

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

22 Fr. Jogues Place, Ticonderoga, New York 12883

518-585-7144 Fax: 518-585-3632

Website: www.route74catholics.org

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, JANUARY 2, 2022



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



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



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First Reading: Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalms: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading: It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel: "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Epiphany of the Lord:

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

Sign Up

SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE BY GOING TO www.route74catholics.org/email

A Word from Fr. Chris

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

Fr. Chris Looby

COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE



Due to the on-going rise in COVID-19 infections, **effective Monday, December 13**, all indoor places, including houses of worship, must require all persons over the age of 2 (except those unable to medically tolerate a face covering/mask) to wear a face covering. Unvaccinated individuals continue to be responsible for wearing masks under CDC directives **AND** socially distancing while attending Mass.



Please use the hand sanitizer located at all entrances and windows. **Those receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to receive communion in the hand.** The obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to those who are sick or have weakened immune systems. For up-to-date diocesan, live-streamed Masses, and other information related to the Coronavirus please visit www.rcdony.org/covid-19. **Thank you all for your patience.**

SHARE THE NEWS...Please take a bulletin to a homebound friend or neighbor. If someone would like to receive our weekly bulletin, please contact the parish office, and we'll mail it out.

THE EPIPHANY OR THE LORD

Mass Intentions

MONDAY — JANUARY 3

ST. M. 9:00 AM

Marilyn Pozzouli by Betty Peria

EWNH 1:00 PM

All Souls

TUESDAY — JANUARY 4—*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

O.L.L. 8:30 AM

Intentions of Thomas Garcia by Art & Linda

WEDNESDAY — JANUARY 5

O.L.L. 8:30 AM

Joanne Gervais Christner & Donald Morgan by Kathleen & George Vanderzwaag

THURSDAY—JANUARY 6

ST. M. 9:00 AM

NO MASS/SERVICE

FRIDAY—JANUARY 7

ST. M. 9:00 AM

Ramona McCaughin by Betty Peria

SATURDAY—JANUARY 8

ST. M. 4:30 PM

Thomas Malaney by his Family

SUNDAY—JANUARY 9

ST.M. 9:00 AM

Larry Matte by Knights of Columbus #333

O.L.L. 11:00 AM

For the People of the Parish

St. Mary's Sanctuary Light

...will burn for two weeks in memory of **Arthurlyn Burleigh** by Tom Burleigh

ST. MARY'S COLLECTION

Envelopes 12/19.....	\$ 3065.00
Plate.....	\$ 642.93
Total.....	\$3,707.93

THE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION IS THIS WEEKEND. PLEASE BE GENEROUS — Non-Perishable Food Items may be left at the main entrance in the basket provided.

ATTENTION ENVELOPE USERS

The 2021 Giving Tax Statements will be sent out soon. Those who received Tax Statements last year will automatically receive one this year unless your envelopes have not been used. If you would like to be put on the Tax Statement list, please call the rectory office Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday by 2:00 pm.

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'ADOPT' A STUDENT

Our 'Adopt' A Student Program is needed now more than ever. We have never allowed a family to leave our school for financial reasons despite limited resources. We lost 19 months of fundraising due to the pandemic and we have needs now more than ever. Any amount is appreciated and is Tax Deductible

NEEDED ARE:

Thin Spaghetti, Grape Jelly and Ranch Dressing

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING:

...Pennies for the Playground, Ink Cartridges and return-able Cans & Bottles. Please leave cans & bottles in the bin next to the garage. Thank you.



DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS WERE MADE BY: Mary Vigliotti



MEMORIAL CANDLES WERE REQUESTED FOR:

Bruce Courtright by Matt & family; **Betty Jean LaRock** by her Family; **Edward LaRock** by his Family and **Kathy Woods** by her Family

ANY FLOWERS OR CANDLES NOT INCLUDED WILL BE POSTED IN THE NEXT BULLETIN

2021 BISHOP'S FUND UPDATE AS OF LAST WEEK

<u>GOAL</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>DONORS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>%</u>
\$17,241.00	\$25,465.00.	101	147.70%	

Our participation goal is to have 140 families or more donate. Please remember that every gift makes a difference.

WOW!!! THANK YOU!!

A Point of Interest:



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | January 4

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."



PRAYER REQUESTS

... for all those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially: Claire Brown, Thomas Curtis, Marge McNeil, Marie Denno Murray, Tony Dettori, Art Hatfield, Ryun Grey, Jerry Peeters, Josh Ross, Katie Ernst, Dominick Osier, Deacon William Lenhart, Ron Drinkwine, Jen Merriam, Meredith Green, Leo Tringale, John teRiele, Dick LaBounty, Darby McLaughlin, Earl Barber, Jr., Helen LaVare, Tyler Rodriquez, Pat Carroll, Jim Guyette, Juli Hall, Charlotte Belden, Wendy Shaw, Whitney Anderson, Mollie Woods, Pryce Brandt, Sue Huestis, Mason Charles Carr, Tommy Moore, Mary LaBounty, Kim Allinger, Tammy Morse, Sarah Diehl McLaughlin, Chris Ross, Bev Hutchinson, Andrew St. Pierre, Cindy Archibald, Lydia McLaughlin, Gene Wesley Peter Ross, Rebecca Gallagher, Joshua Connor, all those in the Nursing Home and those recuperating at home.

EPIPHANY



THE LORD'S LAUGHTER:

"Well, sir," said the interviewer to the job applicant, "for a man with no retail experience, you are certainly asking for a high wage." "Well," responded the applicant, "the work will be a lot harder for me since I won't know what I'm doing."

Reaching the end of a job interview, the human resources person asked a young engineer fresh out of MIT what kind of a salary he was looking for. "In the neighborhood of \$140,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, fourteen paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50 percent of salary, and a company car leased every two years...say, a corvette?" asked the interviewer. "Wow! Are you kidding?" exclaimed the recruit. "Yeah," admitted the interviewer, "but you started it."

Weekly Reflections:

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But it is always right**

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