

Epiphany of the Lord – January 8, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Jan. 9th
	Baptism of the Lord
8:30 a.m.	Jean Davis by Tom Davis
Tuesday	Jan. 10th
8:30 a.m.	Janatello & Lenino Families by Marie D'Angelo
Wednesday	Jan. 11th
8:30 a.m.	Donald Silva by Father Nalaka
Thursday	Jan. 12th
	Deceased members of Babkiewicz & Russo Families by Lou & Joan Russo
Friday	Jan. 13th
	St. Hilary, Bishop, and Doctor
8:30 a.m.	In Thanksgiving by John & Georgena Russo
Saturday	Jan. 14th
	Minnie Rusciano by Marie & Al Simone
4:00 p.m.	Simone
Sunday	Jan. 15th
	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 a.m.	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m.	Ida Ferraioli by Scalia Family
11:00 a.m.	Joan Hawthorne by Sue and Margaret

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Matthew 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.



Remembering in Prayer

Kindly contact the office if you know of a parishioner who is sick, having surgery or in need of pastoral care. We would like to remember them in our prayers and care for their spiritual needs.

CANDLE OFFERING

Sanctuary: James Nicoletti by Lynn Nicoletti
Blessed Virgin Mary: Thomas Del Priore by Joan Testa
St. Joseph: Ida Scortino by Alma Pisciotta
Padre Pio: Jim Clifford by Peggy Steinbeck

FLOWER OFFERING

Sanctuary: Ann Rachinsky by Joan Petrie and Family
Blessed Virgin Mary: Blessings on our children Nick, Dan and Deidre by Nella & Joe Farinola
St. Joseph: Blessings on our children Nick, Dan and Deidre by Nella & Joe Farinola

The Christmas Collection was:

Offertory: \$39,981

The collection for the weekend of Jan. 1st will be printed in the Jan. 15th bulletin.
Thank you for your continued support of our parish!



The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Monday

Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday

Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6
Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday

Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday

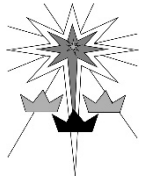
Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45

Friday

Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday

Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17



HIS WORD TODAY
 by Rev. William J. Reilly
The Epiphany of the Lord

“Then shall you be radiant in what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of the nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah, all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense and myrrh, praising the goodness of the Lord.”

On this special day, often called ‘Little Christmas,’ we immediately think of kings or magi, 3 in number, a star, bringing three mentioned gifts and discovering the presence of the newborn king. Our traditions, based on the scriptures, call us today to be no different than the travelers from the east.

Our journey is to find the Christ today. Our traveling brings us to a church and sacraments. Having been so blessed, we are asked to bring the gift of ourselves to the Lord and share Him with the most in need. I seriously wonder what gift I have to be given to someone else.

In this age of ‘re-gifting’ - we know we have the Lord, and others are waiting to meet Him. Follow the star as He leads you to someone really in need. Jesus thanks you.

FAITH FORMATION

January’s Calendar

- Jan. 7th: Children’s Liturgy
- Jan. 8th: Children’s Liturgy
- Jan. 17th: Faith Formation Class
- Jan. 18th: Faith Formation Class
- Jan. 19th: 2nd Grade Reconciliation Practice
- Jan. 23rd: 2nd Grade Reconciliation
- Jan. 24th: Faith Formation Class
- Jan. 25th: Faith Formation Class
- Jan. 31st: Faith Formation Class
- Feb. 1st: Faith Formation Class

Reminder: If you still owe make up work, faith formation assignments or 8th grade information, please get it in as soon as possible.

PARISH CALENDAR	
Jan. 7	Children’s Liturgy
	Food Pantry/Fair Trade
	RCIA 4:30 – 6:00pm Classroom 1
Jan. 8	Children’s Liturgy
	Food Pantry/Fair Trade
	Hospitality Sunday
	RCIA – 12 noon – 1:00pm RR
	Choir Party – 1:00pm Hall
Jan. 9	C of P – 1:00pm
	RCIA – 6:30pm -8:30pm RR
Jan. 10	Prayer Shawl – 1:30pm Hall
Jan. 11	St. Vincent de Paul meeting – 9:10am
Jan. 12	Choir Practice – 7:30am Church
Jan. 14	RCIA 4:30 – 6:00pm Classroom 1
Jan. 15	RCIA – 12 noon – 1:00pm RR
Jan. 16	MLK Office Closed
	K of C – 6:30pm Hall
	RCIA – 6:30pm – 8:00pm - RR
Jan. 17	FF – 6:00 – 7:30pm - Hall
Jan. 18	FF – 4:30pm – 7:30pm - Hall
	Baptism Prep – 7:30pm
Jan. 19	Reconciliation practice – 6 -7:30pm Church
	Choir Practice – 7:30pm Church
Jan. 21	RCIA 4:30 – 6:00pm Classroom 1
Jan. 22	RCIA – 12 noon – 1:00pm RR
Jan. 23	FF – Reconciliation – 6:00pm Church
	K of C Assembly – 6:30pm Hall
	RCIA – 6:30pm – 8:00pm Hall
Jan. 24	FF – 6:00 – 7:30pm - Hall
Jan. 25	FF – 4:30pm – 7:30pm - Hall
Jan. 26	Choir Practice – 7:30pm Church

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

Please join us for bagels, muffins and more as we share in fellowship **on January 8th after the 9:00 and 11:00** masses in Fr. Congdon Hall. All are welcome.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, Jan. 7th – 4:00PM

Sunday Jan. 8th – 7:30AM, 9:00AM; 11:00AM

REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers the soul of:

- James Connell December 7, 2022
- Josephine Larsen December 23, 2022
- Edward Joseph McHugh, Jr. December 23, 2022
- Gerardo “Jerry” Diaz December 27, 2022

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE FOR 2023

Beginning on Sunday, January 8, 2023, we will return to our regular Mass schedule, 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am. Please mark your calendars.

MINISTRIES

St. Vincent DePaul – If you are experiencing financial hardship due to a temporary loss of employment, illness, or disability, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is available to provide assistance for your everyday needs such as food, utility assistance, or agency referrals. Please dial the parish number 609-371-0499, then press 4, and leave a message with your name and phone number. Someone will return your call. All calls are handled in strict confidence.



An Invitation to Catholic Adults Seeking Confirmation...

If you are a baptized Catholic who has received First Communion but has not yet been Confirmed, we are happy to offer you the opportunity to prepare for Confirmation. Before attending preparation sessions for Confirmation, an individual interview is required.

If you have been thinking about receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation (and have ALREADY received Baptism and Eucharist), please contact JoLynn Krempecki at jolynnkrempecki@msn.com or leave a message for her at the Parish Office (609-371-0499) by **January 15, 2023**. We thank you for allowing us to be on this **JOURNEY** with you!



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

*Rise up in splendor,
Jerusalem!*

*Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the peoples;
but upon you the LORD shines,
and over you appear his glory.*

This quote from the prophet Isaiah can well be about you and me – and a promise to our catechumen. It’s through baptism that we receive the light that is Christ, the glory that He promises. The magi in the infancy narratives followed the light of a star to the true light, the babe in the manger. It is through the Light of Christ that darkness is dispelled, and it is through baptism that we become partners with Him in bringing that light into a very dark world.

At this time, we have one catechumen (someone preparing for baptism through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA). There are more people out there who are waiting to follow their star to the Lord. Perhaps you can lead the way to baptism and ultimately to the Eucharist by introducing someone to the RCIA. Help them find out more. Contact JoLynn Krempecki at 732-690-2610 (jolynnkrempecki@msn.com) or Sister Marie Colette at 609-371-0499 (pa@nativitymonroe.org) for information.



Marriage Enrichment

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse? Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 24 - 26.

Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco).

Visit us at: www.wwme.org for more information.

Surviving Divorce March 2023

For men and women seeking healing from separation or divorce. This 12-week program, while based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, is open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel, and clarity after a divorce. Meetings will be held on Thursdays 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM beginning March 2, 2023, at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. For more information or to register contact Ro Bersch at 908-313-5947.

RESPECT LIFE MASS, JANUARY 22, 2023

Please consider joining us for the Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 12:00 noon at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen. Bishop James F. Checchio will be the celebrant. Youth who have been active in pro-life volunteering will be recognized. There will be a light reception immediately following the Mass. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact amarshall@diometuchen.org or 732-562-1543.

The Epiphany of the Lord



Epiphany, also called Feast of the Epiphany, Theophany, or Three Kings' Day is the Christian holiday commemorating the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. It is represented by the Magi and the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River and at his first miracle, at Cana in Galilee. Epiphany is one of the three principal and oldest festival days of the Christian church (the other two are Easter and Christmas). Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, and other Western churches observe the feast on January 6th, while some Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Epiphany on January 19th, since their Christmas Eve falls on January 6th.

< KID'S >
KORNER

Gospel Today
Epiphany of the Lord | Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men follow a star to the place where Mary and Jesus are and offer the Child gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They do not return to Herod but follow another route to their own country.

Year A

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Find and write the missing letters not listed (from A to Z).

F
U M Z
X C J P N V
E L W H
O D I Y
K G Q
B

Unscramble the letters and fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below.

When they saw the _____, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:10

Epiphany Blessing of Chalk

The Feast of Epiphany commemorates the Magi who followed a star to find the Christ-child. It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to use the chalk blessed at the Epiphany Mass for a blessing of one's home for the New Year. We invite you to adopt this custom in your family. Gather everyone to ask God's blessing on your home and for those who live in or visit there. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in your home and be a part of your comings and goings, your conversations, your work and play, your joys, and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, **20 + C + M + B + 23**. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2023 is the year.

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows: **20 + C + M + B + 23** while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and sixteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer: *Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

adapted from the Carith House in Chicago

