

## ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Mass intentions for Jan. 2, 2022 *Epiphany of the Lord*

**Saturday, 5 p.m. —**  
† Paul J. Hartley  
By: Dede Noyes

**Sunday, 9 a.m. —**  
† Frank Thomas Anania  
By: Fran & Rodney Robey

**Wednesday, noon —**

### *Epiphany of the Lord*

**Isaiah 60:1-6** — All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.

**Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13** — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6** — The Gentiles are copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 2:1-12** — The magi were overjoyed at seeing the star. They prostrated themselves and did Jesus homage, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

### Synod Survey

Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." Please complete the Diocese of Knoxville synod survey found at:

<https://synodsurvey.org>

All, including non-Catholics, are encouraged to complete the anonymous survey. (Be sure to hit the "submit" button when finished.)

Jan. 2, 2022

### *Epiphany of the Lord*

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12



### THE MAGI OR WISEMEN

In ancient Iran — also called Persia — a priest was called a "magus" with the plural being "magi." Magi were experts in astronomy, which was useful in determining the calendar and the end of winter and the spring planting season. They believed that stars and other celestial objects actually influenced, rather than merely coincided with, earthly events. One, or possibly a series of omens, led them to believe a royal prince had been born in Israel. They were sent as ambassadors to provide tribute. The bible does not say how many Magi visited, though it is assumed there were three because of the number of gifts.

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### Weekly readings

#### Monday

1 John 3:22—4:6  
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

#### Tuesday

*St. Elizabeth Ann  
Seaton*  
1 John 4:7-10  
Mark 6:34-44

#### Wednesday

*St. John Neumann*  
1 John 4:11-18  
Mark 6:45-52

#### Thursday

1 John 4:19—5:4  
Luke 4:14-22a

#### Friday

1 John 5:5-13  
Luke 5:12-16

#### Saturday

1 John 5:14-21  
John 3:22-30

#### Sunday

*Baptism of the Lord*  
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10  
Acts 10:34-38  
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

### Thanks for your support and generosity

In-person Offertory  
Dec. 26, 2021

TBA



## Gifts of the Magi

The gifts of the magi — gold, frankincense and myrrh — communicate symbolic meanings to us today, particularly in two spiritual senses.

St. Irenaeus has given us interpretations in the allegorical or christological sense. This sense shows how the gifts relate to Christ, specifically the mystery of the Incarnate Word (God becoming man).

Pope St. Gregory the Great outlines the moral sense of each gift — that is, how the items represent gifts that we are to give God in our daily lives.



### Gold



In the allegorical sense, gold is a symbol of royalty, which represents the kingship of Jesus.

In the moral sense, gold symbolizes the wisdom of Christ, a wisdom that is to shine in our lives.

### Frankincense

Allegorically, frankincense points to the divinity of Christ because it is used in worship.

In the moral sense, it represents the adoration we are to give Jesus. (Revelation 8:3-4)



### Myrrh

In an allegorical sense, myrrh symbolizes the humanity of Jesus, particularly in his passion and death. Myrrh was used to anoint Jesus' body after his death, so it symbolizes pain, death and the afterlife.

In the moral sense, myrrh represents our daily self sacrifices to the Lord. (Matthew 39; Romans 12:1)

—From *The Ignatius Study Bible, New Testament*

### Saintly Wisdom

"As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness:  
incense for God,  
gold for a king and  
myrrh for one who is to die."  
— *St. Peter Chrysologus* —

### Parish Life

**PSR Classes Canceled** — Classes for the Parish School of Religion will not meet this weekend. Classes resume next Sunday, Jan. 9.

**Knights of Columbus** — The Knights of Columbus will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday. All members are welcome and invited to attend.

**Lectors** — Anyone who would like to read at one of the weekend Masses may contact Coleen Schneider at [coleenschneider@gmail.com](mailto:coleenschneider@gmail.com) or 423-202-6387.

**Calendars** — Remember to pick up a 2022 calendar in the vestibule — one per family please.

**If You Are Sick** — During the flu season, we are reminded to stay home from Mass if we experience any flu-like symptoms. If attending Mass with a cough or sneezing, please consider wearing a mask to protect others at Mass. Thank you.

**Charity Donation Letter** — If you would like a letter for your tax return summarizing your 2021 donations to St. Elizabeth, please drop a note in the weekend collection with your name and the words "tax letter" on it.

**Right-to-Life Rosary** — The St. Elizabeth youth group is sponsoring a Right-to-Life Rosary at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23. All are invited to participate.

**Online Giving for St. Elizabeth** — To give online to St. Elizabeth Church, please register at:

<http://stelizabethsparish.weshareonline.org/>

Your envelope number will be linked with your online giving information.