



ST. JOHN  
THE EVANGELIST PARISH  
115 MIDDLESEX STREET  
NORTH CHELMSFORD

ST. MARGARET  
OF SCOTLAND PARISH  
374 STEVENS STREET  
LOWELL

ST. MARY PARISH  
25 NORTH ROAD  
CHELMSFORD



# January 2, 2022

## Epiphany of the Lord

Since from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd by people, Israel.

-Matt 2: 6b



### Parish Office Location and Hours



115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 01863  
(978) 251-8571/ 454-5143/ 256-2374  
[www.theholyrood.org](http://www.theholyrood.org)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Wednesday • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### Weekend Mass Schedule

St. John • Saturday, 4 pm/ Sunday, 9:30 am and 6 pm  
• African Liturgy, 12 pm: 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays  
St. Margaret • Saturday, 4 pm/ Sunday, 7:30 and 10 am  
St. Mary • Saturday, 4 pm/ Sunday, 7 and 11 am

### Daily Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday  
7 am at St. Mary • 8 am at St. Margaret • 9 am at St. John

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John  
Tuesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret  
Wednesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary  
Saturday • 11 am - 12 noon at St. Mary  
• 1 pm - 2 pm at St. Margaret  
• 3 pm - 3:45 pm at St. John

### Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays • 12:00 - 9:00 PM • St. Mary Adoration Chapel  
First Fridays • 3:00 - 9:00 PM • St. John OPC Chapel

### LIVEVIEW Devotions

Monday - Friday  
3 pm • Chaplet of Divine Mercy at St. John  
7 pm • Rosary at St. Mary

### Prayer Line

To have prayers said for yourself or a loved one,  
call the parish office and ask for ext. 223. After hours,  
press 5.

\*Please read entire bulletin for potential schedule changes

# weekly calendar

## Monday, January 3

LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John  
SJE SVdP Meeting • 7 pm • SJE OPC  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Tuesday, January 4

LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret of Scotland  
Bible Study • 7:00 - 8:45 pm • SM PC Conf Room 1  
St. Margaret Choir Rehearsal • 7 - 9 pm • SMS Church Choir Loft  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Wednesday, January 5

Adoration • 9 am - 3 pm • St. Margaret Lady of Lourdes Chapel  
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary  
God, Pizza and Beer • 7 pm • SJE OPC  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Thursday, January 6

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10 am • SJE OPC  
Rosary Making Group • 10:30 am - 12 pm • SM PC Conf Room 2  
Adoration • 12 - 9 pm • SM PC Adoration Chapel  
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
BINGO • doors open 3:30 pm/ first game 6:45 pm • SJE Hall  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Friday, January 7

Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 5 pm • SM Parish Hall  
First Friday Adoration • 3 - 9 pm • SJE OPC Adoration Chapel  
LIVEVIEW Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • St. John  
LIVEVIEW Rosary • 7 pm • St. Mary

## Saturday, January 8

Catholic Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • SM PC Conf Room 1  
Catechists Retreat • 9:00 - 11:30 am • St. Margaret Hall  
SJE Prayer Shawl Meeting • 10:15 - 11:30 am • SJE Hall  
Confessions  
• 11 am - 12 noon at St. Mary  
• 1 - 2 pm at St. Margaret of Scotland  
• 3 - 3:45 pm at St. John the Evangelist  
Handbell Choir Rehearsal • 2:00 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft



Fr. Brian, Fr. Fernando,  
Fr. Colletti, Fr. Ray,  
and the entire Collaborative  
Staff wish you and those you  
love a Happy, Healthy and  
Blessed 2022!

Come, Holy Spirit,  
Spirit of the Risen Christ,  
be with us today and always.

Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.  
Be our Strength, our Courage,  
and our Sanctifier.

May this new year be at time...  
of deep spiritual growth for us,  
of welcoming your graces and gifts,  
for forgiving freely and unconditionally,  
for growing in virtue and goodness.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
Be with us today and always.  
Amen.

## Parish Office Closure

Due to the New Year's Holiday,  
the parish offices will be closed  
on Monday, January 3rd

## NEW TO THE COLLABORATIVE?

We warmly welcome all new  
parishioners to our family!

If you haven't already please complete  
a registration form by contacting us in  
the parish office, or by visiting  
[www.theholyrood.org/register-in-the-collaborative](http://www.theholyrood.org/register-in-the-collaborative)

## Clergy

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Reverend Fernando Ayala, PAROCHIAL VICAR  
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Reverend Arnold Colletti, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE  
frcolletti@theholyrood.org | ext 116

Reverend Raymond Benoit, SR. PRIEST IN RESIDENCE  
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Deacon John C. Hunt, Jr., PERMANENT DEACON  
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Deacon Frank Perez de Alderete, PERMANENT DEACON  
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Deacon Barry V. Lloyd., SR. PERMANENT DEACON  
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## Outreach & Parish Ministry

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## Business Office

Paul Firicano, COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS MANAGER  
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Tina Sousa, FINANCE & FACILITY SUPPORT  
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Elaine Kindler, FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR  
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## Administration

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Donna Gambon, PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
dgambon@theholyrood.org | ext 248

## Facilities

Dan Heider, FACILITIES MANAGER  
dheider@theholyrood.org | ext 213

## Bulletin, Website, Social Media

Christine Trznadel, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR  
christine@theholyrood.org | (978) 254-4406

# Turn page for *more*

St. John's  
First Friday Adoration



**THIS Friday, January 7th**

3 - 9 pm • St. John OPC Adoration Chapel



All men 21+ are invited to join us THIS WEDNESDAY, January 5th at 7 pm in the St. John Old Parish Center.

If you have not joined us in the past, please take this opportunity to stop by for pizza, a cold brew, great fellowship and a conversation about the upcoming Sunday Gospel.

## St. Margaret of Scotland

weekly Adoration is HERE

Every Wednesday... 9 am—3 pm  
St. Margaret Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel



If you would like to volunteer to assist with this ministry or commit to an hour, email Ed Olivieri at edoliveri@aol.com or phone him at (978) 551-2944.

## BAPTISM

We joyfully welcome the following children into our collaborative family. May the Lord continue to bless these children and their , parents and fill their homes with the light of faith.

### BAPTIZED AT ST. MARY

Carson Roman Blasioli  
Lillian Cotter  
Matthew Nguyen Hanson, Jr.  
Katherine Evelyn Lessard  
Jacob Martino



### BAPTIZED AT ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Logan Dream Francois  
Jevianah Jean  
Jihanah Jean

# of what's happening in The Holy Rood

## Thank you

Thank you to our parishioners who generously and compassionately gave gifts and donations to the **St. Mary Spirit of Christmas**. With all the challenges of the past year and half, it has been such a blessing to see our parish come together to bring Christmas cheer to those in need. Almost 500 gifts were distributed to six different non-profits in Chelmsford and surrounding towns—Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities, Alternative House, House of Hope, St. Patrick School, Secret Santa (families in the Chelmsford Schools), and St. Vincent de Paul. We wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2022!



**St. John the Evangelist Giving Tree** Thank you to the parishioners who signed up to help the less fortunate this Christmas through the St. John Giving Tree... and for getting the gifts back on time! They were distributed with ease. I would also like to give a **huge** thank you to those who helped sort and bag the gifts Sunday night. This could not have been achieved without your help. Merry Christmas!



### St. Margaret of Scotland St. Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

The St. Margaret St. Vincent de Paul members would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Giving Tree. You made Christmas brighter for the less fortunate of our parish. We wish you a Blessed New Year.



Our worship space at all three parishes was "simply

*Simply Beautiful*

beautiful" for our Christmas celebration. I don't think we realize just how much of an impact our environment has on our worship experience.

THANK YOU to Michelle Lando and her St. Mary Team; Norma Kulian and her St. John the Evangelist Team; and Terry Quinn and her St. Margaret of Scotland Team for sharing the gifts of their time and talent with us so that we could more fully experience the birth and worship of the Christ Child.

We walk many roads when we search for God, and He leads us all the while. The men we honor today were not Jews. The Messiah wasn't coming for them, not in the minds of Jesus' contemporaries. These men were astrologers. They were adept at reading portents in the sky, a practice condemned in the Mosaic covenant. Still, to the best of their knowledge and awareness, they were seeking the truth. This truth led them to journey from their own homeland to honor a king they'd never met, one they couldn't be sure truly existed. "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Who do you know who seeks God so tenaciously?

"Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem," the Gospel tells us. Who are the seekers in your life? Maybe it's your cautiously curious co-worker, the neighbor who unexpectedly found peace on a yoga retreat, or your desperately angry child who has chosen, for now, to go their own way. Perhaps they're not overtly headed for Jesus now, not yet. But they may well be seekers of truth in ways we didn't expect. Our invitation is to listen, inquire, and give direction when appropriate.

The Magi and modern-day seekers can inspire us as well. When is the last time you sought God's truth so tenaciously? As believers, it can perhaps be easy to become desensitized to the Christmas season and to the miraculous reality we recently celebrated. Mass may have been lovely, but so was the succulent roast beef, the crisp smell of evergreen, and the warm glow of family. Consider asking yourself...

- *God, do I know you as well as I should?*
- *Would I journey as far as the Magi to meet You, if I could?*
- *Do I journey to meet You daily in prayer?*
- *What do those answer say about me, and about our relationship?*

Perhaps we, like the magi, can once again be "overjoyed" at seeing the Light of the World.

# Collaborative Community!

## Blessing the Threshold or "Chalking the Door"

This is a WONDERFUL custom to adopt into your family if you don't already do it. Your family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 22. 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 2022 is the year.



### Blessing the Chalk..

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:

R. *The maker of heaven and earth.*

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

R. *From this time forth for evermore.*

*Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name, that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones...*

*Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar... may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in, or visit, our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Blessing the Home...

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 22 while saying...

*The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-two 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"*



# The Financial Page

Fiscal Year 2021 runs from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Paul Firicano, Collaborative Business Manager  
ext 220 or [pfiricano@theholyyood.org](mailto:pfiricano@theholyyood.org)

To view this and ALL past financial reports,  
click on the stewardship tab on our homepage,  
[www.theholyyood.org](http://www.theholyyood.org).

**2021 TAX LETTERS** Tax Letters for parishioners who contributed \$250 or more in 2021 will be mailed out by the end of January. If you are NOT in this category, but would like to receive a tax letter, please contact Paul Firicano. You can leave a voice mail or write an email leaving the following information: your name, address, envelope number (if you have one) and to which church you make your offertory donations.

<b>ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY</b>	Weekend of December 18/19	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 19	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$15,000	\$375,000	\$15,000
Actual Received	\$9,789	\$350,507	\$14,020
<b>Shortfall/ Overage</b>	<b>-\$5,211</b>	<b>-\$24,493</b>	<b>-\$980</b>

<b>ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY</b>	Weekend of December 18/19	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 19	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$9,500	\$237,500	\$9,500
Actual Received	\$7,940	\$242,854	\$9,714
<b>Shortfall/ Overage</b>	<b>-\$1,560</b>	<b>\$5,354</b>	<b>\$214</b>

<b>ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY</b>	Weekend of December 18/19	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 19	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$5,550	\$138,750	\$5,550
Actual Received	\$2,935	\$107,846	\$4,314
<b>Shortfall/ Overage</b>	<b>-\$2,615</b>	<b>-\$30,904</b>	<b>-\$1,236</b>

**ST. MARY ONLINE GIVING UPDATE** As some of you may have noticed, we are still experiencing some issues with our online provider. We apologize for the difficulties this update has presented. Here are a few things to be aware of...

- Giving history did not transfer over during the update. We continue to diligently work with our vendor to import this vital information.
- If you were NOT a recurring giver, you will have to create a new profile. The interface of the new software is very intuitive, so you should find this an easy process.
- If you WERE a recurring giver, your account (other than giving history) should be easily accessible with your username and password.
- Quick give is available and easy to use!

If you have any additional questions or concerns that have NOT been addressed in this FLOCKNOTE, please feel free to email our Business Manager, [Paul Firicano](mailto:Paul.Firicano), after the 1st of the year.

Again, thank you for your continued patience!

**NOTICE TO ST. JOHN ENVELOPE USERS** For those of you who use the Envelope System for your offertory giving, you may have noticed that you received TWO batches of the January/February offertory envelopes. Unfortunately, our envelope company sent out duplicate envelopes in error... but fortunately, one that the parish will not be financially responsible for. Feel free to recycle the second set!

Heather Hannaway, MA  
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 courtney@theholyrood.org

Shaun Bradley  
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 sbradley@theholyrood.org

# Family Faith Formation Program

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 Faith Formation Coordinator  
 ekindler@theholyrood.org

Lynn Anne LaDuke  
 Faith Formation Coordinator  
 lynnanne@theholyrood.org

Uniting the Heart of the Church with the



Heart of the Home

## CLASS SCHEDULE

## JANUARY DEEP DIVES

### GRADES 1-6 SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

St. Mary Session A  
 9:15 - 10:45 AM  
 St. Mary Parish Hall

St. John Session A  
 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM  
 St. John Parish Hall

St. Mary Session B  
 12:15 - 1:45 PM  
 St. Mary Parish Hall

### FIRST EUCHARIST PREP SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

9:15 - 10:45 AM  
 St. Mary Parish Hall  
 Mock Reconciliation

### GRADES 7-8 SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM  
 St. Margaret  
 Sacred Heart Hall

Teaching Baptism  
 Saturday, January 29  
 1 - 2 pm ~ St. John the Evangelist Church

Family Movie Night  
 Saturday, January 29  
 5 - 7 pm ~ St. John Parish Hall

## FEBRUARY DEEP DIVES

Family Lent Event with Reconciliation  
 Wednesday, February 23  
 6:30 - 8:00 pm ~ St. Margaret Church and Hall

### GRADES 1-6 SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

St. Margaret Session A  
 8:15 - 9:45 AM  
 Sacred Heart Hall

St. Mary Session C  
 9:15 - 10:45 AM  
 St. Mary Parish Hall

St. John Session B  
 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM  
 St. John Parish Hall

St. Mary Session D  
 12:15 - 1:45 PM  
 St. Mary Parish Hall

### CONFIRMATION I SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 & 30

4:15 - 5:45 PM  
 St. John Parish Hall

### CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

4:15 - 5:45 PM  
 St. John Parish Hall

### Catechist Morning of Recollection

Saturday, January 8  
 9:00 - 11:30 am  
 St. Mary Parish Hall



## P.L.A.N.S. FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

**All Families** should Pray together daily/ Attend Mass weekly/Attend Class or Disciple Group Monthly/ Complete one Deep Dive per Month

**Grades 1-6 Children** will be gathering to learn about The Last Supper and Parent Discipleship Groups will reflect on full, conscious active participation at Mass

**Grades 7 & Students** will be completing Altaration Session 4: What is our Response?

**Confirmation I Students** will be completing Chosen Lesson 5: Who is Jesus? and Lesson 6: Why be Catholic?

**Confirmation II Students** will be completing Chosen Session 17: Who's Calling?

From the  
Pastor



Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year! It is a time to be open to the reality of God's desire to have a deep and meaningful relationship with us. We also recognize that

today's celebration has true significance for our lives. The word Epiphany means manifestation or understanding. In celebrating this feast, we recognize that in the person of Christ, God manifested himself in order to help us understand Him. It is only through true understanding of the other that we can have a real relationship. Each year the feast of the Epiphany reminds us of God's desire to reveal himself to us, and the most powerful way He shared this desire was through his Son Jesus.

The feast of Epiphany can almost be considered the original Christmas. It began to be celebrated sometime in the second century, possibly some 150 years before Christmas. The celebration can be understood by the meaning of the word epiphany, which means manifestation or appearance. The feast originally focused on the four "first" appearances of Christ: his birth, the coming of the Magi, the wedding feast at Cana, and his baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist. In time, as the celebration of Christmas spread, the feast of the Epiphany came to focus on the last three manifestations of Christ.

As we celebrate this feast day, it is a time to contemplate how God has manifested himself, or appeared, in our lives. In my own life, I recognize the presence of God in so many different ways. My journey through my vocation as a priest has been prompted by God making his will known to me. God's manifestations in my life were not quite as dramatic as what we see in the scriptures but, nonetheless, He let me know what He wanted me to do.

The Epiphany is a reminder to us that it is not a question of whether God acts in our lives, but, rather, how open we are to see Him acting in our lives. The Magi perceived the star as a sign that God wanted them to follow it wherever it would lead them. It was not clear where the star would lead them and they needed help along the way, but it was their trust and perseverance that would lead them to Christ. Mary saw in her Son what others could not. Her words are a sign to us both of her understanding and trust. "Do whatever He tells you." She then walks away from Jesus, trusting that He would answer her need. In that moment Jesus performs his first miracle of changing water into wine. At the Jordan as Jesus and John act according to God's will, God speaks the truth about his Son, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am

well pleased." John was confused but followed what God called him to do. And by doing so John allowed his actions to be the starting point of Jesus' ministry.

In contemplating what this feast focuses on, we come to recognize what is necessary for own epiphany. Like the Magi we must persevere and at times seek help in trying to understand the path God is calling us to take. It might not always be clear where the journey will take us but we trust that God knows the best path. Like Mary we must see Christ for who He really is and make Him our focus. We must be willing to trust and do whatever He tells us to do. Furthermore, we must be ready to trust that Jesus always hears our prayers. He might not answer the way we want but He will always respond. We must trust that his response is what is best for us. Like Jesus and John at the Jordan, we must be ready to fulfill God's will in our lives, even when it does not make sense to us, trusting again that God truly knows best. When we act like the Magi, Mary and John, then the words spoken by the Father at Jesus' baptism will be addressed to us, "This is my beloved with whom I am well pleased."

The epiphanies in our lives therefore come from trust, perseverance, and an openness to follow God's will. The more we trust, the more open we can be; and the more open we are, the easier it will be for us to persevere. And the fruit of our perseverance is a deepening relationship with Christ, leading us to grow in our relationship with the Father. It is so easy to see the Christmas season through the lens of gift giving, and to leave it at that. Or, we can think about it simply as celebrating the birth of Jesus, or remember it as an event that occurred over 2000 years ago. The truth is that the season of Christmas is intended to be a challenge to our lives in the here and now. And the challenge is to allow these events to continue to speak to us. It is *not* about some sentimental feeling for an event that happened in times past. Rather, we are encouraged to engage our faith through *those* events and live out their meaning in our lives now. By doing so, we will recognize that true living is only found through our relationship with Jesus. God acted in the past to make that clear and God continues to act in our lives today.

That God is acting in your life I have no doubt. I simply pray that you be willing to recognize the ways He is acting in your life and to be open to Jesus in a deeper way.

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask me directly, or send your questions to me at [fr.brian@theholyyood.org](mailto:fr.brian@theholyyood.org).

Please keep me in your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Brian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "B".



## From our Faith Formation Coordinator

Elaine Kindler

### What is your Epiphany?

It's a new year... a time for cleaning out things no longer useful... a time for evaluating what's most important... a time to see things anew.

epiphany:

1. a sudden perception of the essential nature of something
2. an illuminating discovery
3. an appearance or manifestation of a divine being

The Gospel story is not new, but read it again and hear it anew. Jesus, Son of God, enters our reality, becomes fully human while remaining fully divine. The Magi see this without benefit of the Gospels, perceiving our King's presence in the signs of nature God provided.

I see His essential nature in the Eucharist. I'm eager to be in His presence when Jesus is exposed in a monstrance or, most wonderfully, when He is offered in the Eucharistic Feast celebrated at Mass.

I experience His manifestation in the working of the Holy Spirit, the ever-present gift the Father gave us until Jesus comes again.

What is your epiphany of Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man?

Saint Gregory Nazianzen offers these perspectives:

- Christ is born, give glory; Christ is from the heavens, go to meet him; Christ is on earth, be lifted up.
- Let the people sitting in the darkness of ignorance see a great light of knowledge.
- ...the Son of God becomes Son of Man ...
- ...that laying aside the old human being we may be clothed with the new ...
- Be awed at the census record through which you have been recorded in heaven ...

- 'Meditation of the Day' for January 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
*Magnificat*, January 2022, Vol.23, No.11



Like the Magi, come - run after His star! Let us adore Him! Let us discover Him anew! Let us be awed by the heavenly and earthly power in front of us!

Praying that each of us will come ready to be remade in His image yet again every day in this New Year. Happy Epiphany.

## From our Permanent Deacon

Deacon Franz Perez de Alderete

If you've ever heard a child retell a story, you can appreciate how certain facts' get jumbled up, and imagination fills in gaps, embellishing the tale. That happens in cultures too, the 'original' story gets a little added here and there in the retelling.

Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany, and of all the "Christmas Stories" this one has the most cultural embellishments and imaginative gap-fillers. Let's take a look at some of them:

First, despite what all the Christmas movies would have you believe, the 12 days of Christmas don't come before Christmas, they *start* at Christmas and go to the 6th of January, the official date of the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Those are the 12 days of Christmas, a nice long time to celebrate the incarnation of the Creator. No partridges or pear trees required.

In many cultures, the Epiphany is known as "Little Christmas" and is celebrated accordingly. In Spanish speaking cultures, the Epiphany is known as the Feast of the Three Kings (*Reyes*), and on the night of January 5th, the Three Kings (*los Reyes Magos*) bring presents to the children in the house, just as they did the baby Jesus.

So, who were these three kings? Well, the Gospel doesn't call them "kings" at all, but *magi*, which were astrologer sages whose job it was to interpret the movement of the stars and planets—and that's an important point for a little later. They're referred to as "wise men" or "kings" because the Psalms and Isaiah refer to kings coming to bow down before the Messiah. We don't know how many of these magi came to see Jesus, but we know there were three gifts, so we assume there were at least three of them. Some traditions hold that there were 12 Magi. Western tradition dating back to the sixth century gives them the names Balthasar from Arabia; Melchior from Persia, and Gaspar from India. Other traditions have other names and places of origin. It's interesting to consider all the different details added to this event by the faithful, but the core truth remains consistent in all of the customs.

The event is related to us only in the Gospel of Matthew. The Jewish community at the time of Jesus, was awaiting the Messiah. But to the rest of the world, the Jews were just a tribe in the Roman province of Judea—and what happened in Judea had little impact outside of the province. Yet the birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem made these sages from distant lands undertake a long journey to see the new King. The word 'epiphany' means an insight into the reality of something, a revelation or realization.

This is what Matthew is telling us: The magi saw a star and came to pay homage to the baby Jesus because the birth of Jesus was an event for the whole world. An event so important, that the heavens themselves revealed it.



## Mass Intentions

If you would like to request that a Mass be celebrated for a specific intention or person, please call the parish office. A donation of \$10 per intention is requested to be made at the time you schedule your intention.

## St. John the Evangelist

- SUN, JAN 2** 9:30 am: The Aspell Family: Memorial  
The Belken Family: Memorial  
Edward Clancy: Memorial  
The Curran Family: Memorial  
The Finlay Family: Memorial  
The Johnson Family: Memorial  
William and Marie O'Connell: Memorial
- 6:00 pm: People of the Parish
- WED, JAN 5** 9:00 am: Kenneth O'Connell, Sr. and  
Kenneth O'Connell Jr.: Memorial
- FRI, JAN 7** 9:00 am: Walden, Grace and  
Charles Ward: Memorial
- SAT, JAN 8** 4:00 pm: People of the Parish
- SUN, JAN 9** 9:30 am: Maurice Pontbriant, Sr.: 9th Anniversary

## St. Margaret of Scotland

- SAT, JAN 1** 4:00 pm: Stephen and Mary Botto: Memorial
- SUN, JAN 2** 7:30 am: William F Greenleaf: 16th Anniversary  
10:00 am: People of the Parish
- MON, JAN 3** 8:00 am: Ryan Michael Connell: Memorial
- TUE, JAN 4** 8:00 am: Sandy Muldoon: Memorial
- WED, JAN 5** 8:00 am: Deceased Members of the Kia Family
- FRI, JAN 7** 8:00 am: Henry Stupakewicz: 8th Anniversary
- SAT, JAN 8** 4:00 pm: People of the Parish
- SUN, JAN 9** 7:30 am: Tom and Leda Dennis: Memorial  
10:00 am: Theresa Bourassa: 13th Anniversary

## St. Mary Parish

- SUN, JAN 2** 7:00 am: People of the Parish  
11:00 am: Georges Abadie: Month's Mind  
John MacGilvray: Memorial
- MON, JAN 3** 7:00 am: Members of The Holy Rood  
Collaborative Spiritual Society and  
Renewal/Renovation Fund
- SAT, JAN 8** 4:00 pm: Delores Dobbins: 4th Anniversary
- SUN, JAN 9** 7:00 am: Ann Sousa: Memorial  
11:00 am: People of the Parish

For details on all available ways to remember a loved one, please visit [www.theholyrood.org/remember-a-loved-one](http://www.theholyrood.org/remember-a-loved-one)

## Rose for Life



Is there someone special you'd like to honor? You can do that by having a rose signifying your intention placed at either St. John or St. Mary, as well as having your intention published in the bulletin. To book a Rose for Life, contact the parish office. The suggested offering is \$5.

## St. Mary Altar Flowers



Parishioners are invited to donate a floral arrangement, to be displayed on the altar in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. The requested donation for an arrangement is \$40. If you would like to donate altar flowers, call the parish office. Please note that we require a 2-week notice for your order.



## St. Margaret Lamps

St. Margaret offers the opportunity to have one of three lamps in the church burn In Memory of a loved one. The stipend is \$25, and the dedication will be published in the weekly bulletin. Blessed Mother Lamp  
**In Memory of Florence Mahoney**

## St. Margaret Bells



The steeple bells at St. Margaret toll daily at 12 noon and 6 pm, followed by the ringing of the Angelus bell and 2 hymns. At 3 pm, they play 2 hymns, and 15 minutes prior to each weekend Mass, the bells toll a 'call to worship.' If you would like to dedicate the Ringing of the Bells In Memory/In Honor of someone, please contact the parish offices. The stipend is \$25, and your dedication will be published in the weekly bulletin.

**In Memory of Theresa and Hollis Sawyer**

## Funerals Recently Celebrated

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Richard V. Lussier • Monday, December 27 • St. John  
Sandra Jane Martin • Monday, December 27 • St. John  
Francis "Mike" Miskell • Tuesday, December 28 • St. John



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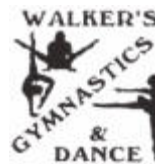


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