

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ~ JANUARY 3RD, 2021 A.D.



Reverend Nicholas Pavia, *Pastor*

Faith Formation

Deacon Thomas Fekete, *Director*

Reverend Michael A. Boccaccio

In Residence

Mr. Michael Petreycik, *Director*

Music Ministry

Mrs. Karen Capozziello, *Cantor*

Mr. Martin Tristine,

Finance Committee Chairperson

Telephone Number 203-732-5575

Mrs. Pia Ramadanovic, *Administration*

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS: By arrangement

RECONCILIATION-CONFESSION-PENANCE:

Saturday: 3:15 to 4:00 p.m.

Other times by appointment

MATRIMONY: Arrangements must be made with the Pastor at least (8) eight months in advance of the date. *Before social plans are made.*

R.C.I.A.: Adults interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church and those who wish to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation are asked to contact the Parish Office.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to Our Parish Family!

Please visit the Parish Office to register and complete a Census Card.

**Our Lady of Peace
Roman Catholic Church**
651 Stratford Road ~ Lordship ~ Stratford

MASS SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday ~ 8:30 a.m.

Rosary: 8:00 a.m.

No Mass or Rosary Monday and Tuesday

SATURDAY: Vigil ~ 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY: 8:30 a.m. ~ 11:00 a.m. ~ 4:30 p.m.

DEVOTION:

SUNDAY: DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR ~ 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**The Church is open for private prayer
(except during Mass)**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

FAITH FORMATION: 203-377-4863 ext. 15

Email: dnfekete@diobpt.org or olopreled@sbcglobal.net

PARISH OFFICE: 203-377-4863 ext. 10

Address: 10 Ivy Street, Stratford, CT 06615

Hours: Wednesday and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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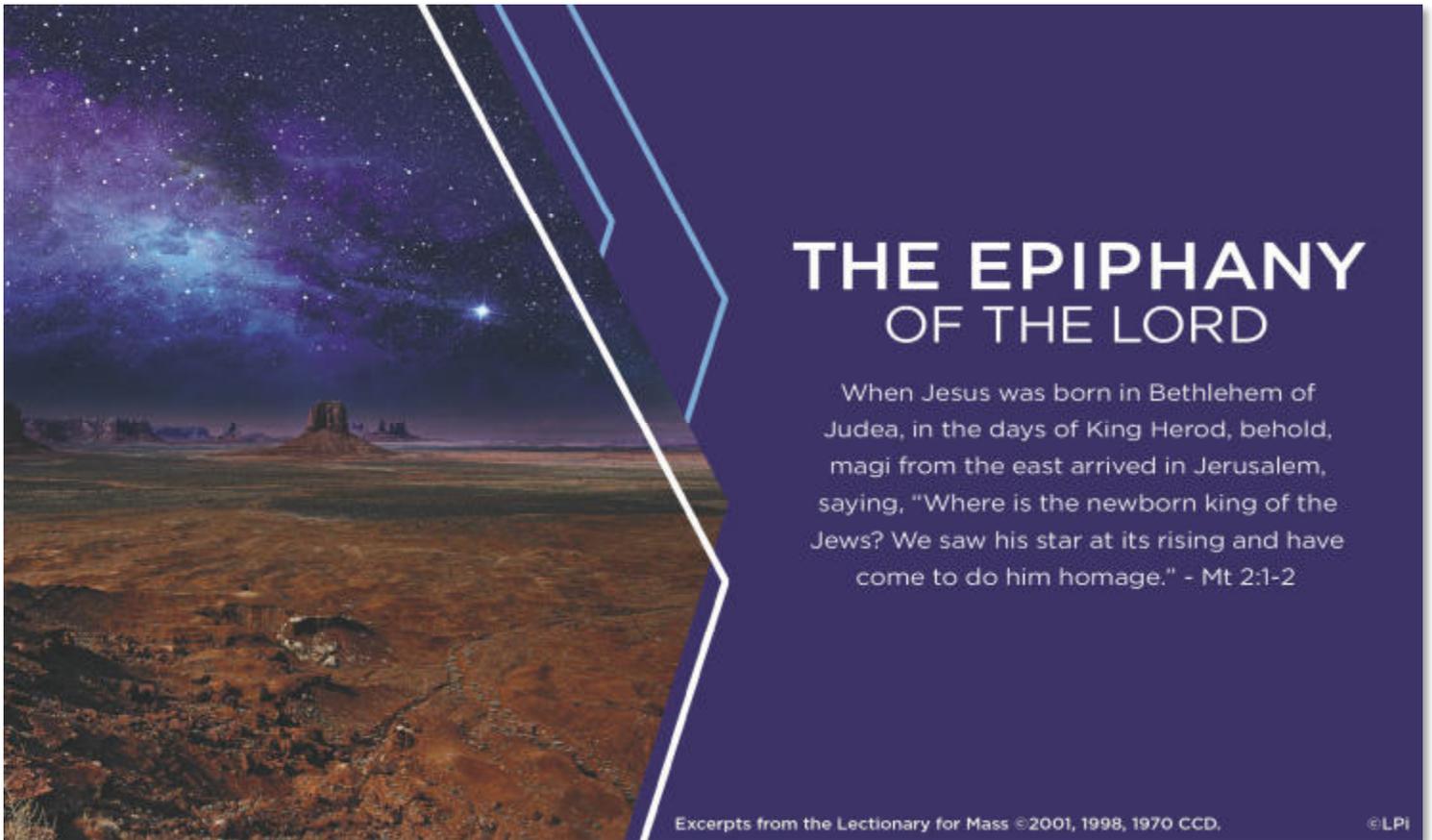
Website: www.ourladyofpeacestratfordct.weconnect.com



The Sanctuary Candle
burns this week in memory of
The Parishioners

Gifts and Bequests to Our Lady of Peace Church
are encouraged and gratefully accepted.

A Suggestion: When a loved one dies, advise friends
and relatives to make a donation to the
"Our Lady of Peace Sanctuary Fund"
in memory of the deceased,
and include this wish in the Obituary Notice.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

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

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GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

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!©LPI

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED



Question: Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men...who were they?

Answer:

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There's a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men magoi. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean "magician," but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect

the fortunes of the empire.

We're not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says "the east." History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts "from afar" at the prompting of their astronomical calculations.

PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY ~ Dear Jesus, though a newborn, the wise men knew your greatness. On a hint from the heavens, they traveled far from their places of comfort so that they could honor you. From their belief in your divinity, they gave amazing gifts, offerings that symbolized your life, power, and even your death. And because of a dream in the night, they altered their well-laid plans to return home in order to protect you. May we be so willing to honor, sacrifice, and obey, all for love of you, as we meditate on the meaning of this day. Amen.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP~RECOGNIZING GOD IN ORDINARY MOMENTS

Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY ~ INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?©LPi

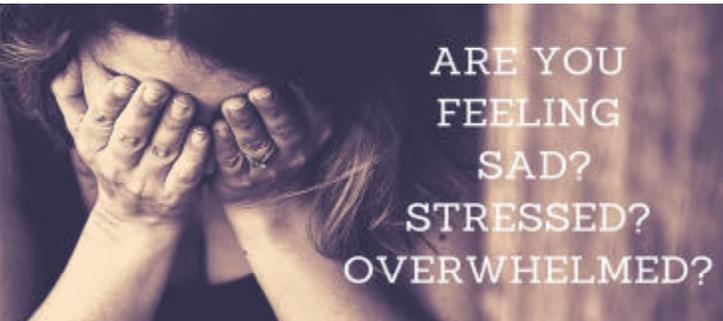


OLOP GARDEN CLUB
BELGIAN BLOCK PROJECT

We are again taking orders to add Belgian Blocks to our Lady of Peace landscape. Memorialize a loved one with an engraved Belgian Block (12x8) installed around the Flag Pole. There are nine blocks available. If interested, please stop by the Parish Office, during regular business hours, to pick up and complete the required form to purchase the Belgian Block. The cost of each block is \$100.00 payable by check to Our Lady of Peace (no cash please).

Our 2021 Mass Book is Open. There are Weekday and Weekend Masses available. We also have beautiful Mass Intention Cards for the living who are very special to us for their birthday, anniversary, graduation, hospitalization, birth of a child, adoption, etc. Please call the office to request a Mass.

PARISH CALENDARS FOR THE YEAR 2021 are at the entrance to the Parish Center. They were graciously supplied by William R. McDonald Funeral Home. If you would like one, please pick one up at the Parish Center Wednesday and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



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SAD?
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PARISH REGISTRATION

Question:

Why is it so important that we register in a parish? Isn't it good enough that we go to Mass

Answer:

Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Many people think that because they attend a particular parish they automatically belong. At times, young adults who have moved away for years think they are still signed up under their parents. But membership requires signing up, formally enrolling yourself in a parish. Registration is a commitment to a community, a way to be included in the religious, social, and ministerial activities of your parish. Your registration affects the parish in many ways. Census numbers can determine how many priests are assigned to a church, what benefits and obligations the community has to the diocese, and how Masses, Confessions, and devotions are planned and scheduled.

Registration shows you belong. It is also necessary for certain benefits, like scheduling sacraments, obtaining sponsor certificates, and getting donation statements for taxes. Most importantly, it lets the parish count on you, to call on you to assist in its mission. Registering in your parish is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish.

Welcome So glad you're here.....

Interested in becoming a Parishioner
of Our Lady of Peace?

Please complete the following and deposit in the
Offertory Basket or drop it off at the Parish Office.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Telephone No. _____

Comments _____

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Our Lady of Peace welcomes anyone who is new to our area, **anyone who is searching for the truth**, or anyone who is looking for a spiritual home. We are joyfully and faithfully Roman Catholic in belief and practice, a community of faith, worship, service, and formation, and with open hearts we invite all our brothers and sisters into a living and saving friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ, in the communion of His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.*

Financial Blessings

Our Lady of Peace receives no outside financial support. We rely entirely on your generosity to meet our many expenses. Every contribution furthers our Parish's mission of faith, worship, and service, as we seek to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to serve those most in need, and to worship the living God.

During this difficult time, there are three ways to help the parish:

Drop weekly/monthly contributions at the Parish Center

Mail weekly/monthly contributions to Our Lady of Peace

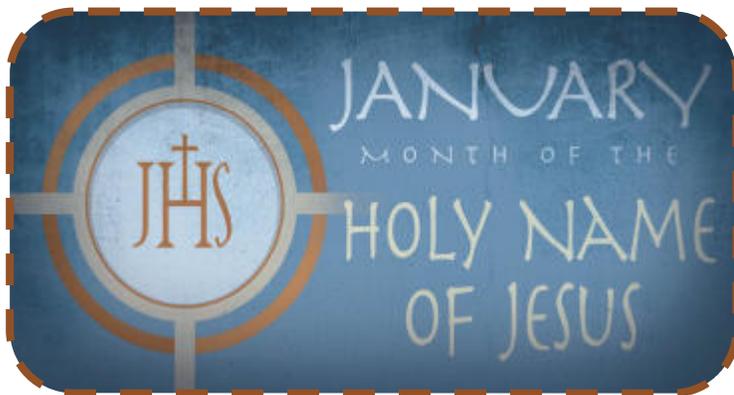
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Online Giving - visit our parish website or www.osvonlinegiving.com/119

Online Giving provides a secure, time saving solution for weekly offertory and extraordinary collecting giving.

If you need to modify your account contact Donor Support at 1-800-348-2886, ext. Option 2.

As always thank you for your generosity and support. May the Lord reward your generosity.



INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

Our Lady of Peace will follow the Stratford Public School closing policy in the event of snow. When the schools are closed or delayed or the Town or State has advised against travel, Daily Mass will be cancelled for that day. All Mass intentions will be rescheduled.

Our Out Reach Ministry volunteers, on a weekly basis, deliver donated non-perishable food items to Blessed Sacrament Church Food Bank. The food bank serves many families to feed their families. We appreciate all donations, however we cannot accept expired, opened or re-packaged food items.

Food Pantry Needs - Toilet Tissue, Soap, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Fruit, Canned Meats, Chef Boyardee. Our "Share Baskets" are located at the entrances to the church. **Thank you to all who help on a regular basis!**



Class Schedule ~ Sundays 9:40 to 10:45 a.m.
in the Parish Center and
the Msgr. Gilmartin Church Hall

Classes: Resume January 24, 2021

Contact Deacon Tom Fekete at 203-377-4863 ext. 15
if you have any questions.

Social distancing protocol will be followed
for all Faith Formation

Faith Formation is an important part of family life not only in your own family but, in the life of our Parish Family here at Our Lady of Peace-where we grow together towards the Lord.

OLOP DONATION CENTER AND THRIFT SHOP

**Parish Center 10 Ivy Street
Thursday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Although the shop is closed, we continue to accept your generous donations. Please hold off on clothing donations until January 18th when we will again have storage space. Many thanks for your continued support.

We are unable to accept baby furniture, exercise equipment, construction and renovation materials, electronics, books, CD's and DVD's.

PRAY THE ROSARY EVERYDAY

"The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy of all our evils, and the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying." - Pope Leo XIII



MASST INTENTIONS

January 2, 2021 to January 10, 2021

Saturday, January 2nd

4:30 P.M. *The Parishioners*

Sunday, January 3rd

8:30 A.M. *Karen Newall*

11:00 A.M. *Richard DeLally*

4:30 P.M. *Manuel Pedreira*

Monday, January 4th

No Mass

Tuesday, January 5th

No Mass

Wednesday, January 6th

8:30 A.M. *Mary Sherry*

Thursday, January 7th

8:30 A.M. *All who have died from the Coronavirus*

Friday, January 8th

8:30 A.M. *First Responders*

Saturday, January 9th

4:30 P.M. *Dan and Emma Riccio*

Sunday, January 10th

8:30 A.M. *Janet Memoli*

11:00 A.M. *Louise Dobos (11th Anniv.)*

4:30 P.M. *The Parishioners*

SUNDAY READINGS



First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

(11)

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Observances for the week of January 3,, 2021

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord;
National Migration Week
Monday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Tuesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Wednesday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Thursday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

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Prayer REQUESTS



Please remember in prayer those who are unable to worship with us-the sick, the hospitalized, the home bound, elderly and nursing home residents and those in need of the comfort of prayer.

Hold especially in your prayers:

**Davidson Alagno, Alicia Bingham,
Robert Blouin, Todd Burr,
Frieda Canelli, Jan Cassidy,
Angela D'Nardo, Robert D'Nardo,
Frank D'Orio, Anthony Flamini,
Elena Flamini, Joseph Galatie,
Guy Gallo, Marc Gangi,
Robert Gould, Rose Iacomacci,
John Lisi, Blanche Loparco,
Gary Normandin, Lynn O'Grady,
Edith Orlando, Grace Parisi,
Rocco Parisi, Rees Family,
Marjorie Rindos, Nancy Roberts,
Anthony Tucci, Kaiden Velez,
Condolina Vincenzi, Joseph Vincenzi,
Sal Vizzio, Dennis White, Susan Yanez**

Please let the Parish Office know if there is a loved one you wish to add to the list. The names of those we are praying for should remain current. Please contact the Parish Office with changes.

In addition, if you would like Deacon Fekete or Father Pavia to visit someone, please let the Parish Office know.

Also remember in your prayers, all caregivers, First Responders, Priests, Deacons and the men and women of our Parish Family who are in the Military.

Ask God's mercy for those who have died from the Coronavirus, His healing for those suffering from it and His protection for all others against it.



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The cemetery by-laws, which includes pricing, are posted on our website: www.saintjosephsofstratford.org

You may also contact the pastor to discuss details or to view the grounds. Pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org

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