

Holy Cross Catholic Church

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2026

Parish Staff

Pastor

Father Michael Hendershott,
S.T.L.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

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Parish Secretary

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Resource Manager

Michael Landree
resources@holycrosscatholicchurchtn.org

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00am-2:00pm

Gift Shop Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00am-2:00pm

Weekends

After all Masses

Mass Schedule

Tuesday-Friday

12:00pm

Saturday

5:00pm English
7:00pm Español

Sunday

8:00am English
10:30am English

Confession

Saturday

3:00-4:00pm
6:30-6:55pm

First Saturday

8:30-9:30am

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

First Friday 1:00pm until
10:00am Saturday



Epiphany, Juli Borrell i Pla (1896)

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Cross,

Happy feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord! The word “epiphany” means “manifestation,” and it refers to Our Lord manifesting His divinity in three ways. First, Our Lord manifested His divinity to the Magi who traveled from the East (Orient) by following the wonderful star of Bethlehem. The Three Kings represent three ages (young, middle aged, old age) and the descendants of the three sons of Noe (Sem, Cham, Japheth) to show that all people of all ages are invited to Come and Adore the Lord. The three kings (Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar) each brought a different gift: 1) gold to represent the kingship of Christ, 2) frankincense to represent Christ’s divinity because incense was used to worship a deity, and 3) myrrh to represent Christ’s death and burial because myrrh was used in embalming dead bodies. The traditional Christmas hymn, “We Three Kings of Orient Are,” sings the story of the Three Wise Men and recalls the meaning of their gifts. (See sidebar)

On the feast of the Epiphany, there are special blessings for: gold, frankincense, myrrh, Epiphany water, and chalk. Chalk and Epiphany water (in the Holy Water container) are available at the entrance of the Church. You are encouraged to take some holy water and chalk to bless your home during this Epiphany season, which ends on February 2, the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Our Lady at the Temple. The prayer for an Epiphany House blessing along with how to “chalk” your front door can be found at the back of this bulletin. The chalking of your door or doorpost can be seen as a way of marking your house for Christ like unto how the Israelites marked their doorposts with the blood of the lamb at Passover for protection against the angel of death. Indeed, the Blood of the true Lamb of God symbolized by Epiphany water washing the doorposts of our houses and our hearts gives true spiritual protection of our souls from sin so we can live in the freedom of the children of God.

Although in the liturgical background, we also recall a second and third “manifestation” or “epiphany” of Our Lord. The second one is the Baptism of Our Lord, when the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, and the voice of the Father was heard, “You are my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We are invited to Come and Adore Him, the beloved eternally begotten Son of the Heavenly Father.

The third manifestation of Our Lord happened at the wedding feast at Cana when He performed His first public miracle which opened His public ministry when He turned water into wine. Likewise, we are invited to Come and Adore Him as He publicly manifests Himself to the world. All three of these “manifestations” or “epiphanies” are traditionally held to have happened on the same calendar date.

Come, let us adore Him!

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. *(Refrain)*

Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High. *(Refrain)*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *(Refrain)*

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings, alleluia;
alleluia the earth replies. *(Refrain)*



Mass Intentions & Readings

Christmas Weekday

1 John 2:29-3:6, John 1:29-34

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12

St. John Neumann

1 John 3:22-4:6, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday after Epiphany

1 John 4:7-10, Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday after Epiphany

1 John 4:11-18, Mark 6:45-52

Thursday after Epiphany

1 John 4:19-5:4, Luke 4:14-22

Friday after Epiphany

1 John 5:5-13, Luke 5:12-16

Saturday after Epiphany

1 John 5:14-21, John 3:22-30

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17

Saturday, January 3

Sunday, January 4

Monday, January 5

Tuesday, January 6

Wednesday, January 7

Thursday, January 8

Friday, January 9

Saturday, January 10

Sunday, January 11

† Denotes deceased

5pm People of Holy Cross

7pm † Melody Billetz

8am Boone-Newman Family

10:30am DellaSantina Family

No Mass

12pm † Bommert Family

12m † Holy Souls in Purgatory

12pm Tom Kane

12pm † Martin Lemming

5pm † Holy Souls in Purgatory

7pm † Maria Siszka

8am People of Holy Cross

10:30am † Natalie Alexander

Pray for the Living & the Dead

Oremos por los Vivos y los Muertos

Recalling that praying for the living and the dead is one of the seven spiritual works of mercy, let us pray for one another, especially for those in need of our prayers.

Recordando que orar por los vivos y los muertos es una de las siete obras espirituales de misericordia, oremos unos por otros, especialmente por aquellos que necesitan nuestras oraciones.

In your charity, please pray for: Madelyn Exposito, Russel Qualantone, Frank Aparicio, Teresita Fajardo, Adrian Hernandez, Nicolas Hernandez, & Jesus Arguez

If you would like to submit the name of a loved one to be prayed for, please contact the parish office. Names will be included for one month, unless noted otherwise.

Si desea enviar el nombre de un ser querido para que se ore por él, póngase en contacto con la oficina parroquial. Los nombres se incluirán durante un mes, a menos que se indique lo contrario.

Special Announcement



Called By Name Sunday Diocese of Knoxville Office of Vocations

January 10-11, 2026

January 17-18, 2026

"I have called you by name: you are Mine." - Isaiah 43:1

Called by Name is a diocesan-wide campaign to identify faithful young Catholics, both men and women, who could be future leaders in the Church.

This includes, of course, those who may be called to priesthood and religious life, but also anyone who is serving the Church with their gifts and talents.

Parishioners are asked to submit the names of young people in high school or older, boys and girls, who show love and devotion to the Church, and **who possibly could be called to priesthood or religious life**.

The Office of Vocations will offer gentle support to these young people as they discern their vocations.

Visit <https://dioknox.org/called-by-name-form> or fill out a form in **the narthex** to submit the names of a young person that you believe may have a vocation to priesthood or religious life.

You could be the one that encourages them to consider giving their life to God!

Announcements

Flocknote

Mass Music Update

Actualización sobre la música en la misa

We will be returning to the Latin Gloria that Father Ron Stone introduced to the parish. During Christmastide & Lent, we will be learning the Kyrie, Sanctus, & Agnus Dei that go along with this Mass setting. The scores and mp3 recordings for the Kyrie & Gloria are available on our website. If you would like these texted to you, please text "Mass Parts" to (865) 771-4929.

Retomaremos el Gloria en latín que el Padre Ron Stone introdujo en la parroquia. Durante la Navidad y la Cuaresma, aprenderemos el Kyrie, el Sanctus y el Agnus Dei que acompañan a esta misa. Las partituras y las grabaciones en mp3 del Kyrie y el Gloria están disponibles en nuestra página web. Si desea recibirlas por mensaje de texto, envíe un mensaje con la palabra "Partes de la Misa" al (865) 771-4929.

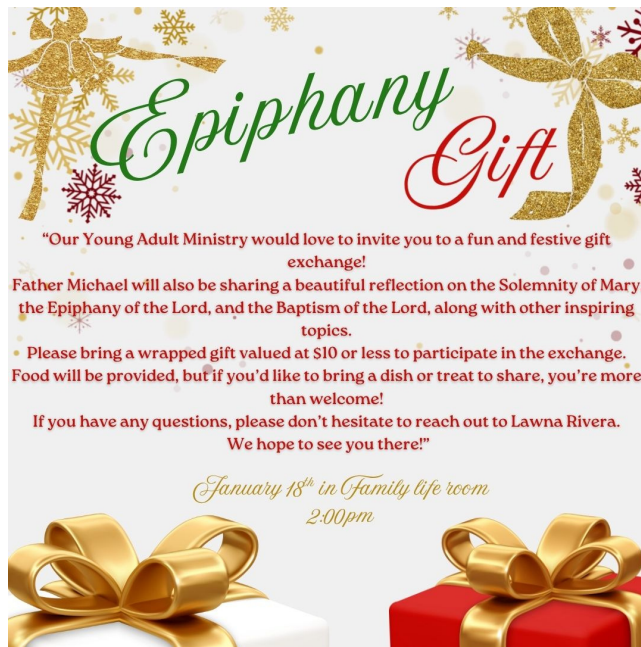
We are excited to announce that we have Flocknote for the Parish! We will be using it to send out important announcements and parish updates via email. We also plan to start a periodic newsletter. If you would like to sign up, you can find the form at the bottom of the front page of our website. We also have sign-up slips in the narthex. You may fill one out and leave it in the office door slot.

Diocesan Employment Opportunities

The Diocese of Knoxville Chancery Office is seeking a **Coordinator of Youth Ministry** and an **Administrative Assistant to the Office of Youth and Young Adults**.

Please see the diocesan website for detailed job descriptions at <https://dioknox.org/employment>

Send cover letter and resume
to Maura Lentz at mlentz@dioknox.org



Weekly Events

Bible Study

Join our Pastor in a contemplative study of the Word of God in Sacred Scripture on Thursdays at 9:30am in the Family Life Room. Father Hendershott provides scriptural commentary as we read through Genesis and meditate on the Providence of God through salvation history.

High School Youth Group Escuela Secundaria Para Grupo Juvenil

Grades 9-12 meeting on Tuesdays from 6-8pm in the Family Life Room. All high school and soon to be high school students are welcomed to attend. There will always be food provided and fun activities to do. For more information, contact Nick Sisto at: nlsisto@wlaw.net

El grupo de jóvenes de secundaria, de los grados 9 -12 se reúnen los martes de 6pm a 8:00pm Siempre va a ver comida y diversión. Alentamos a todos nuestros estudiantes de escuela secundaria y futuros estudiantes de escuela secundaria que asisten. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Nick Sisto.

Stewardship

****Our stewardship information for the weekend of 12/21, 12/25, the weekend of 12/28, and the weekend of 1/4 will be available in the bulletin for 1/11/2026****

Since on average 3 out of 5 Mass attendees are visitors, we invite our guests to consider a sort of "timeshare" stewardship with our parish. Our website has a donation link, and donations can be set to match *the time you share with us*. As our monthly expenses are \$25,000, please consider Holy Cross in your donations and in your will.

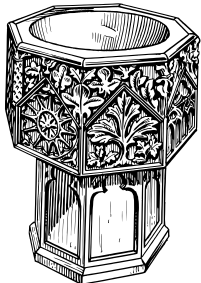
You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God...

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 11-12, 15

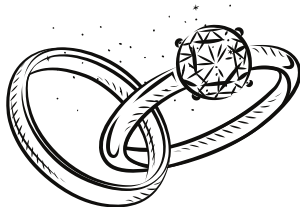
Sacramental Preparation

Baptism



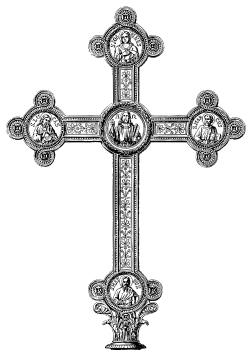
Congratulations on your newborn! In order to prepare for baptism, parents and god parents need to attend baptismal preparation classes before the proposed baptism date.

Si necesita información para bautizos en español, por favor comuníquese con el señor Alejandro Mondragón, El está encargado de la preparación para los bautizos. Su numero de teléfono es: (865) 227-9380.



Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Please contact the parish office to make arrangements for your marriage at least four months before your desired wedding date.



Catholic Faith Formation Classes

We have Faith Formation classes on Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30pm. Our religious education teachers prepare children in grades K-12 to receive their sacraments. For more information, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Gianfranco, at gdellasantina@yahoo.com.



Are you interested in becoming Catholic?

Holy Mother Church welcomes you! For more information, please contact our OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) teacher, Tylor Starkey, at t.starkey88@gmail.com.

Bendición del hogar en la Epifanía



El sacerdote (o el cabeza de familia) al entrar en la casa comienza:

V: La paz sea con esta casa.

R: Y con todos los que habitan en ella.

Antífona: Del Oriente vinieron los Magos a Belén para adorar al Señor; y abriendo sus tesoros, ofrecieron valiosos dones: oro al gran Rey, incienso al verdadero Dios y mirra en símbolo de su sepultura. Aleluya.

Cántico de la Santísima Virgen María

Mi alma glorifica al Señor * y mi espíritu se regocija en Dios, mi Salvador. Porque ha mirado la humildad de su sierva; * desde ahora todas las generaciones me llamarán bienaventurada. Porque el Poderoso ha hecho grandes cosas en mí, * y santo es su nombre. Y su misericordia se extiende de generación en generación * a los que le temen. Ha mostrado el poder de su brazo, * ha dispersado a los soberbios de corazón. Ha derribado a los poderosos de sus tronos * y ha enaltecido a los humildes. Ha colmado de bienes a los hambrientos * y a los ricos los ha despedido con las manos vacías. Ha acogido a Israel, su siervo, * acordándose de su misericordia. Como lo prometió a nuestros padres, * a Abraham y a su descendencia para siempre. Gloria al Padre y al Hijo * y al Espíritu Santo. Como era en el principio, ahora y siempre, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

Luego dice: «Padre nuestro» **y recita el resto en secreto hasta...**

V: Y no nos dejes caer en la tentación.

R: Mas líbranos del mal.

V: Muchos vendrán de Saba.

R: Trayendo oro e incienso.

V: Señor, escucha mi oración.

R: Y llegue a ti mi clamor.

V: Oremos. Oh Dios, que por la guía de una estrella revelaste hoy a tu Hijo Unigénito a los gentiles, concédenos que quienes te conocemos por la fe seamos llevados a la contemplación de tu majestad celestial. Por el mismo Jesucristo, tu Hijo, nuestro Señor, que vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, Dios, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén. Responsorio: Ilumínate y resplandece, oh Jerusalén, porque ha llegado tu luz, y sobre ti ha amanecido la gloria del Señor, Jesucristo, nacido de la Virgen María.

V: Las naciones caminarán a tu luz, y los reyes en el resplandor de tu origen.

R: Y la gloria del Señor ha amanecido sobre ti.

V: Oremos. Bendice, † oh Señor, Dios todopoderoso, esta casa para que sea refugio de salud, castidad, dominio propio, humildad, bondad, mansedumbre, obediencia a los mandamientos y acción de gracias a Dios Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo. Que esta bendición permanezca para siempre sobre esta morada y sobre todos los que aquí habitan. Por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén.

El padre de familia toma la tiza bendecida y se dirige a la puerta principal. El padre lee las palabras correspondientes mientras inscribe las iniciales de los Tres Reyes Magos que visitaron a Cristo en su nacimiento. (Las iniciales CMB también significan Christus mansionem benedicat: Que Cristo bendiga esta casa). La inscripción final en el dintel debe ser:

2 0 + C + M + B + 2 6

“Los tres reyes magos, Gaspar, [**inscribir ‘C’**] Melchor, [**inscribir ‘M’**] y Baltasar [**inscribir ‘B’**] siguieron la estrella del Hijo de Dios que se hizo hombre hace dos mil [**inscribir el ‘20’ a la izquierda**] y veintiséis años [**inscribir ‘26’ a la derecha**].

“Que Cristo bendiga nuestra morada, [**colocar + después de ‘20’**] y permanezca con nosotros durante todo el año nuevo, [**+ después de ‘C’**] y conceda que nuestras entradas y salidas [**+ después de ‘M’**] sean en busca de la verdad [**+ después de ‘B’**].

V: Dios todopoderoso, inclina tu oído. Que nos bendigas a nosotros y a todos los aquí reunidos. Envía a tu santo ángel que nos defienda y llene de gracia a todos los que aquí habitan. **R:** Amén.

V: Oremos. Escúchanos, oh Santo Señor, Padre Todopoderoso, Dios Eterno, y envía a tu Santo Ángel del Cielo para que vele, cuide, proteja, acompañe y defienda a todos los que viven en esta casa. Invoco a tus santos, Gaspar, Melchor y Baltasar, para que protejan a esta familia y este hogar de todo daño y peligro, y coloco las marcas de sus santos nombres sobre las puertas de esta casa para que permanezcan allí como un recordatorio constante para nosotros y para todos los que entren, de que esta casa es verdaderamente una casa del Señor. Oh Dios, haz que la puerta de esta casa sea lo suficientemente amplia para recibir a todos los que necesitan caridad y compañía, y lo suficientemente estrecha para impedir la entrada de la envidia, el orgullo y la discordia. Haz que su umbral sea lo suficientemente liso para que no sea un obstáculo para los niños ni para los que se extravían, pero lo suficientemente firme y fuerte para rechazar el poder del Tentador. Oh Dios, haz de la puerta de esta casa la puerta de entrada a tu Reino eterno. Te pido estas cosas en el nombre de Jesucristo, tu Hijo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

Epiphany Home Blessing



The priest (or head of the household) upon entering the home begins:

V: Peace be to this home.

R: And to all who dwell herein.

Antiphon: From the East came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures, they offered costly gifts: gold to the great King, incense to the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia.

Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord * And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaid; * henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath done great things for me, * and holy is His name. And His mercy is from generation to generation, * to them that fear Him. He hath shown strength with His arm, * He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their hearts. He hath deposed the mighty, * and exalted the humble. The hungry He hath filled with good things, * and the rich he hath sent away empty. He hath received Israel, His servant, * being mindful of His mercy. As he hath promised our fathers, * Abraham and to his seed forever. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

He then says, "Our Father" and recites the rest secretly until...

V: And lead us not into temptation.

R: But deliver us from evil.

V: Many shall come from Saba.

R: Bearing gold and incense.

V: O Lord, hear my prayer.

R: And let my cry come unto Thee.

V: Let us pray. O God, Who by the guidance of a star didst this day reveal thy Sole Begotten Son to the Gentiles, grant that we who know Thee by faith may be brought to the contemplation of Thy heavenly majesty. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Responsory: Be enlightened and shine forth, O Jerusalem: for thy light is come, and upon thee is risen the glory of the Lord, Jesus Christ born of Mary Virgin.

V: Nations shall walk in thy light, and kings in the brilliance of thy origin.

R: And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

V: Let us pray. Bless, † O Lord, almighty God this home that it be a shelter of health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to the commandments, and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May this blessing remain for all time upon this dwelling and to all those who live herein. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The father of the family then takes blessed chalk and proceeds to the front door. The father reads the corresponding words as he inscribes the initials of the Three Kings who visited Christ at His birth. (The initials CMB also stand for Christus mansionem benedicat: May Christ bless this house.) Final inscription on lintel should read:

2 O + C + M + B + 26

"The three wise men, Caspar, [inscribe 'C'] Melchior, [inscribe 'M'] and Balthasar [inscribe 'B'] followed the star of God's Son who became man two thousand [inscribe the '20' on left] and twenty-six years ago [inscribe '26' on right].

"May Christ bless our dwelling, [place + after '20'] and remain with us throughout the new year, [+ after 'C'] and grant that our comings and goings [+ after 'M'] will be in search of truth [+ after 'B'] .

V: Almighty God, incline your ear. May you bless us and all who are gathered here. Send your holy angel who will defend us and fill with grace all who live here. **R:** Amen.

V: Let us pray. Hear us, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Eternal God, and send Thy Holy Angel from Heaven to watch over, cherish, protect, be with, and defend all who live in this house. I call upon Thy saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, to protect this family and this home from every harm and danger, and I place the marks of their holy names over the doors of this home to remain there as a constant reminder to us and to all who enter here that this house is truly a house of the Lord. O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need charity and companionship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the Tempter's power. O God, make the door of this house the gateway to Thy eternal Kingdom, I ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord, Amen.