

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendid lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears.

Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see **2 Samuel 2:5**), the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth” (see **Micah 5:1–3**).

Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay Him homage. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king.

The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfillment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob (see **Numbers 24:17**).

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth” (see **1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24**). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see **Song of Songs 3:6, 4:6, 14**).

One greater than Solomon is here (see **Luke 11:31**). He has come to reveal that all peoples are “co-heirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: Will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and the scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

PIANO LESSONS

*Becky Zavodny is offering piano lessons for our community, from ages 8 to adult. If several register, she is willing to come to Westphalia and give the lessons in the RE Bldg.
Please contact Linda Lorenz 254-715-0573 if you are interested or have questions.*

MARRIED COUPLES: *Worn out from the Holidays? Are you looking for a way to avoid the January blahs? How about a special weekend, just for the 2 of you? Register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend today! An upcoming weekend is scheduled for February 7-9 at the Wingate Hotel in Round Rock. To apply online visit: austinme.org or contact Michael and Shani Cowart: 512-677-WWME (9963) or email wwmeaustin@gmail.com. Call early to ensure a space. Para información en español llamar al 512-844-0785.*

Dynamic evening with Kevin Dunn

*Holy Trinity of Corn Hill invites you to a dynamic evening with Kevin Dunn on Saturday January 11 @ 6:30pm
Details are on fliers at the back of Church and the RE Building.*

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW PARISH CHURCH

Heavenly Father, author and inspirer of all things holy, hear our prayers for our new church. Send forth Your Spirit that we may humbly be guided by Your Divine Will. Touch our hearts with true generosity to raise up a house of God for the inspiration and renewal of all Your faithful. May it be a home where all are welcomed, nourished, and empowered to be Christ to others. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS & LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK				
Weekend Mass Intentions	Sat, 01-04 6:00 pm RE Bldg	Sun, 01-05 – 9.00am	Sat, 1/11-6:00pm RE Bldg	Sun, 1/12 – 9.00am
	Epiphany of the Lord	Epiphany of The Lord	The baptism of the Lord	The Baptism of the Lord
	+Don Merryfield +Anton Zeig	Parishioners	+Father Reinhold Schmitt	Parishioners
Altar Server	Colton Ranly Grant Meyer Maverick Cannon Jr.	Carson Kahlig Addison Wilde Mason Wilde	Carson Kahlig Addison Wilde Mason Wilde	Brooke Skala Madison Skala Parker Peters
Lector	Caroline Hoelscher	Shawna Ranly	Mary Jane Hubik	Renaë Willberg
Psalmist		Kay Rabroker		Kathy Thornton
Cantor		Jerry Loden		Margaret Arney
Gift Bearer		James Thornton Family		Barbara Welch Janet Wilde
Ushers	Walter Carson Edward Ranly	Mike Heise Michael Heise	Walter Carson Edward Ranly	Marvin Meyer Ed Meyer
EMHC to sick	Connie Petru	Kayla Skala	Doris Wright	David Alexander
Rosary Leader	Carl & Mary Jane Hubik	Chris & Peggy Hrabal	Carl & Mary Jane Hubik	Chris & Peggy Hrabal
Money Counter	David & Mandy Alexander; Paula Niemeyer; Marilyn Rudloff		Neal & Tammy Ryan; Charles & Cindy Moeller	
Vocation Cross	Charles and Cindy Moeller		Janet Wilde	
Church Cleaner	12/28 & 1/4- Renaë Willberg, Meagan Willberg, Randy Willberg, Linda Willberg, Emily Hering, Dawn Willberg 1/11 & 1/18 Greneta Ordner, Tammie Frenzel, Cheryl Wilde, Debbie Ordner, Shayne Wilde, Courtney Wilde			
Weekday Mass Intentions	Tue 1/7 8:00 am	Wed 1/8 7:20 am	Thu 1/9 8:00am	Fri 1/10 8:00 am
	+Anton Hoelscher +Martin Zeig	+Charlotte Ann Thornton	+Theresa Holy	+Don Merryfield +Louise Lange

The Sick and the Suffering requesting our prayers: Gary Locklin, John Macha, Eva-Ann Greger, Rachel Rudloff, Charles Thornton, Annette Hoelscher, Layla Grace Evetts, JoeAnn Kalmbach, Pattie Kalmbach, Jeff Bernsen, Josie Kleypas, Dennis Fuchs, Beatrice Arnold, Mike Meyer, Bobby Bulls, Charles Ordner, Don Drake, Al Buckholt, Gene Kreger, Edwin Green, Craig Thornton, Fran Greger, Gary Herzog, Barron Shoemaker, Skylar (Savage) Wolfe & Amy Drake

Daily Prayer Service begins 6:00 pm R E Building	012-29 OFFERINGS:
UPCOMING EVENTS:	Regular 1,861.00
Sun 1-5 - HS Religious Education	
Sun 1-5 NO Altar Society Meeting	Christmas Mass 1,761.00
Wed 1- 8 Youth Meeting	Feast of The Holy Family 426.00
Wed 1-8 –6:00 pm Historical Society Meeting ...Convent	
Mon 1-6 @ 6:00 pm KC Meeting	
Thur 1-9 @7:00 pm Liturgy Meeting	Sanctuary Candle:

Church of the Visitation

Westphalia, Texas
Diocese of Austin



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254-584-4983

Rev. Darrell Kostih, Pastor

Deacon Bill Smetana (Retired)
Deacon Charlie Wright
Deacon Julian Tyboroski (Retired)

MASSSES: Saturday – 6:00 pm, Sunday – 9:00 am
Tues 8:00am, Wed 7:20am, Thurs 8:00am, Fri 8:00am

RECONCILIATION: Prior to Weekend Mass

**THE EPIPHANY THE LORD
JANUARY 05, 2020**