

JANUARY 2, 2021 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



# ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

59 Main St. High Bridge, NJ 088829 | (908) 638-6211 | [www.sjchb.org](http://www.sjchb.org) |



## THE EPIPHANY *of the Lord*

"Since from you shall come a ruler,  
who is to shepherd my people Israel." - Mt 2:6b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

**CONFESSIONS TODAY  
AFTER THE 11 AM  
MASS!**

Our Parish is served by:  
Rev. James A. Kyrpczak  
Deacon Tom McGovern  
Deacon Steve Fortier

Parish Secretary:  
Mary-Jean Fiore  
[parishoffice@sjchb.org](mailto:parishoffice@sjchb.org)  
Religious Education Dir.  
Shari Schultz  
[sharischultz@sjchb.org](mailto:sharischultz@sjchb.org)

Dir. of Sacred Music  
Al Cresci

Parish Bookkeeper  
Louise Mueller  
[parishbkkpr@sjchb.org](mailto:parishbkkpr@sjchb.org)

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am

### WEEKDAYS

Monday-Thursday 8 am

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday 4 to 4:45 pm  
First Sunday after the 11 am Mass  
& By Appointment

### BAPTISM

Celebrated on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th  
Sunday. Contact the Parish Office.

### FAITH FORMATION

[ShariSchultz@sjchb.org](mailto:ShariSchultz@sjchb.org)

***"Lord, every  
nation on  
earth will  
adore You."***

***Psalm 72***

### ADORATION

Holy Hour for Life, 3rd Thursday  
of the month & First Friday.

### ROSARY

Prayed every 2nd Wednesday & 5th  
Sunday of the Month

### BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday at 7:30pm,  
Church Hall

### PARISH REGISTRATION

Forms are located in the Church  
vestibule or visit our website to join.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
9:30 am to 4 pm

## MASS INTENTIONS (LS-live stream)

### Saturday/Sunday, January 1/2, 2022 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5:00 PM †Penny Dietrich  
8:00 AM †Catherine Nodes  
9:30 AM Protection of Babies in the Womb & Their Families (LS)  
11:00 AM People of the Parish

### Monday, January 3 Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 AM (L) Maria Malec

### Tuesday, January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 AM †Fr. Eugene Diurczak

### Wednesday, January 5 St. John Neumann

8:00 AM Special Intention

### Thursday, January 6 St. Andre Bessette

8:00 AM Open Intention

### Friday, January 7 St. Raymond of Penafort

7:00 PM The Members of St. Joseph Holy Name Society

### Saturday/Sunday, January 8/9 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

5:00 PM †Charlie Bruton  
8:00 AM †Mary Padula  
People of the Parish  
9:30 AM †Fr. Gerard Lair (LS)  
11:00 AM †Fr. Gerard Lair

The **Mass book for 2022** has many openings. Consider having a Mass said for a deceased loved one or for someone living. Call the Parish Office today, don't delay!

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

### Saturday: Jan.1

5pm: Dave K.

### Saturday: Jan.8

5pm:

### Sunday: Jan.2

8am:

9:30am: Jill G.

11am:

### Sunday: Jan.9

8am: Deb B.

9:30am:

11am:

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

**December 18/19** \$2,761.-

Online Giving for 12/13-13/19 \$2,102.-

The offerings for December 26 & Christmas will be posted in the next bulletin. Many thanks to all who give faithfully to St. Joseph Church!

If you would like to receive weekly envelopes please contact the Parish Office at (908) 638-6211.



## 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. His Presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and the 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.

*O Come Let Us Adore Him!*

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

### Monday-Thursday

\*Daily Mass, 8am

### Friday, January 7

\*First Friday Adoration, 3p-7p




“God specializes in giving people a fresh start. Begin the New Year devoted more to Him & see where **HE** takes you!”

**MASS INTENTIONS** Would you like to have a Mass said for the repose of the soul of a deceased loved one or for someone living, or for a special intention? Please contact the Parish Office at 908-638-6211. The offering is \$10. Mass cards are available and can be mailed for your convenience.

**FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY** If you would like to donate flowers for our sanctuary, please contact the Parish Office. You can donate in memory of a loved one or for someone living. Arrangements will be made with a local florist, no hassle on your part.


**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH** The Church is open during the week for your convenience, Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm. Come spend some quiet time before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

**BIBLE STUDY** There is **NO Bible Study** on 1/4. Join Andrew Rispoli on **Tuesday, January 11th** for a **Christmas/New Year's Eve Celebration at 7:30pm** in the Church Hall. Bring your favorite scripture to discuss. Dessert will be Pot Luck! 

**COME TO DAILY MASS** "Do something everyday that will lead you closer to God" is how the quote goes. Why not try to attend Daily Mass at 8 am if you are able? Being in the Presence of the Lord every day at Mass can improve your prayer life.


*Once, St. Teresa was overwhelmed with God's Goodness and asked Our Lord "How can I thank you?" Our Lord replied, "ATTEND ONE MASS."*


**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** Join us on **Friday, January 7, 3pm to 7pm** for First Friday Adoration which is followed by Benediction and Mass. What a great way to start the New Year, at Adoration, before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

 Have you decided to sign up for 1 hour a month to sit at Adoration and keep watch with Our Lord? If you are being called, kindly reach out to Eileen at (908) 482-0802.

**FOOD FOR FAMILIES** The awesome volunteers delivered **137 lbs.** of food to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry for the month of December. Our next collection will take place on **January 15/16**. Remember you can drop off your items during the week from 8am to 4pm or on the weekend. Thank you for helping those who are struggling to feed their families. May God bless you.

**A New Year is God's gift!**

 In the joyful moments, thank **Him**.  
In the busy moments, bless **Him**.  
In the trying moments, trust **Him**.  
In the quiet moments, praise **Him**.


 The **Sanctuary Lamp** burns constantly to proclaim the *Real Presence* of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the Tabernacle.

For the month of January the flame will burn:

**In Loving Memory of Thomas Gradel**

**From The Mosier Family**

**SECOND COLLECTION** Next weekend, **January 8/9** there is a Second Collection called **Together in Charity**. This collection benefits the Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Program for those families in need throughout the Diocese of Metuchen. Many households in 2021 were helped by this fund. Be as generous as your means allow and thank you once again, for helping those less fortunate.

 **Prayer for those suffering from the coronavirus.**

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence.



May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones. Protect and guide those who continue to strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** O God, you called **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** (feast day Jan. 4) to be an instrument of Your loving mercy. She was an example of hope and love. Inspire us to live our life for others & to pray for those in need.

**We pray for:** Cathy Bush, Morgan, William Honachefsky, Vincent Scarponi, Mark Mueller, Joseph, Maria M., Stephanie Hoelper, John Hayth, Barbara Shea, Michael Tingolie Sr., Lyzah Hennig, Jacob Cole, Colin, Christopher, Helen D., Jesse Wescott, Holly McCallum-Young, Kaitlin O, Bernadette R., Barbara Shea, Irene Sebold, Carole & Paul Mueller, Holly Z., Joanna Faraldi, Terry P. & those who have no one to pray for them.

**ST. JOSEPH SNOW REMOVAL TEAM NEEDS YOU!**

 If you can help shovel/spread ice melt around the Church when it snows, please **see Father James** or email the Parish Office at [parishoffice@sjchb.org](mailto:parishoffice@sjchb.org) **Let's work together to make St. Joseph Church safe for the winter!** 

**CONFESSIONS:** TODAY: AFTER THE 11 AM MASS!

Visit [www.sjchb.org](http://www.sjchb.org)

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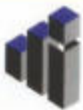
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