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FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“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.”

Mt. 2:10-11



Today's painting (part of an altarpiece for a chapel in Florence) loosely depicts the event described in today's gospel. Gentile da Fabriano, a Renaissance artist, elaborates upon the story given to us in the gospel. He captures the moment when Christ was revealed to the world, as detailed in the story of the three kings (magi).

In the foreground, the oldest king has removed his crown, placed it on the ground, and kneels on all fours to kiss the infant Christ's foot to show reverence. The next eldest of the magi is removing his crown preparing to do the same, while the youngest waits his turn. Their famous gifts are symbols of Christ's identity: the gold represents his kingship, the frankincense represents his divinity, and the myrrh represents his humanity and death, and they are all presented in ornate gold containers. Gentile also depicts a large group of attendants who are following the three magi, most of whom are apparently unaware of what is happening and appear quite distracted. One way to interpret this representation is to imagine the chaotic and distracted state of the world in which our redeemer entered to set our path straight

GATHER HYMNAL 1009



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 6

4:00pm **Mary & Francis Black & Anthony & Ruth Leo**
by the Black family
6:00pm **Spanish Mass**

Sunday, January 7

7:30am **Ernest & Alice Jalbert**
by Savoie family
9:00am **Claude Papp**
by Nancy Papp & family
11:00am **Edwin Valis, Jr.**
by his family

Monday, January 8

9:00am **Doreen Lomasney**
by Julie & Bruce Szczepankiewicz

Tuesday, January 9

9:00am **William Pomerhn**
by Julie & Bruce Szczepankiewicz

Wednesday, January 10

9:00am **Patricia Horrigan DeLorenzo**
by Pat & Paul Horrigan

Thursday, January 11

9:00am **Jeff Duncan**
by family

Friday, January 12

9:00am **Catherine Rouse**
by Courtney Rouse & family

Saturday, January 13

4:00pm **Bernard Bouvier**
by his family
6:00pm **Spanish Mass**

Sunday, January 14

7:30am **Claude Papp**
by Nancy Papp & family
9:00am **Vilma & Bill Henderson**
by Lonardo family
11:00am **Daniel Rheume**
by Nancy Papp & family

We invite you to pray
the Rosary everyday after
the 9am weekday Mass
Monday through Friday

Please Pray for...

Susan Bailey, Chloe Nascimento, Jonathan Tomashefsky,
Brian Howland, Michael LeBlanc, Mary Mahan, Becky Rawson
Bev Longime, James Wright, Evelyn Croteau, Lynn St. Jean
Annabelle Duvane, Shirley DePalma, Agnes Limberger, Zachary Collins,
Kupaa Keiley, Tiffany Kelley, Margie Morcone, Sharon Beaulieu,
Nick Johnson, William Fargelli, Stephen & Kimberly Bankcroft, Toby Claufon,
Joe Smith, Dawn Haight, Carol Aloisi, Teresa Putnam, Carmelia Potenti,
Charles Arkle, Leanne McCann, Ellie Carlson, Jane Burke, Hayleigh Scott,
Kellan Keough, Dorothy Clinton, Sr. Pamela Philbin, Karen Mooney,
Sarah McMenemy, Kristine Ann Jackson, Helen Galica, Erik Olsen, Vicki Foley,
Brendon Crowley, Richard Kane, Grace Roche, Jack Curtin, Jim Bennett,
John Lynch, Kathleen Farrar, Kirolos Gergis, Gregg Merloni, Tome Valadao,
Gene Buffo, Christine, Patrick, Robert & Coutinho family
Maryann Bisco, Susan Garry, Melvin Boucher, T.J. Bautz, Joan Fallon,
Edward Hubbell, Nancy Camp, David Perry, John Durnan, Linda Darby,
Annie Mason, Nancy Santory, Laconya Mobley, Maria Matejko,
Gary Wilson, Jr., Debbie Giroux, Kevin & Donna Brennan, Luz Chavez,
Carlene Beck, Joel Rivera, Mary Payant, James Thomas, Christina Narensky,
Ann Martin, Michael Berthuime, Trisha Suzi, Norman Beland,
Sofia Shahin, Sarah Cox, Hailie McLatchey, Barbara Auger, Barbara Barnes,
George Cabana, Beverly Taylor, Jeanne Amendola, Jack Walker, Daniel Baker
Rebecca Coax, Robert Trant, Michael McAndless, Michael Del Pozzo,
Joan Sanders, David Sawyer, Madison Knopf, Claire Kennedy, Susanne Ollman,
Frank Sannelli, Pat & John Lusek, Michael Zancewicz, Kristy Cautello,
Judy Melfa, Neil Kenny, Joseph Malzone, Lois Kerbel, Michael Turpin,
Elise Ollman-Kahle, Patricia Amorelli, Connor Blaney, Debbie Krikler,
Demetrius Mobley, Gary Shults, Erin Magrane, George Beecher

**Let us remember to pray for all the men and women who are
over seas in harm's way.**

We remember those who have died
Joseph Federici

**EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT & ADORATION
TUESDAY 9:30AM TO 6:00PM
Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00pm
Prayers For Sanctity of Life 5:00pm
BENEDICTION AT 6:00PM**

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2024 YEAR B

SUNDAY Jan 7	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13/Eph 3:2-3,5-6/ Mt 2:1-12
MONDAY Jan 8	Is 42:1-4,6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29:1-2,3-4,3,9-10/ Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Mk 1:7-11
TUESDAY Jan 9	1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8+1:9-20/ 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:14-20+1:21-28
WEDNESDAY Jan 10	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2+5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/ Mk 1:29-39
THURSDAY Jan 11	1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
FRIDAY Jan 12	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
SATURDAY Jan 13	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Mk 2:13-17
SUNDAY Jan 14	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/ 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

Pilot Bulletins

Cover: Gentile da Fabriano, *Adoration of the Magi* (detail), 1423.

Source: By Gentile da Fabriano - Gentile da Fabriano, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2373201> Text: © Christian A. Hedrick



The Christmas season comes to an end this weekend.

I'll share with you a little bit of history of this celebration.

“Already in 300 AD, the Eastern Church celebrated the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus on January 6th. In the Western Church, this feast was mentioned in the Liturgy of the Hours. With the reform of the liturgy in 1969, the date for this Feast was set on the Sunday after the Epiphany. When the Feast of the Epiphany is not celebrated on January 6th, it is celebrated on the Sunday between 2 and 8 January, and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday following the Epiphany. The Christmas Season concludes with the celebration of this Feast, even though a “window” is left open until 2 February, when the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple is celebrated. The latter feast is also known as Candlemas since Christ is proclaimed the *“light for the Gentiles”*.”

These two last Christmas celebrations (the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord) give us the chance to meditate on our discipleship and our spiritual journey, and how we can embrace the gospel in a new and fresh way this year we just began, how can we get involved a little bit more in our community and our Parish, and so to live according to the values of the Kingdom of God.

Finally, Fr. Sagar and I wish you all a wonderful and happy new year, full of blessings, health, and opportunities to grow.

Fr. Diego



Highlights of
St. Luke's
Pilgrimage to Rome
can now be viewed
at our website

www.stlukes-parish.org

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SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

By Fr. Larry Rice

“All of creation is changed by the
appearance of Christ.”

In popular tradition, the feast of Epiphany commemorates the arrival of the three kings at the stable in Bethlehem where Christ was born. The gospel reading for the day—Matthew 2:1-12—tells the story. Over the years, a lot of tradition has grown around this story. Many people will tell you that the magi were three kings, named Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior, and they may note that Caspar is traditionally depicted with darker skin. But if you read those twelve short verses from Matthew’s Gospel, it becomes clear that we really know very little about the magi. We don’t know their names. We don’t know where they came from—Matthew only says “from the east.” We don’t even know that they were kings. The word used by Matthew is “magi,” meaning someone learned in esoteric knowledge. Some translations call them “astrologers,” but the only basis for that is the statement that they were following a star. And even the star itself is a mystery. Astronomers can chart the movement of the stars back in time, but they can’t seem to agree about the existence of an astronomical event that would explain the reference. And even the most casual observer would have a hard time explaining what it would mean for a star to move through the sky and then stop over a particular place. Regardless of who the magi were and how the star showed them the way, the most significant

part of this event is the identity of the one who is made known—Jesus, the newborn king, who is worthy of homage by all men and women. The meaning of the epiphany that occurs in this gospel passage is that the “the newborn king of the Jews” is revealed to and recognized by people from far and distant lands. The appearance of mystical signs in the sky makes the point that all of creation is changed by the appearance of Christ. Because God has chosen to become human, all creation and all the people of the earth can experience the redemption he has come to bring.

Fr. Rice is Vocations Director for the Paulist Fathers.



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Save the Date!

CHILI FEST!!

Saturday, January 20

6:30 - 8:30 pm

St. Luke Parish Center



All are invited to ASP's Annual Chili Cook-off dinner. Sample a wide variety of delicious chilis and vote for your favorite!

Calling all Chili Cooks!!!

Do you think you have what it takes to win an award for best chili? Or maybe you know an aspiring chili cook? Come compete with some of the finest chili chefs in the area for the honor of being judged "Best Chili Around!" Come compete or judge - or both!

For details on the competition and more info, visit www.westboroughasp.org/chili.html



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday January 9th from 1:00 – 2:30 PM in Room 23 of the Parish Center. This ministry is open to any person interested in knitting or crocheting prayer shawls,

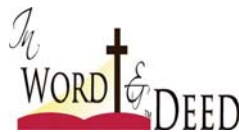
lap robes or afghans for the sick and suffering. The ministry also makes hats and mittens for the Giving Tree at Christmas. If you would like to participate but can't make the monthly meetings, please e-mail/call Carol Mulcahy at cmmulcahy@live.com/508-898-0409 for more information about patterns and yarn. We would love to have new members since there are many requests for the handmade items. Yarn is available at the Parish Center.



The Epiphany of the Lord

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11) Notice the order

of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!



People can come into our lives, sometimes for a very short time, and make a big impression. The power of the encounter can change our life, renew our hope, or strengthen our resolve. It can even set us on a new course, leading us to places, causes and people we never imagined meeting.

The Magi, or astrologers as Matthew calls them, arrive to pay homage to the newborn Jesus. A star had guided them on their quest and when they left, they avoided Herod and went on their way. Their gifts represented the kingship of Christ (gold), His divinity (incense) and his redemptive suffering (myrrh). The story of the Magi reminds us that the whole world has come to recognize and worship a Savior, and the impact of this short visit would reverberate through the ages.

Like the Magi, our life is a journey of faith. We encounter Christ in hundreds of ways. Each momentary encounter has the potential of changing lives, healing wounds, easing suffering and restoring faith. Those we meet along the way are fellow pilgrims who also search for grace and life. Follow the star of faith and offer your gifts of love. Christ will surely lead you.

James Gaffney

WORCESTER MEN'S CONFERENCE

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this conference at Worcester's DCU Center on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Adult tickets are \$50 until March 4, 2024; afterwards \$60.

Student tickets are always \$30. Tickets will not be available at the door this year because of advance planning for the luncheon. Visit the conference website for information and to purchase tickets online www.catholicmenworc.com

Hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders:

- Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers,
- James Wahlberg,
- Michael Nicholson,
- Msgr. Thomas Sullivan.

Adoration available all day.

Closing Mass with Bishop Robert J. McManus at 4:00 pm. For questions and additional information contact cathmenworc@gmail.com

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Linda Underwood, Finance Manager

e-mail financeoffice@stlukes-parish.org

Lawrence Orlando, Building and Grounds

Patrick Malone, Building and Grounds

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Irma Torres

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Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4PM, in Spanish 6PM

Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday,

9:00 AM

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in advance*

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*Contact the parish secretary if interested
in becoming Christian in the Catholic faith
tradition.*

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*Our extraordinary ministers are always pleased
to bring the Eucharist to parishioners who are
unable to join us for weekly worship. If you or a
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hospital, please let us know.*

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