



A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE KIDS OF ST. AMBROSE

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Feast of the Epiphany is today! While King Herod fretted over Jesus for fear of losing power, the wise men humbly sought little Jesus and brought to him great gifts:

- **Frankincense** is a symbol of Jesus' divinity because it was used in worship. He is the *Priest*!
- **Myrrh** was used as a burial ointment and is a symbol of Jesus' humanity, pointing towards his passion and death. He is the *Prophet*!
- **Gold** is a symbol of Jesus' kingship. He is the *King*!

Did you know that in your baptism, you are called to share in these gifts? The baptized serve as priests through their sacrificial efforts to bring people to God. They serve as prophets through their witness to the truth in word and deed. And they serve as kings in their efforts to lead others - through word and deed - to use their talents to advance the Kingdom of God (CCC 1241).



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FAMILY TIME

*At the dinner table,
in the car,
we talk about our faith,
wherever we are!*



In this week's Gospel, we learn that there are no foreigners or outsiders. God loves all His children, and all are welcome to come adore Him! The wise men followed the star with trust, not knowing where it would lead, and it led them to Jesus!

FAMILY DISCUSSION: Let us prayerfully consider the journey of the wise men to Jesus.

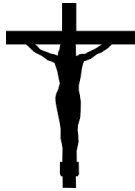
- As a family, do we appreciate and welcome all people as Jesus did? Do we recognize people who are different from us as our brothers and sisters, all created by God?
- Do we courageously follow the path God set before us and trust Him even when we aren't sure where we're going? What are some examples? How can we be more trusting?

Psalm 72: "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

H R S L E W J D G Z K M A F F I K S
 P V P E O W G U P I U I S K L T A O
 E C I Q A W Z S D Z F J N F O N F G
 O M T D P H L A T G Y T E G W K F O
 P S Y J E O T Y F R M X S V E F L V
 L E O U A M P K D E I E X X R O I E
 E R T S C A T H G L F B N Q R A C R
 K V K T H G R E S C U E U T V R T N
 E E R I V E R O B H I C U T L F E G
 K U I C M T V S T Y P O O R E L D W
 S P V E O L R U L E N K M M A M S M
 U P N A T I O N S M W E S A V E Y B

AFFLICTED
 FLOWER
 GIFTS
 GOVERN
 HOMAGE

LOWLY
 NATIONS
 PEACH
 PEOPLE
 PITY



RULE
 SAVE
 SEA
 SERVE
 TRIBUTE

Lord, Bless our Homes!

20 C + M + B 23

Has your family ever used blessed chalk to mark the lintel to your house? You can read about the tradition using the link below. This year's markings are listed above. The "20" represents the millennium and century, the "C," "M," and "B" stand for the three wise men's names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The "23" represents the decade and year.

Some people say the three kings' initials stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat* or *Christ bless this house*.



Painted by Ecole Francaise

Saint Raymond of Peñafort was a Spanish Dominican friar and a lawyer for the Church. He is the patron saint of canon lawyers, or lawyers who work with the laws of the Church. His family had ties to the royal house of Aragon, and he studied law in Barcelona. He helped Peter Nolasco gain permission to found the Mercedarians, an order dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy. He founded a school to help Dominicans learn foreign languages so they might free Christian captives in foreign lands, and he wrote a book teaching confessors how to best serve in their priestly role during this Sacrament. An amazing miracle happened when he was stranded on the island of Majorca, and the king would not allow him to leave. Saint Raymond went to the sea, spread his cloak on the water, holding the other end up with his walking stick. He sailed 160 miles to Barcelona while sailors in boats urged him on, and many onlookers watched at the shore when he arrived on the mainland! This miracle touched the King's heart, and he mended his ways. His feast day is January 7th. **Saint Raymond of Peñafort, pray for us!**