

# Sunday and Daily Mass Schedule

## January 1<sup>st</sup> – January 9<sup>th</sup>

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	Sat.	Jan 01	Epiphany of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh)
ı		4:30pm	Regina Cochran
ı	Sun.	Jan 02	Epiphany of the Lord (Wh)
ı		7:30am	Elizabeth Beaton
ı		9:00am	John Saraiva
ı		11:00am	Pro Populo
ı	Mon.	Jan 03	Holy Name of Jesus (Wh)
ı		9:00am	Frank Gonsalves
ı	Tues.	Jan 04	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Wh)
ı		9:00am	Joan Kindamo
	Wed.	Jan 05	St. John Neumann; Bishop (Wh)
ı		9:00am	Herbert R. Waters Jr.
ı	Thurs.	Jan 06	St. Andre Bessette; Religious (Wh)
ı		9:00am	Rita Souza Gubler
ı	Fri.	<b>Jan 07</b>	St. Raymond of Penafort (Wh)
ı		9:00am	Jack, Kevin & Manny Fernandes
ı	Sat.	Jan 08	Christmas Weekday (Wh)
ı		9:00am	Carlos Jeronimo &
ı			Carlos Jeronimo Jr.
ı	Sat.	Jan 09	Baptism of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh)
ı		4:30pm	Pro Populo
ı	Sun.	Jan 09	Baptism of the Lord (Wh)
ı		7:30am	Rev. John Andrews
		9:00am	Pereira & Veiga Families
		11:00am	Arthur Senna
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*Pro Populo* means a Holy Mass "for the people". It indicates the obligation for priests to celebrate one Sunday or Holy Day Mass for their parishioners.

**Please note:** the Christmas season concludes with the celebration of The Baptism of the Lord on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Please Pray For:

All the Souls in Purgatory and for parishioners who are ill at home or in nursing home or hospital and especially also for: Lilly Harris, Jenna D., Connie Bernado, Dan D., John Costa, Jaime Pimentel, Joaquina Robinson, Helen W., Vincent S., Fran, Donald Baxter, Jane & Chauncey G., Kathy & Marianna M., Eric, Kateri, Anne Belmonte, Brian D., Louise R., Dan D., Margaret K., Bob, Frank C., Janice Sharp, Melissa M., Maria S., Bill H., Lucille Dussault, Tom & Matthew, Grace Gonsalves, Margaret K., Joe Barbero, and Elizabeth Beaton.

#### UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January - Maintenance Collection (all month)
- Parish Assessment

**January 16** - Catholic Communications

### THE PASTOR'S COLUMN

#### The Gifts We Give

On this feast of the Epiphany, we recall and celebrate the moment the three magi from the East found the Christ Child and paid Him homage and gave Him gifts. As a sign of their respect for Christ, they brought Him gold, frankincense and myrrh (Mt 2:11). Catholic tradition sees these three gifts as symbols signifying the mystery of the Incarnation: gold representing Christ's kingship; frankincense, which is used in worship, representing Christ's divinity; and myrrh, which is used for burial, representing His humanity, and in particular, His passion and death. These valuable gifts, no doubt, also had a very practical benefit for the Holy Family who were poor and were soon forced to travel for their safety.

The Epiphany is a good occasion for all of us to reflect on why we give gifts, as we often do at Christmas. Usually, we give gifts to show affection to those we love, or gratitude for the kindness that others have shown to us. Sometimes, we give gifts simply to help others who are in need. And this feast of the Epiphany is a great occasion for me, as your pastor, to note and comment on the heroic gift giving that takes place here at St. Julie's.

Back in October, in observance of our Respect Life Month, we conducted the Baby Bottle Drive to raise funds for expectant mothers who are helped by the local pregnancy resource center, Your Options Medical. So many parishioners filled these bottles with generous donations to help others whom they will never meet, and to show that our respect for life extends to the care of mothers and their children. At Thanksgiving time, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of our parish made sure that families in need enjoyed a great meal. For Christmas, our parish Ladies' Guild generously sponsored a family in need, to make sure that gifts were enjoyed, as did other parishioners who sought to help families anonymously, so that no credit could be given for their generosity. Once again, the St. Vincent de Paul Society came to the rescue of families in need and also delivered Christmas flowers to many of our homebound parishioners. Then, many of our parishioners generously donated gift cards to be distributed to families in need by the Catholic Social Services of our Diocese. And all the while – all year long – the food donations here at the parish remained constant, allowing us to help stock a local food pantry in New Bedford.

All of this gift giving here at St. Julie's means that charity abounds here in our parish. As your pastor, I can see so clearly how this parish puts its faith into practice by helping those who are total strangers. It's one thing to give gifts to those we know and love. It's quite another thing to give gifts to those who are in need and don't have an opportunity to thank their benefactors. All of this charity inspires me to be more generous in my own service of our parish. And in this way, charity is infectious, as it should be.

## ON THE COVER - BY STEVEN N. GUILLOTTE

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 (Is 60:1-2)

The word "epiphany" means appearance or manifestation, especially an appearance or manifestation of the divine, a glorious revelation arriving on the scene to confront human history. Still an epiphany is not necessarily for everyone to see. When an epiphany does occur there are often only certain people chosen to perceive it. Epiphanies are especially gifted to those whose hearts are open to religious wonder: the pious Jewish shepherds of the field, the inquisitive Eastern kings seeking clues about One God, the zealous John the Baptist making straight the path of the Lord.

Not many have witnessed a manifestation of the Lord. Perhaps this is because many would not recognize it if they saw one; or in recognizing it would not act upon it in the thoroughly devoted and transforming way it is meant to inspire? Only God knows. This Sunday's Feast of the Epiphany asks each and every Catholic and all sincere seekers of God to believe, through faith, in a revelation of God; a specific divine disclosure associated with the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Church does not require that you be present at the manifestation of God in real time, but that you only recall the words of Jesus Himself in his final beatitude and legacy which He left to mankind before His departure from the world: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (Jn 20:29).

In order to celebrate this great feast day, which falls on the "twelfth day of Christmas", we have placed on our bulletin cover a beautiful medieval work by the three **Limbourg Brothers** known as *The Adoration of the Magi* (1416). This piece is probably from an illuminated manuscript on parchment, a page of a much larger book or bible.

The Limbourg Brothers were Dutch, however they were mostly active in France as masters of miniature illustration in what is known as the Late Gothic style. This painting, typical of the brothers' talent, is a panoply of activity for the artistic eye. Almost the entire right side of this tempera painting is a sea of jostling figures from which the magi emerge. Here they appear, bowed on the ground as ones stranded by the storm still blowing from Eden. Here they represent sincere mankind offering praise and thanks for salvation, even as one king kisses "dry land" before the infant Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. The scene has its share of four-footed creatures: sheep & horses, camels & leopards all present so that creation itself expresses homage to the creator, born on earth of Mary who is already seen here in her heavenly attire presenting her Son for adoration. Above we see the shepherds at night amazed at their own manifestation of angels who offer "Gloria" amidst the shining star in praise of Emmanuel, God-with-us. Below this, Mary is attended by ladies in waiting, one lady seen bearing the fruitfulness of her womb. Off in the distance we see a great French Gothic city outlined pictorially by two flags flying from the Magi's entourage. For us, this is looming Jerusalem which will claim the life of Jesus; still to play its full part in salvation history (Rev 21:2). May the Lord manifest his Holy Spirit to all those who seek Him!

# PARISH INFORMATION

#### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

In Person: Mon - Fri 9:45am - 4:00pm Otherwise staff are in the office and available by telephone or email between these same hours Monday through Friday to assist you.

#### **HANDY CONTACTS**

Religious Education: 508-990-0287 Facilities Management:: 508-441-1145 St. Vincent de Paul Society: SVdP@saintjulies.org Bulletin Editor: sng@saintjulies.org

## St. Julie Billiart Parish 494 Slocum Road Dartmouth, MA 02747

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Fr. David Pignato, Pastor

[FrPignato@saintjulies.org]

Fr. Steven Booth

[FrBooth@saintjulies.org]

Mr. Joe Martino. Rel. Education: Grades 6-9

[Joe@saintjulies.org]

Kathy & Gene Kosinski, Rel. Education: Grades 1-5 [Kathy@saintjulies.org]

Mrs. Rhonda Senra, Parish Office Assistant [Rhonda@saintjulies.org.]

Mr. Joe Martino, Parish Maintenance

[Joe@saintjulies.org]

Mr. Steven Guillotte, Business Manager & Pastoral Assistant [sng@saintjulies.org]

## **HOLY MASS**

Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am Saturday Vigil 4:30pm Monday-Saturday 9:00am *Holy Days* 9:00am & 6:00pm

## **CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday 5:00-6:00pm Saturday 8:00-9:00am Saturday 3:30-4:30pm Any Time by Appointment

## **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Wednesday 10:00am-6:00pm Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm Christmas GIFT CARD COLLECTION: Father Pignato and the parishioners of St. Julie Billiart received a letter of gratitude from Catholic Social Services acknowledging the receipt of a \$5,532.27 donation in cards and cash from our parish in support of their annual Christmas collection for local families and individuals in need. Thank you to everyone who gave to this drive which brightened the holidays of many households in our area. Thank you again to Joe and Isabel Medeiros for coordinating our parish effort.

**PRAYERFUL CHRISTMAS ADORATION:** The highest form of interior prayer is *Adoration*. Like the Magi and the shepherds you may adore Our Lord at our Nativity scene. Even higher prayer is that of Eucharistic Adoration where the **Real Presence** of Jesus is there upon the altar. *Adore the Lord in this Holy Season!* 

Annual Parish Calendars: Parishioners and visitors have been taking home our lovely 2022 Catholic artwork calendar. If you have any friends or family members who are homebound and would like a calendar please take one for them. If you know of others who can't get out and might like a calendar, please call the parish office and we will reach out to them. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS: We will open the Mass Book for the period of July through December 2022 on Wednesday 12 January after the 9 am Mass. At that time, parishioners will be able to schedule 3 Mass intentions (i.e. 1 weekend and 2 weekday). Those coming to the parish office that morning will be the first to schedule Masses that day. After this we will take Mass intentions over the telephone and by email. Once a few weeks have passed we will evaluate the total Mass intentions scheduled and make you aware of the availability of more Masses.

**THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS AND GOSPEL:** in the *Credo hymnal* for the Feast of the Epiphany can be found on **pages 761–764.** 

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

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/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk

4·14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 2:22-20

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/ Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

# Theology Presentations at SJB Parish

The next theology presentation by Fr. Pignato will be held on **Wednesday**, **January 12**, **at 7:00 p.m.** in the parish hall. The topic of this next presentation is "Church and State: What Caesar Owes to God." It will discuss the Church's teaching after Vatican II on the ideal relationship between the Church and the State. All are welcome to attend.

COAT DRIVE: The Ladies Guild will be collecting gently used men's and women's winter coats for distribution to Sister Rose and Grace House the weekend of Jan. 15 & 16 before all Masses. There is also a need for hand warmers at both shelters. Thank you.

HAND KNIT SCARVES: We are collecting hand knit/crocheted scarves, hats, and mittens for the local homeless in a collection basket in the church entrance. We will periodically remove these items from the church entrance to deliver them to those in need. The collection will continue until January 30, 2022. Thank you for sharing your craftsmanship with the poor.

**R.C.I.A.:** stands for the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*. It is the educational and spiritual process by which we initiate adults into the sacramental life of the Church. If you know of anyone inquiring, or seeking to become Catholic, please inform Father Steven Booth.

#### Parish Ladies Guild

**THE SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER:** through January 8<sup>th</sup> is Mary Anne Trahan whom you can contact at 508-992-9598 if you would like us to send a note or card of encouragement to someone who has lost a loved one.

**RUMMAGE SALE:** We are using Facebook's Marketplace to sell items online. We are in need of higher value items (no clothes) in new or like-new condition. If you have any items to donate please first contact Robin at 508-994-8908 to see if it is something we could use.

**JEWELRY DONATIONS:** are being accepted and sold on "Poshmark" online. We thank you for donations of Costume, Fine, Vintage or Broken. Call Isabel 508-992-5464 for pickup. Please do not drop off items at the parish.

# **SVDP** Food Collection

**THE FOOD DONATION BIN:** will be kept outside for winter near the north side entrance to the parish hall to provide a bit more shelter. Your food donations are appreciated by the *Solanus Casey Food Pantry* which is operated by Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Fall River.

# Of Metahumans by Steven NGuillotte

One valuable tradition that Catholics might consider revisiting is the investigation of the origin of words. By examining the roots of words we can glean an ever-deeper understanding of true essences.

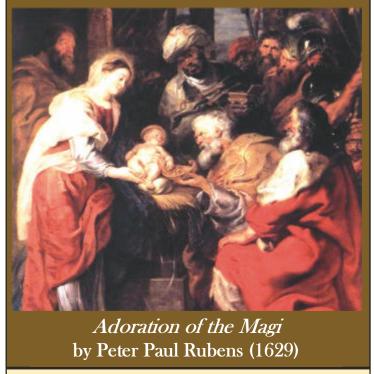
Today we speak the word "epiphany", not a term you would use in the grocery store unless you had, say, an insight for a new recipe that suddenly came to you when looking at the items on the shelves. In such a case you might later call a friend to say that you had an "epiphany" on how to improve the taste of an otherwise average meal. In this case "epiphany" seems to be that moment when the imaginary light bulb pops up over your head.

Now the first part of the word *epiphany* (i.e. the prefix *epi*) means in Greek, "upon" or "over". The second part of the word comes from the Greek term *phanos* meaning "torch". A similar Greek term, *pharnarion*, is translated "lantern". Thus the term *epiphany* churns up the image of a torch held aloft or a lantern held overhead. An epiphany is therefore something that manifests what would otherwise be unseen in the darkness. Catholic tradition discerns three epiphanies or marvelous "manifestations" which it celebrates in weekly succession in its sacred liturgy: the Wise Men following the star to Bethlehem, the Holy Spirit's declaration at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, and the outset of the miraculous ministry of Jesus at the Wedding at Cana. These events are as torches or lanterns to a world dimmed and darkened by sin.

A precise awareness of the origin of words also alerts us to the misuse of terms. Recall that we live in a society that calls contraception (literally: *against*-conception), "family planning"; and calls abortion, a "reproductive health service". Because of these and other affronts to the human language, I was curious when a friend from a parish I once worked at called me confused about a new term she had heard and wondered if there was any benefit in its usage and study. The term was "metahuman".

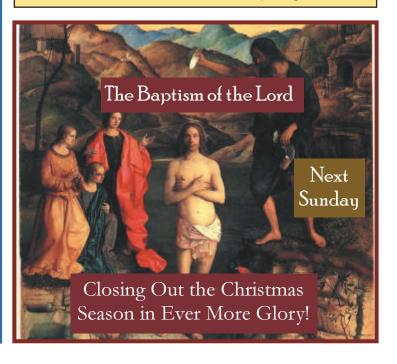
I made my online inquiries and discovered that this term can mean either a human comic book hero with extraordinary powers, a digitally produced image of a human being, or lastly, a human person who simply moves beyond himself (it was this last usage that tickled my friend's fancy). You see, "meta" is Greek for "beyond" or "after" so that a "metahuman" is an "after-man" or a human who, after casting off human nature, can allegedly, through greater consciousness, become the measure of all things, even of all things spiritual. The metahuman seeks his own inner lantern and thus becomes a light unto himself.

Meta-theories are as old as Pythagoras and Protagoras. The Church has utterly rejected them in favor of a true anthropology or study of human nature substantially set in the context of God. So to concisely clarify what man will be "after" - i.e. upon arriving at his final destination - St. John the Apostle has already amply described this as our last and everlasting *epiphany*; for this is when we shall see God as God is, and become like unto God (1 Jn 3:2).



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)

**40 HOUR DEVOTION:** On Friday, **January 14<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 am**, we will hold Eucharistic Adoration in our church as part of Bishop da Cunha's effort to increase devotion to the Holy Eucharist within the parishes. The full schedule for the 40 Hours is posted in the church entrance. Our Bishop's intentions for this devotion are an end to COVID and a fruitful diocesan synod phase.



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