

January 4th, 2026 | The Epiphany of the Lord, Year A

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Parish



Rev. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor. The Most Reverend Michael Barber, SJ, Bishop – Diocese of Oakland

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 am

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday-Thursday & Saturday 8:30 am
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 5:30 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Monday – Saturday 8:00 am
Mon./Wed./Friday 5:10 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 pm
(and by appointment)

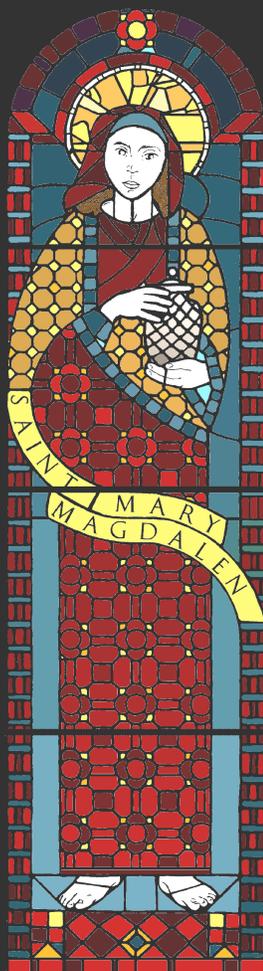
OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
9:00 am – Noon
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Phone: 510-526-4811
Fax: 510-525-3638

WEBSITE



marymagdalen.org



X David Lance Goines, 2002

Fr. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor
pastor@marymagdalen.org
(ext. 112)

Norah Hippolyte, Pastoral
Associate & Business Manager
nhippolyte@marymagdalen.org
(ext. 111)

Andy Canepa, Music Director
acanepa@marymagdalen.org

Heather Skinner
Director of Religious Education
hskinner@themadeleine.com

Deacon Jeff Burns
Director of Parish Renewal
jburns@marymagdalen.org

Fr. Wilson Sagayaraj, SVD
Priest-in-Residence
wsagayaraj@marymagdalen.org

Fr. Sebastian Titus
Priest-in-Residence
stitus@marymagdalen.org

Cat Nielsen, Parish Technologist /
Adult Faith Formation (ext. 113)
website@marymagdalen.org

Oscar Guillen,
Facilities Supervisor

Ana Guillen, Housekeeper

Gina Ramos Campbell,
Convener
Parish Pastoral Council
ppc@marymagdalen.org

Georganne Perkins, Convener
Parish Finance Council
georganne.perkins@gmail.com

Laura Morland, Volunteer
Bulletin Editor (ext. 118)
bulletin@marymagdalen.org

St. Vincent de Paul (ext. 787)
svdp@marymagdalen.org

School of the Madeleine
1225 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94709
(510) 526-4744

Joseph Nagel, Principal
jnagel@themadeleine.com

Jennifer Walwark
Vice-Principal
jwalwark@themadeleine.com

Heather Skinner
Vice-Principal
hskinner@themadeleine.com

Mary Schweska, Secretary
madmary@themadeleine.com

CFCS Funeral Services 510-223-2165

*"Together we share our
Faith in Jesus Christ.*

*We live the Gospel,
and we care for others."*

BAPTISM:

Preparation classes take place on the first Monday of the month.
Please call the parish office for more information.

CONFIRMATION: Classes run from September through May; contact the office for more information.

MARRIAGE:

Please contact the pastor at least six months prior to the wedding.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: The Sacrament is offered at every 5th Sunday Mass, and by appointment.

2005 Berryman Street | Berkeley, CA 94709 | 510-526-4811 | marymagdalen.org

Our Christmas Eve Family Mass ~ December 24th, 2025



Photographs: Khurram Khan

A Benefit for
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
 Supporting low-income immigrants and asylum seekers.
 CELEBRATING 43 YEARS!

Featuring the Documentary Film
No Separate Survival

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, in collaboration with Berkeley Freight & Salvage, invites you to a screening of the short documentary film *No Separate Survival*, followed by a discussion with the director & filmmakers. All funds raised will support EBSC's work in providing legal and social service and cash assistance for immigrants in the Bay Area. Tickets: bit.ly/nss-film

Date: TODAY, January 4, 2026

Time: 4:30 pm Reception; 5:45 Film

Location: Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison Street)

Suggested donation: from \$25; no one turned away

Newman Hall's Women in Conversation

A MOMENT OF TRUTH:
 A Word of Faith, Hope and Love
 from the Heart of Palestine Suffering
 Saturday, January 10th, 2026
 9:00 am—Noon
 Newman Hall Lounge

Palestinian Christians call on the global church for solidarity in their pursuit of freedom, justice, and equality.

Rev. Allison J. Tanner, returning from a recent Christian gathering in the West Bank, will share ways the church can support a just peace.



Reverend Dr. Allison J. Tanner

The Reverend Dr. Allison J. Tanner is a pastor educator and organizer working for justice and healing in her multiple communities.

She is National Organizer of the Apartheid-Free Communities initiative, convened by American Friends Service Committee and the Pastor of Public Witness at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland.

This event is for WOMEN ONLY.

Feel free to invite a friend!



For more information contact Jean Molesky-Poz at moleskypoz@mac.com or Amanda Wehrman at amanda.lynn.wehrman@gmail.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Epiphany

Long ago,  saw a special  in the sky. They followed it to find the newborn . But first they came to  Herod, and asked him if he knew where the  would be born. He asked the priests,  who told him the  would be born in Bethlehem. So the  went, and found the  where the  and His mother,  were staying. They knelt before the baby  and gave him their  of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

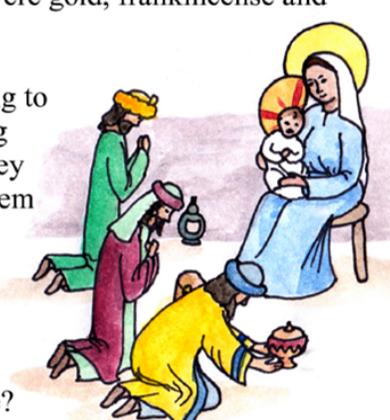
thekidsbulletin.com

Epiphany: True or False?

How well do you know the story of the wise men?
 Which of these are true and which are false?



1. Wise men came from the West to find the Baby Jesus. True or false?
2. The wise men went and asked King Caesar where the Messiah would be born. True or false?
3. The king told them to come back and tell him where the Baby was once they had found Him so that he could go and worship Him. True or false?
4. When the wise men found the Child and His mother they bowed down and gave Him gifts. True or false?
5. The gifts they gave were gold, frankincense and myrrh. True or false?
6. When they were going to go back and tell the king where the Baby was, they had a dream that told them not to. True or false?
7. The wise men went back to their land by the same road that they had come. True or false?



Critical Thinking

Socrates is considered the father of critical thinking. Socratic questioning and argumentation in an organized manner were the essence of his method. He used this rational process to debate the morality of his escaping from prison when he was condemned to death for corrupting youth. His conclusion was that escape would contradict everything he stood for. Therefore, Socrates drank the hemlock and died.

Critical thinking advanced during the Middle Ages with the Scholastics' penchant for defining and dividing everything into categories. The advances of Enlightenment philosophers could never have occurred without the foundation of medieval thinkers such as St. Thomas Aquinas, Dun Scotus, and William of Ockham, who subjected everything to reason—even reason itself!

The Enlightenment added precision and organization to critical thinking. Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and David Hume, among many others, used critical thinking to promote individualism and skepticism toward traditional authority. These European minds inspired the likes of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin to form the United States into a democracy. Yet perhaps the most important accomplishment of the Enlightenment was to apply critical thinking to science. This was the birth of the Scientific Method.

With such an illustrious history, it is surprising that so few of us give critical thinking much consideration in the present day. Unknowingly, we apply its principles every day, but equally unwittingly, we have become sloppy about its rigors. Many leaders, academics, and theologians fear that the loss of critical thinking is precipitating the downfall of our society. With the foregoing in mind, just what are the principles of critical thinking? What follows only scratches the surface of this crucial topic, but hopefully provides an overview:

- ◆ Every critical assessment should begin with **analysis and evaluation**. Sometimes a mere examination of the problem, project, or dilemma will yield flaws or potential that can only be seen through close examination.
- ◆ **Logical connections**, analogy, and reason provide a process for this examination.
- ◆ Using a **systematic method** to examine the issue is usually superior to intuition.
- ◆ Make no assumptions. **Questioning and challenging assumptions** enables clarity and brings the process beyond just the face value.
- ◆ **Remaining objective** is contained in the process. One must be ready to admit that one's early assumptions and even common sense may be wrong, and have the courage to change one's mind.

Anybody who has progressed beyond middle school should already know critical thinking by heart, so why is this essential mindset losing ground in the twenty-first century? There are numerous reasons, among which are:

- ◆ **Social media**, which by its nature gives everyone has an equal say, no matter how preposterous their ideas may be.
- ◆ **Egalitarianism** attempts to place all arguments on an equal footing.
- ◆ The **universal application** of critical thinking assumes that one can apply it to everything with equal rigor—art, romance, and religion can use the process only so far before it becomes irrelevant (i.e., judging a painting by the chemical composition of its paint).

I believe there is another element in critical thinking which our world is either too arrogant or ignorant to admit; after all a thorough examination of the facts we must humbly admit we still may be wrong, even with the best intentions. An example is Colonel Nicholson in the conclusion of the film, *Bridge on the River Kwai*. He had done a masterful job, sustaining his troops and winning the esteem of his captors, but suddenly realizes that he has been colluding with the enemy. He exclaims, "My God! What have I done?", then falls on the detonation plunger and the bridge he has just completed.

Critical thinking is one of the most important steps civilization has ever taken. We should protect, preserve, and promote it wherever we can. Our future depends on it. Nevertheless, we must also realize its limitations.

The Epiphany of the Lord, Year A ~ January 4th, 2026

Weekly Collections through December 21st, 2025

Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
12/21/2025	\$9,199.35	\$10,000.00	-\$800.65
12/08/2025	\$479.00		
Year-to-Date	\$461,451.27	\$522,000.00	-\$60,548.73

Let's continue to close the gap!

It's Still Not Too Late to Make a Christmas Donation to your Parish!

This QR code leads to the Parish Donation page — use it to initiate a **one-time** Donation.



Or click below:

tinyurl.com/SMM-Donations

SAVE THE DATE!

9th Annual Parish Conference
Saturday, February 21st, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm (Lunch Included)
Magdalen Hall

Scripture Readings for the Week

- 4th **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
 Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 /
 Matthew 2:1-12
- 5th *Memorial: Saint John Neumann, Bishop*
 1 John 3:22-4:6 / Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
- 6th *Christmas Weekday [St: André Bessette, Religious]*
 1 John 4:7-10 / Mark 6:34-44
- 7st *Christmas Weekday [St: Raymond of Penyafort, Priest]*
 1 John 4:11-18 / Mark 6:45-52
- 8th *Christmas Weekday*
 1 John 4:19-5:4 / Luke 4:14-22a
- 9th *Christmas Weekday*
 1 John 5:5-13 / Luke 5:12-16
- 10th *Christmas Weekday*
 1 John 5:14-21 / John 3:22-30

Mass Intentions



- Sunday 8:00 Juliana Fernandez RIP
 9:30 For the People of the Parish
 11:30 Intentions of Oliver Ovens
- Tuesday 8:30 Intentions of Elizabeth Oishi

Parish Calendar through January 11th, 2026

- January 3 Saturday** **Liturgy Council Monthly Meeting**
 10:00 am, Conference Room & Zoom
- January 3 Saturday** **Lectio Divina on the Nativity with Fr. Nick**
 6:30 pm, Norton Hall. *See notice on page 3.*
- January 3-4 Weekend** **Preacher at Weekend Masses: Fr. Titus**
 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00/9:30/11:30 am Sunday
- January 4 Sunday** **First Sunday Dinner for the Hungry**
 Noon-4:00 pm, Magdalen Hall. *Volunteers needed!*
- January 4 Sunday** **FREE CONCERT: Cantata Collective**
 5:00 pm, Church. *Christum, Nach dir, etc.*
- January 5 Monday** **St. Vincent de Paul Conference Meeting**
 7:00 pm, Norton Hall *All are welcome!*
- January 6 Tuesday** **Discussion of the Sunday Gospel Zoom link:**
 2:00-3:00 pm, tinyurl.com/SMM-GospelGroup
- January 7 Wednesday** **Meeting of SPRED Catechism**
 6:30 pm, Norton Hall
- January 9 Friday** **Discussion of the Sunday Gospel**
 9:15 - 10:15 am, Norton Hall
- January 10-11 Weekend** **Preacher at Weekend Masses: Fr. Nick**
 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00/9:30/11:30 am Sunday



This Sunday, January 4th, is our **First Sunday Dinner for the Hungry**. Do you have an hour to spare? Consider coming to Magdalen Hall today from 2:15 to 4:00 pm. (Or anytime except the “down time” from 1:00 to 2:15 pm)

You are very welcome to come help set up or serve our guests (*see times below*), but **we really need volunteers to help clean up**.

We set up from **11:30 am to 12:30 pm**, prepare to serve at **2:15 pm**, start cleaning the kitchen at **2:30 pm** and put away tables & chairs at **~3:30 pm**.

Attention All Bakers:

Our guests like sweets, and they really appreciate your desserts. You may drop them off on any 1st or 4th Sunday morning during Coffee Hour (**7:30 am to 11:00 am**) or in Magdalen Hall (**11:00 am to 1:00 pm**). Thank you very much!

For more info: tinyurl.com/SMM-SundayDinners or email: sundaydinners@marymagdalen.org.

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