

**January 5, 2025**  
**Epiphany of the Lord**  
**American Martyrs**

**Pastoral Staff**

**Rev. Peter J. Rayder, Pastor**  
**Deacon Stan Galazin**  
**Very Rev. Francis K. Asagba (in residence)**

**Parish Staff**

**Mrs. Theresa Asche**  
**Director of Religious Education**  
**Mrs. Patricia Adams**  
**Office/Business**  
**Mr. Jose Espindola**  
**Parish Grounds**

**America Martyrs RC Church**  
**79-43 Bell Blvd.**  
**Oakland Gardens, NY 11364**

**Rectory: 718 + 464 + 4582**  
**Religious Education 718 + 464 + 6411**

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday Vigil at 4pm**  
**Sunday 9am + 11:30am**

**Monday - Friday at 8:30am**  
**Saturday Prayer Service at 8:30am**

**Holy Days**  
**7:30pm Vigil + 8:30am + 7:30pm**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
**Saturdays 3pm - 3:45pm**  
**Or Call Rectory for Appointment**

**Rectory Office Hours**  
**Monday - Thursday: 9am - 12noon and 1pm - 4pm**  
**Friday - Saturday 9am - 12noon and 1pm - 3pm**

**Website: [www.amparish.org](http://www.amparish.org)**  
**Email: [Amercanmartyrs@aol.com](mailto:Amercanmartyrs@aol.com)**



### **American Martyrs Mission Statement**

We, the diverse Catholic family of American Martyrs, are spiritually centered in the Word and the Eucharist. Our warm, welcoming community creates an atmosphere for a wonderful faith experience as we gather at the table of the Lord to help each other grow in Christ and live according to His teachings. Inspired by the faith and an example of our patrons, the North Americans Martyrs, and the Blessed Mother, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we work together to spread the message of Jesus to all.

### **American Martyrs Celebrates the Sacraments**

#### **Penance**

*Every Saturday at 3pm—3:45pm (Also at anytime convenient upon request)*

#### **Baptisms**

Parents must speak to Deacon Stan one month in advance before the scheduled date.

#### **Sacrament of the Sick Anointing of the Sick**

This sacrament is available for any baptized Catholic who is seriously ill or suffering the effects of advanced age. Please call the rectory to make an appointment for a priest to come to the home, or call anytime for a sudden illness. If serious surgery is scheduled, call to arrange for the anointing before you enter the hospital. A communal celebration of this sacrament is celebrated annually.

#### **Pastoral Care to the Homebound**

We are concerned about parishioners who are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Anointing of the Sick. If you are homebound, or if you know someone who is unable to come to Mass, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office at (718) 464-4582. Visits will be happily arranged for you.

#### **Holy Matrimony**

Call the Parish Office for information and appointment with a priest at least six months prior to the date you wish.

### **Be Vigilant of Child Abuse At All Times!**

It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant—that we always observe the behaviors of those who interact with children. And we must always communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes this means communicating our safety concerns to our children. And sometimes this means communicating our concerns about seemingly inappropriate behavior to those who are in a position to intervene. Parents must also listen carefully to their children and observe both their children's activities and the behavior of older children and adults who interact with them. When children exhibit dramatic behavioral changes, adults must find out what caused the changes. Being aware of what's happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them—at every opportunity. For help or info call: Maryellen Quinn: Diocese of Brooklyn's Safe Environment Coordinator 718-965-7300

### **Pastors Advisory Board/Parish Council**

Theresa Asche  
Anne Caruso  
Deacon Stanley Galazin  
John Limberg  
Ken MacPherson, *Trustee*  
Jillian Minarik  
Michael Mitts  
Edward Pearce  
Margaret Reyes  
Mary Ann Schreiber, *Finance Council*  
Maureen Shoule, *Trustee*  
Robert Shoule  
Johnny Sullivan  
Joseph Timpa



“The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.”  
— Pope Francis

### **2024 ACA**

The 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the Mission of American Martyrs and the daily work of The Church in Brooklyn and Queens in ways no one parish can accomplish alone.

All donations over American Martyrs goal to the ACA comes back to our parish to help meet our needs

**ACA UPDATES**  
**December 30 2024**

**Parish Goal: \$66,706**  
**Pledged: \$154,482**  
**Paid: \$153,177**  
**Pledges 157**





**Remember in your Prayers the Sick of American Martyrs**

Msgr. John Keppler, Rosalinda Apostadero, Elizabeth Coppola, Jen Flynn Limberg, Denis Keane, James + Anne Kingston, Elsie & Frank Paukowits, Martin Thaila, Vijay Devassy, Anita Mascoli, John O'Brien, John Buglione, John Sheridan Jr., Tom Holloran, Arlene Scherne, Vincent Sheridan, Jessie Carlone, Jackson Monchal, Jeancarlo Roach, Gloria Saavedra, Jack Goydas, John Bennett, Michael G. McLoone, Dave Tavella, Gloria Valdez, Patrick Kearney, Tom Dana, Roberto + Raquel Barrientos, Samantha Harris, Kalyan Sham, Mike Tramonte, Alexa Kropf, Dr. Renato Gega, Dr. Gilda Versales, Gracinda Silva, Anna Bischoff, Robert Galazin, Stephen Feit, Richard San Severino, Jeremiah J. Doran and Steven Troutman

(THE SICK WILL STAY ON LIST FOR 3 WEEKS AND THEN BE REMOVED UNLESS THERE IS A REQUEST FOR THE PERSON TO REMAIN ON THE PRAYER LIST FOR ANOTHER 3 WEEKS)

**Mass Intentions Week of January 5<sup>th</sup> + January 11<sup>th</sup>**

**9am**

*The Faithful of American Martyrs*

**11:30am**

*Jack Bills (Requested by Ann Marie)*

*Murray Gadell (Requested by the Gadell Family)*

*Vincent Castillo (Requested by Abraham + Martha Toledo)*

**Monday 8:30am**

*All the Souls in Purgatory (Requested by Rose + Bill)*

**Tuesday 8:30am**

*Vincent LoBiondo (Requested by Andy Paccione)*

**Wednesday 8:30am**

*Agnes Walsh (Requested by Nilda R. Vargan)*

**Thursday 8:30am**

*The Faithful of American Martyrs (Requested by Nilda R. Vargan)*

**Friday 8:30am**

*Katherine Gallagher (Requested by the Gallagher Family)*

**Saturday 8:30am Communion/Prayer Service**

*Catholic War Veterans*

**Saturday 4pm**

*Stanley Ruzalski (Requested by Rita + Bobby)*



**There is an appointed time  
for everything, and a time for  
every affair under the heavens,  
A time to live and a time to die...**

**Irene McGrath  
Msgr. John J. Gildea**

**The Gifts of Bread + Wine  
In loving memory of  
Agnes Walsh  
(Requested by a friend)**



**The Gifts of Altar Sanctuary Candles  
Jack Bills  
(Requested by Ann Marie)**



**PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS**

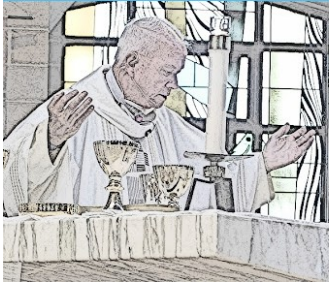
Rev. LT. Mark Bristol, USN,  
PO3 John Schaefer - USCG  
TAO Sean Reiley—USN  
Raymond Esquilin, CW4  
Lisa Johnston,  
WO 1 Crystal Robles  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Daniel Wolf, USAF  
SFC Sheldon Warren

**The Epiphany -- January 5, 2025**

**"Rise up in splendor! Your light has come."  
Is Christ calling you to serve Him in others as a sister, brother,  
deacon or priest?**

**Contact the Vocation Office  
(718) 827-2454 or  
email: vocations@diobrook.org**





## *My Side of the Altar*

Dear People of God, Christmas morn has passed, but we continue our Christmas Season as we celebrate this weekend the Feast of the Epiphany.

What does Epiphany mean? As many of you know, Epiphany means appearance or revelation. It means a showing, a direction for our search. And interestingly enough, the scriptures imply it is a search that everyone must make. Luke, in the Gospel, has the poor searching in the form of shepherds. Matthew, in his Gospel, has the learned and rich searching in the form of the Magi. So the message is that there is room for everybody in this search for life's meaning and purpose, from no degrees to PhD's, from shepherds to executives.

And so to the Magi. They are three searchers who did not find the answer to life in their horoscopes, but took a long and difficult journey to another country in search of the Christ.

The Feast of the Epiphany means finding Christ. It is not a one-time thing. Rather, finding the Lord is a lifelong quest, like a marriage or a profound friendship. And we, like the Magi, gather to focus on the One who loves us and abides with us. The more we connect the way of Jesus with our story—if searching is our road, then finding will be our home.

Epiphany is about dreams, hopes, searching and direction. The destination is not as critical as the journey. In our life, what are we searching for and what are we finding? We sometimes seek happiness in all the wrong places. Dream big dreams! However, in our search, always keep our eyes fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ and doors will open we never dreamed possible.

Reflect upon the following story ..... And pass it on .....

### **The Little Hut**

The only survivor of the shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions. But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened—everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me?" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It's easy to get discouraged sometimes when things appear to be going badly. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground, it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

**Epiphany also means letting life surprise us. Keep reading . . .**

"When I was a small boy in Kansas, a friend of mine and I went fishing and as we sat there in the warmth of the summer afternoon on a riverbank, we talked about what we wanted to do when we grew up. I told him that I wanted to be a real major league baseball player, a genuine professional like Honus Wagner. My friend said that he'd like to be President of the United States. Neither of us got our wish."

**- Dwight D. Eisenhower**

**34th President of the United States**

My prayers are with you and your entire family for a Blessed, Joyous and Healthy New Year!... **Peace always, Fr. Peter**

**December 25, 2024**

**Online \$668.50 In-Pew \$6,759.00 Total \$7427.50 Poor Box: \$79.00 Votive Candles: \$147**

**Catholic Charities: \$2,384.00**

**December 29, 2024**

**Online \$1,355.50 In-Pew \$10,857.00 Total \$12,212.50 Poor Box: \$119 Votive Candles: \$160**



## Epiphany of the Lord January 5, 2025

### First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

### Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Tuesday of this week is Christmas Day in Russia and in much of the Orthodox world. This curious difference in schedule has a lot to do with how calendars have been developed and changed over the years. In the year 45 B.C. Julius Ceasar gave the empire his Julian Calendar, with the winter solstice on January 6. This put an end to a system in which officials called pontiffs were able to tweak the calendar by adding extra days in as needed. He invented two new months at that time, December and January; and in order to correct the mess the pontiffs had made, forced a year of 445 days on the empire in what he named The Last Year of Confusion. The new months varied in number of days according to a complex schedule, but the calendar was still off by nearly twelve minutes a year, and lost a full day every 130 years. Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1583, but not everyone appreciated his efforts. England held out for two hundred years. The year 1700 was a leap year in England, but not in France; they were eleven days apart! George Washington was really born on February 11; when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in the English colonies shortly before the Revolution, he had to move his birthday to February 22. Now the calendars are thirteen days apart, which accounts for Russia's Julian calendar Christmas. And Caesar thought he had brought confusion to an end! James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

### PLEASE BE MINDFUL!

**When entering American Martyrs please be mindful that many people are praying. If you wish to greet someone do so in quiet tones so as not to disturb another's prayer time.**

### GLUTEN SENSITIVITY

*We have gluten-free hosts. Just identify yourself before Mass begins so we can ensure your reception of the Blessed Sacrament.*



# **AMERICAN MARTYRS SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**3PM SATURDAY CONFESSIONS**

**4PM SATURDAY VIGIL**

**9AM SUNDAY  
AND  
11:30AM SUNDAY**





**The Parishes of Deanery Q5**

**will provide round trip bus transportation to Washington, D.C.**

**Friday, January 24th, 2025**

**Bus is leaving from American Martyrs' R.C. Church**

**79-43 Bell Blvd., Oakland Gardens, NY 11364**

**Leaving at 6:00 AM**

To Register and save your seat:

Please use the weblink below or the QR code

<https://stkevinchurch1.flocknote.com/signup/149779>





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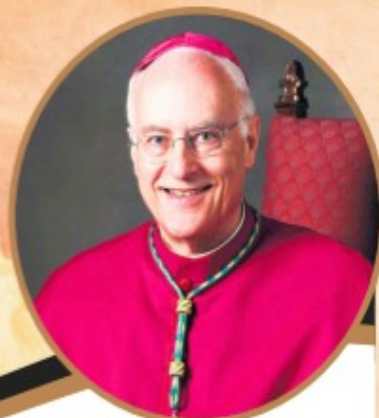
## SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH

*Evening of  
Discernment*

SPECIAL GUEST



Rev. Chris Bethge  
Vocation Director



BISHOP RAYMOND  
CHAPPETTO

215-35 38th Avenue, Bayside

**JAN | 18<sup>th</sup> | 2025**

**5 pm | Mass, Dinner, and Conversation**

An opportunity for young men to learn more about the  
priesthood.





# **Drive for the Troops**

## **American Martyrs Church + Catholic War Veterans Post 1772**

**The Catholic War Veterans will be collecting all items to send to our troops overseas on Saturday and Sunday, February 1st + 2nd at all Masses at the doors of the Church**



### **List of Items Needed:**

#### ***Personal Items***

Razors  
Shaving items  
Shampoo + Conditioner  
Deodorant  
Soap or Body Wash  
Toothbrush  
Toothpaste  
Mouth Wash + Dental Floss  
Sun Block  
Chap Stick  
Lotion  
Hand Sanitizer  
Powder  
Cotton Balls  
Pain Reliever's  
Cold Medicine

#### ***Fun and Games***

Disposable Camera  
Flying Discs  
Jump Rope  
CD + DVD's  
Puzzles  
Deck of Cards  
Dominos  
Paperback Books  
Comic Books  
Books

#### ***Food Items***

Pre-Sweetened Powder Drink Mixes  
Canned or Dried Fruit  
Tuna and Chicken (Cans or Pouches)  
Beef Jerky  
Single Servings of Cereal  
Instant Coffee  
Tea Bags  
Microwave Popcorn  
Sardines  
Instant Oatmeal  
Granola Bars  
Crackers  
Spices  
Hard Candy  
Gum  
Soup Cans  
Nuts + Sunflower Seeds  
Single Serving of Chips

#### ***Practical Items***

Bandanas  
Batteries  
International Phone Cards  
Mini Fans  
Hand Warmers  
Small Flashlights  
Stamps  
Paper + Envelopes  
Pens + Pencils



Sacred Heart of Jesus Bayside invites parents/guardians with children/adults with all special needs or IEP's to join us to share and exchange ideas in an informal setting.

For information contact Mrs. Lyons at 718-631-1307 or email at [shreligiousdbayside@yahoo.com](mailto:shreligiousdbayside@yahoo.com).

Meetings are at 10:00 AM in the Church Hall on the following dates:

Thursday January 9  
Tuesday February 11  
Wednesday March 12

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Sisters of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus**  
Will minister to the elderly in their own homes. Call 718-888-7708.

**Catholic Charities Home-base Program**  
assists those with housing crisis, Call 718-674-1000 for info

**Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn**  
Donate your old Car, Truck or Van - Call: 718-491-2525.

**Al-Anon and Ala-teen Family Groups**  
Hope, help, and happiness are attainable. 212-941-0094

**Catholic Charities Neighborhood Home Delivered Meals**  
Call 718-357-4903 for more information.

**National Suicide Prevention** Help line: - 1-800-273-8255

**Healing After Abortion:** Sisters of Life at: **866-575-0075**

## Holy Family Mass Schedule

**8:30am Monday - Saturday**  
**Sunday Schedule**

**5pm Vigil Mass 7:30am + 9am + 10:30am + 12 Noon + 5pm**



**www.holyfamilyfm.org**  
175-20 74th Avenue Fresh Meadows, N.Y. 11366  
(P): 718-969-2448 (F): 718-591-6166 (E): [rectory@holymfamilyfm.org](mailto:rectory@holymfamilyfm.org)

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



**Every Day in the Kateri Chapel in Rectory**

### Marguerite's Pantry - Saturday morning 12/21

Volunteers are needed at Marguerite's Pantry at Our Lady of Fatima RC Church, 25-02 80th St. in East Elmhurst. Set-up begins at 9:00 AM which is when the greatest number of volunteers are needed. Many hands make light work so please just show up if you can and when you can for as long as you can.

### Monthly Mass For The Helpers of God's Precious Infants

**8am on Saturday January 25, 2025**  
**Our Lady of Sorrows**  
**104-11 37th Avenue**  
**Corona, NY 11368**



## A Gift for the Wise Men

A rather liberal priest was teasing one of the women of the parish, asking, "How do we know the Wise Men weren't Wise Women?" She answered, "If they were, they'd have brought bottles, diapers, and a bassinet, instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Maybe they were wise enough to know that Mary could have bought a lot of diapers with the gold.

The gifts, of course, are symbols of who Jesus is: a king who is both God and human. And I wonder what our gifts to the Lord say about our faith in him. Remember the song about the little drummer boy, who had no gift to bring but his ability to play the drum? Or the parable of the woman who brought two small coins to donate at the temple (Mark 12:42)? They both remind us that a person who gives all they have, no matter how little it seems, is the most generous. So what do we bring to the newborn king? I can give my time by coming to church for the feast of Epiphany and actually paying attention. How often do I sit in the pews, answer the prayers by heart, and suddenly realize that I can't remember what the first reading was, or what the homily was about? Just making the effort to listen to the words of scripture, to hear what God may be trying to tell me, could be a great gift. Or I could bring someone in our family, or a friend, who doesn't go to church very much.

Now let's not forget the meaning of "epiphany." In ancient times it meant the appearance or manifestation of a divine being. In the early church the feast included the baptism of Christ (with the voice of the Father and the Spirit as a dove) and the miracle at Cana, as well as the visit of the magi. So what we celebrate is not so much our gifts or those of the Wise Men, as it is a gift from God, manifest in Jesus. Maybe a way to celebrate the Epiphany is to reflect on how God has been made known to me. Simple things, like a hug from a friend or an answered prayer, or major events like a wedding, the birth of a child, or a funeral, can all be ways to experience the Lord. The Wise Men received the gift of an epiphany by following a star. May the light of Christ lead you to him also. Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

# FEAST DAY OF ST. BRIGID OF IRELAND



## St. James Cathedral Basilica

(250 Cathedral Place, Brooklyn, NY 11201)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025

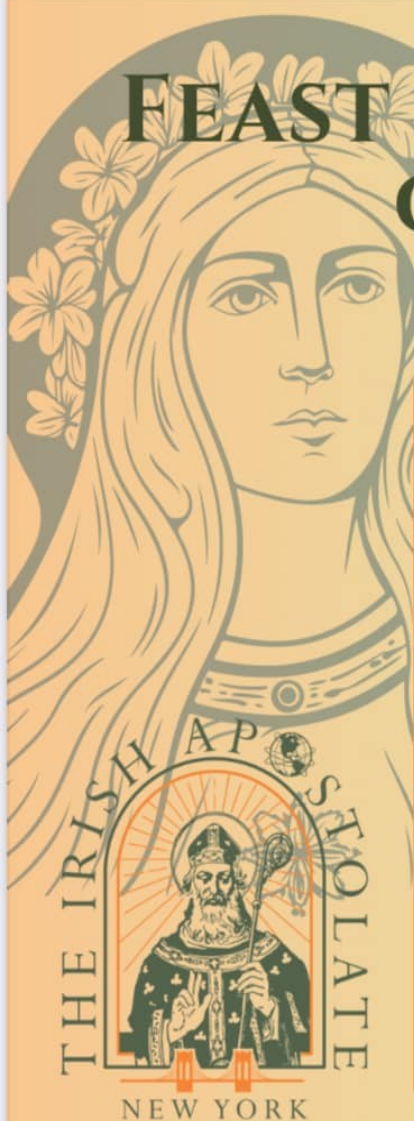
1pm Mass

Followed By:

Irish Cultural Performances



Join Bishop Robert J. Brennan at  
the FIRST Irish Apostolate celebration  
of the Feast of Saint Brigid of Ireland



**Schedule for the Lectors and  
Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion  
SATURDAY/SUNDAY JANUARY 11/12**

**Lectors**

**4pm Vigil:** John Sullivan

**9am:** Michael Shoule

**11:30am:** Linda Limberg

**Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

**4pm:** Lillian Santos + Terry Marchia

**9am:** Mary Ann & Gregg Schreiber, + Anne Caruso + Bobby Shoule

**11:30am:** Valerie Day + Olivia Miranda + Bernie Liu

**Acolyte/Altar Servicers Schedule  
SATURDAY/SUNDAY JANUARY 11/12**

**SATURDAY 4pm VIGIL**

Landon + Sophia + Jose

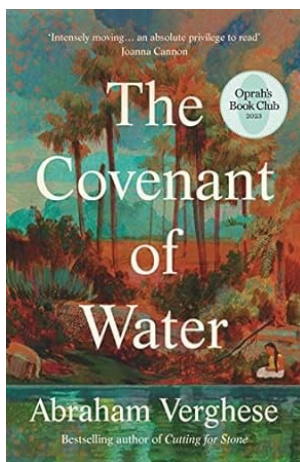
**Sunday 9AM**

Vincent + Omar + Julianna

**Sunday 11:30AM**

Brooke + Madison + Aya

**Next Meeting of the Book of the Month Club  
Will Take Place in the Murray Center on  
Monday Evening January 27 at 7pm**



**The Book of the Month is  
Abraham Verghese's  
The Covenant of Water**

**Rosary Societys  
Altar Linen Schedule**



January 5: Nancy Hill  
January 12: Mary Galazin  
January 19: Carol Fortune  
January 26: Nancy Marchi  
February 2: Nancy Hill  
February 9: Mary Galazin  
February 16: Carol Fortune  
February 23: Nancy Marchi  
March 2: Nancy Hill

If you are unable to do a week please call  
Carol 718 + 631 + 0896



***Father Vincent Capodanno***

May God who has offered healing and strength through the hands of the His only Son, Our Lord, and through Christ's many servants grant me the favor of His healing hand through the intercession of His servant, **Father Vincent Capodanno**, priest, missionary, and chaplain, who always sought to heal and comfort the wounded and dying on the field of battle.



**American Martyrs Catholic War Veterans Post 1772 ON GOING RECRUITMENT**

**If you served in the United States Military PLEASE Consider joining our Post.  
FOR MORE INFO CALL RAY 917-515-9102**





# Annual Christmas Mitten Drive Is Back



Please share your "gently" used or new adult & children  
Gloves, Mittens, Scarves, Hats to warm those in need.

Place them in the boxes as you enter church and we will do the rest!

Mitten Drive is during the entire Christmas Season!!!



## The Presentation of The Gifts at Mass



Before Mass each day the gifts of bread and wine are placed at the break of American Martyrs. If you are at Mass and the mass is being celebrated in memory of a loved one please feel free to sit near the gifts and bring them to the altar, where they will become the Body and Blood of Christ. If you are at Mass and no one gets up to bring the gifts to the altar, please feel free to bring them to the altar yourself. This is a parish celebration and we are all parishioners.

## American Martyrs Rectory Office Hours

**Monday - Thursday**  
**9am - 12 noon + 1pm - 4pm**

**Friday and Saturday**  
**9am - 12 noon + 1pm - 3pm**

**After Hours by Appointment**



# MOVIES to watch with your KIDS



## Are There Any Good Movies To Watch???

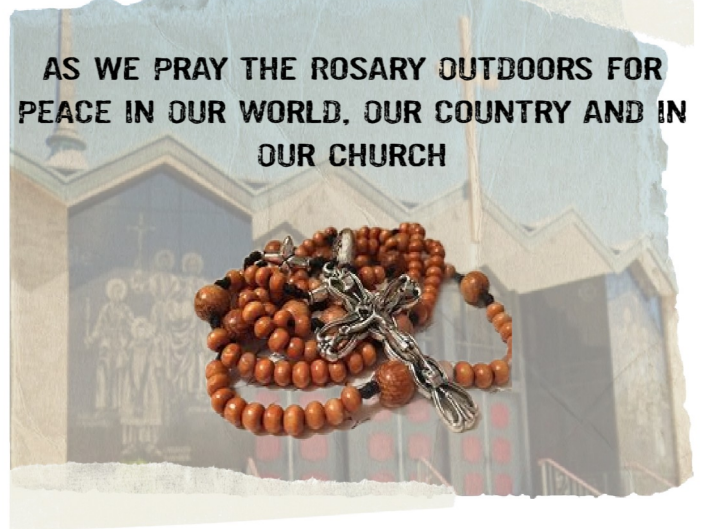
Movies, music, television, and the Internet are the main sources of entertainment for your children. There is a lot of inappropriate material that their eyes and ears can pick up, so talk with your children about what is appropriate entertainment for them. If you are worried about what your children could be seeing or hearing, take advantage of parental blockage systems on your cable and internet systems.

Use the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Movie Review website as your guide for what movies are appropriate.

[www.catholicnews.com/movies](http://www.catholicnews.com/movies)

BE A PART OF THE WORLD WIDE MOVEMENT  
AND JOIN THE AMERICAN MARTYRS  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
FR. JOHN J. MURRAY COUNCIL #14666

AS WE PRAY THE ROSARY OUTDOORS FOR  
PEACE IN OUR WORLD, OUR COUNTRY AND IN  
OUR CHURCH



**RAIN OR SHINE**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6PM**

## FINDING GOD

The splendid magi, all sparkle and dash and solemnity, march right up off the pages of Matthews Gospel and into our churches today. Matthew alone tells us this grand and seductive story so that we might see the light and know that the child these magi visited is the fulfillment of prophecy, the king of the world that stretches to the magis home country and beyond, right down the ages to us. We too see and understand anew. Like the magi, our patron saints for this day, we see in the newborn child the king of the universe and light of the world. Like the magi, we find in ourselves a new faith and a new life. Like them, we return to our home by a new route.

We are asked to come away from this festive season ourselves renewed and awake to the presence of God among us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found, to be attentive and surprised and ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts. Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn  
My Car Went **OVER \$750,000 SINCE 2014**  
**DONATE YOUR AUTO**  
MONEY GOES BACK TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH  
• IRS Tax Deduction • Free Towing  
Any Condition • Any Model • Running or Not  
**718-491-2525**  
Visit Us at [svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org](http://svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org)



## THE DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

**"You can't afford to miss it!"**



**9am to 3pm January 11, 2025**

**Fr. John J. Murray Hall**

**To register or for more information Call**

**Martin Hirschfield 631-360-9720**

### Epiphany of the Lord

In our celebration of the Epiphany, two interwoven themes are present in the readings today. God is beginning something new, and God gathers all of humanity to participate. For Isaiah, Gods bright light, manifested in the people of Israel, attracts and summons people from many nations to Jerusalem. In the letter to the Ephesians, Gods grace makes the Gentiles co-heirs and co-partners in the gospel. Matthew tells the story of the fulfillment of Gods promises to Israel through the birth of Jesus, and simultaneously leading foreigners to share in these same promises. With the birth of Jesus, God chose a particular people, in a particular time and place, to enter most directly into the human story.

Today's readings teach that God did this in order to gather all people, all cultures, into unity with God. Like the magi, we are drawn into a journey toward God, becoming co-partners in Gods work.

### JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

Tradition, poetry, and literature have long reflected upon the story of the magi. The journey of the magi indeed resonates with journeys in our own lives. The journey is a search for a king, for what or who is of primary importance in life. The seekers lose direction and encounter obstacles and dangers. Searching for a king, the magi first come upon a false king, Herod. The reappearance of the star shows them the true path and leads to the true king.

For Matthew, the journey culminates in the magis worship of Jesus. They discover a king not clothed in grandeur, but wrapped in humility and simplicity. They begin to re-imagine what true royal power really is. Transformed by the journey, they embrace the humble king, Jesus.

### INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS

An epiphany is a manifestation, a revelation of what was hidden, and often a challenge to change. For Matthews community, the story of the magi challenged these new Christians, from both Jewish and Gentile origin. The insiders, those rooted in the Jewish scriptures and traditions, might be uncomfortable with the magi, and with God working within Gentile culture to draw them toward God. The outsiders, the Gentiles, would rejoice that God calls them from within their own roots. But they knew that they too were called to their own journey of transformation.

Who are insiders and outsiders today? Some might see strangers as threats to accustomed ways of honoring and serving God. Others might believe that they themselves are too distant, concluding that they cannot be accepted in Christian community, and perhaps tune out Gods activity in their lives. Still others might think that belief in Christ serves as another dividing line between people, preventing them from seeing all persons as Gods children. The story of the Epiphany reminds us that classifying insiders and outsiders is an illusion, a falsehood arising from a separation from God. When we are united with God, we can only see others as sisters and brothers. Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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*Thoughts as you prepare for Christmas with Floater and Smitty*

**Floater:** As I handed my dad his 50th birthday card, he looked at me with tears in his eyes and said, "You know, one would have been enough."

**Smitty:** I walked down a street where the houses were numbered 64K, 128K, 256K, and 512K. That was a trip down memory lane.

**Floater:** A man who runs behind a car will get exhausted, but a man who runs in front will get tired.

**Smitty:** The main function of the little toe on your foot is to make sure that all the furniture in the house is in place.

**Floater:** My new girlfriend works at the zoo, I think she's a keeper.

**Smitty:** Cashew. The sound of a nut sneezing.

**Floater:** Did you know Raymond Burr had a brother who was a lumberjack? His name was Tim Burr

**Smitty:** What did the judge say when a skunk walked in to testify? Odor in the Court!

**Floater:** I never thought I'd be the type of person who got up early in the morning to exercise. And I was right.

**Smitty:** For nearly a year I have been investing in stocks. That's Chicken, Beef and Vegetable. I will soon be a bouillonaire!

**Floater:** Insurance companies are warning campers if your tent is stolen during the night you won't be covered.



"Yes, gifts are given at weddings, but the Magi bearing gifts is not really the right reading for a wedding."

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