



## ON THE EPIPHANY MAY GOD BLESS OUR HOMES

The Epiphany This Sunday we celebrate the Epiphany – the Feast of the Three Kings! It is on this day that many families replace the shepherds in their manger scene with the magi. It is also a tradition of many faithful to bless their home on this day.

But first, what is this day about and who are the kings really?



Matthew 2:1-15 tells us, “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.’”

He goes on to describe King Herod’s troubled reaction; ploy to get the wise men to return to him so he could destroy this new king; the dream the magi had directing them not to return to Herod; and the visit of an angel to Joseph telling him to flee with Mary and baby Jesus to Egypt.

While the bible contains no record of the origins of the kings, it is believed, that they were from Yemen, because it was ruled by Jews. Legends give names to the kings. The first being Caspar, the King of Sheba. He is often depicted in a green cloak and crown with green jewels. Caspar brought frankincense to Jesus. The second king is Melchior often seen with long white hair and a gold cloak. He was king of Arabia, bringing the gift of gold to the Christ Child. The third king is referred to as Balthazar, the king of Egypt, who wore a white, black or red cloak and presented the gift of myrrh.

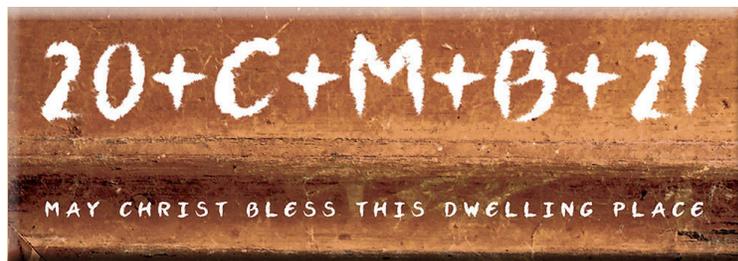
There is prophetic meaning behind the gifts. Gold is a gift for a king. Frankincense is a gift for a priest. Myrrh is a fragrant burial ointment, more valuable than gold in Jesus’ time. These

gifts acknowledge Jesus’ Incarnation as king of all nations, a priest for all, and a redeemer who will endure pain and death to give us all forgiveness and eternal life.

On the Epiphany it is custom to bless your house as a sign that Jesus is a daily guest in your home. The traditional way to do this is with chalk write “20+C+M+B+21” at the entrance of the home. The beginning and end numbers are the year. The letters C, M, and B, are not only the initials of the three kings, but also are the abbreviation of the Latin phrase, “Christus mansionem benedicat,” which means, “May Christ bless the house.” Don’t forget the “+” signs! Those represent the cross of course.

There are several ways folks have incorporated this as a new tradition for their families. You can use the following as you begin yours.

Bless the chalk, praying, “Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”



Then you write “20+C+M+B+21” either above the door or even on the front porch step, while saying, “The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God’s Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.”

Then offer this prayer, “Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.”

May your Epiphany and New Year be blessed.

These directions were presented by Brother Daryl Moresco, O. CARM.

# ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON ~ MOTHER OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

On Jan. 4, we honor St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who opened the first Catholic school in the United States, as well as the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women in the US. To honor her is honoring a great evangelizer of religious women and catholic school children all over the Americas today.

*The following story was published on the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education website.*

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

-Mt 13:31-32.

Every great and mighty tree, like every great endeavor, begins as a single seed, requiring care and nurturing to reach its full potential.

Before 1634, the fields in which to plant the seeds of faith in the New World were largely fenced off to Catholics, and anti-Catholicism was official government policy in the English colonies. It wasn't until Lord Baltimore founded Maryland as the first “non-denominational” colony that the seeds of Catholicism were able to take root in America.

Even after Lord Baltimore established a tolerant state, the Catholic seedlings weathered terrible treatment, constantly trampled by persecution and choked by legal restraint. This oppression lasted for more than a hundred years, until it was largely mollified by the French involvement in the American Revolution, and a respect for their culture and Catholic identity developed.

This new respect largely cleared the

skies for Catholicism and turned over a new leaf for its potential to grow, given the proper attention and caretakers.

Elizabeth Ann Seton became one such caretaker, sowing new seeds and meticulously cultivating the great tree of American Catholicism.

A convert to Catholicism, Elizabeth was confirmed into the faith by the Right Reverend John Carroll, the first and only Catholic bishop in America



at that time. Elizabeth then founded an academy for young women, but enrollment numbers dwindled as news of her conversion to Catholicism spread, as anti-Catholicism was still prevalent.

During this troubling time, Elizabeth sought the spiritual counsel of a visiting priest, the Abbé Louis Dubourg, a French émigré of the Society of Saint-Sulpice. The Sulpicians were in the process of establishing the first Catholic seminary in the United States, and Dubourg invited Elizabeth to join them in their mission in Emmitsburg, Md.

A year later in 1810, Elizabeth established the St. Joseph's Academy and Free School dedicated to the education of young Catholic women and made possible by the financial

support of Samuel Sutherland Cooper, a wealthy convert and seminarian at the newly established, nearby Mount Saint Mary's University.

Around this time, Elizabeth also founded the first congregation of religious sisters in the United States, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, which was dedicated to the care of the children of the poor.

Mother Seton, as she was henceforth known, dedicated the rest of her life to nurturing Catholic education in America, knowing that instilling the seeds of faith in the nation's youth was the best way to cultivate the Church in America.

Pope Paul VI officially canonized Mother Seton on Sept. 14, 1975, making her the first native-born American saint.

The branches of Elizabeth Ann Seton's legacy continue to grow and extend their reach over American Catholicism today. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is honored as the patron saint of Catholic schools for the tremendous impact she had in the nascence of American Catholic education. Not only does Mother Seton School still exist in Emmitsburg as a direct descendant of St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, but six separate religious congregations also trace their roots back to her Sisters of Charity.

Directly or indirectly, Catholic schools from Los Angeles to New York, Seattle to Miami owe their success largely to Mother Seton, who tended so tirelessly to the seeds of Catholicism—and the even smaller mustard seed of Catholic education. Her efforts allowed them to take root and grow into the beautiful, fruitful trees of faith we continue to cultivate today in our nation's Catholic schools.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us.

# CELEBRATE THE MEMORIAL OF ST. JOHN NEUMANN ON JAN. 5TH

The St. John Neumann Shrine ([STJOHNNEUMANN.ORG](http://STJOHNNEUMANN.ORG)) presents the following short summary of his story.



**JOHN NEUMANN** was born in Prachatice in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He studied theology in the seminary of Budweis. Zealous for the missionary life and to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support.

Neumann was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York in June 1836, and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls.

Wanting to live in a religious community that corresponded more to his missionary vocation, in January 1842 he entered the Redemptorists. A tireless missionary, Neumann busied himself in particular with the German immigrants, first in Baltimore, then in Pittsburgh.

Having filled the role of vice-provincial superior of the Redemptorists from 1846-49, he became the parish priest of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore. In 1852, at the age of 41, he was named bishop of Philadelphia.

Neumann had a strong effect on the religious life of the United States by founding Catholic schools and promoting devotion to the Eucharist. He founded a new religious institute—the Third Order of Saint Francis of Glen Riddle. The School Sisters of Notre Dame likewise regard Neumann as their secondary founder, their “Father in America.” In just seven years, he built 89 churches, as well as several hospitals and orphanages. As a bishop, Neumann was untiring in visiting his vast diocese.

On January 5, 1860, at the age of 48, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a Philadelphia street. Neumann was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. In the homily on the occasion of Neumann’s canonization, Pope Paul VI summarized the activity of the new saint: “He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was a friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants.”

St. John Neumann is invoked as a patron of sick children and of immigrants.

## PRAYER TO ST. JOHN NEUMANN

O Jesus, who on earth commanded and practiced a hidden life, grant that in these our days of pride and outward display, the example of your servant John Neumann may lead us to follow your humble ways.

Grant, O Lord, that like your holy bishop we may do all our work with the pure intention of pleasing you and let not our deeds be done to win the favor of others but to give glory to our Father in heaven.

We thank you that our fellow citizen and devoted missionary bishop is recognized among the saints of your Church in heaven, and we beseech you, O Lord, to glorify him on earth by granting the favors we ask through his intercession. Amen.



## CAMP CARLO

With Him on the mountain

### OPENS SUMMER 2021

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis is ready for summer 2021!

Daniel Maul, director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, announced the renewal of summer youth camping ministry in our diocese.

“Under the new name of Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp, or “Camp Carlo” for short, Catholic youth will have a tremendous opportunity to deepen their faith, experience His creation, and build lasting relationships with Catholic peers from across the state,” Maul said.

“I am also pleased to introduce the new Camping Director for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston - Riley Keaton. Keaton is a native of Spencer, West Virginia where he attends Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. He has led values-based leadership camps for the last four years - including through the summer of coronavirus - and represents his hometown in the West Virginia House of Delegates. I urge faithful families to get in touch with him, learn more about what we’re planning in Huttonsville this summer, and, ultimately, give your children an experience that will “make” their summer at Camp Carlo.”

Keaton is eager to welcome kids to camp!

“It’s an exciting time to be a young Catholic in West Virginia! The summer of 2021 - a triumphant return after the pandemic - will be an incredible time to lead young people to Christ and His Church,” Keaton said.

“The motto chosen by Pope St. Paul VI for his church life perfectly describes the goal of our camping ministry: to be “with Him on the mountain.” Camp Carlo provides an exciting opportunity for young people to encounter Christ and His Church, adventure through God’s creation, and grow in their Catholic faith alongside peers from all over the state of West Virginia.

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### First Reading ISAIAH 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

### Responsorial PSALMS 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

**R.** (cf. 11) **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**R.** **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**R.** **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

**R.** **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

**R.** **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

### Second Reading EPHESIANS 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

### Alleluia LUKE 1:38

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel MATTHEW 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. 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. 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. Then they opened their treasures

and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may continually work to bring justice to the afflicted and peace to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our leaders, that they may grow in wisdom and judgment as they lead us into this new year, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For migrants, for refugees, for all those undergoing difficult journeys to new homes, that they may be kept safe in the warm embrace of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our community of faith, that we may see Christ in our brothers and sisters in need and offer him our wealth, our prayers, and our compassion, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



# LET US GO *Rejoicing* TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

PSALM 122



## UPDATED GUIDELINES RELEASED

Bishop Mark E. Brennan released updated guidelines for our churches and facilities.

- New Norms for Reopening Parish Facilities for Meetings and Gatherings
- Updated Liturgical Guidelines
- Music Protocols for Liturgical Celebrations

These are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org).

*Liturgy of the Hours*

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://EBREVIARY.COM) [LITURGY OF THE HOURS](http://LITURGY OF THE HOURS)



## A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR

### PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



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Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
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THE LATEST AND UPCOMING NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC

*Spirit*

## THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!!

Join our e-list to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail. To be added, please e-mail Colleen Rowan, [CROWAN@DWC.ORG](mailto:CROWAN@DWC.ORG), with "The Catholic Spirit e-list" in the subject line. Please provide your preference of: "E-mail only" or "E-mail and Printed Copy." Those selecting e-mail only, will no longer receive a printed copy. The Catholic Spirit is available under "Downloadable Spirit" at

[THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG](http://THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG).

## MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at [DWC.ORG](http://DWC.ORG).

Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: [HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE](https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live)
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: [HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE](https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live)
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: [HTTP://CATHOLICTV.ORG/MASSES/CATHOLICTV-MASS](http://catholicTV.org/masses/catholicTV-mass)
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basilica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday: [HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSSES/](https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/special-masses/)