



# St. Theodore's Church

*"Broken, we gather. Nourished, we are sent forth."*

## Pastoral Perspectives

At home in their distant, foreign lands, the Magi had all the comforts of princely living, but something was missing; they were restless and unsatisfied. They were willing to risk everything to find the reality their vision promised. Unlike the poor shepherds, the Magi had to travel a long road; they had to face adversity to reach their goal. The shepherds also knew adversity and it had prepared them to accept the angels' message. But once they overcame their fright, they simply "crossed over to Bethlehem" to meet the Christ Child.

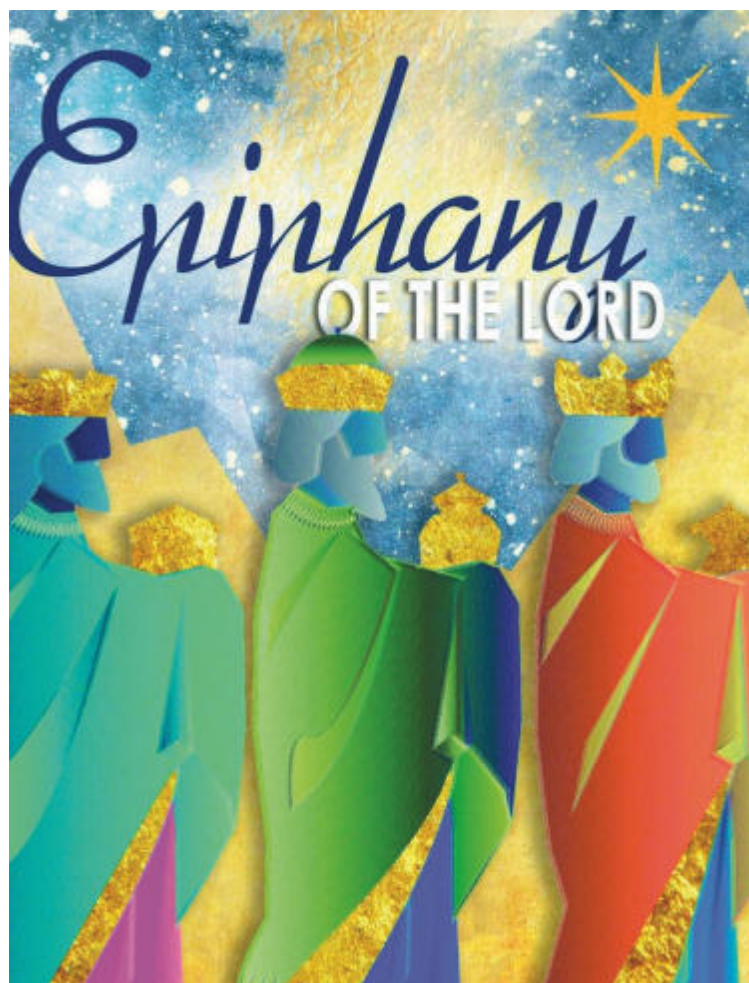
The Magi, on the other hand, had a much more difficult journey to Bethlehem. It was anything but a romantic, sentimental pilgrimage that we often see in our manger scenes. The Magi were not just visionaries or whimsical religious figures; they were willing to wager their money, their time and their energy, and perhaps even their lives to seek out someone who would bring true peace.

The Magi went their own way and because they refused to be seduced by cynicism, because they allowed themselves to be surprised by this great joy, the star to which they had committed themselves appeared again. This is not only the description of the times into which Jesus was born, but also our times. When we have found our lasting joy in the midst of the encircling gloom, despair, indifference and meaninglessness, the only thing to do is to kneel and adore. And then go out and do something for someone else.

Some will choose the path of life; others will choose the path of death. Today as we move away from the manger of our newborn King and Lord, let us recommit ourselves to the cause of life that is the heart and the joy of Christmas. Amen.

- *Thought for the week:* Never boo the home team.
- *Smile for the week:* Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, an elderly man and his wife were told that there would be a 45-minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both 95 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes." They were seated immediately.

God bless! Have a wonderful week! Fr. Kevin McKenna



168 Spencerport Road, Rochester, New York 14606  
 Parish Office: 429-6811 — Fax: 429-7726 — Faith Formation Office: 429-5650  
 e-mail: [Gsttheod@dor.org](mailto:Gsttheod@dor.org) — visit us on the web: [sttheodoreshurch.com](http://sttheodoreshurch.com)  
 like us on Facebook (St. Theodore's Catholic Church—Rochester NY) and  
 YouTube (St Theodore Church Gates)

Email [gsttheod@dor.org](mailto:gsttheod@dor.org) to let us know you want our emails.

Parish office hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Hearing  
Loop



**FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT**



A reminder that this Wednesday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m., we will have the retreat for the children preparing for First Reconciliation and at least **one** of their parents. **We will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. in church; please arrive a few minutes early to sign in.** Be sure that the children bring their Reconciliation textbook with

them and put their name in the book. **Lessons 1-7 along with the worksheets for lessons 3, 5, 6 and 7 need to be completed by January 5.** The books and worksheets will be collected for Mrs. Piehler to review. Any questions, call Maureen at 429-5650 or email [Maureen.piehler@dor.org](mailto:Maureen.piehler@dor.org).

**FOOD CUPBOARD**

In this coming year of 2022, make a resolution to bring non-perishable items each week to support our food cupboard here at St. Theodore's.

We would like to thank the faith formation families for their contributions to the Food Cupboard of cake mixes and frosting to help celebrate Jesus' Birthday. Also a thank you to all our parishioners who helped fulfill "Christmas Wishes" for our clients.

**NEEDED ITEM OF THE WEEK:**

Peanut Butter



Are you new to our parish and want to register as parishioners? We would love to have you. Please stop at the welcoming table after Mass next weekend to register. A parish council member will be there to help you register and answer any questions that you have.



**TAKE PART IN THE LITURGY**

The presentation of the gifts at Mass is a very important role as it marks the beginning of the second major part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

At the presentation of the gifts, the faithful present the gifts of bread and wine to the priest, symbolizing an offering of creation and themselves back to the Father. This also gives an exterior sign of our internal offerings – we offer our prayers and ourselves in the same way that we offer these mere gifts of bread and wine, hoping that just as they are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we be transformed by His grace.

We are asking families to take turns presenting the gifts by signing up for a Mass that they attend. Sign up sheets are available in the back of church. Please mark your name for the Mass you would like to present the gifts. If you have booked a Mass for a loved one, please make sure to sign up for that Mass.

When attending Mass for the date you are signed up, please let the ushers know that you are here and where you will be sitting so that they can instruct you on when to gather for the presentation.

Please call the office if you have any questions.

**DAILY RAFFLE WINNERS**

12/20	Kathleen Wegman	\$25
12/21	Dan Piehler	\$25
12/22	Angela Belluomo	\$25
12/23	Carol Cummings	\$25
12/24	Janet O'Leyar	\$25
12/25	Janet Patterson	\$50
12/26	Philip Maier	\$50



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARISH**

We encourage you to keep your Sunday offerings current. You may mail in your envelopes, drop them off at the parish office during office hours or have them sent from your bank using your bank's online banking feature. St. Theodore's Church will be the payee and your envelope number will be your account number.

If you have any questions, please call Leigh Ann in the parish office.

*Eucharistic Chapel  
Open 24 Hours*

**MONDAY**

5:00 PM Faith Formation Classes—Grades 1-5  
7:00 PM Faith Formation Classes—Grades 7-8

**TUESDAY**

7:00 PM Rosary Society

**WEDNESDAY**

6:30 PM Reconciliation Retreat  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY**

1:30 PM Bible Study



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**—Saturdays from 3:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is planned for January 14-16 at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, NY. Register online at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

The WWME weekend teaches communication techniques such as active listening, listening with the heart and empathy towards your spouse's feelings. It is based on the sacrament of Holy Matrimony and expresses the importance of love in the union and encourages this love be taken out into the world in various ministries to serve God by strengthening the couples and families in the church.

The Marriage Encounter gives busy couples much needed time together to focus on each other and deepen their communication. After the Experience, couples often return to their life and families refreshed with renewed commitment to each other.

**2022 CALENDARS**

Calendars are still available for 2022. You can pick one up in the church entrances or parish office.

Thank you to DiPonzio Funeral Home for supplying them.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

All parishioners who have made monetary contributions in 2021 will receive a statement of their contributions. Statements will be available for pick up the middle of January. All remaining statements will be mailed at the end of January..

**BAPTISMS**—Please call 429-6811 to schedule the baptism.

**FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 1-9 INCLUDING SACRAMENT PREPARATION**—Contact Maureen Piehler at 429-5650 for information regarding programs.

**HOSPITAL CALLS**—Please call the parish office to have a priest or pastoral staff visit you while you are in the hospital. Due to privacy laws, we cannot access information about your hospitalization unless you indicate St. Theodore's as your faith community on your admissions forms.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**—Saturdays from 3:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

**WEDDINGS**—Contact Deacon Dennis at 429-6811 or [dennis.lohouse@dor.org](mailto:dennis.lohouse@dor.org) as soon as possible to reserve the church **before** you sign a contract with a reception hall.

**YOUTH MINISTRY FOR GRADES 6-12**—Contact Maureen Piehler for information at 429-5650.

**BULLETIN**—Email [sttheodorebulletin@dor.org](mailto:sttheodorebulletin@dor.org) at least 10 days before the bulletin date. Pick up a copy of our latest bulletin in the chapel entrance.

**Please remember St. Theodore's Church of Gates, NY in your will. Request that memorial donations be sent to our parish upon a loved one's death.**

**SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES**—Please continue to mail in your envelopes on a weekly basis. We are also accepting envelopes in the parish life center during parish office hours. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and needed at this time.

**FOOD CUPBOARD**—Donations to the Food Cupboard can be dropped off at the parish life center during parish office hours.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/16-0755882>  
Log into your account and shop away.

**Parish Staff:**

*Rev. Kevin McKenna, Pastor  
Dennis Lohouse, Deacon  
Angelo Coccia, Senior Deacon  
Laurence Feasel, Senior Deacon  
Anthony Caruso, Senior Deacon  
David Paluskiewicz, Senior Deacon  
Daniel Leitten, Finance Director  
Leigh Ann Lester, Business Manager  
Maureen Piehler, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry  
Rita Manners, Music Director  
Food Cupboard: 429-5360*



The Epiphany of the Lord

**MONDAY Christmas Weekday**

8:30 A.M. For those struggling with mental health

**TUESDAY St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

8:30 A.M. For the recently deceased parishioners of St. Theodore's

**WEDNESDAY St. John Neumann, bishop**

8:30 A.M. For the children preparing for First Reconciliation

**THURSDAY Christmas Weekday**

8:30 A.M. For those in need in the Gates community

**FRIDAY Christmas Weekday**

8:30 A.M. For those struggling with addiction

**WEEKEND MASSES**

The Baptism of the Lord

**SATURDAY**

4:30 P.M. Mario Cerami req. Family

**SUNDAY**

9:00 A.M. People of St. Theodore's Parish

11:00 A.M. Deceased Members of Caporale Family req. Irene & Ted Caporale

11:00 A.M. Bob Sacheli req. wife, Jean and Family

**Bible readings for next Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



Thank you to the good stewards who continue to support our parish. St. Theodore's is very blessed to have your support especially during this difficult time.

**FINANCES FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 19**

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$8,767.95</b>
<b>Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$138.00</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>475</b>

The finances for the week of December 26 will be in the January 9 bulletin.



In accordance with the Governor of New York State and the Diocese of Rochester, masks are to be worn at all times while in any building of St. Theodore's regardless of vaccination status.



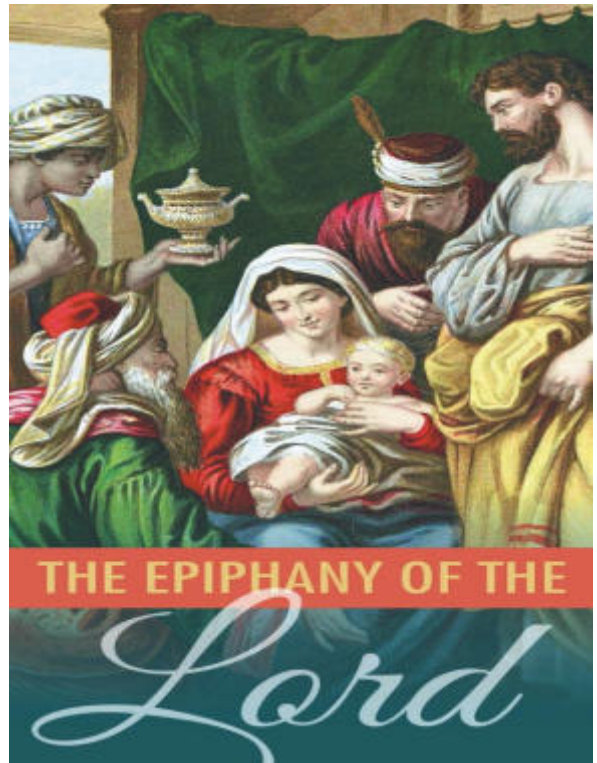
**THEO'S CLOSET HAS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Due to various circumstances, Theo's Closet has decided to close until further notice. Please do not drop off any clothing. Clothing may be put in the clothing shed in the back parking lot. Thank you.



**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND LECTORS**

There are still many spots needed to be filled for January through June. Please make sure to sign up for dates that you are able to serve as soon as possible. Please call the office if you need help signing up.





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