



*The Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church,
Rayne, Louisiana.*

January 4, 2026
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy
Staffed by the Josephite Fathers since 1924

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www.shrineofourmotherofmercy.com

Very Rev. Edward J. Chiffriller, SSJ - Pastor
Ms. DeBorah A. Smith - Secretary
Secretary's Office Hours
4:30pm - 6:00pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday – 5:30pm
Wednesday -7:00am
Thursday -7:00am
Friday – 7:00am

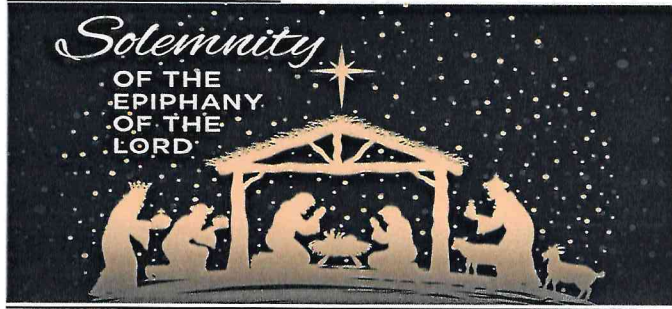
Weekend Masses
Saturday Mass – 5:00pm
Sunday Mass – 9:30am

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick contact
Fr. Ed at (225) 571-8233

CONFESSIO: Before and after each Mass/and
By appointment

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 4, 2026

THE PASTOR'S DESK



FINDING GOD

The splendid magi, all sparkle and dash and solemnity, march right up off the pages of Matthew's Gospel and into our churches today. Matthew alone tells us this grand and seductive story so that we might see the light and know that the child these magi visited is the fulfillment of prophecy, the king of the world that stretches to the magi's home country and beyond, right down the ages to us.

We too see and understand anew. Like the magi, our patron saints for this day, we see in the newborn child the king of the universe and light of the world. Like the magi, we find in ourselves a new faith and a new life. Like them, we return to our home by a new route.

We are asked to come away from this festive season ourselves renewed and awake to the presence of God among us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found, to be attentive and surprised and ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts.

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PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Lord Jesus who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless your friends who are sick. Give them strength in their body, courage in their spirit, and patience in their pain. Let them recover their health, so that when they are restored to the Christian community, they may joyfully praise Your Name, for You live and reign forever and ever. Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH & THEIR CAREGIVERS:

James Guidry, Edward Sonnier, Chester Charles, Betty Jolivet, Anthony Gardiner, Kirsten Jolivet, Tim Smith, Sr. & Family, Marie Sly George, ASBS, Mattie G. Lindon, Crystal Senegal, Lynn Smith, Ros Cook, Pricilla Pierre, Sonja Blount, Rhonda Duhon, Janet Pabum, Tommy Senegal, Ronald Senegal, Sr., Linda Mouton, Helen Caillet, Gracia Senegal, Audrey Guidry, Anthony Flynn LaPointe, Michael Jolivet, Mary Keel, Ann McDaniell, Thomas Simon, Mary Simon, Betty Paul, Maudry Bellard, Jeanette C. Williams, Bernadette Cole, Gloria Jean Wilridge, Donna Duhon, Mervin Dugas, Kabre' Broussard, Ida Rubin, Bretha B. Guidry, Tyre Jordan, Sandra Cole Livings, Denver Babineaux, Viola Daron, Richard Caillet, Wendy Y. Francis, Glenn Hunter, Sr., Carolyn Mouton Milstead.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72: 1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19- 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7;

Mt 3:13-17

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Monday of this week is Christmas Day in Russia and in much of the Orthodox world. This curious difference in schedule has a lot to do with how calendars have been developed and changed over the years. In the year 45 B.C. Julius Caesar gave the empire his Julian Calendar, with the winter solstice on January 6. This put an end to a system in which officials called "pontiffs" were able to tweak the calendar by adding extra days in as needed. He invented two new months at that time, December and January; and in order to correct the mess the pontiffs had made, forced a year of 445 days on the empire in what he named "The Last Year of Confusion." The new months varied in number of days according to a complex schedule, but the calendar was still off by nearly twelve minutes a year, and lost a full day every 130 years.

Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1583, but not everyone appreciated his efforts. England held out for two hundred years. The year 1700 was a leap year in England, but not in France; they were eleven days apart! George Washington was really born on February 11; when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in the English colonies shortly before the Revolution, he had to move his birthday to February 22. Now the calendars are thirteen days apart, which accounts for Russia's Julian calendar Christmas. And Caesar thought he had brought confusion to an end!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 4, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS- January 3, 2026 – January 9th, 2026

Sat. 5:00 P.M. For People of the Parish
For Dallas & Lorena Cormier req. by Laura
For Wenne Williams req. by Laura Levy

Sun. 9:30 A.M. For People of the Parish
Columbus & Celeste Julian
req. by Sylvester Julian

Tues. 5:30PM For retired Priests, Extern & Deceased
Priests, Deacons & Brothers

Wed. 7:00AM For The Souls in Purgatory

Thurs. 7:00AM For Seminarians

Fri. 7:00AM For Fr. Francis C. Robbins, SSJ

December 28th, 2025 – Our Stewardship contribution amounted to \$6,543.00; Loyalty \$200.00; Christmas \$1,821.00; Christmas Flowers \$267.00. **Thank you for your continuous generosity.**

LOYALTY GIFT APPRECIATION: To all parishioners who participated in our annual loyalty gift contribution in the year 2025. Thank you very much for your continuous generosity. God bless you all.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE: Continuing Education ONLY, PLEASE go online and complete your certification, emails have been already sent out by the Diocese of Lafayette.

WORDS OF ST. KATHARINE DREXEL: Love is proven by deeds.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: January 3rd, Connie Mouton Cook, January 4th, Carolyn Mouton Milstead, January 9th, Christopher Gabriel, **let us put our hands together for them.**

CHURCH ENVELOPES: Are available, parishioners may pick up their Church Envelopes on the table at the main entrance of the church. Thank You.

OMOM Religious Education Classes 2025-2026
Religious classes have begun. You may still register your children for classes.

BIBLE STUDY: on Wednesday at 5:00PM in the Convent.

ROOTEDNESS

The flower does not bear the root. The root bears the flower. The rose is merely evidence of the vitality of the root.

—Woodrow Wilson

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!

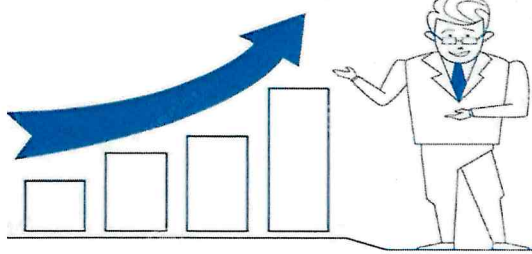
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REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AWARD: The Celebration will take place on Friday, January 16th, 2026, at 6:30pm. at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Church, Lafayette.

CITY WIDE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. celebration will be held on Monday, January 19, 2026. **THEME:** **"Uniting a Nation. Building a Future".** The day will begin at 9:30am with a flag raising ceremony at the MLK Center, followed by participants marching or motoring to the Rayne Civic Center. The main program will begin at the Rayne Civic Center at 11:00am followed by a meal.

SAVE THE DATE: The Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church and School has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Join us on January 24, 2026, at 1:00pm for the ribbon cutting ceremony. A story Worth Celebrating, A Legacy Worth Preserving.

<p>ACADIA COUNCIL ON AGING</p> <p>824 East First Street Post Office Box 1482 Crowley, LA 70527 337-788-1400</p>	<p> BERKEN INSURANCE <i>Life, Health, & Annuities</i></p> <p>ERIC BERKEN 337-393-4122 LICENSED INSURANCE AGENT</p>	<p>Kenneth Schexnayder Owner</p> <p>"All your wiring and air conditioning needs" Residential • Commercial Free Estimates</p> <p>KEN'S ELECTRICAL & A/C</p> <p>303 S. Avenue H Crowley, LA 70526 Email: kenselectrical@aol.com</p> <p>Ph 337.788.1916 Fax 337.788.3935</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of the <i>ERNEST, CARMOUCHE, WOOLEY FAMILIES</i></p> 	<p>FEZZO'S II Inc</p> <p>720 I-10 S. Frontage Rd Scott, LA 70583 337-261-2464</p>	<p></p> <p>720 I-10 S. Frontage Rd Scott, LA 70583 337-456-8026</p>
<p>www.maisondaboval.com maisondaboval@gmail.com</p> <p>337-427-9600</p> <p></p> <p><i>Maison Daboval</i> Bed & Breakfast</p> <p>305 East Louisiana Avenue Rayne, Louisiana 70578</p> <p>Hosts Jerry & Denise Underwood</p>	<p>RAYNE BUILDING & LOAN</p> <p>Post Office Box 46 Rayne, Louisiana 70578 (337)334-7535</p>	<p>C.J. Prevost Insurance Agency, Inc.</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>RAYNE REALTY</p> <p>Sales ~ Appraisals</p> <p> </p> <p>108 W. Branche in Rayne 334-5152</p>

<p>Loyalty Donations 2025</p>  <p>\$6395.00</p>	<p>LaTanya Evans, Margaret J. Reed, Connie Guidry, Donna Duhon, Dr. Stacey Duhon, Elaine Carmouche Wooley, Hilda Wiltz, Norma Jean Evans, DeBorah A. Smith & Ethel W. Smith, Rockella, Bremilin & Lawrence Minnix, Ruth Gabriel, Eddie Bernard, Mary Ann Copeland, Irene & Jamien Evans, Lois G. Yokum, Waver Figaro, Dorothy J. Domingue, Betty Jolivet, Katie Jolivet & Family, Gilbert Martin, Mary J. LeBlanc & Privat LeBlanc, Christine & D'Andre Gardiner, Audrey Guidry, Kylie & Kenya Mouton, Anysia Senegal-Wallace, Terrence Senegal, Trudy Coleman & James Guidry, Marla Andrews, Paulette Gothe, Linda Mouton, Edra Broussard, Brenda B. Francis, Milton Francis, III, Milton Francis, IV, Sonja Blount, Patricia Bonnom, Desiree Cole, Patrick Granger, Darlene Granger, Mona Jolivet Senegal, Travis Senegal, Jr., Margaret Livings, Elizabeth Jolivet, Harrison & Loretta Figaro, Felicia Kelly, Jimmie & Theresa Wilson, Ushers Society, Mary Marks, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Patrice DeRousselle, Raven Babineaux Granger, Pamela Duhon Babineaux, Paula Wheeler, Hulon A. Williams, III Tim & Marilyn Mayfield, Joannette W. & Dwayne Williams. Mary C Handy. Jill W. Rochon, Blanche Rochon, Mildred Young.</p>
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Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy, Rayne 100 years of Faith, Family and Friends.

We have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. – (1924-2024).

"ROOTED IN FAITH"