



Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions: (Sat) 4p – 4:45p

January 5, 2025

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Deeply fatigued from their perilous journey, the three wise men must have been filled with doubt and hope in equal measure, wondering if the star would truly lead them to the promised King. “Is this really worth it?” they may have questioned. “Will we ever meet this child?” And then, in a single gaze, Christ broke into the world of humanity. In this perfect encounter with the Son of God, the wise men “prostrated themselves” and “opened their treasures” before him – in all his glory and all his innocence. We, on our earthly pilgrimage, may relate to feeling exhausted, full of both hope and heartache, as we wait and wonder where we will meet Jesus. Today, remember, he is here, among us. Waiting for our presence, waiting for our heart. Like today’s Scripture from Isaiah, the Magi must have experienced their hearts *throbbing* and *overflowing* with wonder and awe at the sight of their long-awaited King.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

“Your light has come!” What thrilling words these must have been, proclaimed to a world that had been shrouded in darkness, eagerly – *desperately* – waiting for their God to save them. And not only has their light come; with it came a promise that this light would guide all nations. Yet this invitation to light, to *freedom*, also comes with a great responsibility. This light that came into the world isn’t just for us to follow; it is also for us to reflect to others. In today’s world, this may not involve leading flocks of sheep or strumming a 10-stringed lyre, but it does call us to live as radiant witnesses of Christ’s love, always singing his praise! Perhaps this means living joyfully despite our suffering. Maybe it looks like practicing generosity, when we feel like we have little left to give or remaining hopeful in a bleak situation. We are called to praise at all times, but it takes different forms in the different seasons of our life. Whatever season we find ourselves in, let us, like the Magi, seek the King, trusting in his promise and following his light.

REFLECT

Consider areas in your life where the Child Jesus is waiting to break in. Where does he long to heal you, comfort you, and bring you peace? Like the wise men, we are on a pilgrimage filled with hope – and at times, fear and restlessness. On this great feast, let us offer Jesus our treasure – our hearts – and, in return, he will give us the greatest gift of all: himself.

Do Something Great for God

(Within a few weeks) the church will celebrate three epiphanies—"manifestations"—of Jesus: Epiphany today, the Baptism of the Lord next Sunday, and the Presentation of the Lord on February 2. Each of these events reveals something about Jesus: that he is the Messiah, that he is God's beloved Son, and that he was consecrated from the beginning for his great task. What's more, these revelations about Christ say that God's salvation is for all. The world is not the enemy of the people of God; it's the fertile ground on which to build God's kingdom. In this Year of Faith when the church is calling for a "New Evangelization," and as a new year begins, what can you do to participate in this great mission? -*Preparetheword.com*

Jubilee's Holy Doors

The opening of the holy door is the most well-known and moving ritual, marking the beginning of the Jubilee.

The first documented account of the holy door opening at St. Peter's Basilica for the Jubilee 1500 under Pope Alexander VI.

The holy doors are only opened during the Jubilee Year. The four papal basilicas of Rome each have a holy door: St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major.

The Jubilee began with the opening of the holy door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, followed by the holy door opening at the Rebibbia Prison on December 26—a symbolic gesture strongly desired by the Pope to involve the global prison population in the Jubilee of hope. On December 29, the door of San Giovanni in Laterano was opened, that of Santa Maria Maggiore on 1 January and finally that of San Paolo fuori le mura on 5 January.

- *Giubileo-2025.it*

Films for a Jubilee of Hope

Recommended by the Vatican's Dicastery of Evangelization's "Jubilee is Culture" initiative:

- The Gate of Heaven
- One Life
- The Concert
- La Chimera
- Silence
- Perfect Days
- Fallen Leaves.

WEEKLY OFFERING - DEC. 29

-Total **\$4,846** (\$3,604 + online: \$1,242). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$166,132. Budget: \$169,000.

-**Christmas offerings: \$16,477** (\$15,617 + online: \$860).

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 04	Sat	05 pm	Adelaida Sichon +
Jan 05	Sun	07 am	Gary S. H. Chang +
		09 am	Allan Victor De La Vega +
		11 am	Isabella Leano (L)
		05 pm	Paul D. K. Phung +
Jan 06	Mon	08 am	The Paes/Thomas Family
Jan 07	Tue	08 am	The Gerrard Family
Jan 08	Wed	08 am	Joseph Jackan +
Jan 09	Thu	08 am	Arlene Norton +
Jan 10	Fri	08 am	Richard Johnson +
Jan 11	Sat	09 am	Kim Wing Ko +

Holy Father's January Prayer Intention

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

For the Right to an Education

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention this January is for "the right to an education."

In The Pope Video for January 2025, the Holy Father warned that today, "we're experiencing an educational catastrophe." Due to wars, migration, and poverty, some 250 million boys and girls lack education.

Education, he went on to say, is a hope for everyone. "It can save migrants and refugees from discrimination, criminal networks, and exploitation." -*Vaticannews.va*

Diocese of San Jose

Jubilee 2025 Opening

at the Solemn Vespers

Presided by
Bishop Oscar Cantú

Sunday, January 12, 2025

5:00 pm

Cathedral of St. Joseph

80 S. Market St, San Jose.

Vatican Jubilee 2025 website:

iubilaeum2025.va/en

US Bishops Jubilee resources:

usccb.org/jubilee2025.



Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

Men's Club

Meeting in-person in Worner Hall/Lounge Room
Friday, January 10 at 6:00pm.