

Nativity of Our Lady Catholic Church

130 N. Richelieu Circle • New Iberia, LA 70560

Phone: (337) 364-8360 • Email: nativity@ni.brcoxmail.com

Website: www.nativityni.org

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Weekdays:

5:30 pm (Tuesday and Thursday)

9:00 am (Wednesday) 6:30 am (Friday)

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 9:30 am — 5:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am — 12:00 pm

(Closed daily from 12:00 pm — 1:00 pm for Lunch)

PASTOR:

Rev. Msgr. J. Robert Romero

SACRAMENTAL MINISTER:

Fr. Ed Degeyter

SECRETARY:

Kimberly Richard

BOOKKEEPER:

Polly Camacho

RECEPTIONIST:

Sheryl S. Bourque

DIRECTOR OF FAITH

FORMATION:

Janet Viator — 337-365-3759

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

COORDINATOR:

Amber Salsman

PASTORAL COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: *Barbara Breaux*

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 3:00 pm — 3:45 pm and
30 minutes before weekday Masses

ROSARY:

Wednesday: 8:20 am (*Pro-Life*)

First Saturday: 8:20 am



EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 5, 2025



Mass Intentions for the Week

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

5:30pm Special Intention

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

9:00am Patty Babineaux Fontenot

Juliette C. Dubois, Jerry Dooley

Ernest "Topper" Breaux, Jr.

Megan B. Broussard (liv) (bd)

Thursday, January 9, 2025

5:30pm First Communion Parishioners & Fly

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:30am Confirmation Parishioners & Fly

Saturday, January 11, 2025

4:00pm Fr. Tom Finley, Victor Bernard

Rachel R. Romero, Peggy T. Lancon

Karen Moresi, Gloria Dooley (liv) (bd)

Sunday, January 12, 2025

8:00am Parishioners, Carroll Aucoin

Clark Romero

10:00am Msgr. H.J. Barsen, Fr. A.J. Boumans

Harvey & Joyce DeCourt, Donna M. Lanza

A Special Word of Thanks for your wonderful Christmas Gifts and Cards that have been given to us during this Christmas Season. We are very touched by your kindness and generosity expressed by your love. We love you too! May God bless us all! Thank you.

Msgr. Romero & Fr. Ed

SANCTUARY LIGHT:

Provided By:
Our Lady's Altar Society



PARISH VOCATION CROSS

The Vocation Cross is taken by:

*Willie & Cynthia Elmer
(January 5th - 11th)*

Each week, a family or an individual from our parish receives the vocation cross. If you or your family would like to receive the vocation cross, please sign-up on the sign-up sheet near the tabernacle in church. We appreciate the prayers.

LIVE THE LITURGY

The news of the Messiah unsettled Herod. We see his anxiety clearly in today's Gospel. This is what Christ has come to do, after all. He has come to shake things up. Are we ready to be unsettled? ©LPi

DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED

CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

Epiphany Blessing - January 5, 2024

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

Epiphany Blessing, Explained: The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it. 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 mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." ©LPi

PRACTICING CATHOLIC

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: The journey of the magi would have been treacherous and uncomfortable. Imagine the peace in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was. It was an epiphany for them. It can be the same for us.

The Answer: Have you ever had an epiphany? I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things. But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was. It was an epiphany for them a discovery of truth. An answer. It should be the same for us. ©LPi



Please Join Us!

Praying for an end to abortion and all pro-death activities in our nation and in our world.



South Deanery **“March For Life”**

Tuesday January 14, 2025

St. Peter’s Catholic Church, New Iberia, Louisiana

- ◆ **5:00pm Holy Hour at Grotto** - An hour of prayer, music and adoration with confession available.
- ◆ **6:00pm Eucharistic Procession** - Procession from Grotto to St. Peter Church

6:30pm Mass for Life

Celebrant for

Eucharistic Procession & Mass:

Fr. David James Furka

For more information call (337) 369-3816

**THE EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION:
THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER
AND THE MOVABLE FEASTS**

Know, dear brethren, [brothers and sisters], that as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God’s mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

- On the fifth day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.
- On the twentieth day of April, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- On the first day of June will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- On the eighth day of June, the feast of Pentecost.
- On the twenty-second day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.
- On the thirtieth day of November, the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

Dear Jesus,
 though a newborn,
 the Wise Men knew your greatness.
 On a hint from the heavens,
 they traveled far from
 their places of comfort
 so that they could honor you.
 From their belief in your divinity,
 they gave amazing gifts,
 offerings that symbolized
 your life, power,
 and even your death.
 And because of a
 dream in the night,
 they altered their well-laid
 plans to return home
 in order to protect you.
 May we be so willing
 to honor, sacrifice, and obey,
 all for love of you,
 as we meditate on
 the meaning of this day.
 Amen.

MEMORIAL BOOK

The weekend of the first Sunday of every month the "Memorial Book" is placed in the sanctuary as a reminder that we pray for all those who have been enrolled. You can enroll any deceased person by making a donation to Our Lady's Altar Society (minimum \$5.00) This money stays with the Altar Society to assist the parish with Altar needs. Call Sheryl Bourque @ 364-8360.

Women’s Praise and Worship will be held on **Thursday January 9th** at 6 pm at our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church hall. All women are invited. Bring a friend.

Diocese of Lafayette - Bishop Services Appeal
Nativity of Our Lady would like to thank our parishioners. As of 11/30/2024, it was reported that we exceeded our goal. Our goal was \$25,533.00, but thanks to your generosity we collected \$35,313.26. Thank you!!!!

Prayer for Vocations

For our married couples, strengthen their covenant.
 For our religious sisters, surround them with Your love.
 For our priests, support them as they guide.
 For our parents, sustain them in Your grace.
 For our religious brothers, draw them nearer to You. For our consecrated singles, be everything they need. For those discerning, be with them as they journey. Amen.



PRAYER & SICK LIST



The names on our prayer list will stay on for 90 days. If you want to add or delete a name, please call the office @ 337-364-8360: Marnel Fremin, Yvonne Willis, Misty Geoffroy, Shirley Trahan, Brayson Willson, Lori Agiular, Elijah Hebert, Baby Guillory, Frank Onebane, Lena Lopez, Debbie Johnson & Fly, Cameron Alba, Mel & Stacey Boutte, Betty C. Champagne, Donna Francis, Farina Guidry, Betty Robichaux, Earline Estave, Chad Babineaux, Tammy Dore, Dylan Ducote, Judy Meyers, Garland Reed, Carly Tajmir, Diane & Ronald Broussard, Lance Castille, Grace Armendariz, Hardy Jenkins, Louis Boudreaux, Jr., Gloria Comeaux, Larry Romero, Scotty Champagne, Edward Simon, Sirena Rogers, Monica Harrington, Janis & Nathan Dugas, Billy Simon, Lynette Landry, Janet Viator, Ronnie Landry, Betty B. Leblanc, Christine Guidry & the Guidry Fly, Barbara Martin, Michael “Tee” Theriot, Elise C. Verret, Phyllis S. Bourque, Doris Sheldon, Ovide Buteaux, David Spelly, Ellen Guidry, Dean Delahoussaye, Patsy & Percy Barrilleaux, Patsy Thibodeaux, Tom Stowe, Tim & Staci Stowe, John Babin, Fran Jackson, Reed Michael & Cody Lynn Romero, David & Robin Viator Fly, Sheryl S. Bourque, Mark Bourque, Michael & Claire Landry Fly, Dustin & Nicole V. Ortego Fly, Linda & Clint Trahan Fly, Ruth Bernard, Bridget Aitken, Norvelle Belaire, Caroline Dubois.

Please also pray for those individuals who, although they are in need of your prayers, have requested that their names not be publicized for privacy reasons.

2025 Mass Intentions:

The Mass Intention Book for the 2025 year is now open for parishioners to schedule Masses. Please allow 14 business days before the requested Mass. Come by the church office to schedule Masses. Call the church office with any questions, 364-8360.

We are a sacrificial giving Parish, giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure: OUR GIFTS TO GOD December 22, 2024

Loose	\$ 1,637.50
Envelopes	\$ 4,298.20
Total (collected)	\$ 5,935.70
Online Giving offertory	\$ 528.00
Mailed in offertory	\$ 905.00
Total offertory (week)	\$ 7,368.70
New Iberia Poor & Needy	\$ 1,724.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

January 5, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

Have you ever wondered *why* the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew’s Gospel tells us, “Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their “treasures”? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn’t that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi’s gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with “gold” (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— *Father John Muir*

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REFLECTIONS – The Epiphany of the Lord - The Feast of Epiphany commemorates the visit of the three Magi at Jesus’s birth. At the very beginning, we are reminded that Jesus came not just for a select group, but for all people. It is worth noting that those who acknowledge the birth of Jesus were lowly, uneducated shepherds and foreigners. The priests and elders of their own community were not there. Perhaps we should rethink our assumptions about people and remember that God so loved all of us that he sent his son, Jesus, to walk with us.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” - Isaiah 60:1
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TODAY'S READINGS

The Epiphany of the Lord January 5, 2025

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah foresees a time when the people of Jerusalem will be overwhelmed with happiness and prosperity. What gift could you receive that would bring you great joy?

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul informs the Ephesians that he received a revelation of God's plan to save all people through Christ Jesus. What do you think makes your friends or relatives open to this idea?

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The visit of the magi teaches us about God's desire for the whole world know about his Son, Jesus. When do you first recall hearing about Jesus? @LPi

Nativity of Our Lady is hosting a **RECEPTION FOR FR. ED IN HONOR OF HIS 55th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION** following the 9am Mass on **Wednesday, January 22nd**. Please bring your favorite continental breakfast items or finger foods. Please call Margo LeBlanc if you have any questions, 380-3319.

CURRENT EVENTS

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Mass at 5:30pm

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Pro-Life Rosary - 8:20am - Mass - 9am
K.C. & Ladies Aux. Dinner & Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Mass at 5:30pm
Baptism Class - 6:30pm - Church Office
O.C.I.A. Meeting - 6pm

Friday, January 10, 2025

Mass at 6:30am

Saturday, January 11, 2025

Baptisms
Mass at 4pm

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Confirmation Class after 10am Mass
Masses at: **8am & 10am**
2nd Collection - Nativity Building Fund

New Mass Times 2025

Saturday Mass: - 4pm
Sunday Masses: - 8am & 10am

Prayer of Rejoicing

Fill our hearts, Lord, with rejoicing as we seek and discover You. Your ways are full of wonder, glory, surprise, and joy.

Amen

@LPI

Praise & Glory to My God, My Savior
My Everything!!!!

MASS SERVERS January 7 - 12, 2025					
DAY DATE	TIME	CELEBRANT	READERS	LAY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
Tuesday 1/7/25	5:30pm	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	See Reader Schedule	See Signup Sheet Inside Church	Sacristan
Wednesday 1/8/25	9:00am	Fr. Ed Degeyter	See Reader Schedule	See Signup Sheet Inside Church	Sacristan
Thursday 1/9/25	5:30pm	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	See Reader Schedule	See Signup Sheet Inside Church	Sacristan
Friday 1/10/25	6:30am	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	See Reader Schedule	See Signup Sheet Inside Church	Sacristan
Saturday 1/11/25	4:00pm	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	See Reader Schedule	See Signup Sheet Inside Church	Serena Bedia
Sunday 1/12/25	8:00am	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	See Reader Schedule	See Signup Sheet Inside Church	Sophia Comeaux Allie Comeaux
	10:00am	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	See Reader Schedule	See Signup Sheet Inside Church	Madalynn Salsman Tai Nguyen

Diocesan is proud to now be printing *Nativity of Our Lady's Sunday Bulletin*

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Richard Gutknecht

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