



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“Where is the newborn
king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its
rising and have come to
do him homage.” - Mt 2:2

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVING ST. MARY'S/ MALTA, SACRED HEART/ DODSON, ST. FRANCIS /SACO

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

Contact Us

Fr. Felix Nayak, Pastor

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Please check our website for additional information.

Weekly bulletins are posted in full color with several additions – check them out here: <https://www.saintmarysmalta.org/bulletins>

Confession – Friday's 9-10am, Saturday's 11-noon or contact Fr. Felix directly for an appointment.

Adoration – every Friday 9:00-10:00am immediately following daily Mass.

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday vigil – Malta 5:00pm Sunday – Saco 8:30am, Malta 10:30am, Dodson 12:30pm

Daily Mass (Monday thru Friday) – Malta 8:30am

Homily by Fr. Felix:

The Feast of the Epiphany (A): Is 60:1–6, Eph 3:2–6, Mt 2:1–12

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Jesus Christ to all peoples, shown in the journey of the Magi who are led by the star to worship the newborn King. It proclaims that Christ is the universal Savior and calls the Church to reflect His light to the whole world.

In the first Reading, prophet Isaiah proclaims with joy: “Arise! Shine! For your light has come.” This passage is addressed to the people who had experienced darkness, exile, discouragement, and loss of identity. Yet Isaiah announces a divine reversal: God’s glory rises upon Jerusalem, transforming darkness into light. Theologically, this light is not merely physical or national; it is God’s salvific presence. Jerusalem becomes a beacon, not for its own glory, but because God dwells there. The nations are drawn to this light, bringing their gifts, gold and frankincense, symbols of worship and recognition of God’s reign.

In the context of Epiphany, Isaiah’s prophecy finds fulfillment in Christ. Jesus is the true Light who rises not only for Israel but for all peoples. The Church, like Jerusalem, is called to reflect this light. When we live in faith, justice, and love, we become a visible sign that draws others toward God.

In the second reading, Saint Paul reveals what he calls a mystery, not something hidden forever, but something once concealed and now fully revealed in Christ. This mystery is revolutionary: the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ.

Theologically, Epiphany is about revelation and inclusion. In Christ, all barriers, ethnic, cultural, religious, are broken down. Salvation is a gift of grace, not privilege. Paul reminds us that the Church is catholic, universal by nature. Epiphany challenges us to examine our own hearts: Do we reflect this openness of God? Do our communities welcome strangers, the outsider, the one who is different? To celebrate Epiphany authentically is to live this mystery of unity and shared inheritance in Christ.

The Gospel presents the beautiful and dramatic story of the Magi. These wise men from the East are Gentiles, seekers of truth, guided by a star. They represent humanity’s deep longing for God. Unlike King Herod, who responds with fear and hostility, the Magi respond with faith, humility, and worship.

Theologically, the Magi show us that God speaks through creation, conscience, and history. The star is a sign of divine initiative; God always takes the first step toward humanity. Yet Magi must journey, search, and risk. Faith is both gift and response. Their gifts are rich in meaning: Gold acknowledges Christ as King, Frankincense recognizes His divinity, Myrrh foreshadows His suffering and death. When the Magi encounter the Child, they are transformed. They return by another route, a symbol of conversion. A true encounter with Christ always changes our direction.

The Feast of the Epiphany proclaims that Christ is revealed as the Light of all nations. Isaiah announces the light, Paul explains its universal meaning, and Matthew shows us human beings responding in faith. May we, as Church and as individuals, shine with Christ’s light and lead others to encounter Him. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JANUARY Anniversaries and Birthdays!

First Sunday (weekend) of each Month – please join as Fr. Felix gives a special blessing for everyone in our parish celebrating either a birthday or marriage anniversary during the coming month. Youth can come forward and adults can simply stand at their seat or raise their hand to be recognized.

We are in the process of updating our **volunteer information in the Ministry Scheduler program**. If you are on the list to serve a ministry, please email office@saintmarysmalta.org with any dates you do not want to be scheduled &/or any mass requests you have (Sunday only or Saturday only, ect.) We appreciate your continued service to the church with grateful hearts.

– It's not too late to be added to the ministry list! If you would like to volunteer, please send an email to the office or contact Macie Hould or Anne Boothe

If you would like to have another Priest perform a service (funeral, wedding, baptism, ect.) in our Parish, please contact Fr. Felix so he may grant his permission.

Week of December 28th, 2025 Donations: Malta \$7646, Saco- no count this week, Dodson- \$455



Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” — Mt 2:1b-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prayer Requests

*If you have a prayer request, please contact **Dianne Salsbery at 406-654-4675**. Names will be listed in the bulletin for a minimum of 30 days.*

Please pray for –Chuck Nurville, David Cochran, Dawn Goodheart Jones, the family of Skyla Sisco, Debbie and Joe Nicholson, Leona Kienenberger, the families of Staci French, Carletta Benson, Joe Simanton, Judy Henry, Adalyn McCollom, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, Dianne Salsbery, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of – Skyla Sisco, Staci French, Shirley Eklund, Alvina Doucette, Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens and all souls in need and pray also for their families that they find comfort and peace.

Next weeks Ministry Volunteers: January 11&12

	Sacristan	Lector	Hospitality	Money Counter
Saturday, 5:00 PM	Stacy French	Mike Ereaux Jeff VanHeel	Mary Lundstrom	
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Lana Fortin	Margaret Hanson Ryan Lankford	Bruce & Linda Hould	Alora Snider - Money Counter Reene Wasson - Money Counter

Mass Intentions - to schedule an intention,
please fill out an envelope at the back of the church.

Each intention is \$10.

Saturday 1.3.26	For the souls in purgatory r/b Lana Fortin
Sunday 1.4.26 10:30 Malta 8:30am Saco 12:30 Dodson	EPIPHANY CELEBRATED- Holy Day - For the faithful in our Parish - For the faithful in our Parish - For the faithful in our Parish
Monday 1.5.26	For my family r/b Lana Fortin
Tuesday 1.6.26	For all Cummings Families r/b the Cummings
Wednesday 1.7.26	For Debbie Marlene Nicholson r/b A Friend
Thursday 1.8.26	For the marginalized r/b Lana Fortin
Friday 1.9.26	For Roy & Joy Neumiller r/b the Mears Family
Saturday 1.10.26	For Derek Davis Family r/b Lana Fortin
Sunday 1.11.26	For the faithful in our Parish

**Daily Readings for the Week of
January 4th:**

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10- 12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12- 13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9- 10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

Finance Council members include:

Mike Ereaux 406-658-2613 (H), 406-654-7803 (C),
7mfe7195@itstriangle.com
Deb Sjostrom 406-654-1451, sjostrom@itstriangle.com.
Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh_99@hotmail.com
Scott King 406-654-7302, sbking1959@gmail.com
Heathyr Knowles 805-264-7350, hjknowles@msn.com
Shyla Sunford 406-399-1484, shylasunford@gmail.com
(Saco)
Bonnie Lankford 406-390-2276, Bonnie4339@hotmail.com
(Dodson)

Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. If interested
in serving please contact a member of the finance council.

Parish Council members include:

Alora Snider— 406-399-1675, alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com
Shawn Bleth— 406-654-7303, shawn.bleth@gmail.com
Nancy Ereaux—406-658-2613
Jeff Van Heel—406-266-1133
Joy DePuydt—406-674-5560, joyful@itstriangle.com (Saco)
Leona Kienenberger—406-383-4459,
leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com (Dodson)

EPIPHANY



