

St. Patrick

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY JANUARY 4TH 2025

A King to Behold

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendidous 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 “coheirs” 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 scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

-Dr. Scott Hahn





St. Patrick our Patron Pray for us and our families!

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me. Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ lying down, Christ in sitting, Christ in rising up, Christ in the heart of every person who may think of me, Christ in the mouth of every person who may speak of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me!

- St Patrick's Breastplate

WEEKEND SCHEULE

Saturday

3pm – Confessions (**St. Francis Xavier**)
4pm – Vigil Mass (**St. Francis Xavier**)

Sunday

7:30am – Holy Mass,
(St. Francis Xavier)
9:00am – Holy Mass (**St. Patrick**)
11:00am – Holy Mass,
(St. Francis Xavier)

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St. Patrick's is located at 5025 N. Nelson St., Spokane, WA 99217

Please note: All correspondence & donations should be mailed to:

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www.stpatrickspokane.org

For sacramental emergencies please call our emergency line at 509-866-6098

For scheduling baptisms, marriages, or funerals please contact St. Francis Xavier Parish at
509-487-6363 or by email at "office@sfxspokane.org"

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-12pm

To request a certificate or to speak to someone about your charitable contributions please contact the office and say you are calling for St. Patrick Parish, 509-487-6363

PAX

St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest January 7th

Born of a noble family in 1175, at the castle of Peñafort in Catalonia, St. Raymond was allied to the King of Aragon. At the age of twenty he taught philosophy at Barcelona. Requiring no remuneration for his services, he endeavored to form the heart as well as the intellect of his students. At the age of thirty he went to Bologna to perfect himself in the study of Canon and Civil Law, and received the degree of Doctor. On his return to Barcelona in 1219, the Bishop made him canon, archdeacon, and vicar-general. A few years later, in 1222, he entered the Order of St. Dominic, eight months after the death of its holy founder.

The Saint labored zealously for the conversion of the Moors and the Jews, and in the composition of a treatise for the instruction of confessors. Pope Gregory IX summoned him to Rome, appointing him auditor at the apostolic palace, penitentiary, and confessor to himself. During this period he composed his work of Canon Law known as the "Five Decretals."

On his return to his own country St. Raymond was elected general of the Dominican Order to succeed Blessed Jordan of Saxony, who had been the immediate successor of St. Dominic. After arranging and explaining the constitutions of the Order he resigned the office, and began again to apply himself to the exercises of an apostolic life. He died in 1275, at one hundred years of age and was canonized in 1608 by Pope Clement VIII.

PRAYER: God, You endowed Your Priest, St. Raymond, with the gift of showing mercy to sinners and prisoners. Help us by his intercession to be freed from slavery to sin and with clear consciences to practice those things that are pleasing to You. **Amen.**



Catechism and Sacramental Preparation

We are pleased to announce that catechism and sacrament preparation classes are in the mornings on **Jan 24th, Feb 21st, March 28th, and April 18th**. First Communion and Confirmation will be celebrated in late April or early May.

To make this program successful, we need dedicated volunteers to serve as catechists and assistants. No previous teaching experience is necessary—just a willing heart and love for the faith. Training and materials will be provided.



If you feel called to help form our children in their Catholic faith, please contact the parish office. Your gift of time can make an eternal difference in a child's life.

More details about registration and class schedules will be announced soon. Please keep this important ministry in your prayers.



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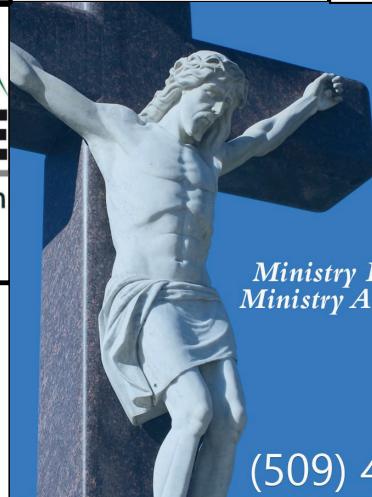


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