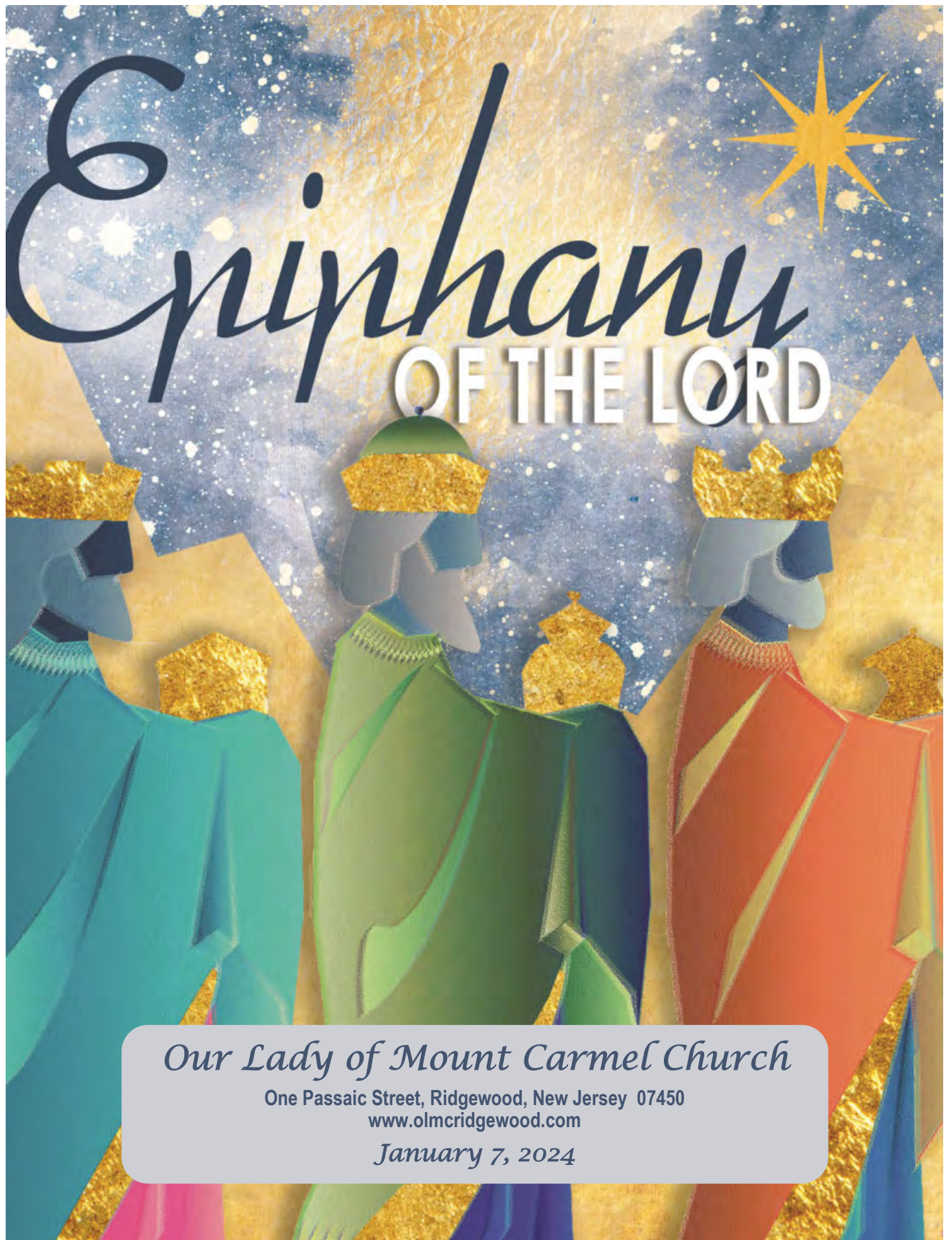




Epiphany OF THE LORD

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

One Passaic Street, Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450
www.olmcridgewood.com

January 7, 2024



PARISH DIRECTORY
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Parish Office: 1 Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-4309

Phone: 201.444.2000 Fax: 201.444.2002

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday—9AM-8PM | Saturday-Sunday—9AM-2PM

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Ex. 202, jvidov@olmcridgewood.com

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Rev. Stephen Toth, Valley Hospital Chaplain

Valley Pastoral Care Office: 201.447.8148

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Ext. 403, nmckenna@olmcridgewood.com

Dear Friends,

On this 1st Sunday of the New Year, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy **New Year**. I hope your holidays were filled with love, joy, celebration and gratitude for your families and friends with whom you celebrated.

This year, the Christmas season, (liturgical, anyway) is almost as short as it was last year. Usually there is a Sunday between Christmas and January 1, which is Holy Family Sunday and we did celebrate that Feast on Sunday, December 31st, with all the confusion that caused about the celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1st, the very next day. The first Sunday after January 1 is celebrated as the Feast of the Epiphany and that is followed by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We are celebrating Epiphany this weekend and the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 8th. So Monday marks the end of the Church's celebration of Christmas and all the Christmas decorations will come down during this coming week. But we will wait until next weekend to give away the plants.

I hope your Christmas was filled with the special experience of the Presence of the newborn Child who brings you peace, and hope for the future, knowing His "enfleshment" is a real guarantee that He walks with us, accompanies us, is by our side in every moment of our lives. The first reading for the Mass on New Year's Day is the famous reading from the Old Testament Book of Numbers. The Lord tells Aaron (Moses' brother) he is to bless the people with these words, **"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace."** (Numbers 6:24-26). We live in an "attention economy," one in which vendors, either service or product, are always trying to get our attention. And we hear that all day long, from so many sources, our televisions, computers, iPads and iPhones. But those words from Numbers tell us something different. They don't tell us to get God's attention—just the opposite. They tell us God is giving us His attention, that His face **shines** upon us and He looks upon us with kindness. What a wonderful image to take with us as we enter this New Year. There is not a moment that goes by that we are not in the Lord's gaze, looking upon us kindly, shining upon us with graciousness. May I suggest that when you awaken each day, you remember that and travel the paths of that day believing it and living by it.

Ending the old year and beginning the new, it's necessary to express thanks for all the blessings that have been in this past year. First is to thank God, the Lord, who has been with us and sustained us in these difficult days. So much discord, so many conflicts, so much violence and yet He never abandons us. I also want to thank all of you, the community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. You came out to celebrate the Lord's "enfleshment" in greater numbers

than since 2019 and it was a wonderful and encouraging vision. The two 4:30 Masses were as crowded as ever.

Finally, I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all those who contributed to our Christmas celebrations, the ushers, the greeters, the Music Ministry, the servers, the readers, the Eucharistic Ministers, at all the Masses, whether in the church or in the auditorium. Even though families were gathering, you generously gave up your time to be here and to serve. Without you, the liturgies could not function. I want to thank those who decorated the church and the auditorium. It's gratifying to hear so many people comment on the beauty of the church and the "mood" it sets to truly celebrate the joy of the season. I also want to thank the crew who set up the manger scene and the "*presepio*" the extensive presentation in the St. Joseph's shrine that tells the whole story of the infancy narrative. It also is gratifying to see so many people stop after every Mass, from the time it goes up to the time it's removed, to remember the fullness of the Christmas story. If I've forgotten any group, I apologize.

It takes many hands (and hearts) to put it all together. To each and every one, including the members of the parish staff—a big THANK YOU for everything you've done in making this Christmas so much more (and beyond) like "Christmases past." Another step forward in the long road from Covid.

Finally, on behalf of the priests of the parish I want to say a word of thanks to all who sent Christmas gifts to the rectory, the cakes, cookies, chocolates, fruits, nuts and libations. It is so generous and kind of you to remember us with these gifts, and often, with words of thankfulness and encouragement. All of them add warmth to our own experience of the joy of the season.

As I mentioned, tomorrow the Christmas season ends and we return to *Ordinary Time*, but may this time never be ordinary because you (and I) know our God is with us

Blessings for the New Year,
Fr. Ron

ANNUAL MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT FRIDAY-SATURDAY—JANUARY 26-27, 2024

PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE! REGISTER NOW!

If your spiritual batteries are in need of a recharge, then this Cornerstone retreat may be God's answer. Registration is now open for our Annual Men's Cornerstone Retreat held in the Parish Center. Use the QR Code here to register now.



Expect to find camaraderie, fellowship and opportunity for renewal in a relaxed environment. This year's event is fast approaching, scheduled two weeks before Super Bowl LVIII. Consider it a gift to yourself.

Questions/More Information
Contact Manny Santos, msm@mikavi.com

STEWARDSHIP

"Brothers and sisters: you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit." St. Paul's words to the Ephesians, part of today's 2nd Reading, remind us that stewardship essentially is for others. For St. Paul, it was for the communities he founded and served. For us, particularly, it is for our community. We are gifted in order to use those gifts to build up the community, which is the local church. The Christian Steward especially uses gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure** for this building up of the community. How do you build God's kingdom?

The parish Stewardship of Treasure last week was \$19,108. For the weekend of 12/24 it was \$14,724. The Stewardship of Treasure for the 5 weekends of December was \$138,679. It was received as follows:

WeShare Online Giving:	\$57,783
In Pew/Mailed to the Rectory:	\$80,896

God bless your continued support of the parish and the work of the Gospel.



A recurring online gift to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is the best way to sustain the mission of this parish all year long.



Please prayerfully consider joining fellow parishioners by supporting Our Lady of Mt. Carmel through online giving. Go to the website or scan this QR code.

Look for the **WeShare** link on our homepage, scan this QR Code, or call 877.316.0260

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT & MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Thursday Evenings—8PM-9PM
Beginning This Week
January 11—March 14

Retreat Day—Saturday, March 16



Lower Level of the School Building

- ◆ Do you see a need for a more Christ-centered marriage?
- ◆ Are you interested in living out the sacrament of marriage more deeply?
- ◆ Are you preparing to enter marriage? If so, this course fulfills the marriage preparation requirement.

This course is open to all couples—both those who are already married and those who are preparing for marriage.

This series fulfills Pre-Cana requirement for marriage.

For more information or to register,
contact Fr. Jakov
jvidov@olmcridgewood.com or 201.444.2000 x202

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Religious Education When Families Gather



January Sessions

Monday, January 8th—7PM-9PM—Chapel
Parents Only Session

Sunday, January 28th—1:45PM-2:45PM—Zoom
Virtual Baking Session

Monday, January 29th—7PM-8PM—Zoom
Virtual Baking Session

Every family in the program must
attend one session per month.

Religious Education Office Phone, 201.-444-0211
Cathy Hunt, chunt@olmcridgewood.com
pmcgarvie@olmcridgewood.com

Jesus & Me Story Time

Bring your child, grandchild or godchild to a fun,
faith-filled story time for
young children ages 2-1/2 to 5.

Saturday January 20th—10:30AM
Parish Center Meeting Room

To register, contact Adriana DeCandia
thedomesticchurch61@gmail.com

Grace Within: A Journal Experience



Tuesday Mornings
Beginning January 16th *
9:15AM-11:30AM
Parish Center Library
***Note Start Date Change**

OLMC mothers—at all stages of motherhood—are invited to join Grace Within: A Journal Experience. Grace Within is a spiritual and personal journey over the course of six Tuesday (January 16—February 27) mornings using the Grace Within Personal Journal. If you are feeling called to find peace in the ordinary during these challenging days, this is your invitation to understand how you can grow spiritually; to seek and know your inner spark of divinity; and to become who God created you to be! Join this small and intimate group, make lasting connections with other moms, and prepare your heart for yourself, and your family life in 2024.

Scan this QR Code to register now!



No meeting February 20.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Aedan Cannon, Edgar Delgado, Durkin McCarthy,
John Morano, James Nardelli, Robert Smith

All families are invited!



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APRIL 13 | MAY 18 | JUNE 8
SATURDAYS—9AM-12NN^H
SCHOOL BUILDING DRIVEWAY

These Food Drives support: Fr. English Food Pantry, Social Services Association, Ridgecrest Senior Living and Healing Meals (fresh produce/food items). Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Frozen casseroles will be collected at these drives as well. Foil pans/lids/recipes will be available the week before at all Masses.

Consider helping our efforts by volunteering to be a driver, bringing collected food to one of the pantries.

THURSDAY EVENING ROSARY
OUR LADY'S CHAPEL—7:30PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!



Join us each Thursday evening in Our Lady's Chapel to pray the rosary in response to our Blessed Mother's request at Fatima for a devotion to the Rosary for the conversion of Russia and to stop war. All are welcome!



PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION (PEA)

**CHAPEL IS OPEN 24/7
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Wishing all OLMC parishioners
a holy and abundant year 2024!

Jesus is God of love, mercy and divine providence. Come to him at any time. The Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration chapel is open 24hours a day, 7 days a week even through the night and yes - even during this Christmas season. Come to Him. Praise Him. Thank Him, Talk to Him. TRUST HIM. Pray for a holy and abundant year 2024.

Stop by the chapel at any time or better yet, sign up for an hour that is good for you - one hour once a week, every week. Let this be your New Year's resolution. This is an effective and fruitful spiritual exercise. Your holy hour will open up many doors for you, for your loved ones, for the parish and for the world. Be a part of this perpetual vigil. So enriching personally, emotionally, socially and spiritually. This silence with God in prayer is an exercise that will lead us and others to eternal life.

Mark your calendar! Sunday, February 25, 2024

All are welcome to join us in the Parish Center for a Parish Communion Breakfast immediately following the 11AM Mass Sponsored by OLMC Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

SCHEDULED ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Sundays: 9-10AM, Tuesdays: 2-3AM; Thursday: 3-4PM

Fridays: 4-5PM, Saturdays: 6-7PM

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com



Please be mindful that inclement weather may require us to close the Adoration Chapel until all ice and snow are cleared.

Always check the homepage of our website and our Facebook page for any Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Closures



**Paramus Catholic High School
425 Paramus Road, Paramus, New Jersey**

YCP North NJ will be hosting the **FIRST of our Executive Panel Discussions (EPD)**, which are events focused on promoting conversation about living virtuously in the workplace. Three panelists lead the discussion about a particular virtue and what it means to practice that virtue in daily life. This month we invite the NJ Order of Malta to discuss the virtue of Charity in the Workplace. At the end of the panel, there will be time for Q&A. Attendees enjoy complimentary drinks and appetizers and have a chance to network before and after the evening's discussion. **Event is FREE but please RSVP here: bit.ly/jan24epd**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Jan. 7	1:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal (PCB) 1:30PM RCIA (MR) 2:15PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PCA) 4:30PM Spanish>English Class (Library) 5:00PM Jr. High 7C (MR) 7:30PM Jr. High 7D (MR)
Mon. Jan. 8	7:30PM Curtis/Fitzgerald Conf. Group (YCA) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM WFG Parents Only Session (MR)
Tue. Jan. 9	3:45PM Jr. High 8A (PC) 4:00PM Religious Education (Gym) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church) 7:00PM ChristLife (PC) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed. Jan.10	3:45PM Jr. High 8B (PC) 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Spanish Choir Rehearsal (Church) 7:15PM WCST Team 23 (MR) 7:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Thur. Jan. 11	5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 8:00PM Pre-Caná (NCW-A)
Fri. Jan.. 12	9:30AM MOMs SALT 5:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
Sat. Jan. 13	8:30AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym) 10:00AM Spanish Bible Study (SMR) 11:00AM First Penance (Church) 12:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (CW)

Ridgewood Health Department News

- ♦ If someone you know is looking for assistance, call the Health Department at 201.670.5500 ext. 2312 or 2313. Amongst other services, there is now a social worker available.
- ♦ NJ 211 is an information and referral service that connects people in need with services that can help. Visit <https://nj211.org> for more information
- ♦ If someone you know needs food assistance, the Community Food Bank has a list of local food pantries. Go to cfbnj.org and search by zip code.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Joan Donegan Alsa, Gilbert Badillo, Frederick Bruno, Art Carpenter, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Joan D'Gerolamo, Agnes Duffy, Kenneth Gershbort, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Patricia Haug, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Joseph Letiza, Anna Lobascio, Joel Lustberg, Cambell McArthur, Margaret Peak, Cathy Ricciuto, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Don Strittmatter, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Dennis Tomala, Walter John Zelop, Jr.

Parishioners may call the Rectory with the name of a family member who is sick to have them included in our prayers.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



TODAY'S READINGS

Monday, Jan. 8 *The Baptism of the Lord*

- + 6:30AM **For All the Souls in Purgatory**
req Stefano & Domenica Bussanich
- + 8:30AM **Gerald Ciraulo**
req Carol & Frank Famularo
- +12:00NN **Geoconda Guevara**
req Her Family

Tuesday, Jan. 9

- + 6:30AM **For All the Souls in Purgatory**
req Stefano & Domenica Bussanich
- + 8:30AM **Norman Delaney**
req The Delaney Family
- +12:00NN **Katrina Martel Cockerham**
req Elvira & Erik Broekhuizen

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- + 6:30AM **Jo Delaney**
req The Delaney Family
- + 8:30AM **Alejandra Caceres**
req The McClure Family
- +12:00NN **James Skau**
req Anne & George Skau

Thursday, Jan. 11

- + 6:30AM **Stephen Sawula**
req His 6:30AM Daily Mass Friends
- + 8:30AM **Lori Mayer**
req Henry Krumrei
- +12:00NN **Jim Ryan**
req Peggy Woods

Friday, Jan. 12

- + 6:30AM **John Jordan**
req Rebecca & John Jordan
- + 8:30AM **Michael G. Hughes**
req The Dunworth Family
- +12:00NN **Alfreda & Cipriano Diola**
req The Veloso Family

Saturday, Jan. 13 *Saint Hilary,*

- Bishop and Doctor of the Church*
- + 8:30AM **Angela Cevasco**
req Her Family
- + 5:30PM **Christopher, Salvatore & Carol D'Amico**
req The D'Amico Family

Sunday, Jan. 14 *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

- + 8:00AM **Mario Claudio**
req Marie Claudio
- + 9:30AM **Patricia Engel**
req Her Daughter
- 11:00AM **For the People of the Parish**
- 12:30PM **Special Intention of**
Adriana Michelle Mazzola
req Mitch & Judy Santlofer
- + 3:00PM **Leopoldo Antonio DiMartino**
req Alicia & Leopoldo DiMartino
- + 6:30PM **Mario Basich**
req Domenick & Crissy Morin

1. Isaiah 60:1-6

The closing oracles of Isaiah celebrate the restoration of Jerusalem. Newly reconciled with God and recently returned from the darkness of exile in Babylon, the people, represented as Jerusalem, are invited to rise from their feet and witness all the wonderful things God has in store for them. The darkness and thick clouds of the people's past are replaced by light. And the nation itself becomes that for the nations, guiding them along the path that leads to God. In thanksgiving for this priceless lesson in faith that Jerusalem offers them, the nations bring great riches to the holy city.

2. Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

As a steward, Paul understands that all that God has revealed to him was to be passed on to others. Essential to this mission is the realization of the universality of God's loving and saving concerns for all humankind. Though the universal character of God's plan was envisioned and encouraged by the prophets (as in Isaiah in the 1st reading), the provincialism that narrowed the vision was a major barrier for the Chosen People. Now, however, God has made it clear that all enjoy the Promise.

3. Matthew 2:1-12

The Matthean theme of Jesus' rejection by Israel, but acceptance by the gentile world is prefigured in this infancy narrative. Not only do the gifts portend Jesus' kingship (gold), his priestly ministry (frankincense) and his sacrificial death (myrrh), they prefigure the announcement and acceptance of the message of universal salvation by the gentiles, over and above its acceptance by the Chosen People. While the kings represent this gentile world, Herod, the priests and scribes and all Jerusalem represent those Jews, considerable in number, who will reject Jesus. It is a clash of kingdoms, but the Kingdom of God will triumph.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. Have you ever been moved to action by a star, a vision, an inner voice? When? What made the difference?
2. To whom would you go a great distance to see (e.g. a rock star, a political leader, a religious leader)? Why?
3. Matthew's story of the Epiphany is about the message that is now open and available to "outsiders." Whom do you treat as outsiders? Does this Gospel say anything to you about that?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

(always subject to change)

Sat.	1/13	5:30PM	Fr. Ron
Sun.	1/14	8:00AM	Fr. Frank
		9:30AM	Fr. Jakov
		11:00AM	Fr. Frank
		12:30PM	Fr. Jakov
		3:00PM	Fr. Betancourt
		6:30PM	Fr. Ron

Late changes appear on the website after 12:00NN on the Saturday of that weekend.



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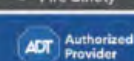


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