

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

Matthew 2:2



St. Ann's Church

652 Main Street, PO Box 488, North Oxford, MA 01537

Rectory # 508-987-8892

To help us to keep in touch with you please email us at stannsrectory@hotmail.com

Please check out our website for live streamed Masses www.stannschurch.us

Please send prayer requests to StAnnParishPrayerline@hotmail.com

Fr. Michael Lavalley, Pastor

Deacon James Denning (Retired)

Mary Lajoie, Administrative Assistant

Peggy Moynahan, Religious Education Secretary

Dennis O'Brien, Maintenance Director

CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be heard in the parish hall on Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:30 pm or by appointment.

Change in Mass schedule beginning this weekend.

Our new Mass schedule is Saturday, Mass 4:00 pm & Sunday, Mass 10:00 am

(The 4:00 pm Mass is live streamed directly to our website www.stannschurch.us)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Friends in Christ,

The word 'epiphany' means 'manifestation' and this Sunday's celebration of Epiphany is the celebration of Christ's manifestation as the one, true God to all the nations of the world. The three Magi, or wise men, who visited the Baby Jesus in Bethlehem, were from Gentile nations outside of Israel. Yet, they showed Jesus faith, reverence, awe and love.

Epiphany brings to mind a slogan some of you may have heard which is "Wise Men Still Seek Him." This slogan reflects the fact that the journey of the wise men to Jesus is like the journey of faith each Christian makes in his or her lifetime. Like the wise men who were guided by a star, we are guided by Jesus, Light of The World, towards our goal of eternal life. The wise men's journey to Bethlehem took considerable trust, courage, risk and determination. Our journey of faith is much the same.

During these pandemic times, our faith may be challenged by great fear and adversities, frustrations and losses. We may be tempted to give in to discouragement and stop trying to grow in our friendship with God. Yet, it is precisely now that the journey of the wise men to Bethlehem must inspire us. They faithfully persevered on their trip and, at the end, were rewarded with meeting Christ face to face. The end-result of their sojourn was fulfillment and joy.

May this also be true of us. As we celebrate the Epiphany, may we still, wisely "Seek Him" with fervor and love.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael

50/25/25 CLUB-2021

\$10.00 per Membership

2 WINNERS 50% to Parish 25%
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All proceeds will benefit

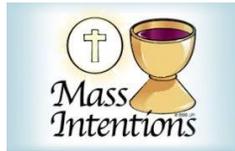
St. Ann's Parish

Drawing: February 6, 2021

Parish Fundraiser 2021

Two coupons will be mailed to all parishioners on December 30, 2020. To participate, please fill out the form on the bottom of the coupons and make a check payable to St. Ann's Parish. The drawing will take place on February 6, 2021.

Please join us in this parish fundraiser instituted to help the parish through these pandemic times.



- Saturday Jan. 2** 4:00 pm Theresa Modzelewski, birthday remembrance, requested by her daughter Theresa
- Sunday, Jan. 3** 10:00 am Ann Beesley, requested by the family.
- Monday, Jan. 4** 8:30am For the health and well being of Paul & Joan McMaster.
- Tuesday, Jan. 5** 8:30 am All Souls Intentions of Howard & Andrea Holbrook.
- Wed., Jan. 6** 8:30 am All Souls Intentions of Mr & Mrs Daniel Viel.
- Thursday, Jan. 7** 8:30 am All Souls Intentions of Mr & Mrs Roger Harty.
- Saturday, Jan. 9** 4:00 pm Joe Topalian, requested by Deb Cashman.
- Sunday, Jan. 10** 10:00 am Muriel Dumais King, requested by David Dumais.

Offertory for Dec. 23 through December 30

Offertory	\$4,005.00
Online Giving	\$ 360.00
Children's offering	\$ 4.00
Maintenance	\$ 80.00
Fuel	\$ 95.00
Other	\$ 69.00
Total	\$ 4,613.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 1,701.00
SVDP	\$ 70.00



Announcements

Our Tuesday evening Rosary group will be meeting weekly from 6-6:30 PM. Join us to pray for the needs of the Church, world, nation and community. All are welcome!

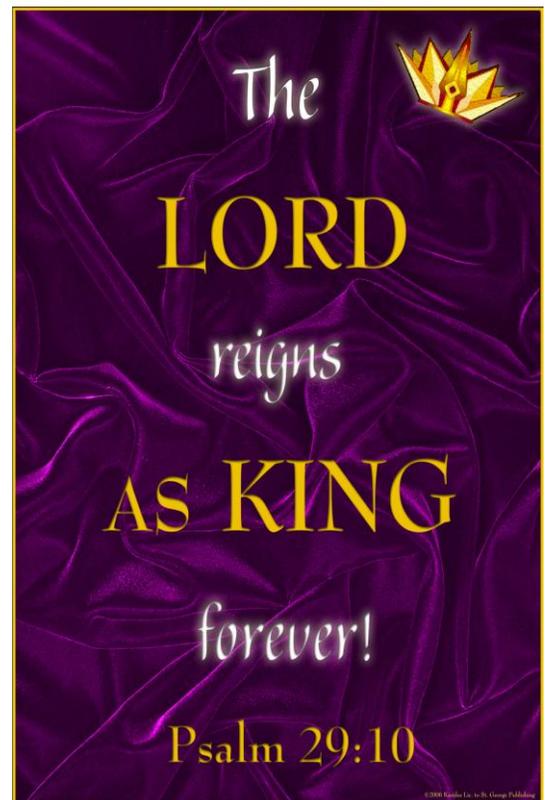
- Office Hours at the Rectory are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9-12.
- Fr. Michael will be available to meet with parishioners in the parish hall at this time.



If you are a parishioner and are in need of assistance, please call #508- 987-8892 and leave a message on the SVDP private line and someone from the SVDP will return your call. Maybe you have lost your job and are behind on your utilities or can't afford to have oil delivered. We can help. We also can point you in the direction of other resources that are available.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2021

SUNDAY Jan. 3	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
MONDAY Jan. 4	1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
TUESDAY Jan. 5	1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
WEDNESDAY Jan. 6	1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
THURSDAY Jan. 7	1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
FRIDAY Jan. 8	1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
SATURDAY Jan. 9	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
SUNDAY Jan. 10	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

This week: Monday, January 4, 2021. Grades 1-3 and Confirmation Class. Parents who have concerns regarding their child's health or well-being during the pandemic and about their child's participation in religious education on-site this year should contact Peggy Moynahan at the religious education office 1-508-987-8892.

The Epiphany of the Lord

READING 1IS 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM..... PS 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

READING 2EPH 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.

ALLELUIAMT 2:2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPELMT 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.



**ST. PAUL CENTER
FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**

By Dr. Scott Hahn
Newborn King

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Today the child born on Christmas is revealed to be the long-awaited king of the Jews.

As the priests and scribes interpret the prophecies in today's Gospel, he is the ruler expected from the line of King David, whose greatness is to reach to the ends of the earth (see Micah 5:1-3; 2 Samuel 5:2).

Jesus is found with His mother, as David's son, Solomon, was enthroned alongside his Queen Mother (see 1 Kings 2:19). And the magi come to pay Him tribute, as once kings and queens came to Solomon (see 1 Kings 10:2, 25).

His coming evokes promises that extend back to Israel's beginnings.

Centuries before, an evil king seeking to destroy Moses and the Israelites had summoned Balaam, who came from the East with two servants. But Balaam refused to curse Israel, and instead prophesied that a star and royal staff would arise out of Israel and be exalted above all the nations (see Numbers 22:21; 23:7; 24:7,17).

This is the star the three magi follow. And like Balaam, they too, refuse to be tangled in an evil king's scheme. Their pilgrimage is a sign - that the prophecies in today's First Reading and Psalm are being fulfilled. They come from afar, guided by God's light, bearing the wealth of nations, to praise Israel's God.

We celebrate today our own entrance into the family of God, and the fulfillment of God's plan that all nations be united with Israel as co-heirs to His Fatherly blessings, as Paul reveals in today's Epistle.

We too, must be guided by the root of David, the bright morning star (see Revelation 22:16), and the light of the world (see Isaiah 42:6; John 8:12).

As the magi adored Him in the manger, let us renew our vow to serve Him, placing our gifts - our intentions and talents - on the altar in this Eucharist. We must offer to Him our very lives in thanksgiving. No lesser gift will suffice for this newborn King.

A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
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