



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Among the many gods the Romans honored, there was one named Janus. Janus was the god who guarded gates, doors, doorways and hallways. Because doorways are both entry ways and exits, Janus was also considered the god of change and transition, beginnings and endings. He was pictured in art and sculpture as having two heads or two faces front and back. That was so he could look in two directions, to the past and to the future. The month of January takes its name from Janus as it is the ending of one year and the beginning of a new one.



The feast of the Epiphany comes along at a most fitting time, as it looks back to the past when the prophets tell us that the glory of God shining on Jerusalem would shine out to all the world and would draw people from all nations to walk by its light. It looks to the future when the walls of separation that marked the Jews as God's chosen people and distinct from other nations would tumble, and all people would be invited to be part of and share in the blessings of Gods chosen people.

The coming of the Magi symbolizes God's opening a door for all nations, a door that would eventually lead to kings and emperors adoring Jesus as Son of God. This child, who was born in an insignificant part of the Roman Empire, who spent only three years teaching and healing, who died a condemned criminal, who died with only a handful of followers, in just 300 years would claim three to four million followers and in another 100 years, half of the Roman Empire was Christian and Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

St. Luke told us about the poor, the lowest class of society, shepherds, who initially came to honor the Christ child. St. Matthew tells us of those who were among the elite members of society and their reaction to the birth of Jesus. It is such a contrast in St. Matthew's that those who came to honor the new born Christ were intellectuals, counselors of kings, magi, astrologers and yet they were pagans, while those who had the true faith, King Herod and the religious leaders of the Jews, reacted with paranoia or indifference.

St. Matthew's point is that Christ can now be found by anyone who seeks him with sincerity and perseverance. The word "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word which means to show, to become apparent, to make an appearance, to illuminate. God has appeared to us in Jesus, or as Jesus says so clearly at the Last Supper, "whoever sees me, sees also the Father." To make Himself known, he had to make on human flesh. He did so, so we could know Him. The story of the Magi shows us that although He has come to us, we have to go part of the way to find Him. That is why He gave us prayer and sacraments. That is why we're here today. May God's Spirit continue to fill us with light so we can continually find Him in new and deeper ways.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion



Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time. Rows include Tues. January 6 11:00AM (Thanksgiving, Ed & Mae), Wed. January 7 11:00AM (Special Intentions), Thur. January 8 11:00AM (Special Intentions), Fri. January 9 11:00AM (Special Intentions), Sat. January 10 4:30PM (Lois Ramos †, ICF #14), Sun. January 11 9:00AM (Jose Agdinaoay †, Your Children), and Port Costa 11:00AM (People of the Parish).

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Sunday Collection -Christmas & December 28th

Table with 2 columns: Location, Amount. Rows: St. Rose, Crockett \$1393; Christmas \$4242; St. Patrick Mission \$185; Christmas \$538.

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the changing times!

***In able to meet our 2025 budgets, we would like to remind parishioners that we will need a minimum of \$2,100 for Sunday plate collections at St. Rose every weekend, and \$250 every Sunday at St. Patrick Mission. **

Second Collection This Weekend

This weekend's second collection is for our monthly collection. This month we are supporting our maintenance fund Thank you!



Prayers for the Deceased

In your prayers, please remember in a special way Diane (Bottini) Thomas. A memorial mass will be held here, at St. Rose, on Thursday, January 15th, at 10:00AM.



First Offering Envelopes

For those that receive their parish envelopes in the mail, the January envelopes include one labeled First Offering. The money collected in this envelope helps to offset some of the cost of the envelope service the parish uses. In preparing a budget for 2025, our Finance Council found that if all of the families in our parish donated just \$20 to this collection, it would just about pay for the envelope service for the whole year!



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St Rose Of Lima s***t@comcast.net



Your generous gift to St. Rose of Lima enables us to provide beneficial programs that lift up our congregation and serve our community. We are deeply grateful for your support and invite you to contribute online by scanning the QR code below.



Special Second Collection Next Weekend

Next weekend we will be having a second collection to help support our seminarians. If you would like to help support their studies financially, you may make a donation through this collection, or you may send your check to: Office of Vocations, 2121 Harrison St, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612.

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THIS YEAR, FOR NEW YEARS, I AM RESOLVING TO DO ALL SORTS OF BAD THINGS SINCE I NEVER EVER STICK TO MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS