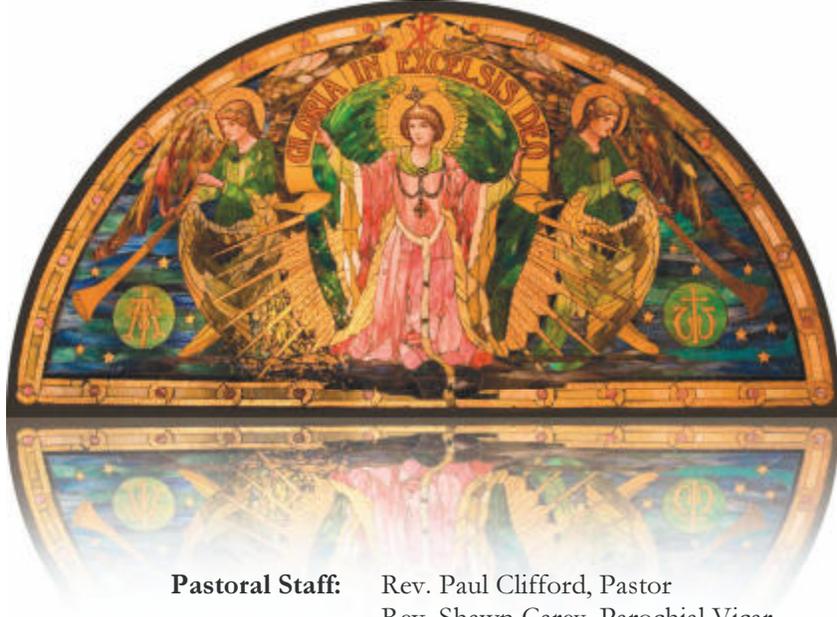


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Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



**Pastoral Staff:** Rev. Paul Clifford, Pastor  
Rev. Shawn Carey, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Mr. Joseph MacDonald, Permanent Deacon/Director of Music  
Mrs. Diane Hopkins, Religious Education, 781-848-3238  
Mrs. Ronna Petrilli, Religious Education, 781-848-3238

**Parish Office:** Miss Patty Kinnally, Office Manager

**Mass Schedule:** Saturday Evening – 5:30 PM  
Sunday – 9:00 and 11:30 AM  
Weekday – Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday – 12:30 to 2:00 PM  
Other times by appointment.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** A minimum of ten months notice is required. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment prior to booking a hall.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** First and Third Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM.  
Please call the Parish Office to register.

**Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls:** Please notify the Parish Office if anyone is hospitalized or unable to attend Mass because of illness.

**Community Meetings:** School Hall Alcoholics Anonymous – Friday 8:00 PM  
**(Suspended due to Coronavirus)**

**Food Pantry:** Thursdays – please call the Parish Office one day in advance.

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, January 2, 2021

5:30PM John Keaveney Memorial

## Sunday, January 3, 2021

9:00AM Guido Buglio Memorial

11:30AM Anna F. And William Damon Memorial

## Monday, January 4, 2021

7:00AM

## Tuesday, January 5, 2021

7:00AM

## Wednesday, January 6, 2021

7:00AM

## Thursday, January 7, 2021

7:00AM

## Friday, January 8, 2021

7:00AM

## Saturday, January 9, 2021

5:30PM

## Sunday, January 10, 2021

9:00AM

11:30AM



### A Prayer for Hope After A Hard Year

God, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year. Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days.

Help us to keep our focus first on you this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things, for looking to other people before coming to you first. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care.

We choose to press in close to you today, and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new semester that will undoubtedly be filled with many challenges and opportunities. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' name, Amen.

- Crosswalk.com



Thank you for your offerings for the last weekend:  
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**If you are interested in the Online Giving option to simplify your weekly contributions, please contact the parish office.**

# Collection Report

Offertory Envelopes	\$ Information not
Offertory/Loose	\$ Available
EFT Weekly Average	\$ due to early
Total Offertory	\$ bulletin deadline

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH WHEN PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. Thank you!**



From  
*Deacon Joe MacDonald*

### Reflection on the Epiphany

Although things have been different this year you've probably noticed that, in years past, at Christmas time, people start to shop in very strange ways. It amazes me the lengths to which people will go in order to be the first to snag that elusive "product of the year" before they're all gone.

Every year it's something! And every year the local news will do a remote broadcast outside a Best Buy or Circuit City and interview the shoppers who camp out all night in freezing temperatures just to guarantee themselves one of the latest fad gadgets.

You see the same kind of frenzy outside of Fenway Park or Gillette Stadium at playoff time. It's the length that people will go for something, even if it's only a fleeting craze or momentary glory.

I'm only human. One year, when my daughter was about 13 years old, "N Sync was the most popular "boy band" in America and like all kids her age she really wanted to go the "N Sync concert that was coming in January. The tickets were going on sale one Saturday a few weeks before Christmas and I thought it would make the best Xmas present. So, at exactly 9 AM (the time the tickets went on sale) I called. Busy! I tried again at 9:02 and again at 9:05 – still busy. Now I wasn't camped outside in the cold but I was on that phone for nearly 4 hours until I got through and got the best seats I could – in the nosebleed section; the lengths that a Dad will go through to make a merrier Christmas for his little girl.

Today's Gospel is also about going to great lengths. The Magi, went to extremely great lengths in their search for the newborn king.

Think about it. Quite literally they had to travel to the ends of the earth.

I imagine they must have endured more than a little ridicule from friends, family, and colleagues. Imagine telling your friends that you're going to follow a star to a far-off land to find playoff tickets or an I-Phone.

Think of the kind of journey they had. These guys couldn't follow Route 95 or plug the address into a GPS. There were no advance reservations at AAA approved motels and there were no State Police units nearby if you were got robbed or attacked. Yet these three wise men did it.

Because seeking Christ takes effort. It takes courage. It takes faith, hope and trust.

That's the question that today's gospel poses to us. What kind of effort do we put into finding Christ?

- Would we camp out all night in front of the Church in the freezing cold to make sure we got in for Mass?
- Would we walk to another country where they didn't speak our language for the Eucharist?
- How much hardship or just plain inconvenience are we willing to endure so that WE might find Christ?

Christ, God with us, who shared in our humanity so that we could share in His divinity.

Jesus, who shared human suffering and death so that we could share in His resurrection and eternal life!

The anointed one of God – the Eternal Word who unites himself with us and with each other and with the Father – Why? So that we will never be far from Him and he will never be far from us.

Our relationship with Christ is no fad. Our faith has nothing to do with a fleeting craze or a temporary encounter with someone else's victory on the field.

What we seek is the real deal. What we seek is Jesus, the Christ, God with us.

My friends when the Magi found Christ Scripture tells us they were overjoyed – we will be too!

The Irony of the story is that everything Herod said to the Magi was right on the money – Even though his motivation was all wrong. The apostles couldn't have said it any better, the pope couldn't. Herod said:

Search Diligently for Christ and when you find him come and tell me that I too may give him homage.

Herod unwittingly called the Magi to discipleship. He asked them to do what every good disciple is called to do.

1. Seek Christ
2. When you find him, bring the good news to others.

We can look into the night sky all we want but unlike the Magi we aren't going to find the light of a star that's going to lead us to Jesus.

We can search high and low, near and far and we're not going to find an infant Christ laying in a manger.

But we still have that obligation to diligently search for Christ.

- Through prayer and Scripture
- Sacrament and Community
- In each other
- We find him in our own hearts
- We find him on the streets
- In our families
- In the board rooms and in our classrooms
- We find Him especially in the ones no body else wants

When Mother Teresa saw the lonely and abandoned laying in the gutters of Calcutta, she saw the SAME Christ who laid in that Bethlehem Manger 2000 years ago. In their suffering she saw the same suffering of Christ on the cross. She recognized the same tears that Jesus shed at the tomb of Lazarus and the same sadness at being abandoned that Jesus felt at Gethsemane.

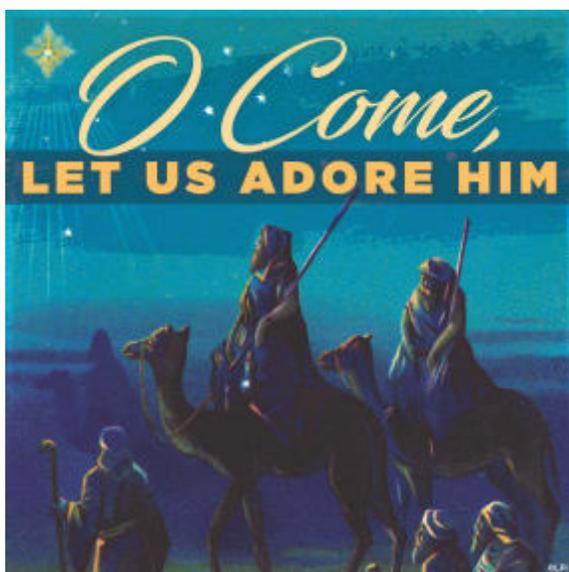
When we can look into the eyes of someone that nobody on this earth loves or desires or cares about; someone who may be repulsive or dirty or diseased; when we can recognize Christ in them and be willing to give our own lives for their welfare...

Then like the Magi our diligent searching will be complete & we'll have found Christ in our hearts and in each other and like the Magi our joy will be so great we will not be able to bear it. We will not be able to keep it to ourselves. It'll spill out. We will have no choice but to bring that Good News to others, so that they too can pay Him homage and that their joy too may be complete and as the psalm says "all the ends of the earth will see the Glory of God."



*St. Francis of Assisi*  
*Luke Thomas Gallagher*

*St. Clare*  
*Isabella Margarita Palacio-Torres*



## Parish Info and events of note...

- **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry** Open Thursdays from 10AM-12NN and 2-4PM. If you need groceries, please call on Wednesday so that we can be prepared for your visit. Referrals and limited financial assistance are available for parishioners in need. Please call the parish office for more information.
- **Parish Prayer Line...** To be placed (or to pray) on the parish prayer line, please call the parish office.
- **Military Service...** If someone you know is deployed and you would like their info to appear on the blue board in the church, please call or email the parish office. If you are aware of needed updates to the board, please let us know that as well. Thank you.



**Sunday Masses continue** with limited seating to provide safe social distancing for all in attendance. We remind you: You must **book a seat(s) for the Mass** you want to attend. There are two methods for booking a time. You may only book times for yourself and members of your household.

**On-line booking** is found at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a45a5a722a4f49-braintree> (regular weekend Mass)

### Phone Booking

- Dial 781-843-1332 and Press 3
- Follow recorded instructions
- Provide your Name, Phone#, Church, Mass Time and the total # of household members coming to Mass. Hang up after you are done with your message

### The cut-off times for Mass Reservations are as follows:

- 2:00PM Saturday for the Saturday evening Masses
- 10:00PM Saturday for the Sunday morning Masses
- 2:00PM Sunday for the Sunday evening Mass

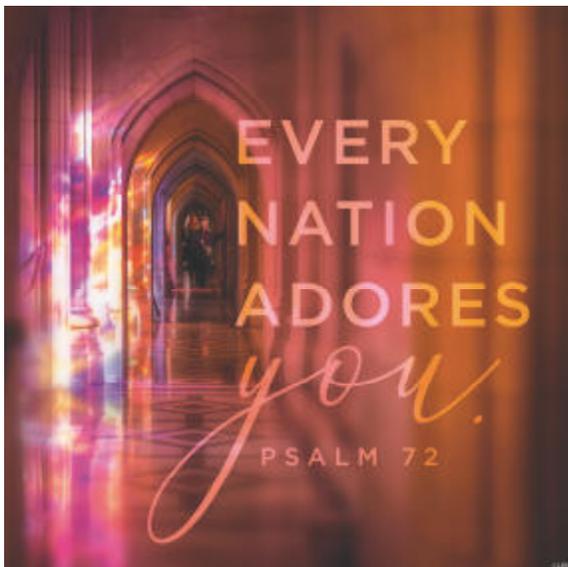
**You are required to wear a mask at all times** in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 31. You do not have to wear a mask if you have a medical or disabling condition that prevents this. Children under 2 do not require a mask; Children ages 2-5 is up to parental discretion.



***They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11***

**Readings for the week of January 3, 2021**

- Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
- Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
- Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/ 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11



**January 3, 2021—The Epiphany of the Lord**

“Where is that thing?” mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. “I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!” Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, “Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear.” The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.” The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God’s tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God’s salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God’s healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!



From the Archdiocese of Boston



January 3 ~ Epiphany of Our Lord

The magi in today's Gospel didn't have access to the technology we rely on when looking for the best route home. The message they received was simple - return "by another way." All of the "familiar routes" in our lives have been altered by the pandemic. Finding another way to connect with loved ones, participating in the practice of our faith, have required that we pursue "another way." On this feast of Epiphany, what "new way" is God inviting you to travel now? Where have you felt Christ accompanying you on this new route? With whom is God be urging you to share this new way home?



Please remember in your prayers the following people who have gone home to the Lord in the past week:

St. Francis of Assisi

- Robert Kelley
Ann Butler
Barbara O'Neill

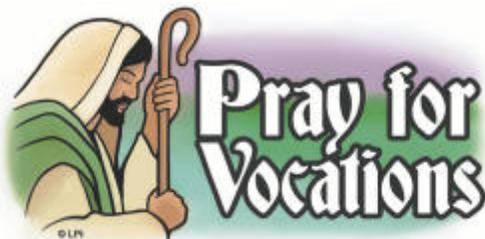
St. Clare

- Lois Carr
Russell Dupuis

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



We are now booking Mass Intentions through Tuesday, February 16, 2021 (the day before Ash Wednesday). To schedule a Mass or for further information please call the Collaborative Office at 781-843-1332. Please do not leave this information on the Mass Reservation line.



PUZZLE
Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:
WISE-MEN STAR HEROD MESSIAH WORSHIP EXCITED GIFTS WARNED DREAM
U W A R N E D E K O E
J I N E G A J W I N G
A S U T O F I O S A I
N E X C I T E D U D F
O M I Y U B A U W E T
H E R O D E N Y O G S
W N A H R T Y H R S F
S O Y I E O M A S T U
T I B V A H U D H Y M
A S U L M E S S I A H
R E W A Y I L E P O Y
MISSION
Solve a puzzle together with your family. Work together like the wise men did.



Sharing the Gospel

Jigsaw puzzles are fun. Solve a puzzle with your whole family, and it comes together even faster. God helped the wise men solve a puzzle. They wanted to find the newborn king. Together the wise men read God's promises, did their homework, and followed the star. When all of their answers fit, they found baby Jesus.

Prayer

God, thank you for all the people who helped me find Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of the people who help you learn more about Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Solve a puzzle together with your family. Work together like the wise men did.

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