

St. Philip the Apostle

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In Memoriam 1927-2022



Pope 2005-2013

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Rest in Peace

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 08, 2023

A Note from the Pastor

Happy Epiphany!

Today's solemnity, commemorating the visit of the magi to the Christ child, was a major feast in the early centuries of Christianity, even overshadowing Christmas. Originally the nativity, epiphany and baptism of Jesus were celebrated together, but over the centuries various traditions and rituals developed, separating them into individual feasts. Remember, the oldest Christian feast is Easter, which in a way is celebrated every Sunday as we gather around the table of the Risen Lord and listen to God's word and share from the Eucharistic table. It is significant that the oldest gospel, Mark, does not contain any stories about Jesus' birth or early life. It is only in Matthew and Luke that we find a number of diverse stories.



One of the most secluded places in Christianity is St Catherine's Monastery in Egypt, on the Sinai Peninsula. Dating back to the third century, the monastery is the oldest one in existence. Located on the traditional spot where Moses received the Ten Commandments, it is normally referred to as Mount Sinai, the mountain of God. The monastery contains one of the most valuable collections of early Christian art. I was fortunate to have visited there years ago on a pilgrimage to Israel. As one who loves eastern icons, I was amazed at their collection of both manuscripts (including one of the oldest of the Bible, from the fourth century) and icons.

Surprisingly the site also contains a mosque, a sign of the good relations between the monks and the Arab Bedouins who occupied the area. While many Christian places were destroyed over the centuries during battles between Christians and Muslims, St Catherine's was spared. One reason for this is that the monks had artwork depicting the three magi in Persian dress, coming to greet the Christ Child. Persia was an Arab, and later Muslim nation. This was enough to convince the Muslims that the monks were not a threat.



Many traditions developed around these mysterious figures who represent the non-Jewish world, to whom the Messiah was revealed. By the sixth century the magi, of no specific number in the gospel, became three kings and in the ninth century they were given various names. Legend also says that they converted to Christianity and were martyred in their old age.

As nice as these stories are, what we are called to focus on is the manifestation of the Christ child to the whole world. His star led them to find the baby Jesus and they presented their gifts to him in adoration. A cathedral in Cologne, Germany claims to have their relics, but we can never be sure. What we can be sure of is that in Jesus God became human and embraced us out of love, giving us a share in the eternal life of God.

Happy Epiphany and a continued Happy Christmas!

In the Lord's Love,
Fr Bruce

Quotable Quotes

"Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body."

St Peter Chrysologus

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Mass Intentions for the Week

- **Saturday January 7th**
7:00 am For Our Benefactors
8:30 am † Joseph Bonanno
5:30 pm † John Donahue
- **Sunday January 8th**
The Epiphany of the Lord
7:00 am † John Larkin
8:30 am † Immacolata Columbo-O'Brien
10:00 am † Vincent Pellegrino
12:00 pm For the People
- **Monday January 9th**
The Baptism of the Lord
7:00 am † Antonio Dangelo
8:30 am † Marie Grande
- **Tuesday January 10th**
7:00 am Dorthy Fisher - Happy 100th Birthday
8:30 am † Marie Kenny
- **Wednesday January 11th**
7:00 am † Charles Hofsaes
8:30 am † Norbert & Michael Small
- **Thursday January 12th**
7:00 am † Barbara Conklin
8:30 am Elizabeth Clifford
- **Friday January 13th**
7:00 am † Mimi Bajakian
8:30 am † Christy Collichio
- **Saturday January 14th**
7:00 am † Carmen Diaz
8:30 am † Victoria Murphy
5:30 pm For the People
- **Sunday January 15th**
7:00 am † Charles Sclafani
8:30 am † George Sestanovich
10:00 am † Edward Donofrio
12:00 pm † Margaret Borsella

Memorials for January

- Sanctuary Candle** † Steve Liszewski
by Kim Carroll
- Wine & Hosts** † Basil Pizzuto
by St. Philip Choir
- St. Therese** † Robert Myerjack
by Jessica Davidson
- **Holy Family, St. Jude, St. Elizabeth, & St. Anthony**
are still available for the month of January.

Readings for the Week

- Monday** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38;
Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17
- Tuesday** Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-7, 8-9;
Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday** Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9;
Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday** Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11;
Mk 1:40-45
- Friday** Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-7, 8;
Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday** Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15;
Mk 2:13-17
- Sunday** Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10;
1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34



Please Pray for the Deceased

Harry Auffinger
Stephen Sente & Kim Hung Le



Betty Agnello, Ross Alfieri, Eric Angeles, Ken Bray, Pat Cullen, Nancy Lyden, Marilyn McPartland, Don Price, Henry Wortche.

(This list will be updated monthly please call the rectory if names need to be added or removed)

✠ Epiphany on Sunday

ON MANY calendars, Epiphany falls on January 6, but the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates it on whatever date Sunday falls during the week of January 2.

Epiphany means “manifestation,” and it celebrates the day that the infant Jesus revealed his divinity to the Magi. Traditionally, this event is connected with two others from the Gospels: the Baptism of Jesus and the Wedding at Cana. In all these events, the mystery of Christ became more manifest. The Magi, coming from the East, signify that gentile nations—not just Jewish nations—were coming to recognize Jesus as the savior of the world.

The Bible does not indicate on what day the magi visited—nor, for that matter, on what day Jesus was born. January 6 was probably chosen for this observance as an alternative for early Christians living in a culture where pagans already commemorated the birth of a sun god on the same day.

The day, the twelfth day of Christmas, gave rise to a host of customs, as well as a popular Christmas carol.

The biblical event is so important that the Catholic Church lists Epiphany among the solemnities that may be designated holydays of obligation. Episcopal conferences determine local holydays, and in the United States, January 6 was never included. In any country where Epiphany is not a holyday of obligation, the observance moves to a Sunday so that it may be celebrated by the entire Catholic community.

The transfer of Epiphany to a Sunday has the disadvantage of dividing the celebration among various Christian Churches of the world, but the advantage of helping the entire Catholic community proclaim and celebrate the meaning of coming of Christ.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020
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Written by Paul Turner.

First Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6
Second Reading	Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12

Today’s reading from Isaiah is an obvious fit with the gospel reading. The magi represent the nations of the world coming to greet the “newborn king of the Jews (Mt 2:2). It is easy to understand how early Christians could see their visitation as a fulfillment of the text in Isaiah. Our prophet envisions a time when Zion will rejoice for, “the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you” (60:1). The gifts of “gold and frankincense” (1:6), carried from Sheba (v.6), are two of the three offerings presented by the magi. For Matthew and his church, God’s promises, fulfilled for Jerusalem centuries earlier, are being fulfilled once again in Jesus.

In Ephesians we hear of the “mystery made known to me by revelation” (3:3) concerning God’s gift of salvation offered to the Gentiles. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, encourages his audience to persevere in their faith. God has called them to share in the promises made to Abraham as well. They are “coheirs...and copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus” (v.6).

There is a marked contrast between Herod and the magi in today’s gospel. Herod, king of the Jews, consults his “chief priests and... scribes” to discover the expected place “where the Messiah was to be born” (v.4) in order to assist the magi. The Hebrew Scriptures point to “Bethlehem of Judea” (v.5). Based on this information and following the star the magi arrive at “the place where the child was” (v.9). They respond with joy when they discover the child and they present him with gifts fit for a king. Herod, on the other hand, who needs no star to lead him to the Messiah, is “greatly troubled” (v.3) by the news of Jesus’ birth and seeks to have him eliminated. His response to the birth of Jesus reminds us that even the Prince of Peace is sometimes greeted with violence.

For reflection: Do I strive to walk in God’s light? Do I, like the magi, sometimes see God’s presence in the world around me?

Respect Life Ministries

St Vincent de Paul



Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

Thanks



for getting vaccinated and boosted!

Monthly Food Drive



Next weekend is our monthly food drive to support the Helping Hands food pantry at Sacred Heart. Paper bags with a list of items currently needed are available in the rear of the church. Please take one and return it with your food donation next weekend. Last month we were able to donate 37 bags of food to help those in need. Thank you all who have helped! A special Thank You to Mazzer Plumbing and HVAC for helping to collect food for those in need during the holidays.

OREMUS Ministry: Let Us Pray

St Philip's Oremus Ministry consists of parishioners who volunteer to pray for individuals with acute needs such as serious illness or death. The word "Oremus" is the Latin word that means "let us pray." Our "PRAYERS" are contacted by e-mail when we receive a prayer request. If you know of someone who needs prayer or if you would like to take part in this ministry, please e-mail: prayers@stphilipsb.org



Living Out the Gospel

Stewardship

Epiphany of the Lord

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

This Weekend's Second Collection



...is the monthly Archdiocesan Assessment Collection. As a part of the Archdiocese of Newark we are required to pay an assessment of 14% of our offertory to the Archdiocese to support the work of the Church of Newark. This collection helps us pay this amount and is not included in the amount assessed. Thanks for your continued support of this collection.

Collections of the Week



	2022	2021
December 25th, 2022		\$ 3,559.00
Faith Direct Avg. Weekly		\$ 2,334.50
Total Weekly Collection		\$ 5,893.50
Christmas Flowers	\$ 2,236.00	\$ 1,808.00
Faith Direct Christmas Flowers	\$ 435.00	\$ 498.00
Total Christmas Flowers	\$ 2,671.00	\$ 2,306.00
Christmas Collection	\$ 18,446.00	\$ 21,323.00
Faith Direct Christmas Collection	\$ 4,718.00	\$ 3,608.00
Total Christmas Collection	\$ 23,164.00	\$ 24,931.00
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 215.00	\$ 174.00

Thank you for the continued support of our church.

The Gift You Have Received, Give As Gift

Nurture Your Faith

DAILY MASS

Each day a small group gathers for daily Mass at 7:00 and 8:30am. Some are retired, others are still working. But they come together to feed on God's word and to be united in Holy Communion. Please consider making weekday Mass part of your day, even if only once a week. It will be a source of blessing for you and the parish.



BIBLE STUDIES



Make a resolution to spend time reading the Bible on a regular basis in this New Year. God has a word for you. Consider joining one of our two weekly Bible studies. Contact the Main Office.

The Wednesday Night Bible Study will be starting again on January 11th. We will pick back up studying the Book of Revelations. We will meet at 7:00pm in the Chapel. The cost of the materials is \$30. You can sign up at the Hospitality Table or by calling main office.



Ladies Annual Weekend Retreat –

March 10-12, 2023. We have been advised by St. Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, NJ that they are again holding weekend retreats. If you are interested in a quiet weekend away for prayer and reflection, please consider joining us. For more information, please call Rosemary at 201-794-0488 or visit their website at www.sanalfonsoretreats.org

Cost of weekend is \$285.00

Lord, I Believe, Increase My Faith!

Parish News & Activities

Candles at St. Philip's

The hosts, wine, Holy Family candle, Sanctuary candle and the candles at the shrines of St. Jude, St. Elizabeth, St. Anthony and St. Therese are open for many months throughout the year. If you would like to offer these in memory of a loved one or for the intentions of someone, please call the rectory office.



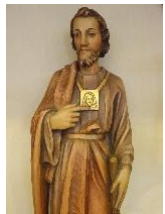
Sanctuary Candle at the tabernacle is to remind us of the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Holy Family is the ultimate role model for families. Let them intercede for you.



St. Elizabeth is the patron saint of Catholic schools and grief.

St. Jude is the patron saint of hope and impossible causes



St. Anthony is the patron saint of the elderly, fishermen, the poor & the finder of lost articles.

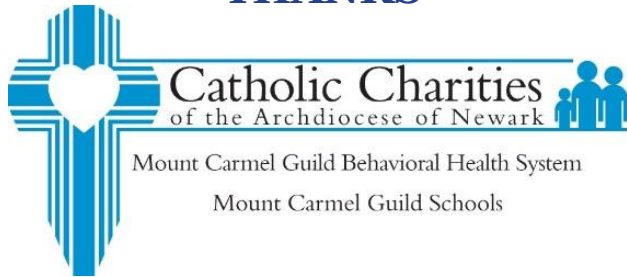
St. Therese is the patron saint of sick people, florists, aviators & priests.



Weekly Offertory Envelopes

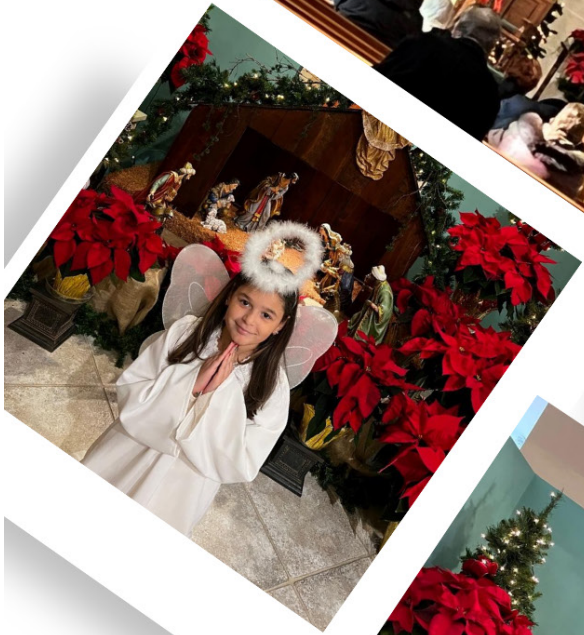
Weekly Offertory Books for all parishioners who contribute to the parish using envelopes are in the back of the Church. Please stop by at the end of Mass & pick up your offertory envelopes. A member of our hospitality team will be glad to assist you.

ACCOUNTABILITY WITH HEARTFELT THANKS



Catholic Charities received \$831 as a result of your generosity to our Donation Bin(s) at your location from June 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022. These funds combined with monies from other parishes in a similar program throughout the Archdiocese enabled Catholic Charities to show the compassion of Christ through 79,566 mental health services provided to 3,768 people (FY 21/22). Thank you for being our partner and enabling us to bring Christ's love to the most vulnerable in our society.





CHRISTMAS
masses



Parish News & Activities

Mass Schedule



Sunday Mass Schedule

5:30 PM (Saturday Evening)
7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Weekdays & Saturdays

7:00 AM & 8:30 AM



Baptism. Celebrated on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Call the rectory office to schedule your child's baptism.

Marriages. To be scheduled at least 12 months in advance. To plan the Sacrament of Marriage, please contact one of the parish priests.

Anointing of the Sick. If you would like to invite one of our priests to visit and pray with you or a loved one please call the rectory.

Reconciliation. Every Saturday at 4:30 PM before Mass. Private Reconciliation by appointment, call the rectory.

Devotions. Recitation of Rosary is daily after 8:30 AM Mass. Miraculous Medal Novena on Saturdays after 8:30 AM Mass.

Parish Contact Information

Pastor Parochial Vicar

Rev. Bruce Janiga
Rev. Marek Bokota

Rectory Office

Eileen Green, Office Manager
201 843 1888
201 368 9161 (Fax)
ourparish@stphilipsb.org
www.stphilipsb.org

Music Ministry

Francesca Kubian, Adult Choir
Barbar Weiner, Children's Choir

Religious Education & RCLA

Peter K O'Brien M. Div., Director
Elaine Mogerman, Secretary
201 843 2240
reled@stphilipsb.org

God's Special Children Rel. Ed

Monica Maniscalco, M. Ed, Dir.
917 992 7904
Instruction for Special Needs Children

Trustees

Dr. Richard Filipek
Camille Tritto



The Baptism of Jesus

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:13-17



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GALILEE	HEAVEN	VOICE	LOVE	JESUS
OPENED	DOVE	JOHN	PLEASED	SON
JORDAN	WATER	FULFILL	BAPTIZED	SPIRIT