

Working with the Word
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 5, 2025 (C)

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6
Responsorial Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Focusing the Gospel

Keywords and

phrases: Where is the newborn king of the Jews, saw his star, search diligently, saw the child



To the point: Arriving in Jerusalem, the magi ask a critical question: "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" This is the burning question that prompted them to follow a distant star to a distant place. What planted this burning question in their hearts surely was some wisdom that their lives were not complete. Their journey to find the Infant was long and convoluted, yet guided by heavenly light. We, too, will find Christ if we search. We, too, will be led by God's light. We, too, will be satisfied with Fullness of life.

Connecting the Gospel ...

... **to the First Reading:** For Isaiah the "light [which] has come" to Jerusalem is God's glory. The story of the magi in the Gospel reveals that the light is Christ himself, manifested to all nations.

... **to experience:** We tend to rely on logic when setting a direction for our lives, for example, when choosing a spouse, a profession, a neighborhood, or a school. From the magi we learn that life-directing choices must also be guided by unexpected in-breakings of wisdom that come from sudden light, the counsel of others, inspiration, insight, dreams.

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Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Epiphany of the Lord

12:00 p.m. (Noon) + **Florian Czaja**
req by Wife Joan

+ **Jack Chmielowiec**
req by Family

Monday, January 6 - Friday, January 10, 2025

MASS AT RESURRECTION PARISH
St. Joseph Site 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 12, 2025

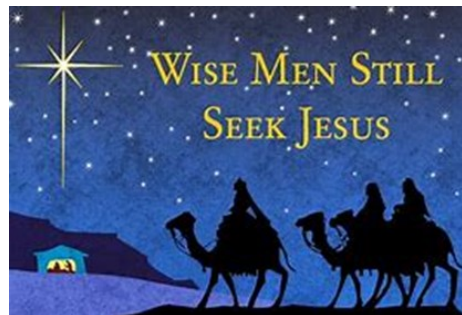
The Baptism of the Lord

12:00 p.m. (Noon) + **John and Ruthe Kowalik**
req by Daughter Cheryl

Votive Candles

Lit for the Week January 5, 2025

Blessed Mother + **John and Ruthe Kowalik**
req by Cheryl Kowalik



Please join us for the Rosary
at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday
evenings in Ascension Church.

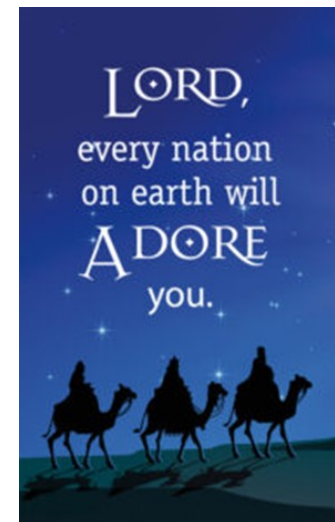
ASCENSION

Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Scottston F. Brentwood, O. de M., *Pastor*
Rev. Matthew Zirnheld, *Senior Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Eugene Costa, O. de M., *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Patrick O'Keefe, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Mr. Walter T. Szczesny, *Permanent Deacon*

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025



Mass Time:

Sunday, January 5, 2025 ~ 12:00 p.m.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Contact information:

Office Phone: 585.343.1796

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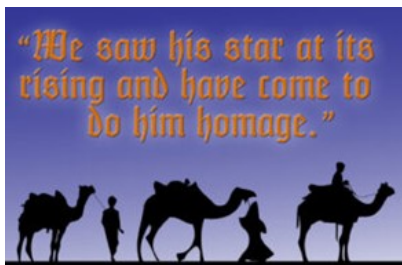
Website: www.ascensionrcc.com

Pray For...

Sonya Alwardt, Rita Amend, Jeanette Attardi, Eleanor Bakos, Heidi Banser, Jodi Battistella, Bea Becker, Carl Becker, Donald Becker, Dave Beedham, Sue Berardini, Irene Bow, Randy Bow, Anne Marie Boyce, Alexandria Bush, Abby Campbell, Christopher Chilano, Hailey Coniber, Carrie Cory, Joe Corcimiglia, Sue Crimes, Joan Czaja, Steve Deleo, Lindsey Dibble, Dolly DiFilippo, Jonny Dixon, Marge Dombroski, Lucille Dora, Sundae Duyssen, Helen Estes, Joe Fiannaca, Elizabeth Finnin, Kathy Fisher, Carrie Ford, Bill Frieday, Gail & Mother, Michelle Gaylord, Anthony Grasso, Jerry Grasso, Cooper Green, Sharon Greene, Carol Griswold, Dillon Hale, Bernard Hayward, Nancy Hoag, Cody Hodge, Donna Horton, Dana Howe, Rodger Hudson, Kathryn Huff, Steve Huff, Anne Ireland, Lillian Irrera, Anna Joyner, Vicky Joyner, Judy Kedzierski, Mya Kershenski, Mary Klein, Hannah Koepsell, John Konarski, John Konieczny, Stella Kwiatkowski, Nikki Lang, Dawn MacDonald, Julia Nagy, Rosie Smith, Francis Marchese, Joan Mastrella, Carmelina McAuley, Richard Miller, Wendy Mitchell, Curtis Mooney, Charles Morse, Jr., Fran Mruczek, Herb Neal, Christa Oderkirk, Bea Ortiz, Adrian Overfield, Norma Padilla, Joe Palmer, Olivia Parmenter, Lena Pellegrino, Margaret Phillips, Leona Polk, Gary Radamaker, Grace Renzo, Caz Rodriguez, James Rowcliffe, Antonette Salvador, Kathy Schaal, Jared Schlaggel, Joseph Schlossel, Diane Schultz, Lynn Sellick, Dorothy Shafer, Terry Simpson, Lynette Siverling, Daniel Slubecky, Donna Stephenson, Teresa Tamfer, Dorothy Taylor, Bev Terol, Bob Terol, Carrie Thornley, Nancy Tomaselli, John Trigilio, Marie Tundo, J. T. Turnbull, Luca Vassallo, Roberta Walker, Beth Walsh, Katie Walsh, Sue Webster, Jeff Wilber, Carol Corona Wiley, Amos Williams, David Wilson, Mary Ann Woods, Norb Wloch, Rosanne Wray, Terry Yates.

If you or a loved one would like to be added to this list, please call the parish office at 343-1796.

Epiphany of the Lord



At the time of Jesus' birth, it was commonly believed that a new star would appear whenever a new ruler was born. The Father in Heaven used this belief to honor His Son, the new King. When three astrologers from the East, the Magi, saw this "new star," they chose to follow it to discover the new King. Pointing the way, in the form of a star, was creation itself.

The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation," inviting us to look at how Christ is manifest in our own hearts.

First, when the Magi saw a sign from the heavens that pointed to a new King, they stopped everything and departed in haste to find Him. When God speaks to you and manifests Himself to you in some way, nothing could be more important than to be attentive to His voice and follow Him with the same haste.

The Magi brought the Christ Child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold symbolized kingship. When we ponder the gift of gold given to the Christ Child, we are inspired to give Him our own symbolic gold by prayerfully acknowledging Him as our King to whom we pledge complete submission.

Used in worship to symbolize prayers rising to heaven, frankincense symbolizes the Christ Child's divinity. We offer frankincense to Christ when we acknowledge His divine nature. Often used in burial, myrrh honors the Christ Child Who came to give His life as a sacrifice for many. We offer myrrh to profess our belief in the saving power of Christ's death on the Cross and our need for that gift of salvation.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, see it as a historical event in which you are invited to share. God wants to manifest Himself to you today. When this happens, respond with faith and worship, giving God the greatest glory by giving Him your very life and offering Him your spiritual gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Our Prayer today:

Most glorious Christ Child, please manifest Yourself within my soul where You wish to be born. May I follow the example of the Magi, offering You my own gifts in adoration and trust. Jesus, I trust in You.

Catholic Education... everything you value!

We are excited to share a message of hope and renewal for Western New York's Catholic Elementary Schools. Like other Dioceses across the country, we have faced challenges; yet, through the collaboration of hundreds of people who are passionate about Catholic education, we are launching a strategy to ensure a brighter and stronger future for our schools.

Our Catholic schools will remain rich in tradition and academic excellence, wrapped in a Christ-centered, safe, and welcoming community. Throughout 2025, we'll share more exciting news. We are currently searching for a Diocesan Superintendent to lead our future strategy. Please spread the word.

Interested in being part of this exciting movement? Enroll your student or apply to join our highly qualified team of educators at https://link.edgepilot.com/s/326b8948/hwkkLY0XESuEouFgi_0wg?u=http://www.wnycatholicschools.org/.



Bingo will be played at 1:30 p.m. with doors opening at noon on January 5, 2025. The Buffalo Bills will have a home game with the time not yet announced at this printing. Please check the Ascension Parish Bingo Facebook Page for Sunday, January 12, 2025

Due to the holidays the collection reports will be in the next bulletin.