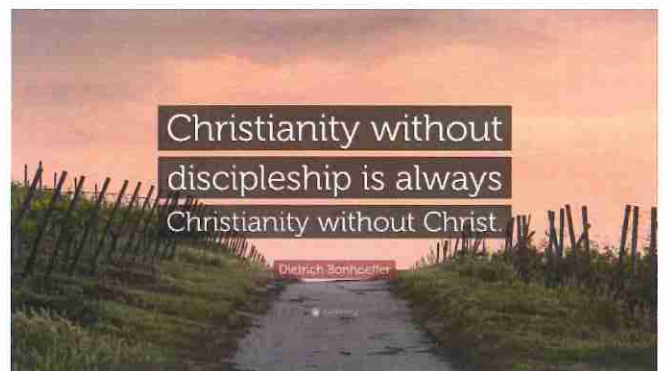
Each January brings the inevitable challenge to consider New Year's resolutions, ways in which we are prepared to pledge ourselves to change, to improve over the coming year. Of course some people have long since given up any attempt to change or improve, perhaps out of frustration or because they believe they are already more than sufficiently good. But for most of us, it takes only a brief examination to realize that God has in mind a decided plan for our ongoing improvement. However, even if one is prepared to consider change and improvement, often the things I believe I need to change are not necessarily the ones that I am prepared to work to change. That is, God often shows me the route to improvement but I offer substitutes which are either more to my liking or easier to accomplish.

Recently I read a biography of Dietrick Bonhoffer, a German Protestant pastor executed by the Nazis at the end of the Second World War. Although I had previously read several of Bonhoffer's writings, notably *The Cost of Discipleship*, this was my first opportunity to read about the man himself. He was a brilliant intellectual, but an intellectual who had discovered within himself the urgent need to live his Christian faith. This was an especial challenge for him since the Lutheran faith of the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Germany had become, as understood by Bonhoffer, rather formalized and sterile. He yearned for a more dynamic

Christian faith, one of action and not merely words. And in reaching for this ideal, Bonhoffer recognized the need to resist oppression and tyranny. It was that vision of God's peace and justice that compelled him to oppose the Nazi regime, even at the cost of his own life.

Most of us are not faced with tyrannical political regimes which we must resist, but that's not really the point. We don't have to seek external situations which challenge, although they may exist in our lives. Rather, we have only to look inward. Do you have the courage to face your own sinfulness, your own shortcomings? Do you have the courage to stand up for what is right and just and in accord with our Christian faith? We face another new year and yet another opportunity to live Christian discipleship. Our baptism calls us to be just that type of individual. Have you the courage to respond?

### *From Father Ken*



## My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This week we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord – a Feast Day within the liturgical celebration of Christmas. It is associated with the visit of the Magi. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek word “Epiphania” meaning to be made manifest or revealed. It is the recognition of Christ by the Magi.

As mentioned previously, no Masses will be celebrated in the Chapel from January 3rd through January 6th. All priests of the Diocese will be in a mandatory Retreat. Masses will resume the normal schedule on Friday January 7th at 9:00 AM.

Adoration will be offered on January 5th between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Please come and spend time with our Lord.

The Secular Franciscans continue to have daily prayers at 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM. Please join them in this ongoing devotion. If you have questions, contact Susan Urbanek at 817-423-4092.

The Seminarians have asked me to thank all of you for the gift cards they received for Christmas. They appreciate your generosity and prayers.

If you are aware of Catholic residents of St. Francis Village who are unable to come to the Chapel for Mass and desire Holy Communion, Anointing, a Chapel Bulletin or a visit from Father Ken, please contact Rena Roberts at 817-656-4736.

Our weekly Divine Will class is held every Monday in the PAX Center from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Newcomers are always welcome.

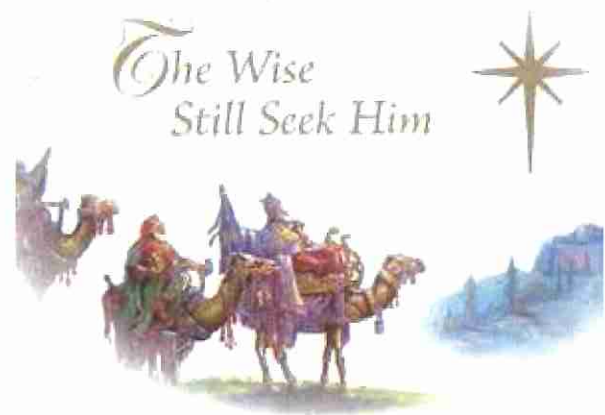
We are in the process of identifying Catholic Ministries that need financial assistance. Monthly, we make a \$1500 donation to designated charities. If you have a Catholic Charity you would like us to consider, please

notify an Advisory Committee member or call the Chapel office.

Thanks to the Altar Society members who decorated the Chapel for Christmas. The Chapel looks great and these special touches are enhancing our Christmas Masses and Devotions. A special thanks goes out to Ann Welch, all Cantors, and everyone who made the Advent and Christmas music so beautiful and inspiring. As we continue the Christmas Season, may we continue to thank God for our many blessings.

May Christ's will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

*God Give You Peace,  
Mike Pierson*



### Mass Intentions

- Jan. 2, 2022 For the Intentions of all SFV Catholic Chapel Parishioners
- Jan. 3, 2022 Priest on Retreat
- Jan. 4, 2022 Priest on Retreat
- Jan. 5, 2022 Priest on Retreat
- Jan. 6, 2022 Priest on Retreat
- Jan. 7, 2022 Repose of the Soul of Rose Donahue  
By Pat Donahue
- Jan. 8, 2022 For all SFV Parishioners with  
January Birthdays ( 9:00 AM Mass)
- Jan. 8, 2022 For the Intentions of all SFV Catholic Chapel Parishioners (5:00PM Vigil)

# Dear Padre,

## How is Twelfth Night related to Christmas?

**T**welfth Night is another name for the Epiphany, which traditionally occurred on January 6, the twelfth day after Christmas. Since the 1980s, United States Catholics have celebrated the Epiphany on the first Sunday after January 1, which is why we're celebrating it today instead of Thursday.

Liturgical celebrations are distinguished as solemnities, feasts, and memorials according to their importance. The two greatest solemnities, Easter and Christmas, continue for an octave (eight days). Since the octave of Christmas runs from December 25 through January 1 (the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God), it's not affected by the transfer of the Epiphany celebration.

Christmas is the great gift-giving day in the United States. In other cultures—for example, the Latino community—the anticipation and excitement of gift-giving is saved for Epiphany, the day the Magi brought their gifts to Jesus.

We often complain about how frenzied Christmas is—how much shopping, wrapping, and baking there is to do. But Christmas should be a time of worship and acknowledging the gift God gave us by sending his Son.

Epiphany, on the other hand, is made for celebration, gift-giving, going all out. Perhaps someday we can return to the traditions of Epiphany and restore Christmas as a day of rejoicing and worship.

*The Redemptorists*  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



*A woman holds a figurine of the Christ Child during Mass on the feast of the Epiphany.*

CNS/DAVID MERCADO/REUTERS

## Calendar

### Monday

JANUARY 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 3:22—4:6

Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

### Tuesday

JANUARY 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,

Religious

1 Jn 4:7–10

Mk 6:34–44

### Wednesday

JANUARY 5

St. John Neumann,

Bishop

1 Jn 4:11–18

Mk 6:45–52

### Thursday

JANUARY 6

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:19—5:4

Lk 4:14–22a

### Friday

JANUARY 7

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:5–13

Lk 5:12–16

### Saturday

JANUARY 8

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:14–21

Jn 3:22–30

### Sunday

JANUARY 9

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1–4, 6–7

or Is 40:1–5, 9–11

Acts 10:34–38

or Ti 2:11–14; 3:4–7

Lk 3:15–16, 21–22



## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*[The Lord] is our light: a light that does not dazzle but accompanies and bestows a unique joy. This light is for everyone, and it calls each one of us...At the beginning of each day we can welcome this invitation: arise, shine, and follow today—among the many shooting stars in the world—the bright star of Jesus!*

ANGELUS ON EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017