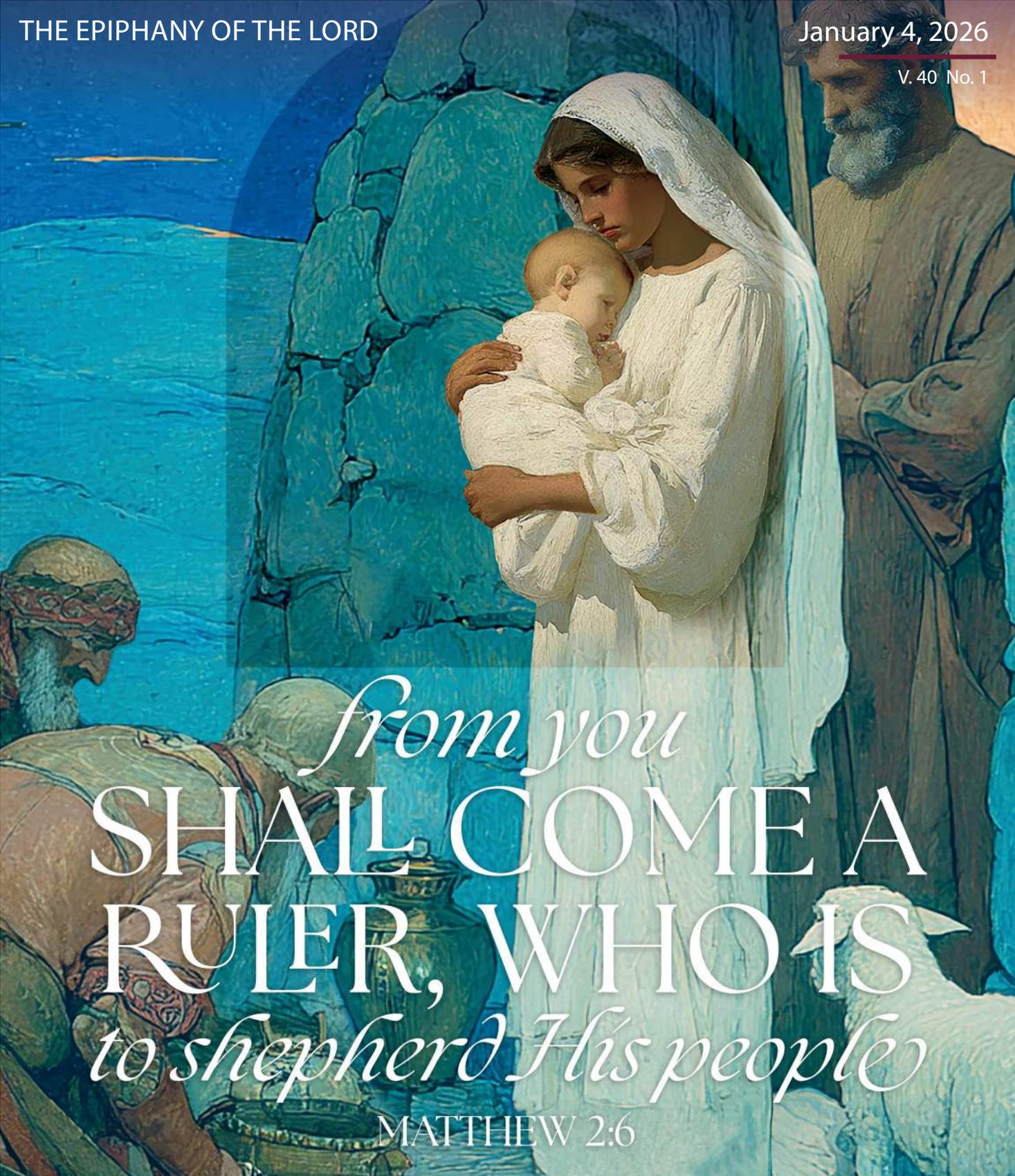


THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 2026

V. 40 No. 1



from you
SHALL COME A
RULER, WHO IS
to shepherd His people

MATTHEW 2:6



ST. MARTHA
PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River
Okemos, MI 48864

517-349-1763 | www.st-martha.org

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT |
Text: 88 44 6 with refrain;
based on Matthew 2:1-11 |
Text and music: Carols, Hymns and
Songs, 1863; John H Hopkins, Jr,
1820-1891, alt

Verses



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and



1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,
4. gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing,
5. Sac - ri - fice; "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!"

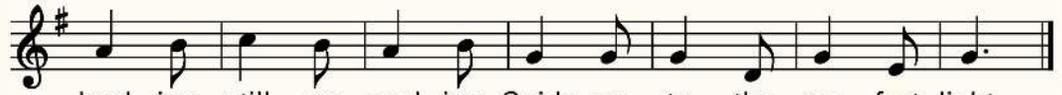
Refrain



1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
2. O - ver us all to reign.
3. Wor - ship him, God on high.
4. Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5. Sounds through the earth and skies.



star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward



lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

✠ **Amen.**

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

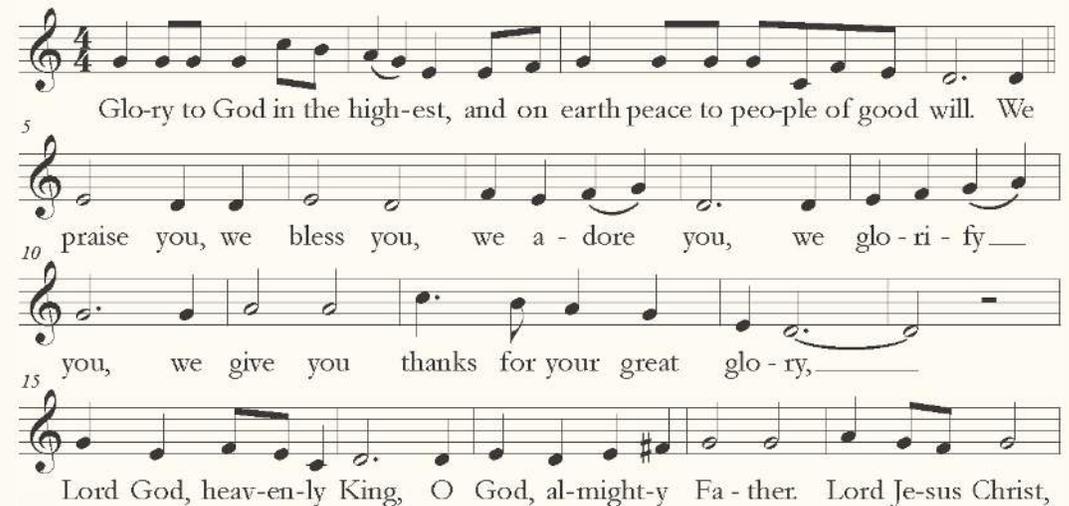
✠ **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

GLORIA

Mass for Saint Martha

Tony Andorfer |
Text © 2010, ICEL |
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Music © 2025, Tony Andorfer |
All rights reserved



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo - ple of good will. We
5
praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we glo - ri - fy —
10
you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry, —
15
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, O God, al - might - y Fa - ther. Lord Je - sus Christ,



24 On - ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
28 Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on
32 us; you take a-way the sins of the world, re - ceive our
36 prayer; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther,
40 have mer-cy on us. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
44 you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
48 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL

PSALM

Psalm 72

Text: Lectionary for Mass
© 1969, 1981, 1997, International
Committee on English in the Liturgy,
Inc. | Lectionary for Mass for Use in
the Dioceses of the United States of
America, second typical edition ©
1998, 1997, 1970, Confraternity of
Christian Doctrine, Inc, Washington,
DC | Music: Donald Fisbel,
b.1950, © 2007, International
Liturgy Publications, Nashville, TN |
All rights reserved | International
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Lord, eve-ry na-tion on earth, eve-ry na-tion on earth will a-dore you.

1. O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.
2. Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.
3. The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.
4. For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that

the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

℟️ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

ACCLAMATION

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Scot Crandal (ASCAP) |
Published by Zeal Music
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zealmusicpublishing.com |
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We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Deacon/Priest: The Lord be with you.

℟️ And with your spirit.

Deacon/Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

℟️ Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly

troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you,*

Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place

where the child was. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

*Deacon/Priest:*The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven,

[*at the words that follow, all bow until ‘and became man’*]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and

rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, Who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sin, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER (PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL)

To each petition, all respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY

HYMN

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES |
Text: 87 87 with refrain;
Bramley and Stainer's Christmas
Carols New and Old, 1871 |
William C Dix, 1837-1898 |
Music: Trad English melody,
16th cent | Bramley and
Stainer's Christmas Carols New
and Old, 1871



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas-ant, king, to



1. sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While
2. feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The
3. own him; The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let



1. shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is Christ the
2. si - lent Word is plead - ing.
3. lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



King, Whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing; Haste,



haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Priest: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

℟: May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

At the end of the prayer, all respond: Amen.

PREFACE DIALOGUE & PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

℟: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

℟: We lift them up to the Lord.

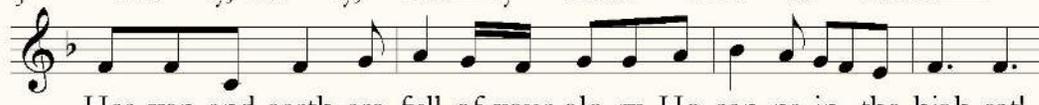
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

℟: It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Mass for Advent & Christmas

Tony Andorfer |
Tune: Rejoice, Rejoice |
Marty Haugen 1983 GLA
Publications



san - na in the high - est! Ho-san - na in the High-est!

**MEMORIAL
ACCLAMATION**
Mass for Advent &
Christmas

We pro-claim your death, O Lord, and pro-fess your res-sur-
rec-tion un-til you come a-gain

AMEN
Mass for Advent &
Christmas

A - men A - men, A - men

**THE LORD'S PRAYER
THE SIGN OF PEACE**

AGNUS DEI
Mass for Advent &
Christmas

*Tony Andorfer |
Tune: Rejoice, Rejoice |
Marty Haugen 1983 GIA
Publications*

Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta
Lamb - - - of God, you take a-way the sins of the
mun - di, 1, 2 mi - se - re - re no - - bis.
world, have mer - cy on us.
3. do - na no - bis pa - - cem.
grant us peace.

Priest:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

✠ Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION HYMN

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL |
Text: Irregular with refrain; |
trad English Carol, 17th cent; |
verse 6, alt |
Music: Trad English Carol, 17th cent



1. The first No - well, the an - gel did say,
2. They look - ed up and saw ___ a star
3. And by the light of that ___ same star
4. This star drew nigh to the ___ north - west,
5. Then en - tered in those wise ___ men three,
6. Then let us all with one ___ ac - cord



1. Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2. Shin - ing in ___ the east, ___ be - yond ___ them far;
3. Three ___ wise ___ men came ___ from coun - try far;
4. O'er ___ Beth - le - hem ___ it took ___ its rest,
5. Full ___ rev - 'rent - ly ___ up - on ___ the knee,
6. Sing ___ prais - es to ___ our heav - 'nly Lord;



1. In fields where _ they lay keep - ing their sheep,
2. And to the ___ earth it gave ___ great light,
3. To seek for a king was their ___ in - tent,
4. And there it ___ did both stop ___ and stay,
5. And of - fered ___ there, in his ___ pres - ence,
6. Who with the ___ Fa - ther we ___ a - dore



1. On a cold win - ter's night ___ that was ___ so deep.
2. And ___ so it con - tin - ued both day ___ and night.
3. And to fol - low the star ___ wher - ev - er it went.
4. Right ___ o - ver the place ___ where Je - sus lay.
5. Their ___ gold ___ and myrrh ___ and frank - in - cense.
6. And ___ Spir - it blest ___ for ev - er - more.



No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,



Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

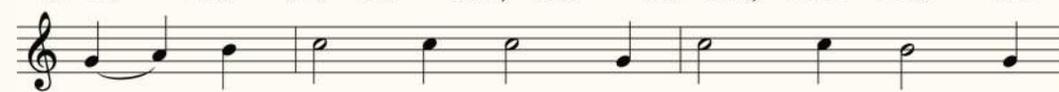
COMMUNION HYMN

What Star Is This

Text: *Quem stella sole pulchrior,*
Charles Coffin, 1676-1749;
tr by John Chandler, 1806-1876,
alt |
Tune: PUER NOBIS, LM;
adapt by Michael Praetorius,
1571-1621



1. What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
2. 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed: "From Ja - cob
3. While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, An in - ward
4. O Je - sus, while the star of grace In - vites us
5. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the



than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to an - nounce a
shall a star pro - ceed." And lo! The east - ern
light the Lord con - veys. It urg - es them, with
all to seek your face, Let not our sloth - ful
Spir - it, Three in One, May ev - 'ry tongue and



new - born king, Glad tid - ings of our God to bring.
 sag - es stand To read in heav'n the Lord's com - mand.
 force be - nign, To seek the Giv - er of the sign.
 hearts re - fuse The guid - ance of your light to use.
 na - tion raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise!

**ST. MICHAEL
 PRAYER**

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN
**Songs of Thankfulness
 and Praise**

*Text: Christopher Wordsworth,
 1807-1885, alt |
 Tune: SALZBURG, 77 77 D;
 Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702*



1. Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to
 2. Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and
 3. Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and
 4. Grant us grace to see you, Lord, Pres - ent in your

you we raise, Man - i - fest - ed by the star
 King su - preme; And at Ca - na, wed - ding guest,
 faint - ing soul; Man - i - fest in val - iant fight,
 ho - ly word. By that grace which you en - dow,

To the sag - es from a - far; Branch of roy - al
 In your God - head man - i - fest; Man - i - fest in
 Quell - ing all the dev - il's might; Man - i - fest in
 Help us im - i - tate you now, That we, pure like

Da - vid's stem In your birth at Beth - le - hem;
 pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
 you, may be At your great e - piph - a - ny;

An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 And may praise you, ev - er blest, God in flesh made man - i - fest.



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 writing from the copyright owner.*

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Mass Intentions

Monday, January 5

8:20 am + Martin Bukovac

Tuesday, January 6

8:20 am + Laura Hamtil
by *The Wolff Family*

Wednesday, January 7

6:00 pm + Virginia Zlotucha
by *J. & K. Matuszak*

Thursday, January 8

8:20 am + Julie Cativera
by *T. Sekula*

Friday, January 9

8:20 am VBS Volunteers

Saturday, January 10

5:00 pm + Dcn. David Barrett by *T. & I. Schwab*

Sunday, January 11

8:00 am + Nora Purcell by *The Radke Family*
10:00 am Intentions of the People of the Parish
5:00 pm + Robert E. Wood Family
by *J. Wood*



Mass Intentions

Masses are being scheduled on a first come, first serve basis up to one calendar year in advance. For example, on December 28, 2026, Masses through December 28, 2026 are open. Masses are stipended at \$10 per Mass.

Altar Flowers

Two floral arrangements are available each weekend with many openings throughout 2026 for \$90 per floral arrangement.

To schedule Mass Intentions or Altar Flowers, please contact the Parish Office.

Christmas Flower Donations

In Memory of

Bernardo and Lilia Ballesteros
Herve and Philo Defever
Chet and Jan Deka
Alisa Devlin
Alexandra Meredith Duda
Andrew Duda
Diane M. Duda
James A. Duda
Margaret A. Duda
DeKoven and Amy King
Thomas King
Jack Knapp
Edwin and Natalie Martyka
Paul Martyka
Dave and Betty Schwab
Maralou Y. Searfoss
Wendell Smith Family



Intercessory Prayers

St. Martha Parish prays for our brothers and sisters who need physical or spiritual healing, especially:

James "Jim"
Lounsbury
Katie Foster
Paul Loconto
Richard Hollowood
Frank Baldwin
Gabrielle Meece
Rose McManaman
John Paul Erford

For those serving in our Armed Forces, especially:

Albert Gillison,
U.S. Space Force
Joseph Irvin Gross,
U.S. Navy
Peter Harrison,
U.S. Air Force
Andrew Huff,
U.S. Air Force
Will Kordenbrock,
U.S. Army
Christian Menor,
U.S. Army
Stasu Reisner,
U.S. Marines
Louis Thole,
U.S. Air Force

For † those who have gone before us, especially:

† Ginny Bower
† Fran Sorber
† William Romsek
† Deacon Peter Anthony Gudaitis

For † those innocent souls lost to the tragedy of abortion

For the Pope's December Intention: for Christians in areas of conflict

We offer these prayers in the name of Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Contact the office
517-349-1763 or
office@st-martha.org
to add an individual
to the prayer list.

Names are listed on
the healing list for 6
weeks, armed forces
until requested, and
deceased for 3 weeks.



Scripture Readings

For the Week of January 4, 2026

Monday	Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop 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	1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22
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, 5-6a and 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday	The Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, January 10 5:00 pm	
S.	D. Hunter, M. Siminski
L.	1 - J. Rosalez W/2 - R. Kostrzewa
Sunday, January 11 8:00 am	
S.	P. and L. Schafer
L.	1 - M. Finelli W/2 - S. Stanley
Sunday, January 11 10:00 am	
S.	J. and K. Ault
L.	1 - D. Hilker W/2 - T. Muncie
Sunday, January 11 5:00 pm	
S.	H. Walton, VOLUNTEER NEEDED
L.	1 - C. Patton W/2 - A. Readett

Altar Servers Volunteers at each Mass



Ministry Scheduler Pro

Log in to **Ministry Scheduler Pro** to volunteer for open positions or for full schedules. Visit st-martha.org/liturgicalministries or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



Please contact the parish office if you need assistance.

This Week at St. Martha

Monday, January 5

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*

Tuesday, January 6

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*

Wednesday, January 7

6:00 pm Faith Formation, Grades 1-6
6:30 pm Confessions *Fr. Ryan*
6:30 pm Adoration until 7:20pm Benediction
6:30 pm CCW January Meeting - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

Thursday, January 8

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*
10:00 am Prayer Quilt Ministry - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

Friday, January 9

8:20 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*
9:00 am Adoration until 9:00 pm Benediction

Saturday, January 10

7:30 am Upper Room Men's Prayer Group - Bl. Solanus Casey Room
3:00 pm Confessions *Fr. Mike*

Sunday, January 11

9:00 am Whole Family Faith Formation, Grades 1-6
10:00 am Faith Formation CGS Level I (Ages 3-5)
11:00 am OCIA - St. Kateri Room
11:00 am Faith Formation CGS Level II (Grades 1 & 2)
11:00 am St. Vincent de Paul Open Meeting

Eucharist to Care Homes

January 11, 2025

Willows of Okemos	R. Salyers
Bickford of Okemos	C Leece; L Leece
Haslett Pointe, Medilodge	K. Mills
Dobie Road-ICMCF	V. and M. Mankowski

Get Connected

Be a part of our digital congregation! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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[Instagram.com/st.martha.okemos](https://www.instagram.com/st.martha.okemos)



Easy Giving Electronically
Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, visit st-martha.org/giving or text "Give" to 517-200-3560



From the Pastor's Desk



Thank You

A number of thank yous are due to so many people as we move through the Christmas season:

Thank you to Mrs. Patton and our tremendous faculty and staff in the school! They deserved their break these past couple of weeks. If you

go to our all-school Masses, I ask the kids a lot of questions. Recently our superintendent of Catholic Schools was here for an all-school Mass and was incredibly impressed by their answers. We are doing things right here at St. Martha School, and I couldn't be more proud.

Thank you to the parish staff - Kimberly Keefe, Cheryl Olsen, Monica Amoroso, Jackie Rosalez, Tony (and Marie) Andorfer, Gregg Alchin, and Joey DiMenno for all their hard work and dedication particularly through the busyness and craziness of Christmas. This was Cheryl and Monica's first Christmas with us, and they have been amazing in the office!

Thank you to Tony and Marie Andorfer, Joey DiMenno, our excellent choir, and all our cantors and music ministers who helped and worked extra hard through the Christmas liturgies. They are truly a blessing and help us elevate our worship particularly on these high holy days.

Thank you to all our lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, and ushers who assisted during our Christmas Masses. These Masses are well attended and all the extra help is much appreciated!

Thank you to all those who took time to help decorate and clean the church including Brigit Martell, Don and Jean Morgan, Diane Brady, Chuck Miller, Victoria Moore, Tom and Beth Smith, Peg Valenti, Kyle Sanborn, Ingrid Schwab, Maria Jones, Stacy Schroeder, Barb and Jim Forney, Doug Hunter, and Hedlund Walton. It takes a lot of help to make the church look as beautiful as it does for Christmas!

Thank you to our office volunteers and count teams. This time of year is particularly hectic in the office and without their help and dedication to the parish much would get delayed.

If I have left anyone off this list, please know it was unintentional. Saying thank you is important and I do not intend to leave anyone out.

Gospel Reflection

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord - the manifestation and realization of Jesus Christ as the savior of all nations. The three magi - Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar - who came from the east to pay homage to the Christ child, represent all the nations outside of Israel (the Gentiles...you and me!). Christ came not just to save the people of Israel but everyone.

Our readings today juxtapose light and dark. Whenever the biblical authors use the themes of light and dark they use them metaphorically to describe the conditions of salvation and sin, respectively. Only Matthew and Luke write about the birth of Jesus. Matthew's Gospel gives no indication regarding the time of day Jesus was born. John's Gospel gives us a very cosmological understanding of Christ's birth. Luke and John, however, both juxtapose light and dark.

In the birth account of Luke, Jesus is born in the middle of the night when darkness covered the earth. We also read on Christmas night, from the prophet Isaiah, that the people walked in darkness. Why was it important to the biblical authors that Jesus - the Anointed One - be born in darkness? Because darkness is a metaphor for the condition of the human person - sinfulness. God - the Divine - entered, or rather invaded, the realm of human darkness and sin. As John reminds us in his Gospel, "What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

In our readings today we continue with this theme of light and dark. The magi see a bright star in the darkness of the night sky that leads them to the light of the nations - Jesus Christ. There they pay him homage and offer him the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold symbolizing Jesus' kingship. Frankincense symbolizing Jesus' divinity. Myrrh symbolizing Jesus' death. It is through Jesus' kingship, divinity, death and resurrection that he is truly the light of the nations - a light that the darkness of sin cannot overcome.

At the beginning of each Mass we take a few moments to call to mind our own sinfulness, or darkness of heart, to prepare ourselves to more worthily celebrate the Sacred Mysteries of Christ's Paschal sacrifice. Today, let's ponder the darkness that exists within our own hearts and invite the light of the Lord to dispel that darkness.

Know of my prayers for you all!
Fr. Ryan



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Open Enrollment Coming Soon for the 2026-2027 School Year

St. Martha School is now preparing for the upcoming school year! Re-enrollment for current families, including siblings, opens on **January 12**. Enrollment for registered St. Martha parishioners begins February 2, with enrollment opening to the general public on February 16.

Families are encouraged to secure their spot early. Current families may re-enroll through FACTS. Information for new families regarding the application and enrollment process will be available soon.

Come see what makes St. Martha School special. Call the school office at 517-349-3322 to schedule a personal tour today!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, January 10 | 10 am - 3:45 pm | Parish Hall

Register online at www.redcrossblood.org/give (Sponsor code: StMarthasOkemos) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-in donors are also welcome.

NOW HIRING

Kids Corner Afterschool Program Assistant

St. Martha School is seeking a caring and responsible individual to assist with supervision of our Kids Corner Afterschool Daycare Program **from 3:15-5:30pm** on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, beginning January 5.

Duties include interacting with students and providing supervision and guidance in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment.



If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Mrs. Andrea Patton at apatton@st-martha.org or call the parish office at 517-349-3322.

Around the Diocese

Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s): Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on Jan 30-Feb 1, 2026. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$240 for meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call (586) 770-1772 for details.



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Weber Center Offers Days of Mindfulness All are invited to join the mindfulness community at Weber Retreat and Conference Center to deepen their understanding of and commitment to daily meditation practices.

Days of Mindfulness –10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. monthly on Saturdays – are as follows: February 7, 2026, Attentiveness; March 14, 2026, We are Needed!; April 11, 2026, Sitting with Feelings and Emotions. Days of Mindfulness are facilitated by Sister Esther Kennedy, OP, a Dominican Sister of Adrian, a retreat leader, and a spiritual director.

The cost of \$35 per session includes lunch. Each session is limited to 30 participants.

Registration is required: visit www.webercenter.org and click on "programs," call 517-266-4000, or email webercenter@adriandominicans.org. Limited scholarships are available.



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Bulletin & Announcement Deadlines

Bulletin Articles Must be emailed to bulletin@st-martha.org by Monday at noon ahead of the weekend requested.

Mass Announcements Must be emailed to office@st-martha.org by Wednesday at noon ahead of the weekend requested.

Intercessory Prayer List in the bulletin includes sick individuals for 6 weeks (unless specified for a longer time), deceased individuals for 3 weeks, and military individuals until we are notified they are home. Please contact the parish office to add a name.

Sacramental Information

Baptisms take place the 2nd Sunday of each month. Parents who are baptizing their first child will need to attend a class. Visit st-martha.org/baptism to get started.

First Reconciliation/First Communion and Confirmation for non-school students is completed as part of our Faith Formation program. Please email Jackie Rosalez at jrosalez@st-martha.org.

Marriage Preparation begins with a meeting with the priest at least 9 months in advance of your ideal wedding date. Please visit st-martha.org/marriage to complete the form to get the process started.

Anointing of the Sick can be arranged by contacting the parish office.

Want to become Catholic as an adult? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for older teens or adults who are considering becoming Catholic or just want to learn more about our Faith. Please email Deacon Jim Collom for more information at dcnjim@st-martha.org.



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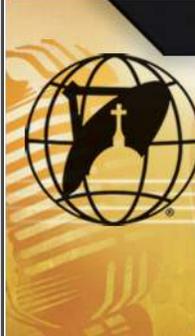
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