



St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net

JANUARY 8, 2023 † EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

From The Pastor

One of the challenges over time is to stay fresh in our relationships. This is universally true in marriage, friendship, work life, and overall self-awareness. Our faith relationship is the same. Consider that we generally engage faith from the outside. This is not unimportant as a first step. Maturing faith is realized when it is accepted and motivated from the inside.

As active participants in Church religion, we hear readings, listen to homilies, respond to prayers, and move with the actions and gestures of the congregation. Mostly, these are things coming to us from the outside. Faith as a relationship must be known and desired from the inside. Nourished by what is received from the outside our interior faith is motivated and directed by what is heard and experienced. This calls for inner attention.

This is a great challenge when the cycle of readings and the format of our worship is so routine. We are all familiar with the cycle of readings we hear. What keeps the ear and the heart alert for growth and inspiration so our interior faith is nourished and kept fresh?

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord may be a good example. This feast is considered the fulness of Christmas because it unites the human birth of Jesus to the revelation of his Divine nature. This is all true and, in fact, very powerful for we who believe in the Lordship and Divinity of Jesus of Nazareth. How do we unlock this power beyond the common hearing of the words?

This feast is filled with signs and symbols. The Light of the Divine Christ is in contrast with the darkness of fear and control seen in Herod. The wonder of a star guides three Magi in their search and desire to find its meaning. Coming into the presence of the Child Jesus and his parents, they are immediately moved in the depth of their hearts. Their souls are awakened. Lastly, they leave the sign of their most perfect gifts. The gifts are perfect because they symbolize what the Magi hold as their greatest treasures. They also symbolize the nature and path of the newborn Divine Messiah. Gold for a King. Frankincense represents the sweet aroma of holiness. Myrrh is an ointment used for healing and burial preparation.

These are interesting and important details that convey to us the mystery of God. How do we allow them to inspire and freshen our interior faith in the Lord Jesus as human and Divine? Perhaps we could consider the gifts we would like to give Jesus as Our Lord and Redeemer. Signs and symbols of religion are most

effective when we can make them meaningful and personal to our faith.

The best gift we can give to Jesus is ourselves. Jesus desires our hearts; that we seek and desire to know and love Jesus in response to his love for us. This can only happen from the inside beyond exterior contact with religion. It must come from the core truth of who we are committed people of faith. Faith comes as a gift from God, but it is a gift we must open and actively engage over the long haul.

Jesus loved his human life. Most of us love our lives. With all the beauty and goodness of being human, it cannot be denied for Jesus or for us that life is difficult. It is hard to be human. It is hard to stay fresh in love and not have all the negatives of life get in the way. Like any relationship, faith takes time and effort. If we are going to give ourselves to Jesus as gift, our inner work of faith will create the beauty.

In our post-modern culture, against the pressure of media and the demands of consumerism, relationships are often run over in the fray. How do we give our best self to Jesus as gift? Love yourself as one loved and valued by Jesus, freed from sin, and liberated for eternal life. The scriptures that are so familiar to us offer many clues for the 'how to'. To know and love ourselves is to accept our human nature. Jesus did not disdain being human. Accept the imperfections of life: your body, your faults, weakness, sin, even your poor credit rating. To be human is to be humble in the acceptance of all we are and all we are not.

Jesus was obedient to the love of his Father's will. He surrendered to the Father's love in their united desire to reconcile the world against sin and death. Obedience and surrender are virtues of humility. They bring beauty to any gift offered to Jesus. Prayer is relationship. Any love or friendship needs and wants time with the friend or beloved. Gifting Jesus with your time as you share yourself with him is icing on the cake that will swell the Lord's heart.

It is hard to be human, but Jesus showed the way. This should be a great hope for us. Lastly, the greatest gift we can give Jesus is to actively accept the gifts he has given to us: love, mercy, forgiveness, redemption, hope, acceptance, and all else we need to find our way to eternal glory. These are good as gold, sweet as frankincense, and healing as myrrh. Praise God!

Father John Esper

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



Live Streaming of Mass
Monday thru Thursday
8:00am and Sunday 9:00am

One hour of Adoration on
Tuesday following
8am Mass

Livestream of Rosary on Thursday following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721
Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Friday - 9am to Noon - Closed Saturday & Sunday

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Business Manager/Spiritual
Direction
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation Office

**Hours: Monday thru Thursday Noon-3pm or
by appointment 248-398-1743**

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

**For information on Baptisms, RCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720**

Mass Schedule

MONDAY, January 9, 2023

8:00am Mass: Sam Balistreri† req. by Corrine McCarthy

TUESDAY, January 10, 2023

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

WEDNESDAY, January 11, 2023

8:00am Mass: Mike Higgins† req. by Witkowski Family

THURSDAY, January 12, 2023

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

SATURDAY, January 14, 2023,

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Marion & Marty Bentley† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

Tom Kuzma† req. by Nancy Sadowski

SUNDAY, January 15, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Jerry Gutowski† req. by Tim & Nancy Oparka

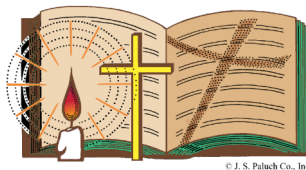
Precila Selga† req. by Leny Lechniak & Family

Sam Balistreri† req. by Jessie Giszczak

Tina Berger† req. by Nieces

"When it comes to life the critical thing is
whether you take things for granted or
take them with gratitude."

G K Chesterton



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 8, 2023

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38;
Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28
or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

**ATTENTION: EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
TO THE HOMEBOUND**



What a privilege it is to bring the Eucharist to our homebound parishioners! Hear Jesus saying to Zacchaeus, "I want to come to your house today." This sacrament brings Jesus' Presence in a way that blesses and heals. This encounter is received with awe and reverence. Before receiving the Blessed Sacrament, the Word of God is proclaimed and appropriate prayers are offered. As we know, those who participate in this ministry set the tone for the visit, prayerful and reverent. If you are not a regular homebound minister, but need to bring the Eucharist to a sick friend or relative, please alert Father John before Mass begins as to whom you will be bringing the Sacrament, and receive a prayer leaflet that will help you. The Blessed Sacrament must be placed in a pyx as it is carried. The pyx should be carried in a burse. If you do not have a pyx or burse, let the sacristan know that you need to use one. If you need to bring someone the Eucharist over a longer period of time, please contact the Parish Office at 248-542-8720. May you be blest as you serve.

**Abandon yourself utterly for
the love of God, and in this way
you will become truly happy.**

—Blessed Henry Suso



**all government leaders to seek
wisdom in finding a peaceful
resolution to the Ukraine crisis.
...medical and humanitarian aid
for those suffering from
economic hardship and from
complications caused by
catastrophic weather
...the safety of men and women**

**dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.
...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering
physically, spiritually and emotionally
...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or
recovering from surgery, medical procedures,
treatments or testing, and those who have made
specific prayer requests.**

Lord Jesus,

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally in these difficult times. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM



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Almost every year at Christmastime, you can find a newspaper article or TV documentary about the star of Bethlehem. Astronomers give various theories about whether the magi saw a new star, perhaps a

supernova, or a comet, or a conjunction of two or more planets. Since the magi are generally believed to be astrologers, the conjunction seems most likely.

More important is the meaning of the star. In Matthew's Gospel, light is used as a symbol of the good news of Jesus coming into the world. Jesus is the light of the world, so the magi follow that light to get to Jesus. That's why verse 9 of the Gospel has the image of the star preceding the wise men and stopping over the house where Jesus was. By following the star, they become followers of Christ. So what do the magi show us about following Jesus?

First, they take the initiative. They saw the star, figured out what it meant, and made their journey. As followers of Jesus, we can look for what needs to be done (in our family, parish, or community) and do it. We don't have to wait for the pastor to call us and beg for help—there are probably articles in this bulletin asking for help.

Second, they expressed their faith in Jesus by the gifts they brought: gold—a gift for a king, who is worthy to be followed; frankincense—Jesus is worthy to be worshiped as Son of God; and myrrh—Jesus becomes king by dying for us all. We can express our faith in many ways. We can volunteer to help the poor, the elderly, or the disabled. We can teach our children how to pray and tell them about all that God has done for us. Third, they were not afraid to take risks for Jesus. When they went back home without telling Herod where they found the child, Herod was furious (Matthew 2:16). For all they knew, he could have come after them. How often do we take risks for the Lord, by openly speaking about our faith or giving God credit for the good that we do? Let the star of Bethlehem remind us that Jesus is the star of our lives.

Tom Schmidt,
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**ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT
REQUEST FOR 2022**

We will not do a parish wide mailing of contribution statements. If you would like a copy of your 2022 contributions for income tax purposes, please call the parish office at 248-542-8720 after January 3, 2023 when the office reopens.

Please make request by January 16, 2023.

EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

FOOD PANTRY

If you are in need of food, contact the parish office for information on local food pantries.

EYEGLASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS - JANUARY 15

Our Parish Nurse, Angela, will be taking blood pressures next Sunday at the coffee and donut hospitality.

**MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION
January 14/15**

Items requested:

Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like:
Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

Canned Foods including:

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghetios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable foods from:

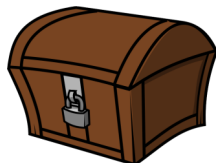
Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10**

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday at 6:30pm in church. New members welcome.

**TREASURES FROM
OUR TRADITION**

EPIPHANY



Life hands us many epiphanies or “wake-up calls.” A few years ago, a young couple adopted a two-year-old child in a morass of red tape, complications, and court hearings. At the baby’s baptism, the priest suggested appending an “adoption blessing,” wherein the new relationship was expressed and affirmed. There is a place in that rite for the child to speak, and instead the priest said, “Can you give Daddy a kiss?” Standing in the midst of his church, the young adoptive father suddenly welled up with tears as he embraced the child. Afterward, he explained that through all the hassles and legal struggles he never until that moment in church understood that he was the parent of this child. The ritual claimed them for each other, gave expression to their relationship that the legal documents never could, and firmly cemented this child into the heart of a community as everyone erupted into heartfelt applause. This assembly witnessed in a powerful way what happens in every baptism: the mystery of adoption, the free flow of grace, the overwhelming sense of God’s presence at the heart of our life’s journey.

—Rev. James Field,
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SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
- Monday: The Baptism of the Lord
- Tuesday: First Week in Ordinary Time begins
- Friday: St. Hilary
- Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; Julian Calendar

MEMORIAL FLOWER DONATIONS

In Memory of	Donated by
Stefan Campa	Mrs. Jadranka Campa
Margareth Withorn	Mrs. Jadranka Campa
Jane Malski	M/M Brian Malski
June Thering	M/M Brian Malski
Thomas Merchel	Mrs. Barbara Merchel

General Flower Donation

M/M Maurice Boguth

All are invited to come and pray for the healing of their family generations at an

**INTERGENERATIONAL
HEALING MASS**

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 7:00pm

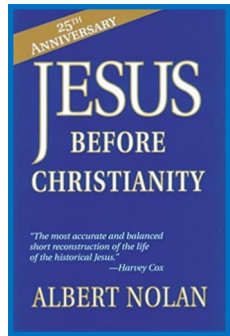
**St. Vincent Ferrer Church
President: Fr. John Esper**

What is intergenerational healing?

We all understand the concept of material inheritance. After people die, they often leave money, property and possessions to family members.

We are also aware of a physical inheritance. Doctors always ask for the family medical history of a new patient. There is also a spiritual inheritance. We can thank God and family for the benefit from our virtuous ancestors going back a thousand generations (see Sirach 44:10-12). We are also adversely affected by the sins of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and by the sins of the ancestors, who adversely affected them, with consequences that may extend to what is inherited materially, emotionally and physically.

In his book entitled Intergenerational Healing, Fr. Robert De Grandis writes: “intergenerational healing is, for the Christian, an opportunity to recognize and bring healing to family influences from the past, with implications for the future. Intergenerational healing suggests the possibility that negative acts and deeds of our ancestors can somehow enter our “bloodstream” and take a toll on future generations. Transforming the connection with these troublesome roots is what intergenerational healing is all about. It’s an exciting, fascinating area of the healing ministry.”



A new Wednesday morning book study at SVF begins January 11, 2023

To sign-up, call the Parish Office 248-542-8720.

“Nolan's portrait introduces readers to Jesus as He was before He became enshrined in doctrine, dogma, and ritual, a man deeply involved with the real problems of His time, which are the real problems of our time as well. In a new preface, Nolan reflects on recent work in Christology and how a book written in South Africa in 1976 still has a message for people today.”

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Children's Faith Formation classes resume this Monday, January 9th.



OUR FASCINATING FAITH

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

If you wish, you can celebrate Epiphany at home with a blessing using the initials of the magi's traditional names (Casper, Melchior, Balthasar), four crosses, and the new year's numerals.

Materials: a piece of chalk and a small container of holy water. Gather with family members, friends, and perhaps some neighbors at the front door.

Leader: In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We sign this doorway with four crosses and the numerals of the new year. **[20 + C + M + B + 23]**

Let us pray: May Christ bless this house!

ALL: Amen!

Each room of the house is sprinkled with holy water.

Living room: Where two or three are gathered in your name, Lord, you are present. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Kitchen: Give us this day our daily bread. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Dining room: Prepare us for the heavenly banquet. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Bedrooms: Stay with us Lord, when night has come. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Bathroom: Cleanse us from all sin. Bless this room, O Lord.

ALL: Amen!

All return to the front door to pray together.

Leader: Let us pray as Jesus taught us: Our Father . . .

The leader sprinkles all present with holy water.

Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen!

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CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER



**PRAYER AT THE MANGER:
WITH THE MAGI**

Let your light shine on us, O God, as the star showed the way to those who searched for Christ.

Fill us with wisdom; help us walk in your ways, now and forever. Amen.

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Ministry Schedule

January 14/15 2023

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	T Riley	D Gray
Reader #2	M Simmons	C McCarthy
EME	M Kairis	P Miles
	J McCown	AS Goll
	T Riley	T Karolski
Greeters	T Milko	L Collins
	J Ballantine	M Bessler
	K Heffner	B Turchin
	R Juska-Svoba	J Turchin



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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Epiphany is a day when popular customs mostly overshadow scriptural accuracy. Matthew’s Gospel never refers to kings coming to see Christ, nor to their number (only the gifts are enumerated), nor to their names. Matthew tells us only that some “magi” came with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. *Magos* referred to members of the Persian priestly class; later it had the connotation of magicians and astrologers. Matthew’s magi report that they have seen a star rising; its light was visible to them far beyond the boundaries of Israel, an early and significant symbol for Jesus, the Light of the World. At the end of Matthew’s Gospel (chapter 28), the followers of Jesus worship him, an act foretold in the actions of the Magi today. The eleven are told to make disciples of “all nations,” nations symbolized by the Magi. Today we hear our own mission: to worship Jesus Christ, and to spread his Good News everywhere, every day.

STAR OF WONDER

In our day-to-day lives, we can experience epiphanies: new perceptions, unexpected insights, sudden changes in direction. In the liturgical year, Epiphany celebrates the appearance of a star in the heavens, a remarkable star followed by the Magi to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are not so different, our daily epiphanies and the Epiphany celebrated today. The arrival of the Magi certainly changed Mary and Joseph’s perceptions of the world, the same way a helpless, tiny baby likely altered the Magi’s insights as to what a star in the heavens would reveal. The story of the Magi—and the story of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—is filled with unexpected changes in direction, as God’s plan continues to vary when it encounters people who cooperate with it, and others who attempt to thwart it. A deep and long reflection on this day we call Epiphany will uncover numerous epiphanies.

STAR OF LOVE

Like all of the Christmas season, Epiphany celebrates God’s eternal and infinite love. In a special way, this day shows how God’s love is truly all-inclusive. The magi were not Jews, not part of the Chosen People who expected that the Messiah was coming to save only them. Early on in his Gospel, Matthew tells us that God’s love will not be limited by our human presumptions or boundaries. We still struggle with the fact that God is constantly epiphany-ing us to grow beyond the limits of our experience or expectations, to move beyond the boundaries of the world around us. Let us pray that we might be given epiphanies to help us find grace where we didn’t believe it existed, to aid us in understanding that God’s love is most often shown by who is included, not who is excluded. May we open our eyes and hearts to know that the Christ-light shines everywhere.

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FAMILIES OF PARISHES

OUR FAMILY - MASS SCHEDULES

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY

8:30 am and 4:30 pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY

7:30 am, 9:30 am (livestreamed), 11:30 am

4:00 pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00 pm

WEEKDAYS (*Monday - Friday*)

6:30 am (livestreamed), 8:30 am

St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J)

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM)

SATURDAY - 4 pm - St. Justin

SUNDAY - 9 am & 11 am - St. Mary Magdalen

MON-WED & FRI- 9am - St. Justin

St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30 pm

SUNDAY - 9 am, 11 am

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30 am

WED - 12:10 pm

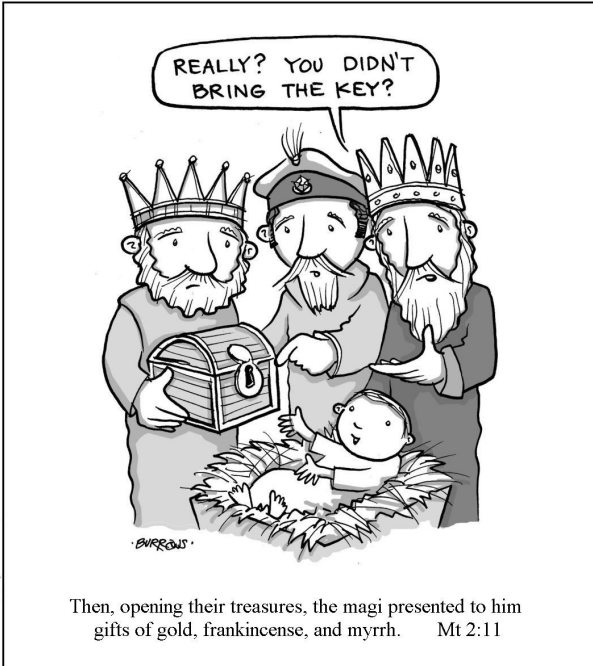


Weekly Offering

Christmas Collection	\$ 7,756.00
Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants Dec. 31/Jan 1	721
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	16
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 672.26
Loose Cash /Check Collection	.00
Total	\$.00
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 20.00

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



Then, opening their treasures, the magi presented to him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Mt 2:11

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The relentless daily reports of darkness can easily lead us not to see the many glimmers of light around us. We who follow the Christ-light must always be on alert for signs of that light around us. Likewise, we who have that Christ-light in us must let it shine forth. No matter how little

we think our light may be, we must recall that it is the light of Christ we bear within us... we are meant to testify to the power of light, to help others see glimpses of God-with-us. Our actions must bear good news, they must announce glad tidings. Even small deeds of light can shine brightly, giving birth to Jesus once again each day. On Christmas day and every day we are called to be people of hope, messengers of peace who offer comfort and make God's glory known.

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The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year, but rather that we should have a new soul. —G. K. Chesterton

The scriptures tell us the magi "opened their treasures and offered [Jesus] gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 1:11). Add the treasures below together, then write the number that tells the sum.

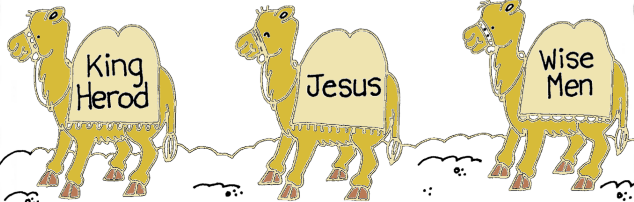
	+		=	_____
	+		=	_____
	+		=	_____
	+		=	_____
	+		=	_____

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God's Word for Children

Epiphany

Use the words on the camels to fill in the blanks in the story below.



_____ heard that _____ were looking for _____. He asked them to return and tell him where they found the baby. The _____ followed a star that led them to _____. They gave him very special gifts. A dream warned them not to go back to _____. And so the _____ took another way home.



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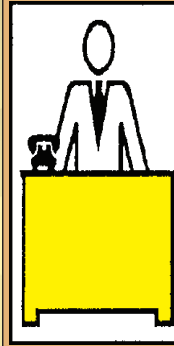
Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.

Individual and Small Business
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