

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

The Newsletter and Bulletin of the Oratory of Saint Francis of Assisi

JANUARY 2016 – EPIPHANYTIDE

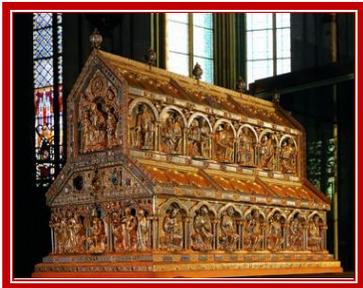
LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

AND entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary His Mother, and falling down they adored Him; and opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

– S. Matthew 2:11

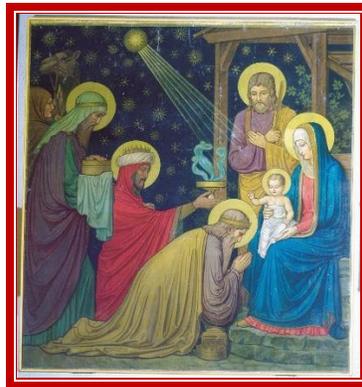
EPIPHANY is the feast which marks the adoration of the *Magi*, and was traditionally the conclusion of Christmastide (the twelfth day). It was also the traditional day when Catholics exchanged gifts, as the *Magi* gave gifts to the Christ Child.

The relics of the Three Kings (their skulls) rest in an exquisite reliquary of gold and precious stones in the cathedral of Cologne.

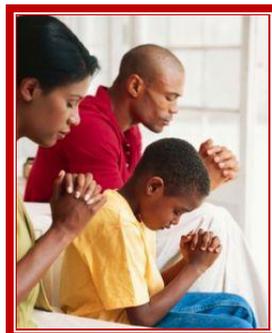


The names that are traditionally associated with the Kings are *Caspar*, *Melchior* and *Balthazar*, and there are many devotions to them; it is a shame that most of the Epiphany customs and devotions have lessened, especially in the traditionally

Catholic countries. In this issue of the **S. Francis Exchange** you will find the customary blessing of Chalk and the placing of one's home under the protection of the Blood of Christ and the Three Kings. This traditional blessing is done in the home and exemplifies the *Domestic Church*, of which the father represents Christ.



The continual eroding and abnegation of the family, even by the new Church and its diabolical Synod, has a very simple remedy: a return to the sanctity of the family. This sanctification is predicated upon the father of the family being a heroic saint: who leads his family in prayer and pious devotion. There is no greater demonstration of a strong and fearless man than him on his knees, humbled and grateful before his Lord and God.



This January begins a new year in which we at the Oratories and Missions of the **Society of Christ the King** shall focus on keeping, or restoring, our families to true holiness and giving them the tools and resources to survive these trying times. Our model will be the Holy Family, who is a model of the Most Holy Trinity. Making our families holy will help us make our world holy and restore Christendom.

And while we build our natural family let us not forget our *supernatural* family at S. Francis. This must be the year to leave our temporary home and find a permanent home for our Traditional Latin Mass mission; this way we can continue to build and grow and not “throw away” funds on monthly rent, but rather, put our funds into a house that will be our own. To do this we must pray and sacrifice every day, but we must also increase our membership by *at least twenty-five families*. I know that we can do it, because we will do it together and with the grace and help of God!

As always, I am most grateful for your prayers and support. Be assured of my paternal benediction and prayers, especially at Holy Mass. I remain,

In Christ the awaited King,

Monsignor ✠ Thomas JF Sebastian

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: How can I increase my devotion, especially at Holy Mass?

In Christ the King. Anonymous, Texas.

A: Another excellent question from a soul that yearns for greater understanding of the things of God!

Devotion, properly speaking, is a deep affection for the *things* of God. The greater our love and intimacy with God so too our greater devotion. When we seek to become intimate with God our affection and love becomes stronger: This is devotion, and devotion grows more and more, and with it the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity: all supernatural consequences of living grace in the soul. From this devotion comes the greatest attribute of the Christian soul: Apostolic Zeal!

With this in mind let us learn about a very important devotion: devotion to the Holy Mass. Devotion to the Holy Mass begins with understanding it, most especially the actions, prayers and readings of the Mass. The greatest tool for understanding the Holy Mass is a proper Hand Missal: the *only* two that I recommend are the *Saint Andrew's* and the *Father Lasance*. After obtaining a proper hand missal you should explore it and read all the Liturgical Notes that accompany all the readings of the feasts. Without an hand missal one cannot properly pray the Holy Mass, and without

praying at Holy Mass one is simply an inactive "passerby" missing the graces and wonders of a deeper spiritual life.

Praying along with the Mass (silently, of course) also helps one to concentrate, and that concentration will soon lead to meditation. It is this meditation that allows the mind and the soul to enter into a deeper and more fruitful relationship with the Holy Mass: this creates a greater and long lasting devotion.

Without devotion to the True Mass one will easily be led astray by the errors of the *Novus Ordo Missæ*, as well as the deception of the so-called compromise "Mass of 1962". Both are very dangerous to the progress of one's Faith and soul. Devotion to the True and Catholic Mass will assist one in avoiding these dangerous and erroneous "rites" of the NewChurch, because we can recognize God in the Holy Mass, which is not possible in the counterfeit liturgies of the religion of the modernist.

The beauty and treasury of the Most Holy and Catholic Mass has made great saints: one only has to read the lections of the Divine Office and Holy Mass composed by that great saint of the Holy Church, S. Thomas Aquinas, to see that you are reading the liturgical literature of a man in love with his Lord and God made manifest in the Holy Mass. The sublime teachings of the Doctors of the Church all have the very same source: devotion to the Holy Mass.

Learn the Holy Mass that you may know it and love it: for loving the Holy Mass is

Saint Francis Exchange
loving God Himself through
your spiritual participation in
His worship and adoration.

If you have a question, please feel free to send them via mail or e-mail (info@stfrancisoratory.org).



Feast of the Holy Family
(10th January):
Pray for us!



PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. Alfredo (Freddy) Cortes, Mr. Alfred Smith, Mr. & Mrs. William Schiermeyer, Mrs. Denise Huizenga, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially His Lordship Msgr. Robert McKenna, O.P.. If you know of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness, please be sure to let one of the priests know so they can arrange for a sick call.

FAMILY EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE HOME

AFTER obtaining the blessed Chalk and Water the family gathers at the front (main) door of the home.

All make the Sign of the Cross.
Head of Household (Father):
"Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the Name of the Lord."

All: *Blessed be God forever.*

Head of the Household (Father): *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things come to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (S. John 1:1-3.14)*

Using chalk, write on the outside of your house, above or next to an entrance:

20+C+M+B+16

All: *Lord God of heaven and earth, Thou hast revealed Thy only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of Thy law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY

OUR First Friday and First Saturday devotions will be on the 1st and 2nd of January.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

WE are asking all the faithful to petition S. Joseph for his especial support and favour as we seek to purchase a home that will serve as a permanent home for our Mission, as well as a place for the clergy to live and form other men as future priests and religious.

Because commercial real estate is so very expensive we really are "throwing" money away with a commercial lease.

We will be looking for a house that can accommodate the faithful and have ample parking: ideally we would like a home that is easily accessed from the 405 Freeway as most of our faithful travel that route.

MASS GUILD

Holy Mass is offered on the First Saturday of every month for all Friends and benefactors of SAINT FRANCIS ORATORY CHAPEL. Your generous donation (one time or monthly) enables you to be remembered upon the Altars of the Society, where *only* the traditional Latin Mass is offered, as codified and canonized by His Holiness, Saint Pope Pius V, *perpetually* approved of.

We would like to remind those who send Mass requests to PLEASE include the name of the

Saint Francis Exchange person and/or intention with your stipend. Mass Cards will be sent to concerned parties upon request. Thank you and God bless you!



Sunday Mass Time:
10:00 am – Parochial Mass
with Homily

Daily Mass Times:
Tuesday through Saturday
8:00 am

First Friday 7:00 pm
Confessions one half of an hour before Holy Mass
16826 Saticoy Street
Entrance and Parking around back
Van Nuys, CA 91406-2776
(818) 786-2540

e-mail:
info@stfrancisoratory.org
Be sure to visit our web site at:

www.stfrancisoratory.org

☛ Saint Francis Chapel is staffed by the Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR); properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers, the Popes, most especially Saint Pope Pius V in His infallible decree *Quo Primum*, have given their permission in perpetuity to offer the Traditional Latin Mass (*Missal of S. Pope Pius V* and rubrics of *S. Pope Pius X*).