

BLESSED SACRAMENT

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

263 CLAREMONT AVENUE
TOWN OF TONAWANDA, NY 14223

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Website: bsacramentchurch.com

Email: bsctonawanda@gmail.com



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January 2, 2022



MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Monday - Saturday 8:00 am

Vigil Mass: Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday Mass: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Wednesday Mass: 6:30 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:00-3:30pm, Wednesdays at 5:45pm and by appointment

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday 8:30 am - Thursday 9:00 pm

PARISH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Martin F. Gallagher	Ext. 415
Pastor Emeritus	Msgr. Robert K. Golombek	
In Residence (Retired)	Rev. Msgr. Leo F. McCarthy	Ext. 404
Pastoral Associate	Sr. Lucette Kinecki, CSSF	Ext. 403
Administrative Assistant	Kathryn Luppi	Ext. 401
Business Manager	DebraAnn Costanzo	Ext. 402
Trustees	Celine S. Kingsley & John Rozak	
Music Director	Kenneth Fick, Jr.	
Food Pantry Director	Judy Carter	
Faith Formation		
Youth Ministry K-11 CRE	Carolyn Prefontaine	
RCIA Coordinator	Marguerite Mullins	

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Celebrated upon appointment through the parish office. A baptismal class is required before an infant's baptism is scheduled. Call the parish office.

MARRIAGE: Engaged couples need to meet with a priest before a Wedding date is set.

ANOINTING: Communal anointing offered twice a year, any time by appointment.

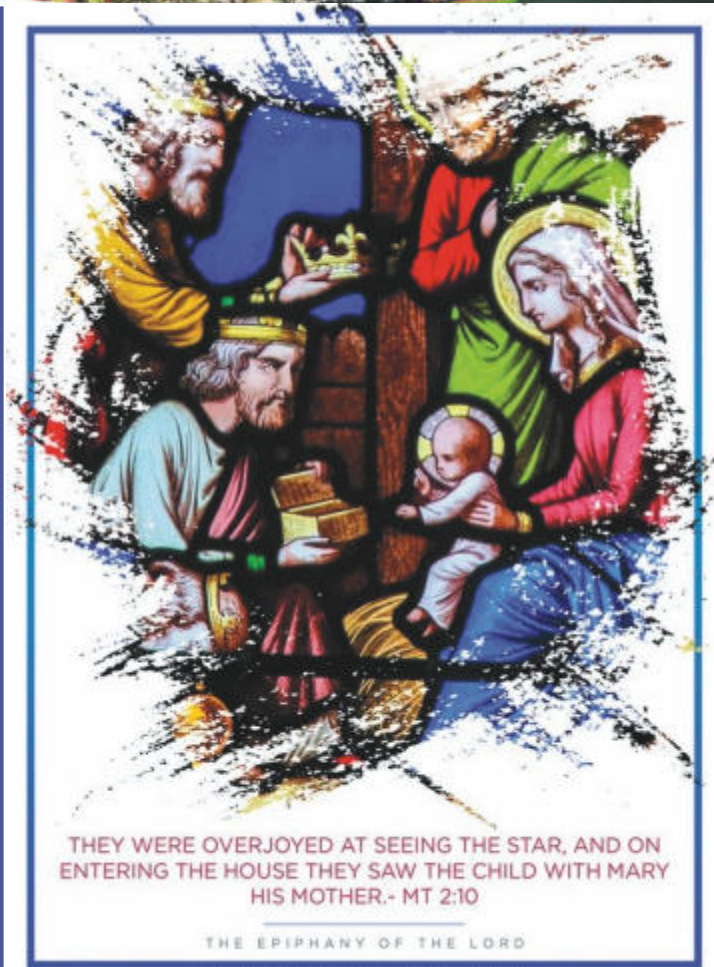
COMMUNION TO THE SICK: By appointment with a priest. Frequent Spiritual Communion is strongly encouraged.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

To be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, individuals must fulfill the responsibilities and obligations that Church Canon Law requires:

- 1) Have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- 2) If married, marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church.
- 3) Attend Mass and receive communion regularly.
- 4) Be an active parishioner for at least the past three months.

NOTE: An active parishioner is one who is enrolled on the parish census files and supports the Sunday offertory.



THEY WERE OVERJOYED AT SEEING THE STAR, AND ON ENTERING THE HOUSE THEY SAW THE CHILD WITH MARY HIS MOTHER. - MT 2:10

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

EXCERPTS FROM THE LITURGICAL BOOK OF MASS (2002), 98th EDITION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS in Father Cotter Hall

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm & 12:30 pm - 3:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION Office 834 - 4282

ST. FAUSTINA'S GATE - FOOD PANTRY

Open - Tues. & Thur. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 837-2544

NON - PARISH GROUPS:

Blessed Sacrament Athletic Club (BSAC): 871-0595

Kids' Kampus Child Care Center: 831- 9900

Ponderings & Pontifications of the Pastor

Hello dear friends, and a very Happy New Year to you all!

Beginning this new year of 2022, we find ourselves in the midst of the Christmas season, which is actually pretty short this year. On Sunday, January 9th, we celebrate the **Baptism of the Lord**, and then we return to the season of Ordinary Time. However, we still have a number of very special liturgical days to commemorate before that day.

First of all, on January 1st, not only do we ring in the New Year, but we take the first day of a brand-new year and dedicate it to the most Blessed Virgin Mary. The title of Our Lady that we commemorate on January 1st is the first and most important title of Mary...**Mother of God**. In theological terms, we honor Mary under her Greek title of **Theotokos** (which means "God-bearer") and the Latin equivalent translation, **Sancta Dei Genitrix**, which means roughly the same thing. This title of Mary was solemnly declared and defined at the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD, after great controversy arose in the early church about the two natures of Christ (fully human and fully divine). What the church teaches about the nature of Jesus Christ then also directly impacts what the church teaches about the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On Saturday evening (January 1st) and Sunday (January 2nd), the **Feast of the Epiphany** is commemorated. This feast day usually falls on January 6th and brings to a close the 12 days of Christmas. However, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has often moved the Feast of the Epiphany from a weekday to the nearest Sunday, so that people will celebrate the feast within the context of the weekend Mass.

The feast of the Epiphany of the Lord actually commemorates 3 distinct events in the earthly life of Jesus. First (and for us in the West, we tend to focus on this one the most), the Epiphany heralds the arrival of the **magi** and their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This day has also become known as "Little Christmas" in some cultures. Second, the Epiphany also focuses on the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan (even though that event is also commemorated later, on the following Sunday). Third and finally, the Feast of the Epiphany commemorates the first miracle of the Lord, namely, the changing of the water into wine during the wedding feast at Cana. In the East (both Catholic and Orthodox) the Epiphany focuses on these 3 events; however, they tend to emphasize the baptism of Jesus much more.

One of the ancient customs of the church was to solemnly announce the dates of the major feast days for the coming liturgical year. This custom was always traditionally carried out on the Feast of the Epiphany, being chanted by a priest or deacon, as part of the Mass. Here are the words of the solemn **Epiphany Proclamation**.

Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy, we announce to you also the joy of His Resurrection, who is our Savior. On the 2nd day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the 17th day of April, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the 26th day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the 5th day of June, the feast of Pentecost. On the 19th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the 27th day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen!

~Fr. Martin Gallagher

Masks are Required!

Daily Mass is at 8:00 am. Eucharistic Adoration begins on Wednesday at 8:30 am through Thursday at 9:00 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:00am Christopher Siegel (Birthday) by Diane Scirri

4:00pm Carmella Gullotta by Nieces & Nephews

Sunday, January 2 Epiphany of the Lord

9:00am Wagner & Scordato Families by Eileen Petersen

11:00am Ronald Matthewson, Sr. by Ray & Marcy Kaminski

Monday, January 3

8:00am Michael Kacz by Rosemary Schaner

Tuesday, January 4 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:00am Intentions of Robert Schimf by Robert Sweeney

Wednesday, January 5 Saint John Neumann, Bishop

8:00am Mary Morris by Morris Family

6:30pm For the People of the Parish

Thursday, January 6

8:00am Eileen & Kenneth Nichter by Mike & Karen Broderick

Friday, January 7

8:00am Arthur & Genevieve Miller by Ron & Elaine Niedziela

Saturday, January 8

8:00am Shirley Shaffer by Kris Shaffer-Noworwyta

4:00pm Michael J. Miliotto by Carol Campagna

Sunday, January 9 Baptism of the Lord

9:00am Mary A. & Nick Patterson by Dick & Mary Patterson

11:00am John Fagley & Mary Laskowski

(Anniversary of Death) by Veronica Fagley

**The Sanctuary Candle will be lit from January 2 – January 8
In Memory of Chuck Manchetti by Wife, Jo**

Please pray for the sick: Lisa Abbott, Joseph Agnello, Jeanne Barrett, Hannah Becker, Joan Boone, Joseph Brancato, Lisa Brancato, Theodora Brown, Caren Busch, Carol Carroll, John Carroll, Catherine Derrick, Renee Dzierzak, Magdalen Dukarm, Paul Dukarm, Elizabeth Easton, Joseph Fennell, Thomas Fischer, Mary Frank, Harold Gagnon, Pauline Gagnon, Joan Goetz, Joyce Goodell, Dawn Hanavan, Mary E. Hayes, Margaret Haywood, Pat Hedges, Jamie Herman, Becky Hinds, Mary Huffnagle, Marcy Kaminski, Virginia Kaprel, Keith Kolodziejczyk, Sue Mason, Msgr. Leo McCarthy, Joanne Menchetti, Betty Moran, Bridget O'Brien, Darlene O'Keeffe, Debra Pollina, Lorraine Pfohl, Darlene Rajczak, Dennis Rinesi, Sylvia Rinelli, Kristine Roper, Joseph Rumschik, Florian Rzepka, Carol Sajda, Pat Salemi, John Scime, Lucy Stanton, Peter Stawasz, Debbie Stearing, Judy Trometer, JoAnne Varney, John Washington.

And for All the sick, especially those with COVID-19

Please pray for the deceased: Therese Stoll, Richard Taylor and the holy Souls in Purgatory

A NEW YEAR AT BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday, January 3

- Scout Troup #286 6:30 p.m. (FCH)

Tuesday, January 4

- Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Choir Practice from 7 to 8 p.m.
- Mary's Cenacle, 6:30 p.m. (Church)

Wednesday, January 5

- Feast of Saint John Neumann
- Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 a.m. -Thurs. 9:00 p.m.
- Sacrament of Penance 5:30, Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 6

- "Heal the Nation Holy Hour" 6 to 7 p.m. Chapel
- Eucharistic Adoration until 9:00 p.m.
- Al-Anon and Alateen, 6:30 p.m. (FCH)
- Legion of Mary 7:00 p.m. (Counting Room)

Friday, January 7

- Feast of Saint Raymond Penyafort

Saturday, January 8

- Sacrament of Penance, 3:00 p.m.
- Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 9

- Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord
- Masses at 9 & 11 a.m.
- Faith Formation (Parish Center)



Mass Book Opening

The following dates are still available.

February 24, 28
March 5,7,8,12,13,15,17,20,22,23,24,26,27,28,30

Reservations for Mass Intentions can be made for Masses in **2022**; please contact the Parish Office: 834 - 4282

Requests are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, to be fair to everyone. The Diocesan recommended stipend offering is \$15.

Readings for Sunday, January 2nd

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Calendar Lottery Winners

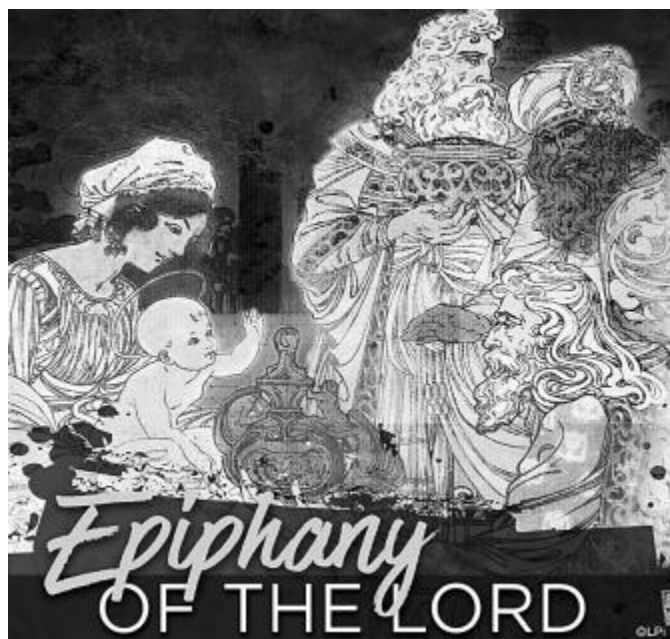
Dec 13	476	Dec 17	973
Dec 14	678	Dec 18	582
Dec 15	262	Dec 19	087
Dec 16	824	Dec 20	845
		Dec 21	739

Winners determined by the PA Lottery Pick - 3 Evening Drawing

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday December 20,2021

Regular Sunday Envelopes.....	\$4,728
Loose Cash.....	\$ 194
EFT &/or PayPal Electronic Donations.....	\$2,258
Holy Days.....	\$ 50
Christmas.....	\$ 340
Flowers.....	\$ 65
Religious Retirement.....	\$ 550





Epiphany OF THE LORD

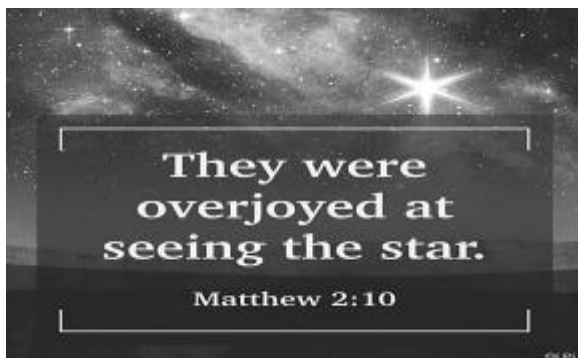
The Church extends itself on Epiphany to the homes of the faithful. The Custom of blessing the home probably grew up on account of the words in the Gospel,

“And entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary, His Mother, and falling down they adored Him.”

The father or eldest of the family blesses the house. He leads the family (and any other guests who may have been invited for the occasion) from room to room, blessing each and inscribing the three Magi (Casper, Melchior and Balthasar) above the doors with chalk. The doors of at least the main entrance are inscribed with the following:

20 + C + M + B + 22

The initials are separated by crosses and the year above the door. The initials CMB also stand for the words “*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*” which means “May Christ bless this house”. The inscription above the entry of our house should be a reminder to us that we should be with and go to Christ in all our comings and goings.



Divine Mercy from the Diary of St. Faustina

Before supper, I went into the chapel for a moment to break the wafer spiritually with those beloved persons, so dear to my heart, though far away. First, I steeped myself in profound prayer and asked the Lord for graces for them all as a group and then for each one individually. Jesus gave me to know how much this pleased Him, and my soul was filled with even greater joy to see that God loves in a special way those whom we love. (Diary 1438)

MY RESPONSE: On Your birthday Lord, may we become more aware of all the gifts You give to us and those we love.



“St Gregory the Great Parish invites you to join us for “FIAT”, our monthly Eucharistic Conference, Saturday, January 8 at 7 pm, in the church. Open your heart to the Lord and allow Him to make a difference in your life! Our guest speaker will be Fr. Dan Young, Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, who will share with us the life of Fr. Nelson Baker. Come, for a solid faith filled talk, great music, prayer ministry and most importantly time with our Lord before the Eucharist. All are welcome!”



Thank You

With a deep sense of gratitude to each and every member of Blessed Sacrament parish for your generous spirit toward me and sincere concern and prayerful consideration for me at Christmas and especially during this crisis. My priestly blessing for a wonderful 12 days of Christmas and a prayer for peace in the New Year.

Msgr. Leo McCarthy



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. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and 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.



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