

## - ST. MARY

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH STAR CITY

3346 University Ave. Morgantown, WV 26505 • 304-599-3747

### January 2, 2022 • Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Times: Saturday, 6:00pm, Sunday, 8:30am, 11:00am, en español a la 1:00pm Daily Mass\*: Mon.-Fri. 9:00am, Mon. 6:30pm, Wed. 12:00pm \*please see schedule inside for any changes or cancellations. Radio broadcast at 8:30am on 1300AM WCLG & 92.1FM, and TuneIn channel Morgan 92.1



### St. Mary Parish

### **Pastor**

Rev. John P. McDonough papajohnwv@msn.com

### **Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Jose Mauricio Henriquez mhenriquez@dwc.org

Rectory Phone: 304-225-0506

### Parish Office

### Address:

3346 University Ave Morgantown, WV 26505

#### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:30am-4:30pm Closed Holy Days & some Public Holidays

#### Office Staff

Brenda DeVito Theresa DeMasters

#### Phone

304-599-3747 / 304-599-1996

#### **Email**

stmaryschurch@comcast.net

#### Website

www.stmarystarcity.com

### Mausoleum Accounts & Management Angela Merinar 304-841-2101 angelamerinar@gmail.com

Maintenance & Facility Management
Jonny Petak

### Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Cynthia Friesen 304-225-1163 stmarystarcityfaithformation@gmail.com

Nancy Ferrari nickliz@aol.com

### Music & Liturgical Ministries Coordinator

TamI Alexander 304-698-7625 tamialexander@gmail.com stmarystarcitymusic@gmail.com

### **Hispanic Ministries**

Maria Garcia 304-685-7595 stmaryhispanicministry@gmail.com

Tommy Mullenex 304-777-8876 tommymullenex@yahoo.com

### St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach

Sr. Rachel Blais, S.C. rachel.blais@gmail.com

### Phone

304-599-3822

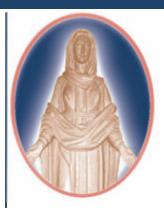
### Email

stursulaoutreach@gmail.com

St. Francis de Sales Central School 304-291-5070

### **Prayer Requests**

Barbara Fedikovich 304-599-3910 Rena Cyphert 304-599-6642



### Are you registered in the Parish?

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and to make a commitment to the life of the parish family.

Clearly stating your Catholic commitment in all its dimensions brings many advantages, recognition, and responsibility.

At St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, our policy, is that you must be registered and participating in Sunday Mass regularly before a baptism can take place, or for the initial meeting with the pastor in the case

of marriage.

Regular attendance is also required for adults who are asked to be a godparent or sponsor at another parish, in order that a letter can be sent stating that they are a practicing Catholic and a registered member of a parish faith community.

Even though you may have attended Mass here for months, or even years, we would like for you to be registered.

Please pick up a registration form at the church or parish office, or register online at <u>stmarystarcity.com</u>
For more information, call the parish office at 304-599-3747.

### **Sacraments**

**Baptism:** (Birth – Age 7) Parents are required to participate in a preparation program before the celebration of Baptism. Parents must be registered and attending Sunday Mass regularly. Please contact the parish office for information.

**Reconciliation:** 30 minutes prior to each daily Mass

**Order of Christian Initiation:** Children 7-14 years of age, and Children 15 years of age and older & Adults— *The Order of Christian Initiation*, RCIA, please contact Cynthia Friesen at 304-225-1163 or stmarystarcityfaithformation@gmail.com

**Marriage:** Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Mary Church should be practicing Catholics, participating in Sunday Eucharist regularly. Also, they must participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. Call the Parish Office for information. At least **six months notice** is required. *No date for a wedding will be set over the phone.* 

**Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound:** When a parishioner is confined to home or hospital because of illness or advanced age, call the Parish Office. We will be happy to make arrangements to bring Holy Communion.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Upon request and communally as scheduled

### **Bulletin Deadline:**

Tuesday@Noon, email or written copy please, no bulletin announcements will be taken over the phone Email: stmaryschurch@comcast.net Subject line: attn: Bulletin, and include topic of announcement

### Spirituality of the Readings – King?



The Wise Men, or "Magi," cross into one more kingdom in their long journey. Courteously they visit the monarch of that kingdom, not knowing he was the infamous Herod. I suppose every amenity took place: formal welcome, diplomatic over-do, huge meals, fine drinks. Such excesses must take place, even in a commonplace kingdom.

Finally, when the moment arrives, our Magi pose their question. "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have read the signs and know of his birth." They trust Herod for the truth, since, obviously, this infant will be the next in line from Herod.

What seems like a sincere question strikes terror into the Herod heart. So he maintains his diplomatic balance, temporizing with a promise to find the answer, and skillfully ends the meeting for that night. But, within him are the words, Newborn King? No, no, no! I AM THE KING! My lineage is the answer to this menacing child. Herod's insides shout for him to do something!

### Do something!

He goes to the chief priests and scribes. He charms them with a seemingly idle interest, an "honest" question. Do you experts, busy studying day and night, do you know anything about the predicted Messiah figure we used to hope for? If he were to be born today, I wonder. Where that would be?

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they respond, where the great King David was born. These experts know the scriptures well, as Herod does not. The Messiah will be David's successor, shepherd of the people Israel, fulfillment of everything the Jewish people have awaited for centuries.

The Herodian head swirls.

At last he forms a plan.

Kill him.

Herod will identify the town to these Magi and they will search out and find the baby for him! He makes his way across the halls and utters the words, "Bethlehem is the place! The child is in Bethlehem! All you have to do is find him. Oh, and of course, let me know where he is. Why? So that I too may do him homage."

Death is the homage Herod has in mind.

His lust for power will banish the command of love, in order for him to stay in control. He is most willing to compete directly even with God and with Christ. He is accepting in advance the same deal Satan will offer to Jesus in the desert thirty years later. "You can control the whole world, if you will only fall down and worship me. Help me defeat God." Satan was a power-monger too.

The funny thing is that, for Jesus, "power" is not at all the same thing Herod and Satan are grabbing for. They want to become bigger and bigger, to out-stretch infinity. But his goal is to become less and less, to become transparent, just as love is. Heavy selfish greed cannot demolish this heavenly plan, but it surely can seem to.

To Herod it certainly seems to.

The child's weakness shows what God has in mind as an answer to evil: tender, unfearing openness to love.

In our sinfulness, we scoff at such a plan. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus will never win out, will they? Evil will triumph in the end, won't it? The cross will do what Herod could not, but that Satan could.

Will it?

Christmas is our down-payment on the cross!

### **Giving Summary**

Sunday Offering—December 19 \$4,448.00

**Online Giving** 

\$2,601.35

**Christmas Flowers** 

\$3,341.00

**Attendance:** 374

Other /End of Year Donations:

\$19,000.00

At this time of year, our bulletin publisher requires that we submit our bulletin to them in advance of the normal weekly schedule to accommodate holiday closures and shipping delays. Giving Summaries will be printed in the first available publication after the collection, but may appear delayed when compared to the date of the bulletin.

### Recent/Upcoming Special Collections

1/2 Kentucky Disaster Relief

For ease of accounting, separate checks are preferred for all donations to different collections and purposes, including special collections, Mass intentions, memorials, and donations to different funds e.g. Trust Fund for the Poor, Debt Reduction, etc. Thank you for your help!

### **DONATE** TODAY

### **GIVE ONLINE!**

by clicking on the image on our website www.stmarystarcity.com.

## THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

January 2, Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, 6:00pm Intention of Celebrant

Sunday, 8:30am Helen Ferrari Sunday, 11:00am For the People

Domingo, 1pm Por la familia Manuel Sánchez

| Monday 1/3<br>9:00am<br>6:30pm     | Holy Name of Jesus Intention of Celebrant Intention of Celebrant |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 1/4<br>9:00am              | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton<br>Intention of Celebrant                |
| Wednesday 1/5<br>9:00am<br>12:00pm | St. John Neumann Intention of Celebrant Intention of Celebrant   |
| Thursday 1/6<br>9:00am             | St. André Bessette Intention of Celebrant                        |
| Friday 1/7<br>9:00am               | St. Raymond of Peñafort Intention of Celebrant                   |

In the event of Closing of school due to inclement weather, there will be no Daily Mass or Prayer Service.

\*In the event of a funeral, morning Mass will be cancelled\*

### January 9, Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, 6:00pm Kathy Evanto

Sunday, 8:30am The Barry Kolar Family

Sunday, 11:00am For the People

Domingo, 1pm Por la familia Sánchez Pelayo

Until further notice, Bishop
Brennan asks that all those in
attendance at Mass and any other
meetings, social events, or other
parish gatherings (including events with

food) wear a mask, other than young children under the age of 2.

Thank you for your cooperation in this act of Christian Charity.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

30 minutes prior to each Daily Mass Saturdays from 5-5:40pm as scheduled (Mon-Fri: 8:30am, Mon: 5:45pm, Wed: 11:30am) \*times may change based on any changes to the weekly Mass schedule

If you, or any parishioner you know, are sick or homebound and would like a visit from Fr. John, please contact the Parish Office



St. Mary Church Ruby Read Box, Take a Book, Leave a Book.

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY

### Sunday, January 2—Epiphany of the Lord

No Religious Ed.

**RCIA** 

1-3:00pm Girl Scouts—L/L 1:00pm NA Meeting

Monday, January 3

5:00-6:15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00pm Retreat & Spiritual Life Committee

Meeting—L/L

7-9:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 4

6:30pm NA Meeting

6:30pm Knights of Columbus Mtg

@ Star City KofC Hall

Wednesday, January 5

6:30pm Evangelization Committee Mtg—L/L 7:00pm Catholic Homeschoolers Bible Study

Thursday, January 6

12:00pm Al-Anon—L/L

5:00pm Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal—L/L

Saturday, January 8

5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation

Sunday, January 9—Baptism of the Lord

9:30am Religious Ed.

**RCIA** 

1:00pm NA Meeting

6-8:00pm Middle School Youth



**Thank you** to all those who gave to our Christmas Flowers Fund, in memory or in honor of loved ones, which provides for our lovely Christmas display. Please see pgs. 6-7 for a list of our memorials and honorees.

### **Faith Formation**

Morning Religious Ed Classes will resume on Sunday, January 9 at 9:30am.

Middle School class will meet at 6:00 pm on Sunday, January 9th, High School Class will meet on January 16th.

### **Rate Your Generosity**

Rate yourself on your generosity of Time, Talent, and Treasure for the last month!

(circle one)

SUPPORT OUR





10



### **Disaster Relief Collection**

Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of January

1st and 2nd, 2022, in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the recent natural disasters that have occurred in Kentucky, leaving severe damage and significant loss of life. Donations can also be made at your parish or on the diocesan website at dwc.org/ disasterrelief.

Proceeds from this collection will support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities agencies on the ground, working in the communities affected by the tornadoes.

Please remember in prayer all those who have lost their lives in the wake of these disasters, as well as all those who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water, especially as we prepare for the Christmas Season.

As we hold the victims and first responders in our prayers during these critical days, let us also spend time in prayer and discernment as we prepare for this upcoming collection. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering this horrible loss.



Mass intentions are being accepted for 2022. The suggested donation is \$20 for a weekend, \$10 for a

weekday. Please call the Parish Office if interested, 304-599-3747.

Please note that any Masses cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances such as a global pandemic, inclement weather, or a funeral, will be moved to the next available 'like' date and time e.g., Daily Mass on Tuesday moved to another Tuesday, 8:30 Sunday Mass moved to another 8:30, as available.



We have Hearing Assistance Devices available for use during Mass. If you would like one, please ask an Usher.

**NA Meetings** St. Mary Church, Star City Tuesdays-6:30pm, Sundays-1pm To find other meetings near you, visit https://www.na.org/meetingsearch/

**Al-Anon** (for those affected by someone else's drinking) meets every Thursday at noon at St. Mary Church. Information: call 1-888-425-2666 or WSO@al-anon.org

### **Holy Family Icon Raffle**



### **Congratulations to Terrie Cunningham**, who won our icon raffle!

In total, the raffle raised \$560 for our electrical needs. Thank you to everyone who supported the parish by buying tickets!

St. Ursula Food Pantry needs: \*Coffee, Tea, and **Hot Chocolate** 

Donate your favorite blend to share some warmth with others!

**Baby & Toddler Program needs:** \*Baby Wash & Shampoo



**Donations for St. Ursula Food** Pantry and Outreach may be **placed** in the labeled bins in the church and narthex, or dropped off in the baskets in the CFC entry.



Memorial Donations for Bread and the Tabernacle candle are now being accepted for the year 2022. The requested donation is \$40. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested. 304-599-3747.



Text the word flocknote "starcity" to 84576 **or** connect with us

online at: StMaryStarCity.flocknote.com





Take a breath after the hustle and bustle of the Holidays and Sing your favorite Christmas carols one more time

Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. \$5 Donation, supports Catholic Charities WV

> Featuring Ed DeCosta and the Adult Choir of St. Luke parish under the direction of R.J. Nestor



## Christmas Flowers

### In Memory and in Honor of:



Roslyn Smith The Laurita Family Harry & Emma Lou Claudio The Han Family **Rudy Scudiere** Antoni Nakoneczny **Angie Wronkiewicz** Mary Nakon The Vargo Family Joseph & Helen Hoclar Allen Wise Joe Simons Paul Gutta Alex Bodea, Jr. The Williams Family The Mantini Family The Dominick Claudio Family Carl & Rosalie Price The Nguemgaing Family **Jack Davis** Karen Davis The Wasson Family The Peck Family Pat Griffith The Smith Family Rosaura Pomales Luis Martinez Miguel Sierra Adeonis Castillo The Harper Family Alan Wheeler Sam & Evelyn Costante Lucy Maxwell Glen & Si Wheeler The Costante Family The Pervola Family **Bernie Simons** John Simons Deceased members of the **Koval Family** Deceased members of the Simons Family Vikki Griffith

Judy Main

Angela Scotchel

John Scotchel, Sr.

Frances C. Scotchel The Wasson & Ford Family The Wyant Family Giovanna & Paul Prudnick The Straface Family Arthur J. Liberatore Muriel Ferrell Debbie Ferrell Susan Crynock Kathryn Crynock Mary Sypolt Larry Sypolt Gary Sypolt Ron Cunningham Mary & John Molchan Mr. & Mrs. Albert J. Zeleznik Bernadine King Randy Koscianski Deborah Zygmunt Bryan Belesky The Gocke Family Opal & Pete Fantacci Kathryn & Charles Cyphert **Duncan Stanley Hilling** Michael William Rosier Charles & Winona Arthurs Regina Quesenberry **Evelyn Nelson** Martin A. Chittum Mr. & Mrs. Martin Valentine Dr. Albert Valentine Mr. Alfred Valentine Jake Sutherland Deceased Members of the Rocovich & Sutherland **Families** The Sansone Family The Cavalier & Watkins **Families** Larry R. Lee Guy & Rose Fuscardo Mothers and Fathers of our Family All Deceased Priests John E. & Antoinete Porter

Morris & Mary Wilmoth

Lena Tiano **Tony Tiano** Anthony D. Sellaro Peter & Mathia Bottini Salvador & Emma Gómez Carlos A. Gómez Olive Mae Tiberio Michael Gino Tiberio Carl & Elma Pongratz George & Anna Drvar Tom Fedikovich John & Thelma Paris The Wiesen Family Steve & Florence Lorenze Ginger Lorenze The Snyder Family Jim & Agnes Mediate Rose & Helmuth Auch John & Virginia Straface Deceased members of the **Prete Family** George & Ada Bucklew Andrew & Carol Mihallik Bob & Mary Mockalski Robert Mihallik Michael Jensen Frank Shoaf Darst & William Dyer The Dyer Family Agnes & Clyde Batz Margaret & Charles Seckel John Robert Spears Joe & Erma Wrobleski Melford & Lucy Pyles Joe & Helen Dadich John & Mary Vargo Sy & Virginia Dinardi Michael & Dorothy Tupta Rudy Vesilicky Deceased members of the Natoli-Feola and the Barata -Poppalardo **Families** Jim & Irene DeCarlo Ralph & Sue Sengewalt

Vito T. & Mary F. Esposito



## Christmas Flowers

### In Memory and in Honor of:



J. A. Kyle & E. Eleanor Bush Jacqueline A. Varga The Koloff Family The Strakal Family Deceased members of the

Frederick & Marano Family

The Beresford & DeVito Family

The Parrish Family The Feghali Family Debbie Lattanzi

The John & Rose Sellaro

Family Janet Battin Carole & Robe

Carole & Robert LaDuke Danilo Guanzon

TR & Dolly McDermott

Robert McDermott

Fr. John McDonough Jack & Marie Quade

Mr. & Mrs. William Fredrick

& Son

Mr. & Mrs. George Grove Patricia Mary Keefe Reilly John & Vonnie Hefferin Reeves & Neva Taylor Isadoro & Desolina Gizzi

Anna Mancini Mary Palmer Hugo Dalzot

Mike & Lucy Tarantini
The Martinelli Family
William & Fisa Pride

John & Mary Bajura

Theodora & Anthony Strobel

Michael Banosky

Leo Cocco Betty Cocco Mary Peluchette Abraham Lucci Peter & Opal Fantacci

Charles & Kathryn Cyphert Ed & Patricia Cyphert

The Krishock Family
The Stefanizzi Family

The Scudiere Family The Providenti Family Armando Guariglia Lucy Guariglia Betty Elder Jamma Basile

Frank & Donna Lester

Catherine Lester

Bennie & Maxine Palmer

Carl Anthony Straub

Jim Cyphert

Renée Cyphert Morgan

Roy Bucklew Nicholas DiPetta Virginia DiPetta Bernard J. Folio Kathryn A. Folio

Kathryn V. Folio

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Scotchell

Johnny Scotchell

Robert & Ann Oxendale

Dr. Tom Clark Milan Puskar Dr. William Neal The Joseph Family Anna Mae Lucci

Attilio & Italia Lucci

Michael Lucci Natale Lucci Frank Bidwell Joyce Bidwell

Martin & Michael Derrico

The Radish Family

Angelo & Virginia Derrico

Ann Steele

Joseph Becilla, Sr. Martha Becilla Jay Becilla Luke Becilla

Anna Mae Lucci

Joseph & Elizabeth Barill

Kathy Evanto Anthony Han Gertrude Lee Jong-Hwa Kim Yang-Rae Kang Agnes Mancinelli
Vincent Mancinelli
Pio & Angelina Mancinelli
Kicer & Annie Saab
Blanche Saab
Paul Saab
Cecilia & John Alexander
Joan & Peter Saab
Viola Epifano
Pius Mancinelli
Harry & Josephine Perkins
Richard & Frances Born
Marie F. Born
Anna N. & George Gresko, Jr.
Martha and William

Martha and William
Weishaupt
Anna N. Gresko
George Gresko, Jr.
Mary Margaret & George
Gresko, Sr.

Lewis & Rose Nemeth William & Martha Weishaupt Frances & Richard Born Angela D. Scotchel John Scotchel, Sr. Frances C. Scotchel Tony Sellaro Mr. & Mrs. James McGraw

Mr. & Mrs. John Sellaro, Sr. The Knouse Family

Mr. & Mrs. John Danish





Aim your camera at the flowcode

## Support our parish by making a gift to the Catholic Sharing Appeal

## dwc.org/CSA

### Did you know...?

Everything above 50% of our goal comes back to St. Mary Parish! With 56% of our goal already achieved, every penny given from now on will be given back to us.

The money that we receive from the CSA will go toward improving the HVAC system in the Christian Formation Center, so that all of our classrooms and offices can have functioning heat and air.

### **Safe Environment Reporting**

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

### Will or Estate Planning

Are you thinking of remembering St. Mary Church in your will or estate plans? A bequest through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way of creating a lasting legacy of support for St. Mary Church.
Bequests should be made out to:

The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, or his successors in office," with a specification of the purpose for which the bequest is to be used, e.g. "for the use of St. Mary Parish"

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK January 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15

-16, 21-22

or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

©LPi

### **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** ReportBishopAbuse.org (800) 276-1562

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops, and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. Where a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential. If you have any other kind of complaint about a bishop—such as parish assignments, church closings, or homily contents—please address those directly to your diocesan or eparchial bishop instead. Sexual abuse by a priest, deacon or a staff member or volunteer of the Church should be reported to the Office of Safe Environment for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. So, to be sure you get the help you need, phone numbers and addresses may be found at www.dwc.org under the accountability tab. If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement.

### Sunday, Jan 02, 2022

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### The sanctity of home

"Home is where the heart is" is an ancient proverb. Many folks find their deepest level of satisfaction and fulfillment in family life. But home is also where the *hearth* is: the place to which we come in from the cold to restore ourselves, where we put up our feet, sigh, and relax. Our homes are sacred to us; why not commend them to God? On Epiphany, we're invited to gather with our loved ones to bless the door, walls, and table of our dwelling. Compose your own blessing together or visit the USCCB's Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany for the rite of home blessing.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "The star they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was."

### Monday, Jan 03, 2022

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

### Initial reflections

Do you have anything monogrammed with your initials, perhaps towels or clothing? While monogramming is decorative, it also marks your belongings as yours. Jesus has a monogram too: "IHS," which stands for the first three letters of the Greek spelling of the name of Jesus. Later the monogram was associated with the Latin phrase *lesus Hominum Salvator* (Jesus Humankind's Savior). There is power in the very name of Jesus and so Catholics venerate it. Perhaps you've seen this monogram on altars or vestments. Jesuits use the IHS monogram as the emblem of their society. You can bear his monogram too—by calling on his name and showing to the world that you belong to him.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). "And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him."

### Tuesday, Jan 04, 2022

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

### Fed by the bread of life

Raised Episcopalian, Elizabeth Ann Seton knew about Jesus multiplying loaves. On Sundays, she was a devout communicant at historic Trinity Church on Wall Street. But it wasn't until Elizabeth went to Italy with her children and husband in 1803, attending Mass with Catholic friends, that she was drawn to the Real Presence in the Eucharist. "How happy would we be, if we believed what these dear souls believe," she wrote, "that they possess God in the sacrament, and that He remains in their churches and is carried to them when they are sick!" In honor of Mother Seton, the first U.S-born saint, resolve to receive Communion more often this year.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). "He said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people."

### Wednesday, Jan 05, 2022

MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

### Get to know your neighbors

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint John Neuman, the first Redemptorist priest ordained in the United States and the first male U.S. citizen named a saint. Neumann, who emigrated to the United States from Bohemia as a young man desirous of being a missionary, is revered for his tireless work among immigrants in

the Northeast. He had a talent for understanding people and knowing what would bring them peace and comfort. Seek to emulate this holy man, who one of his fellow bishops observed, "had a solution for every question posed," and an "unruffled composure, which betokened deep humility and perfect self-control. I always regarded him as a saint."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). "If we love one another, God remains in us, and [God's] love is brought to perfection in us."

### Thursday, Jan 06, 2022

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

#### The comeback kid of Québec

Saint André Bessette's remarkable life began when he was born into poverty in 1845. Orphaned by age 12, considered a failure in school, he practiced unskilled trades until his pastor encouraged him to join the Congregation of the Holy Cross. The congregation reluctantly admitted him, concerned about his frail health. Brother André defied expectations, living to age 91 and becoming famous throughout Québec for the many healings people experienced after visiting him in his role as a humble doorkeeper. Why not ask Brother André for his intercession, be it for mental, spiritual, relational, or physical healing?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22 (215). "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

### Friday, Jan 07, 2022

MEMORIAL OF RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT, PRIEST

### Make straight your path

Through its long history, the church has been careful to make a distinction between the canons, or rules, of the church and the laws of the state. The canons, from the Greek *kanon* for "straight," were meant to guide Catholics toward the mission of the church—to keep them on the straight and narrow of faith, so to speak. There are 1,752 canons, many that pertain to all of us. For example, Canon 210: "All the Christian faithful must direct their efforts to lead a holy life and to promote the growth of the church and its continual sanctification, according to their own condition." In honor of the patron saint of canon lawyers, Saint Raymond of Peñafort, do your best to follow the rules of the church and give witness to God's saving love.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). "God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

### Saturday, Jan 08, 2022

SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### Increasing Christ

Tomorrow, the Baptism of the Lord, marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. The days, dates, and seasons of the church's liturgical calendar focus the whole People of God on the same celebrations. During Advent we prepare. In Christmas we welcome. Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. Easter is new life. In Ordinary Time we celebrate the ongoing effects of God's grace. So when "Silent Night" or "We Three Kings" is sung throughout the world, the air fills with the grace generated by God in our hearts. Sing a Christmas hymn today and know that the stars are singing with you.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). "He must increase; I must decrease."

### Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow-a day at a time



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## The Epiphany of the Lord

Lectionary: 20

### Reading I Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,

the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the peoples;
but upon you the LORD shines,
and over you appears his glory.
Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance.
Raise your eyes and look about;
they all gather and come to you:
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you.

the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

### Reading II Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace

that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation.

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.

### Gospel Mt 2:1-12

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."

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled,

and all Jerusalem with him.

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,

He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah:

since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. 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.

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.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,

they departed for their country by another way.

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