

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH 115 MIDDLESEX STREET NORTH CHELMSFORD

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND PARISH 374 STEVENS STREET LOWELL

ST. MARY PARISH 25 NORTH ROAD **CHELMSFORD**



January 7, 2024 Feast of the Epiphany

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.

- Matt 2: 10-11





Parish Office Location and Hours

115 Middlesex Street • North Chelmsford, 01863 (978) 256-2374 | www.theholyrood.org

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Wednesday • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm Friday • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

St. John • Saturday, 4 pm | Sunday, 9:30 am and 6 pm

• African Liturgy | Sunday, 12 pm

St. Margaret • Saturday, 4 pm | Sunday, 7:30 and 10 am St. Mary • Saturday, 4 pm | Sunday, 7 and 11 am

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday

7 am at St. Mary • 8 am at St. Margaret • 9 am at St. John

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. John

Tuesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Margaret

Wednesday • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • St. Mary

Saturday • 11 am - 12 noon at St. Mary

• 1 pm - 2 pm at St. Margaret

• 3 pm - 3:45 pm at St. John

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays (Sep-Jun) • 9 am - 3 pm • St. Margaret OLL Chapel Thursdays • 12:00 - 9:00 pm • St. Mary Adoration Chapel First Fridays at St. John OPC Adoration Chapel

2:00 - 10:00 pm; following Saturday 6:00 - 8:00 am Third Sundays • 3:30 - 4:30 pm • St. Mary Church

LIVEVIEW Devotions

Monday - Friday

3 pm • Chaplet of Divine Mercy at St. John

7 pm • Rosary at St. Mary

Prayer Line

(978) 256-2374, ext. 223. After hours, press 5.

*Please read entire bulletin for potential schedule changes

weekly calendar

Monday, January 8

Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SJE Church SJE SVdP Meeting • 7 - 8:45 pm • SJE OPC Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Tuesday, January 9

Coffee Group, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall Blood Pressure Screening, following 9 am Mass • SJE Hall Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church & LIVEVIEW Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SMS Church Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Wednesday, January 10

Adoration • 9 am - 3 pm • SMS OLL Chapel Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church & LIVEVIEW Confession • 4:30 - 5:30 pm • SM Church FCN Ministry Meeting • 6 - 8 pm • SJE Mariotti Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW Troop 77 Scout Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm • SM Hall SM 11 am Choir/Ensemble • 7:30 - 8:30 pm • SM Church

Thursday, January 11

Charismatic Prayer Group • 10 am - 12 pm • SJE OPC
Rosary Makers • 10:30 am - 12 pm • SM PC Conf Room 2
Adoration • 12 - 9 pm • SM PC Adoration Chapel
Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 3 pm • SJE Church & LIVEVIEW
BINGO • doors open 3:30 pm/ first game 6:45 pm • SJE Hall
Charismatic Prayer Group • 7 - 8 pm • SJE OPC
Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Friday, January 12

Knitting and Crocheting • 2 - 4 pm • SM Hall Rosary • 7 pm • SM Church and LIVEVIEW

Saturday, January 13

Confessions • refer to cover SM Men's Group • 7:45 - 8:45 am • SM PC Conf Rm 1 St. Mary Bell Choir • 2:30 - 3:30 pm • SM Choir Loft

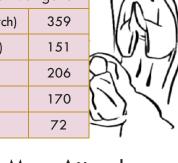


Christmas Mass Attendance

St. Mary		
Eve 4 pm	594	
Eve 6 pm	207	
Day 7 am	135	
Day 11 am	229	

St. Margaret of S	Scotland
Eve 4 pm	339
Day 7:30 am	60
Day 10 am	122
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St. John the Evangelist	
Eve 4 pm (church)	359
Eve 4 pm (hall)	151
Eve 10 pm	206
Day 9:30 am	1 <i>7</i> 0
Day 12 noon	72



Mass Attendance

Weekend of December 23rd/24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Mary		
4 pm	7 am	11 am
239	125	189

St. Margaret of Scotland		
4 pm	7:30 am	10 am
144	55	110

7	St. John the Evangelist			st
37	4 pm	9:30 am	12 pm	6 pm
1	203	164	<i>7</i> 1	n/a



(answer on page 4)

For those staff members that have extensions listed, the number to call is (978) 256-2374.

To send an email, please visit our website at https://theholyrood.org/staff.

Clergy

Rev Brian E. Mahoney, Pastor | (978) 254-0560 Rev Fernando Ayala, Parochial Vicar | (978) 401-9844 Rev Patrick Alemayo, C.S.Sp., Parochial Vicar | (978) 451-6767 Rev Arnold F. Colletti, Sr. Priest in Residence | ext 116 Rev Raymond Benoit, Sr. Priest in Residence | ext 115 Den John C. Hunt, Jr., Permanent Deacon | (978) 254-2696 Den Frank Perez de Alderete, Permanent Deacon | (978) 254-0638 Den Barry V. Lloyd., Sr. Permanent Deacon | (978) 454-6505

Outreach & Parish Ministry

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate | ext 225

Business Office

Paul Firicano, Business Manager | ext 220 Tina Sousa, Finance Coordinator | ext 219

Family Faith Formation

Heather Hannaway, MA, Dir of Faith Formation | ext 226 Courtney Callanan, MA, Asst Dir of Faith Formation | ext 227 Shaun Bradley, MA, Faith Formation Associate | ext 232 Elaine Kindler, Faith Formation Program Administrator | ext 216 Lynn Anne LaDuke, Faith Formation Coordinator | ext 240

Office Administration

Sue Beechin, Administrative Assistant | ext 236 Jamie Brown, part-time Scheduling Coordinator | ext 239 Donna Gambon, part-time Administrative Assistant | ext 248 Rae Russo, part-time Funeral Coordinator | (978) 306-5882

Facilities

Chris Goglia, Director of Facilities | (978) 341-4203 Dan Heider, Facilities Project Manager | ext 213

Bulletin, Website, Social Media

Christine Trznadel, Communications Director | (978) 254-4406

If you would like to submit a notice to be published in the bulletin, please do so no later than 12 noon, **two** Fridays prior to the weekend in which you would like it published.

Email submittals to christine@theholyrood.org or mail:

Parish Offices/ ATTN Christine Trznadel 115 Middlesex Street North Chelmsford, MA, 01863

We will do our best to accommodate your request.

Each parish in the Archdiocese of Boston is required to have a parish pastoral council.



role ofthe PPC The assist the pastor in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating reviewing and worship, evangelization, religious education and service activities within the parish. The PPC serves in an advisory role and the pastor takes into serious account their opinions and recommendations. The PPC should be an important means by which the pastor will hear the voice of the parish. Through its deliberations and consultation with the pastor, the PPC helps to unite the pastor and the parishioners. Together they discern the pastoral needs of the parish and ways in which those needs can be addressed.

Collaborative Parish Council

Parish Council matters can be sent to: collaborativeppc@theholyrood.org

Steve McMillan - Chair Lorraine Freitas Drew Jubinville Alba Kuilan-Lamboy Justin Leach Paul Sneeringer

Lyle Wheeler

Lorraine Huard Dawn King Cathy Latina Michele Manzelli Ray Wagner

St. John Finance Council

SJE Finance matters can be sent to: SJ.FC@theholyrood.org

Jeff Brown - Chair

John Bagni Paul Brzezenski Celeste Dunn Grace Ann Steed

St. Margaret Finance Council

SMS finance matters can be sent to: SMS.FC@theholyrood.org

Robert Gilman - Chair

Thomas Kirwin Betty McKiernan Diana Patel Marc Trudel

St. Mary Finance Council

SM finance matters can be sent to: SM.FC@theholyrood.org

Lauren Desforge - Chair Armand DiLando Ted Powers Paul Therrien Paul Rigazio

here's what's happening in he Holy



Fatima Lourdes & Medjugorje Pilgringe

Join Deacon John on Pilgrimage!

April 10-21, 2024

\$4,849 per person (double occupancy) from Boston. To learn more and book, visit...

www.pilgrimages.com/dcnhunt/marian BOOKING CODE: JH041024

Flyer can be found at church entrances, or downloaded from our website...

https://theholyrood.org/marian-pilgrimage-dcn-john

Worcester Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference

Saturday, March 16, 2023 DCU Center, Worcester

Men of all ages—including teens and college students—are invited to attend this well-known annual conference. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Dcn Harold Burke-Sivers, James Wahlberg, Michael Nicholson, Bishop Robert McManus and Msgr. Thomas Sullivan. Adoration is available all day. Conference closes with the celebration of Mass at 4 pm.

Visit www.firstmensconf.org for information and to purchase tickets online. Adult tickets are \$50 until March 4, 2022; afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30. Tickets will NOT be available at the door!

For further information email cathmenworc@gmail.com

ST. MARY CHURCH FRONT DOORS



Beginning THIS MONDAY, January 8th, the process of replacing the front doors of St. Mary Church will begin.

This construction will result in the front doors and vestibule being closed to the public for approximately 3 weeks, and possibly through to the end of the month. All other doors will be able to be used during this time. We appreciate your patience!

and St. John Tuesday

Morning Coffee Group

are coming together
THIS Tuesday, January 9....

Join us in the St. John Hall following the 9 am daily Mass to get a blood pressure check, grab a cup of coffee and enjoy some conversation.

Additional near-future Health Screenings are scheduled at St. Margaret as follows:

- Friday, January 19th, following 8 am Mass
- Sunday, January 28th, following 10 am Mass



answer: The winternet

Each of our churches has it's own St. Vincent de Paul Chapter.

These chapters are available to provide assistance to those in need within parish boundaries.



They typically provide short-term assistance to aid individuals and families, with expenses such as rent, food, utility bills and more.

If you or someone you know is in need of help, please call the parish offices at (978) 256-2374 for St. John and St. Mary or (978) 459-0175 for St. Margaret.

ollaborative community



Saturday, January 6 | 2 pm at St. John Church

Music, followed by refreshments and a family activity! JOIN US!

SNOW DATE: Sunday, January 7 at 3 pm

We joyfully welcome the following children into our collaborative

family. May the Lord continue to bless these children and their parents and fill their homes with the light of faith.

BAPTIZED AT ST. MARY

Keegan Jae Donovan

BAPTIZED AT ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Roman Michael McDonough



Yarn Donations Gratefully Accepted

Prayer John Ministry is always in need of yarn to keep up with the demand of shawl

requests. Any and all donations of yarn will be used, whether newly purchased or found in the back of a closet while spring cleaning... no yarn donations EVER go to waste!

If you prefer to support this ministry via gift cards so that we can purchase yarn, we suggest the following retailers:

- Aunt Margaret's Gift Shop
- Michaels
- Joann Fabrics

Lastly, if easier for you, you can make an online donation to our ministry via both St. Mary and St. John online giving links found at https://theholyrood.org/on-line

From the drop-down menu, please choose 'Prayer Shawl Ministry.'

TO HELP YOU PLAN FOR 2024 Second (Archdiocesan) and Fundraising Collections

ENVELOPE GIVERS: All Archdiocesan collections have a specific envelope which will be included in your bi-monthly mailings.

ONLINE GIVERS: All collections are listed in the drop-down menu of your online giving provider.

JANUARY

28 • Church in Latin America

FEBRUARY

- 14 Ash Wednesday Collection
- 18 Catholic Charities Collection
- 25 Support of the Church Around the World

MARCH

- 10 Catholic Appeal Commitment Weekend
- 29 Good Friday Collection: Holy Land Shrines
- 31 Easter Sunday Collection: Clergy Trust

MAY

- 05 St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist
- 19 Seminarians

JUNE

16 • Promoting the Gospel

SEPTEMBER

15 • Archdiocesan Clergy Trust Collection

OCTOBER

- 06 The Holy Father & Missionary Efforts
- 20 World Mission Sunday

NOVEMBER

24 • Retired Religious Sisters

DECEMBER

25 • Christmas Collection: Clergy Trust

* This list can also be found at... https://theholyrood.org/second-collection-schedule



Paul Firicano, Business Manager (978) 256-2374, ext 220

Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

To view this and ALL past financial reports, visit www.theholyrood.org; click on the stewardship tab

If you make your offertory or any other donation via check, it is IMPORTANT REMINDER TO DONORS extremely important that the check is made payable to the specific parish—St. John the Evangelist, St. Margaret of Scotland, or St. Mary—to which you are making your donation, as each parish maintains their own financial entity. Checks made out to The Holy Rood Collaborative cannot be cashed as The Holy Rood Collaborative is NOT a financial entity. To eliminate your need to re-write a new check,

and to allow timely processing of your donation, please be sure to make note of this directive. As always, thank you for your generous financial support of our community!

ST. MARY WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of December 23rd/24th	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 24th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$14,500	\$377,000	\$14,500
Actual Received	\$15,004	\$347,522	\$13,366
Shortfall/ Overage	\$504	-\$29,478	-\$1,134
ST. JOHN WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of December 23rd/24th	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 24th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$10,300	\$267,800	\$10,300
Actual Received	\$9,061	\$223,496	\$8,596
Shortfall/ Overage	-\$1,239	-\$44,304	-\$1,704
ST. MARGARET WEEKLY OFFERTORY	Weekend of December 23rd/24th	Fiscal Year-To-Date December 24th	Fiscal YTD Average/Week
Offertory Required to cover Budgeted Expenses	\$4,800	\$124,800	\$4,800
Actual Received	\$6,230	\$115,228	\$4,432
Shortfall/ Overage	\$1,430	-\$9,572	-\$368
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION	St. Mary	St. John	St. Margaret

GRAND ANNUAL AS OF DECEMBER 24			
	Goal	Raised	%age of Goal
St. Mary	\$100,000	\$47,745	47.74%
St. John	\$70,000	\$25,316	36.16%
St. Margaret	\$70,000	\$27,919	39.88%

Tax Letters for parishioners who contributed \$250 or more in 2023 will be mailed out by the end of January. If you are NOT in this category, but would like to receive a tax letter, please contact Paul Firicano. You can leave a voice mail or write an email leaving the following information: your name, address, envelope number (if you have one) and to which church you make your offertory donations.

tamily taith tormation Uniting the Heart of the Church with the Heart of the Home



Heather Hannaway, MA • Director of Faith Formation • (978) 256-2374, ext 226 Courtney Callanan, MA • Assistant Director of Faith Formation • (978) 256-2374, ext 227 Shaun Bradley, MA • Faith Formation Associate • (978) 256-2374, ext 232 Elaine Kindler • Faith Formation Program Administrator • (978) 256-2374, ext 216 Lynn Anne LaDuke • Faith Formation Coordinator • (978) 256-2374, ext 240

JANUARY P.L.A.N.S. PREPARE TO LEARN

Grade 1
Epiphany

Lil Christmas!

new Stuff

parents must attend last 30 minutes of class

Grade 2

In Class: Angels and the Holy Mass

At Home... Catch-Up/ Complete Blessed First Reconciliation Parent Guide

parents must attend last 30 minutes of class

Grade 3-6

Children remain in hall and parents separate in Disciples Groups to learn about confirmation

Grade 788

Altaration Session 4 "What is our Response"

Confirmation I

Prayer: Who Do You Say that I Am?

Confirmation II

Prayer: Saints

Chosen (various lessons):
"Loving as God calls
us to Love"

GRADE 1 SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

9:15 - 10:45 AM St. Mary Hall

GRADE 2 SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

9:15 - 10:45 AM St. Mary Hall

JANUARY CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADE 3-6 | SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 | PARENTS IN DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

SESSION A
9:15 - 10:45 AM
St. Mary Hall

SESSION B 12:15 - 1:45 PM St. Mary Hall SESSION A 10:45 AM - 12:15 AM St. John Hall

GRADE 7&8 SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM St. Margaret Hall parents attend class CONFIRMATION I
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

4:15 - 5:45 PM St. John Hall

CONFIRMATION II SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 28

4:15 - 5:45 PM St. John Hall

JANUARY DEEP DIVES

details for each deep dive can be found at https://theholyrood.org/deep-dives

Epiphany Lessons and Carols Saturday, January 6 2-3 pm | St. John Church Going on a Prayer Hunt (*RSVP) Saturday, January 20 9:30—11 am SM Hall and PC

Teaching Mass Sunday, January 28 11 am St. Mary Mass St. Ambrose Candle Craft (*RSVP) Thursday, February 1 6:30-8 pm | St. Margaret SH Hall



The link for ALL Deep Dive Events that require an *RSVP can now be found at a single location. Visit https://bit.ly/3PKbNmn and select the tab of the event you are interested in attending.
Or, scan the QR code.



I am not a person who generally focuses on my emotions, but this past Christmas I could not ignore them; I tried to but it was simply *not* possible. I honestly have to say that this past Christmas was one of the worst experiences of

my life. Why?—because it was deeply painful not being able to celebrate Christmas with my people; it was even more difficult than dealing with my motorcycle accident. Throughout the day I was being constantly overwhelmed by a deep sense of disconnect from what the celebration of Christmas is about—I could only focus on a true sense of loss. My emotions were coming at me fast and furious, and they ran the gamut of sadness and despair, anger, frustration, apathy, listlessness, weariness, etc, etc. I simply wanted the day to be over with so that I could move on.

The remarkable thing is that as I woke up the next morning, everything seemed better. Life, for me, returned to its true sense of purpose. The normal sense of joy and hope came flooding back and it was *truly* a good day.

In many ways the sequence of these two days gets to the heart of the celebration of The Epiphany of the Lord. The word epiphany means manifestation—a moment in which something is experienced, and a sense of deep meaning and understanding is realized. In ancient times, the Feast of The Epiphany was about three events in salvation history: the coming of the Magi, the baptism of the Lord, and the wedding at Cana. An Epiphany is intended to be a moment of enlightenment as we truly recognize God's guidance, presence, plan, and wisdom in our lives: it is the moment that God's light breaks through the darkness of this world.

The Magi follow a distant star based on a promise made long ago. In time, the star leads them to a stable in a small town of no importance to most of the world. It is a backwater place in the midst of a powerful and prosperous empire. It would be the last place that anyone would consider trying to find the King of Kings. And yet, in that place they discover something amazing. As they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh they are given a far greater gift—they enter into the very presence of the living God. The prophecy is fulfilled in a way they could never have anticipated. It is that very presence that strengthens and sustains us. When we grow weary, we find the strength to soar like an eagle. And, for me, as I moved on from Christmas I was reminded of God's presence and love, and in that I found the strength to embrace the joy that comes from God alone; I came to truly rejoice in God.

At the baptism of Jesus, John the Baptist protested as Jesus presented himself to be baptized. But Jesus assured him that this was part of God's plan. It was necessary and John acquiesced to Jesus. And, as Jesus came forth from the waters, He was greeted by the Holy Spirit and the Father with the words, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." Jesus trusted and believed in the plan, and it would give Him the strength to face the challenges ahead. The day after Christmas I was reminded that God truly has a plan for my good. I do not think He caused my accident, but He has been with me from the moment it happened. He will give me the strength to confront whatever might be coming; I simply need to trust in Him and open myself to his plan for my life. The accident and what follows is simply 'a bump in the road' to the greater plan God has for me, and that is what I need to remain focused on.

At the wedding in Cana, Mary comes to Jesus with a problem—they have run out of wine. Jesus basically says that it is not yet his time. Mary ignores Him and, in trust, turns to the servants and says, "Do whatever He tells you." With these words, Mary utters the greatest advice ever given to a human being. The life of a Christian truly is summed up in that simple statement. Our deepest desire and our greatest goal should be to simply do whatever Christ calls us to do. On Christmas I had become self-absorbed: I really made the day all about me and my sorrows and woes. I was missing the point about what it is that God did for us on that wonderful day. Jesus came to die for me. He hung on a cross and died, and then He rose from the dead in order that I might live forever with Him. And the only thing He asks in return is that we die to ourselves in order to be emptied of all that prevents us from loving God as we should. As God comes to love us, all He asks is that we love Him in return. "Do whatever He tells you" is the perfect way to make that happen. On Christmas Day, I was truly not listening to the Lord, and so it was difficult to be able to do whatever He was telling me to do. By making the day about myself, I was not able to hear how God wanted to use me that day. The next day I was far more open to hearing the Lord, and so a true sense of joy and hope returned as I came to serve the Lord in the way He wanted me to.

As we come into this New Year, may we seek to be open to the lessons of Epiphany. May we seek to recognize God's presence in our lives, to recognize his plan for us, and to be willing to do whatever He tells us. If we are faithful, we will find the sense of joy and hope we will need to confront whatever challenges that arise in our life.

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy & Holy New Year!

If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to call me at (978) 254-0560. If you prefer to email, please visit...

https://theholyrood.org/email-fr-brian.

Please keep me in your prayers.

From our Pastoral Associate

Sr. Lori Fleming, SNDdeN

Take Time to Share the Light

"I pray that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you,..." -Jn 17:21

As we continue our journey through this season that calls us to testify that Jesus is the Light who has come into our darkness, we are also called to reveal this Light to all. Jesus' prayer for us is that we share his Light with all others. This revelation is that when we are One, no one is on the outside-all are included.

In these early days of our journey through this year-2024-it might be helpful to consider some of the people who have revealed God's Light and Oneness to us; those whose holiness, closeness and personal love of God, encourage us to seek and long for a deeper recognition of, and appreciation for, the gift we have in Jesus, our Savior, our Redeemer.

I share with you one person whom I did not know for more than a few years but whose life and death have given me insight into what it means to be reconciled as "sister/brother" in the family of God. Theresa, an SND who faced a number of serious health issues and surgeries with hope and with acceptance of the will of God, wrote this open letter to us-her community:

I write this on the day prior to my surgery. Whatever the outcome, know that I love each of vou. I have loved our journey together. I have learned these past weeks that the only thing to fear is fear itself. As Julie [foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur] would say "Courage, my daughters."

Whatever the future of our journey together, we need to reach within ourselves to that core of stillness where love, hope and courage lie. God is there with unbounded love for each of us. God will let us know the next steps for our journey.

If I have hurt anyone, know that I beg your forgiveness. If others have hurt me, know that I have already forgiven. Hurts happen as part of life, but forgiveness helps us move beyond and is forever.

I am grateful for your love and support, not just recently, but over the years.

With love.

As we continue our journey, with Jesus we pray to God the Father for faithfulness to the grace to reveal the Light that was sent to reconcile us. To make us One.

From our Parochial Vicar

Fr. Patrick Alemayo, C.S.SP.

What Gift Have I to Offer Jesus at Epiphany?

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is usually a feast that reminds us of generous giving in the Church and calls us to reflect on how kind we have been in giving offerings to God. Magi from the East travelled to Jerusalem to offer the Child Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the devotional, Living Faith, Patricia Livingston tells a very interesting story. She said, "One Epiphany Sunday not long ago, the family in the pew in front of her had a little boy of about six. When Mass ended, he ran up to the stable at the side altar and put a tiny wrapped package in the manger by Jesus. He turned and said to everyone watching, 'You don't have to be a king to bring a gift to Jesus! He's going to love this!" I really found the little boy's statements as true. We don't have to be kings or wealthy people to offer gifts to Jesus at Mass or during the collection. They surely help in continuing the spread of the Good News and the Kingdom of God here on earth.

In the Gospel of today, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem to worship Jesus and they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. There are various meanings that some Saints like St. Irenaeus and Pope St. Gregory the Great have ascribed to these gifts. In the allegorical or Christological sense, St. Irenaeus says that the gifts signify the mystery of then Incarnate Word (God who has become man): gold, a symbol of royalty, represents his kingship; frankincense, used in worship, points to his divinity; and myrrh represents his humanity, particularly in his passion and death (Against Heresies, 3, 9, 2). On the one hand, the Magi searched for Jesus to pay him homage and offer him gifts while, on the other hand, Herod was troubled about the news of the birth of Christ and he sought to kill him. Our focus today is not on Herod, but on the Wise Men who offered gifts to Jesus. Nevertheless, while Herod's attitude was to destroy the light that Jesus brings, the whole idea of gift-giving or offering by these Wise Men helps in the continued growth of the faith. The question to ponder is: what gift do I offer to Christ in return for the salvation I receive from him? Do you know that Jesus will usually love gifts like an intentional exercise of patience, humility or sacrificial love?

Mass Intentions

St. John the Evangelist

4 pm Thomas William Brennan: 1st Anniversary SAT, JAN 6 John and Margaret Powell: Memorial Gus Skamarycz: Memorial SUN, JAN 7 930 am Thomas Aspell: Memorial Leslie Belken: Memorial Deceased Members of the Curran Family Joseph Finlay: Memorial Carlton Johnson: Memorial Mauricio Valencia: Memorial 6 pm People of the Parish Mon, Jan 8 9 am Valerie Ouellette: Memorial WED, JAN 10 Richard Brady and Alan Lego, Sr. Memorial THU, JAN 11 9 am Lucille Fortier: Memorial FRI, JAN 12 9 am Andrea Giuffre: Memorial SAT, JAN 13 4 pm Maurice W. Pontbriant Sr: 11th Anniversary **SUN, JAN 14** 930 am Edward Clancy; William and Marie O'Connell: Memorial

Dennis Nowakowski: Memorial

St. Margaret of Scotland

4 pm Leo Carbonneau Sr: Birthday Memorial SAT, JAN 6 Jack Kelley: Memorial Patrick Brooks Youngblood: Memorial **SUN, JAN 7** 730 am People of the Parish 10 am Theresa Bourassa: Memorial Patricia Caron: Memorial Joann Comtois: 15th Anniversary Brent Fuller: Birthday Memorial Joey and Mary Gill Geoffroy: Memorial Peter and Marilyn Leahy Gill: Memorial Gregory Murphy: Memorial Mon, Jan 8 8 am Vincent Latham: Memorial TUE, JAN 9 8 am Rita Doherty: Memorial WED, JAN 10 8 am Fr Paul F Manning: Memorial 8 am Henry W Stupakewicz: 10th Anniversary THU, JAN 11 8 am Frank and Francis Thompson: Memorial FRI, JAN 12 SAT, JAN 13 4 pm Frank Diaz: Memorial Sun, Jan 14 730 am Tom Pacht: Memorial 10 am People of the Parish

St. Mary Parish

SAT, JAN 6	4 pm	Alice Martin: Memorial Louise LaChance: Memorial Michelle, Peter and Paul Callery: Memorial
Sun, Jan 7	7 am	People of the Parish
	11 am	Sandy Donovan: Memorial
Mon, Jan 8	7 am	Mary Hagerty OCDS: Memorial
TUE JAN 9	7 am	Alice Martin OCDS: Memorial
Wed, Jan 10	7 am	Maria Boldeia OCDS: Memorial
Thu, Jan 11	7 am	Charlene Kennedy OCDS: Memorial
Fri, Jan 12	7 am	Anthony "Jim" Temmallo: Memorial
SAT, JAN 13	4 pm	Sandy Donovan: Memorial
Sun, Jan 14	7 am	People of the Parish
	11 am	Thomas Frank O'Donoghue: 1st Anniversary

Below are a number of ways in which you can give remembrance and honor to a loved one or personal intention. To schedule any of these intentions, please contact the Parish Offices at (978) 256-2374. Please note that the scheduling of your intention requires a 2-week notice.



Altar Flowers

Parishioners are invited to donate a floral arrangement to be displayed on the altar in memory of, or in honor of,

a loved one. The requested donation for an arrangement is \$40.



Lamps

At any of our churches, you can request that the sanctuary lamp burn in Memory of a loved one. St. Margaret also has two

additional lamps—the Blessed Mother Lamp and the Sacred Heart Lamp. The stipend for any of these lamps is \$25.

St. Margaret Blessed Mother Lamp

In Memory of Florence Mahoney



St. Margaret Bells

The steeple bells at St. Margaret toll daily at 12 and 6pm, followed by the ringing of the Angelus bell and 2 hymns. At 3pm, they play 2

hymns, and 15 minutes prior to each weekend Mass, the bells toll a 'call to worship.' We invite you to dedicate the Ringing of the Bells In Memory/In Honor of someone.

In Memory of Bonnie Redding

Recent Funerals

May the souls of the faithful departed

through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Cheryl RyanTuesday, January 2 • St. Mary

Nicholas Lehouillier
Friday, January 5 • St. Margaret

Pauline FalcioneFriday, January 5 • St. Mary

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Augustus C. Skamarycz of Tyngsborough, MA Scan to read Augustus' obituary.











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