

January 2, 2021



St. John the Evangelist Church

The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM
Mon - Fri: 8:00 AM

Parish Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Confessions: Saturdays -

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Baptisms - Parents

requesting an infant
Baptism please call the church
office.

Marriages - Arrangements by
the couple need to be made 6
months in advance, by making
an appointment.

Parish Staff

Fr. John Adams - Pastor
frjohn@sjteolean.org
716-372-4841 ext 112

Fr. Peter Bassey

Parochial Vicar
frpeter@sjteolean.org
716-372-5313 ext. 111

Deacon Matthew Wenke

deaconmattwenke@gmail.com

Ann Sorokes, Faith Formation

asorokes@sjteolean.org

Katie Barber,

Executive Assistant
kbarber@sjteolean.org
716-372-5313

Mark Lang Maintenance

mlang@sjteolean.org

Parish Trustees:

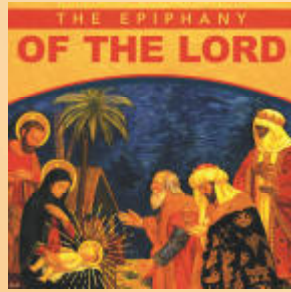
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Parish Council: Ryan Alberts

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Larry Pavlock,
Dennis Pezzimenti, Anita
Schmidt, Jay Sorokes &
Antonia Smith



Today, we come together and commemorate the **Epiphany of the Lord**. On this weekend, we gather together for one of the most celebrated feasts of the Church – in the East and in

the West. It is truly celebrated all over the world. The *Epiphany* -- which in Greek, means, “to reveal or to manifest.” It is also known as the **Theophany**, the appearance, or self-revelation of God, or it is simply known as **Three Kings Day**. In some parts of the world, the Feast of the Epiphany is heralded with even more exuberance than Christmas. For instance, in parts of Europe and in the Latin countries, Christ is seen as revealed, not only as hope and salvation made as a promise to Israel but the Messiah is revealed to all, including the Gentiles, to all of us.

Hardly any biblical narrative has caught the imagination or stimulated so much biblical research as the account of the Magi from the land of “sunrise” -- the East. This wonderful story of the three visitors to Jesus and the Holy Family plays out for us in our tradition as we know and love it. First, why three magi or three kings? On the number of kings, Sacred Scripture has remained silent. The number mentioned through the discovery of ancient writings (not in the Bible) and folklore said that the number was three.

The number three is an important number in biblical history. Three often illustrates the manifestation of our God. The number three is beautifully seen in the feast we just celebrated last weekend in the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Jesus' earthly family involves three and then at the same time, the number illustrates the heavenly family of Jesus as we hold in glory, the Trinity, Three Persons in our One God -- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Also, three primary events called days are highlighted in John's Gospel. On the First Day, Jesus is manifested as the John the Baptizer announces the coming of the Lord as Jesus is baptized. On the second day, God proclaims Him His Son, and He is revealed to the disciples during the Transfiguration and his disciples are told to listen to Him and follow Him. And on the third day, after three days in the tomb, Jesus is manifested in His Resurrection which is the foundation of our

faith. And today, we acknowledge, three kings, inspired to come and adore the Infant Christ Child representing the three corners of the then, known ancient world, Persia, India and Arabia. All the people in world would now be represented in the plan of salvation.

The “Gifts” we associate with the three kings helps establish our tradition of gift-giving at Christmas time as we celebrate the Lord's birth and the giving of gifts on our birthdays. Because there were three wise men or kings, perhaps this is why we have the three gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Gold for kingship, Frankincense for Priestly role and holiness and Myrrh, a spice used in burial. Strange gifts but not so strange as gifts for a heavenly King. The gifts that correspond to the three roles of the mission of Christ – **gold** for His Kingship, His shepherding of us and taking care of His people, **frankincense** for His Priestly role, His holiness and divine sonship, and **myrrh**, a spice often used for preparing one for burial, as the prophets proclaimed the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' Life, Death and Resurrection to new life.

The Epiphany is a wonderful Feast in the life of the Church and is one of the foundations of our faith. It is a beautiful story of God's manifestation, revelation to the world and the goodness brought forward through His birth. The imagery that is used is forever part of our traditions and seen in our manger displays in our homes, in our worship sites from the Vatican to our beautiful St. John's Church. But what significance does this feast have in our current lives? How do we live out our lives in our Baptismal roles and our mission shared with Christ as Priest, Prophet and King which we received as we have become part of God's Holy Family on this earth? What gifts do we bring to Our Lord as we become an Epiphany, a manifestation of the Lord to the world around us? This New Year, let us strive to make the Lord manifest in our lives to others, just as the wise men, the three kings, let us discover the gift we are to bring to our Lord so we can be a star, a beam of grace, a light, leading others to Him, to His mission and His love this Christmas season and always.

Fr. John

A blessed Christmas Season and a Grace-filled
New Year,

Pro & Respect Life Ministry



We are Pro Life from Conception to Natural Death on our Journey to Eternal Life.

MISSION STATEMENT

We actively give witness and work as missionaries for the Gospel of Life. We advocate for the beauty and value of life in all forms. We respect, defend and protect life from conception through natural death by means of education, pastoral care and prayer/worship.

VALUES

Every life has dignity and boundless potential. Embrace all life as a precious gift created in the image and likeness of God to be cherished and nourished.

GOALS

- To cultivate and increase awareness about all life issues especially the defense and the protection of the unborn.
- To model pro life, all life, by taking action and leading by example.
- To expand our capacity for love, compassion and mercy for all persons preborn and born.
- To bring forth God's love, mercy, respect, compassion and healing ways for those entering the world by accompanying them throughout their journey while helping them meet their needs.
- To advocate, defend, protect and care for all creation as we serve the Lord and embrace His Gospel of Life.
- To serve the vulnerable with love in our ministry.

For more information about the Pro & Respect Life Ministry or how you can get involved, please contact Jennifer Forney, jenforney@yahoo.com

We thank The Knights of Columbus Council #338 for their generous check of \$25,000 to St. John's Parish presented on Sunday, December 19, 2021.
May God bless you abundantly!



Christmas Flower Memorials

*Helen & John Wiley
Wiley & Szadlowski Families
Family & Friends*

*Walter & Anne Batesky
Veronica Laing, Peggy Pittman,
Edward Martin, Tracy Veno,
Phyllis Scott and Deb Sirianni
By Elena Batesky*

*Mr. & Mrs. Henry Schifley,
Mr. & Mrs. Valentine Kosinski and
Mr. & Mrs. Maynard Brown
By Don & Nancy Schifley*

*Douglas & Dorothy Rogers,
Edward Butler and Joseph Butler
By: Dan & Dianne Butler*

*Cathy Delgado, Theresa Lanham,
Jody Gleason, Justice Gleason,
Stanley & Dolores Morgan and
Mead & Jeanette Douthit
By: Raymond & Shirley Douthit*

*All Special Children & Adults
in the World
By: Antonia Smith*

*Deceased members of the
Leone & Letkiewicz's Families
By: The Leones*

*Mary & Stanley Suda,
Anna & Richard Lindamer and
Richard Hollis
By: Carol & Greg Lindamer*

*Jean Depto and Joshua Whelpley
By: Karen & John Whelpley*

*The Gleason and Connelly Families
By: Linda & Frank Connelly & Family*

More to come as space allows.....

Mass Intentions for the Week	
Saturday, January 1 - - 4:30 pm	
<i>St. John's Parish Family Living & Deceased</i>	
Sunday, January 2 - - 9:30 am Epiphany of The Lord	
† Mary Adams - <i>John & Cathy Baglione</i>	† Phil Balcerzak <i>Marcia Phillips</i>
Monday, January 3 - - 8:00 am	
† Paul Cashimere – <i>Dave & Marge Drake</i>	
Tuesday, January 4 - - 8:00 am	
† Susie Noonan - <i>Jim Lee & Brian & Judy Suda</i>	
Wednesday, January 5 - - 8:00 am	
† Chuck Clarke - <i>Carol Lindamer</i>	
Thursday, January 6 - - 8:00 am	
† Br. James Blaszak, CSC - <i>Mary Freeman & Michael Kelley</i>	
Friday, January 7 - - 8:00 am	
† Chuck Kwiatkowski - <i>Diane & Tommy</i>	† Ray Caya - <i>Mary Ann Loskey</i>
Saturday, January 8 - - 4:30 pm	
† Francis Wiley - <i>Dan Veno & Family</i>	
Sunday, January 9 - - 9:30 am Baptism of the Lord	
† Paul Cashimere - <i>Jim Lee and Brian & Judy Suda</i>	
† Larie Gortaire - <i>Joseph Gortaire</i>	

**Please keep the following
in your prayers for healing:**



*Remember
Our
Sick*

Ralph Aloia
Shawn Anastasia
Kathy Baker
Beverly Blakeslee
Daniel Brogan
Mike Chizewick
Linda Colletti
Mary Jill Coon
Gail Crowley
Carmen DeGiglio
Jeff Dembowski
Dave Fidurko
David Frey
David Hettrick
Sr. Dana Hollis
Thomas Jonak
Janet Jones
Carol Kielar

Colt Matz
Paul Mountain
Jean Nolan
Thomas Nolan, Sr.
Richard Peterson
Gene Robak Jr.
Ann Rogozinski
Jennifer Sauter
Jan Schichtel
Colleen Spencer
Rob Umberhour
Jeff Veno



*All the Hospice,
Nursing Home and
Hospice Patients and
their caregivers.*



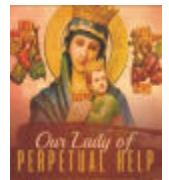
*Our parish extends its condolences
to the Tri-Catholic
community families of*

Linda Coletti, Anne Kloc, Louis Frungillo
Susan Morris Polk, Jean Hannon, Charles Bretzin,
Marcian Suda, Brian O'Connell,
Mary Lou Irons, and Tracy Veno
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and
may perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen*

*We life up in prayer each day
those who are serving our
country, especially those in harms
way and who cannot be with their
families this
Christmas Season*



Our Lady of Perpetual Help burns
Jan 1-15 for the glory of God and
in honor of
Chuck Clarke
By: Carol Moses



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns
January 1-15 for the glory of God
in the Remembrance of
Susie Noonan
By: Ron & Marlene Anastasia

**Would you like to offer a
Mass Intention?**

It is a holy and noble custom to have a Mass said for a living or
deceased person(s) or for a personal intention.
We are happy to schedule your Mass intention.
The Diocesan stipend is \$15.
Please call 716-372-5313 or email
kbarber@sjteolean.org to schedule



Reflection for Epiphany 2022

(Isaiah 60:1-6): In this passage, Israel, Zion or the Church can be seen, symbolically, as the “new Jerusalem,” with world-wide authority or leadership over all the nations. Jerusalem, (the Church or Zion) is seen as radiating the glory of God, or the Light of truth and wisdom, bestowed on it by God. Nations and even Kings are seen as coming to the Church in search of its truth, wisdom and grace. Isaiah then prophesies future prosperity for Zion, with images of the riches of the sea (nature) as well as the wealth of nations being lavished upon Jerusalem, as tribute to her. This bestowal of gifts in tribute to Zion prefigures the lavish gifts of the Magi to the infant Jesus. The entourage from Sheba bearing gold and frankincense is a prelude to the very gifts the Magi brought to the infant Christ; gold, frankincense and myrrh.

(Psalm 72: “Lord, every nation on Earth will adore You.”): This is a “royal psalm,” said to refer to King Solomon, but may also be interpreted as referring to the coming Messiah, (Jesus). In the first stanza, the psalmist prays for God to give the King an inspired sense of justice and good judgment; reflecting the transcendent wisdom that Solomon requested and received from God. In the next stanza, societal justice and peace are promised the King along with rulership over the whole earth. Next, the vision of tribute by kings and leaders of all nations is again evoked; recalling again the visit and tributes of the Magi to the infant Lord, Jesus. Lastly, the kindness and sensitivity and mercy of the prophesied king are proclaimed and, once again, this description could apply to Solomon or Jesus. Certainly, Jesus is the most perfect and complete fulfillment of this prophesy.

(Ephesians 3:2-3a; 5-6): In this passage, the author, speaking in Paul’s voice, reminds the reader that his role to preach the Christian message to both Jews and Gentiles was given to him by God, himself. Thus, the author reassures disciples of both the legitimacy and the breadth of his target followers; Jews and Gentiles; united in the new Christian faith. The author proclaims as a “mystery”, the revelation that salvation was intended for all of God’s people and not just the Jewish nation. It took Divine Revelation for people to believe in God’s boundless mercy and magnanimous intentions for salvation of the whole world! Lastly, the author marvels that the plan of universal salvation of all was hidden until this generation, via the Divine revelation by the Holy Spirit to the holy Apostles and prophets, by way of revelation and written and spoken words of Scripture.

(Matt 2:1-12): With the first three readings reminding us of the prophecies of a coming exceptional and/or messianic King with world-wide authority and power, we read, today, the story of the Epiphany. The mystery of a world-wide ruler with a mission of peace, unity and salvation for all is solved. However, mystery and awe continue to surround us. The ancient study of astrology amazingly reveals and foretells the birth of a newborn King of the Jews. The brightness of the star seems to indicate that this King will be a King above other kings, who will even be worshiped, adored and paid tribute to, by them. Thus, we have the riveting story we ponder, today. The chief priests and scribes confirm that prophecy foretells a powerful ruler of Israel’s coming from Bethlehem. The precision and accuracy of these prophecies and interpretations of the configurations of the stars are astounding. Ponder the harmony!

Deacon Matt

Thank you to Mary Ann Loskey, Theresa Budzinski, Carol Moses and Mark Lang for making our church look so beautiful during this Christmas Season



AT OUR PARISH and SMA



LIVE Stream



Sat. Jan. 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation—Mass will be offered at 11:00 am in Sacred Heart, Portville No Confessions at SJTE today Vigil of the Epiphany of Our Lord - SJTE/SMA
Sun Jan. 2	Epiphany of Our Lord - SJTE/SMA
Wed Jan. 5	Confessions and Adoration @ SMA 4:30-5:30 PM Greif Support Meeting - 6:30 pm - SMA - CON Room
Sat Jan. 8	Confession & Adoration - 1:30-2:30pm - SJTE
Sun Jan. 8	Olean Catholic Youth—Life Teen/HS - 6:30-8:30 pm - PLC



Send a card to:
Colt Matz & Family
Ronald McDonald House
780 W Ferry St.
Buffalo, NY 14222




Lector Ministry - January 8 & 9
4:30 pm - Mary Ann Power
9:30 am - Carol Lindamer

Ministers of the Holy Eucharist January 8 & 9
4:30 - Jeremy/Kari Fitzgerald
9:30 am - Dennis Pezzimenti

Greeter Schedule January 8 & 9
4:30 am - Yvonne McHone
9:30 am - Dan/Cindy Hinz and Rose Mikolajczyk



Attention Altar Servers: Grades 4 and up. Come and serve at Mass in 2022! Please contact Fr. John or Fr. Peter. Call Katie at the Parish Office at 372-5313



NYS Mask Mandate reinstated for all counties
On December 10, 2021, New York State announced a mask mandate for all indoor venues effective December 13, 2021 which will be reviewed January 15, 2022. At this time, masks are mandated for all participants in liturgies held in Catholic Churches and worship spaces located in the Diocese of Buffalo regardless of your vaccination status.

2022 Church Envelopes

For circumstances beyond our control this year's church envelopes will not be arriving until sometime in January. Please put your offerings in a plain white envelope with your envelope number/name on it when the collection is taken up. Once again I sincerely apologize for the inconvenience that this has caused. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

With gratitude, Katie

Road to Renewal: You may have seen the article prepared from a press release by the Diocese of Buffalo highlighted in the *Olean Times Herald* about the plan for renewal. You have been hearing about the Road to Renewal several months now. It has been determined that we are to be in Phase Two of implementation of our family of parishes in this part of the Southern Tier Vicariate. As you are aware, our "family" includes St. John the Evangelist, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels and St. Bonaventure. The Administrative Team for this initiative has decided that our date for implementation of the family plan is October, 2023. Please pick up new additional information located at both entrances;



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