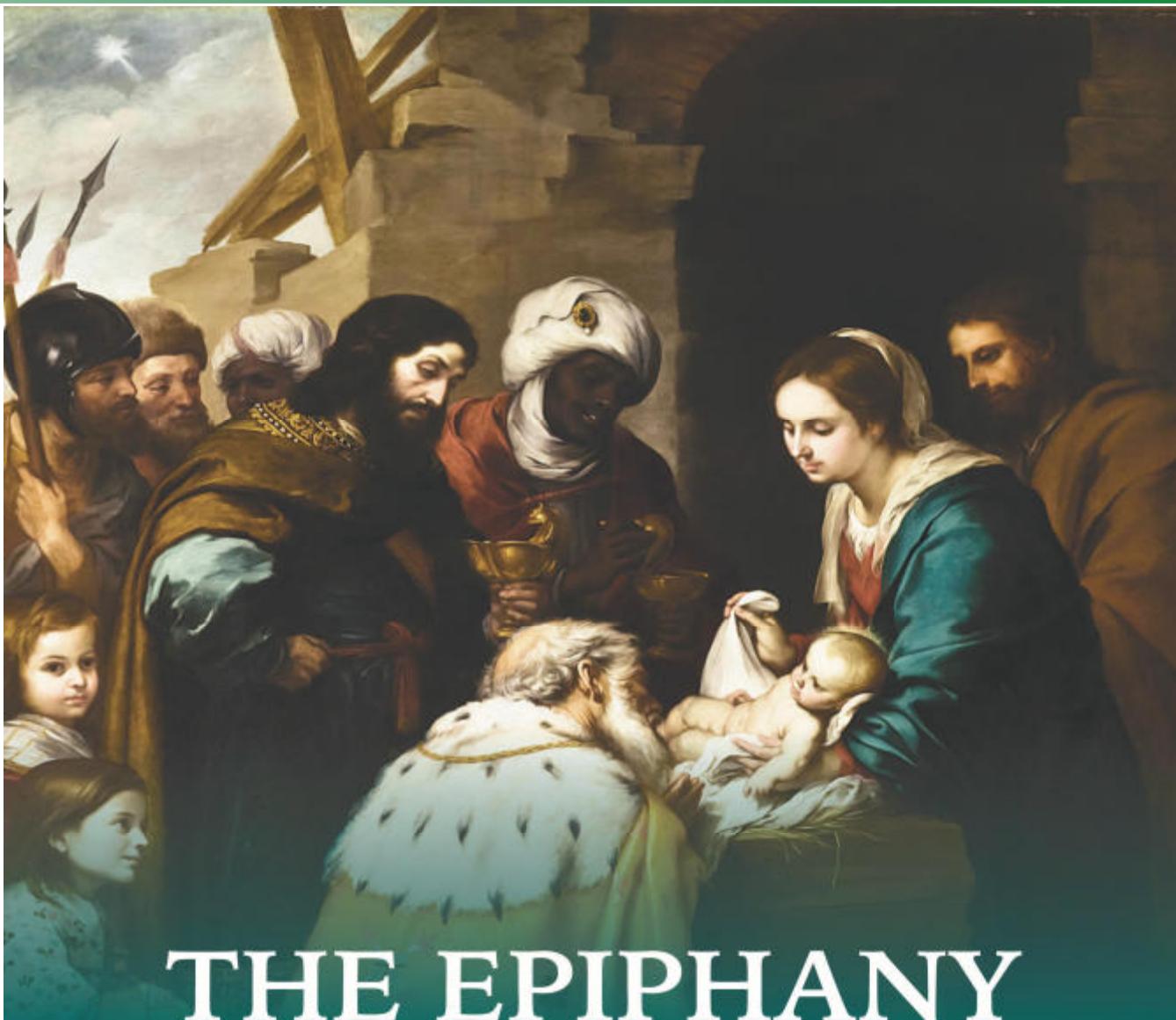


*The Epiphany of the Lord*

*January 3, 2021*

*Year B*

# The Roman Catholic Faith Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



## 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



### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Today's feast focuses us on the ways in which the Good News of salvation in Christ is meant for and offered to all. We may try to close a door on God's salvation, but Jesus will open it.

Good scribe, I am getting old. I must tell my story before I die: The porter began to push the palace door closed: "You are not of the Chosen People. We do not want your kind here."

"But wait! We have seen a star. We have come to worship the king of the Jews." "Wait here."

They let us squeeze in through a crack. The room was heavy with perfume, masking the stench of unwashed bodies. In the stale air, I could not breathe. I longed to be back home, in the crispness of the desert air, basking in the radiance of the stars and the moon. The long trek to get to Jerusalem, to follow that star, just to have the door slammed in our faces, to see this man...This was not the king that we were looking for.

"Go to Bethlehem. Find the child. Come back and tell us so that we too can go and worship." I smelled a lie. I smelled darkness, deceit in these halls of power. My stomach felt like it was being stabbed.

She opened the door. "Come in. Welcome!" I smelled fresh bread. (Some have pictured us coming to a stable—but no, we came to his house.) The baby laughed and reached for us, holding out his arms. I felt a surge of joy. The radiance of the star shone in his little smile, as though he would be a ray of light in the vast darkness. I was happy to give him my gift. They had welcomed us in. We were truly wanted and loved! I felt sure that this king, small as he was, would open the door for others as well.

But let that putrid Herod foul this holy place? No. No. I just wanted to go home.

*John R. Barker, OFM 2021 LPI*

**W**hen 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

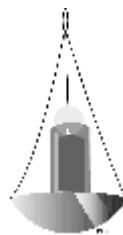
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#### PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK:

Evan McQuiston, Carol Davenport, Charlotte Lukowski, Mike Taaffe, Kelly, Les Strasburg, Nicholas Botticello, Jared Canto, Albert Czarnecki, Betty Griewisch, Kathy Jones, Brenda Aguglia, Jim Forti, Cathleen Forti, Katherine Schmidt, Linda Forti, DeWayne Jones, Kathy Cruz, Darlene, Paul Barone, Paul Karmazyn, Ysabella & Andrew Feldmann, Margaret Richter, Alicia Russo, Pat Lyons, Richard Pisa, Madeline Metzger, Wally Waligora, Brad, Todd, Mary Robinson, Cora, Jeanette Mula, Molly Meadows, Bill Fitzgibbons, John Geffert, Kathy Tootley, Dorothy Kacprowicz, Fr. Walter, Andrew Studley, and Debbie Barylski.

#### LIVING & PRAYING WITH THE WORD

Gifts. Savior of the world, we bring you gifts. Yet all that we give to you has already been given to us. You have clothed us in radiance. Your star has arisen in our lives. We have nothing to give. So we pay you homage and bow before you. Glory to you, O Lord! Your light has shone upon us!



**THE SANCTUARY LIGHT** is burning at Mt. Carmel in memory of Frank Dudek by Pauline Flitt.

**THE SANCTUARY LIGHT** is burning in St. John Bosco Chapel for a special intention.

**THE SANCTUARY LIGHT** is burning at St. Rose of Lima in memory of Faith Mierzwa by Ray & Carmen Wappman.

**CASH CLUB TICKETS**

If you would like your Cash Club tickets before Christmas, please call the office. They make great Christmas gifts!

**Thank you to NCCS** for the donation they made in honor of Doug Prince. He has volunteered at NCCS since Spring of 2019 helping them with his expertise in computer technology.

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA  
MONTHLY DRAWING TICKETS**

Are available at the doors of Mt. Carmel church.

Each envelope has 10 tickets in it. You are welcome to take an envelope or just take one or two. The tickets are \$5 each. Please return the tickets & money in the weekly collection or mail them to:

St. Rose of Lima, P.O. Box 309,  
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Thank you for supporting our faith community!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
LASAGNA DINNER TO GO!**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH**

Pick up after the 4:30 pm Mass

Menu includes: Lasagna, Salad &  
Italian Bread & Dessert

\$8.00 per dinner ~ Deadline Jan 12th

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total # dinners \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**INFORMATION**

Since we had to remove the hymnals, you will find copies of the readings near the bulletins. Please recycle the paper on your way out of Church. You are welcome to take *The Word Among Us* home, please do not use it and then return it to the table.

We will only have one collection during this time (unless otherwise announced). Please place any envelopes you have in the one collection.

Please do not move the ribbon from the pews.

Also, please be sure to maintain 6ft from those around you.

**THE SILVER CREEK FOOD**

**PANTRY** is in desperate need of all food items, especially, pasta sauce, spaghetti, canned fruit, canned veggies, ramen

noodles, peanut butter & jelly.

Any & all donations are greatly appreciated.

Checks can be written to:  
Silver Creek Food Pantry. Thank you.

If you would like to make a donation to the **Forestville Food Pantry** please mail your check to  
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P.O. Box 103  
Forestville, NY 14062

**CHURCH CALENDARS**

We thank both the Hole-Parker Funeral Chapel and the Riles & Woolley Funeral Home for our church calendars!

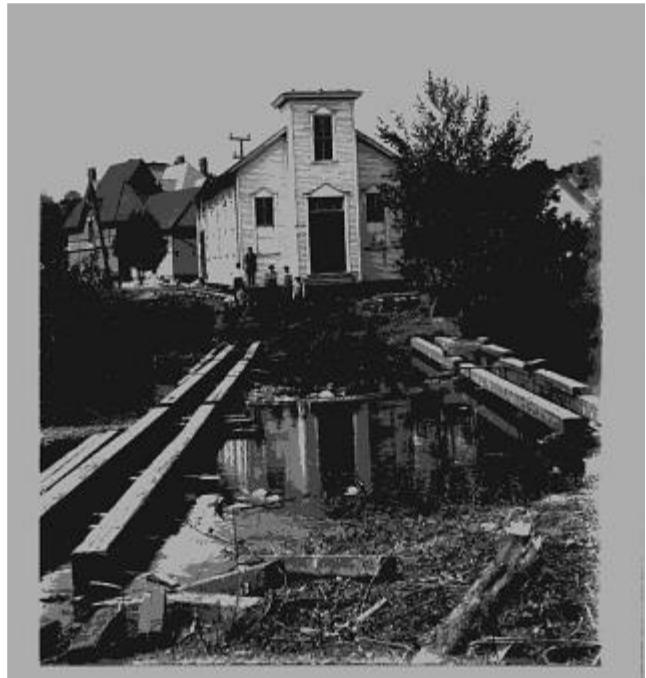
Both calendars can be found at the entrances of Mt. Carmel Church.

## HISTORY OF OLMC

Taken from the personal transcript of  
Msgr. Edmund J. O'Connor  
(pastor from 1912 - 1959)

In the Fall of 1914 a parochial school was opened in the spacious brick house, built by Major Swift in 1844 to 1846. "The Mansion", as it was known, provided also living quarters for five Franciscan Sisters, of the 111th Order; and a chapel, where the Lord, in His Eucharistic Presence, now dwelt in a new tabernacle, of which the builders of "The Mansion" with its sturdy walls, and rugged foundations, never dreamed.

The school, equipped with new school furniture, opened with eight complete grades, with a registration on the first day of 199 pupils, largely of Sicilian parentage, with Sister Genevieve, of Irish birth, as first Superior. Assistant Sisters who arrived from Buffalo, from the Mother House in Pine Street, were Sister Louise, Sister Tharsisie, Sister Cleta, and Sister Beatrice.



### 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

**EUCARISTIC LITURGIES  
FOR THE WEEK OF  
JANUARY 3, 2021**

**Sat., Jan 2**

**4:30 p.m. OLMC**—Don Burghardt by Phyllis & Family

**Sun., Jan 3 Epiphany of the Lord**

**8:30 a.m. OLMC**—Ken Miller by Rogers Family

**Mon., Jan 4**

**8:30 a.m. OLMC**—NO Mass

**Tue., Jan 5**

**8:30 a.m. OLMC**—Birth Remem—Josephine Lancione by Roseann

**Wed., Jan 6**

**8:30 a.m. OLMC**—Frank Dudek by Pauline Flitt

**Thurs., Jan 7**

**8:30 a.m. OLMC**—Mayme DeJohn by Vince & Judy

**Fri., Jan 8**

**8:30 a.m. OLMC**—NO Mass

**Sat., Jan 9**

**4:30 p.m. OLMC**—Birth Remem—Joseph Valvo by wife Elizabeth

**Sun., Jan 10 Baptism of the Lord**

**8:30 a.m. OLMC**—Samantha Cook by Grandparents

**Readings for the week of January 3, 2021**

- |              |                                                                                                                          |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday:      | Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13<br>[cf. 11]/Eph 3:23a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12                                              |
| Monday:      | 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a<br>[8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25                                                              |
| Tuesday:     | 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/<br>Mk 6:34-44                                                                  |
| Wednesday:   | 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf.<br>11]/Mk 6:45-52                                                                 |
| Thursday:    | 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc,<br>17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a                                                         |
| Friday:      | 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20<br>[12a]/Lk 5:12-16                                                               |
| Saturday:    | 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a<br>and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30                                                     |
| Next Sunday: | Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10<br>[11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11/Is 12:2-3,<br>4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11 |

**Next weekend - help us to take down the decorations in church and the outdoor manger after the 8:30 am Mass.**

**Dear Parishioners,** This weekend is the celebration of Epiphany, a word which means “revelation.” The Magi saw a star that guided them to Bethlehem, and it was there that they saw Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. They brought gifts befitting of a king: Gold, Frankincense and Myrr. Tradition holds that the Magi were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. It was a custom to use chalk to mark the top of the main entrance to a house with 20-C-M-B-21; this was a reminder of the welcome the Magi received in Bethlehem. It is also our custom to give gifts during the Season of Christmas. I thank you for the gifts you have given to your parish to support us in the work of ministry. So many of you have given your time, talent and service, and I thank you for your sacrifices, especially in this difficult time in our country. Please know that my gift to you will be my prayer and support in gratitude for the many gifts we celebrate in our parish.

Blessings and Good Cheer! Fr. Dan.

How often do we hear questions such as “What’s new?” “What’s new with you?” “Anything new?”

So often we reply with something like “Same old, same old.”

However, this year it would certainly be inappropriate. We say we would like to forget the year 2020, but all the hurts, sadness and inconveniences are still with us. Hopefully, we will all one day learn lessons about compassion, and appreciation and patience.

May 2021 be a better year with the virus behind us and some sort of normality will return to our churches, homes and hearts.

Happy New Year,  
Fr. Dan and Fr. Mark

**Thank you for supporting your parish!**

Sunday, December 13th  
Regular collection was \$ 2503.00

Sunday, December 20th  
Regular collection was \$ 2350.00

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