

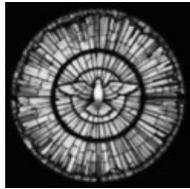


# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



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. - Mt 2:10-11a

**Our Lady of Mt.  
Carmel and Our Lady of  
Loreto Parish  
PRAYER FOR PARISH  
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**



Lord God, You love us with an everlasting love, and You choose us to share Your love with others. We ask that You rekindle in our hearts a new spirit of faith, of prayer and of reconciliation. Inspire us to search out and find ways of bringing one another closer to You. We pray for all who form our parish community, that we remain faithful to Your teaching, that we remain steadfast in our prayer, both personal and communal, that together with You and the Holy Spirit, our parish may be renewed and transformed. All this we ask in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Please cut out and pray daily.**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Friends,

The following is a beautiful reflection I came across and wanted to share with you. It was written by Michael N. Okinczyc-Cruz, and appeared in Give Us This Day-Daily Prayer for Today's Catholics:

"I am struck by the lengths the magi went to in order to fulfill a divine mission. By cunningly avoiding Herod's duplicitous request to know where the young child was located, the three magi likely saved the life of Jesus and, in doing so, risked their own lives. Instead of traveling back to their homelands along a path that would inevitably have led them directly to the eagerly awaiting Herod, who was expecting their return, they decided to take a different route home.

Herod, the Roman client king of Judea, was well known during this time for his ruthless appetite for domination and violence. In deciding to follow the stirrings from God that emerged in their dreams rather than the directive of this power-hungry ruler, the magi knowingly engaged in an act of divinely inspired disobedience. The courageous and bold decision to willingly disobey Herod's request provided Mary and Joseph with time to hastily embark with their newborn child on the long and arduous journey to Egypt.

The story of the Epiphany and the courage of the magi convey a certain theological truth: we are each called by God to be co-creators in the building of the reign of God here on earth. In a world in which laws are most often created and interpreted by the wealthy and powerful, the path toward creating a radically transformed society most certainly requires dissent and nonviolent civil disobedience toward systems of domination, violence, and greed. It is a path that demands we resist all that is antithetical to God's vision of love and liberation."

An Italian legend that evolved from Epiphany is that of La Befana. Legend had it that Befana was approached by the Magi, also known as the Three Wise Men few days before the birth of Jesus. They asked for directions to where the Son of God was, as they had seen his star in the sky, but she did not know. She provided them with shelter for a night, as she was considered the best housekeeper in the village, with the most pleasant home. The magi invited her to join them on the journey to find the baby Jesus, but she declined, stating she was too busy with her housework. Later, La Befana had a change of heart, and tried to search out the astrologers and Jesus. That night she was not able to find them, so to this day, La Befana is searching for the little baby. She leaves all the good children toys and candy or fruit, while the bad children get coal or dark candy, onions or garlic.

As we begin this New Year 2023, may you receive every good gift God so much wants to give you! Blessings and best wishes!

Monsignor Pedone



**The Epiphany of  
the Lord**

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage." The Magi were men of great faith. Their worldly position and power could have made them scoff at the sight of this

humble infant. Their treasury of wealth could have blinded them to the true value of this child king. But instead these men placed themselves at the feet of Jesus in a gesture of complete submission. Then, as a sign of their devotion, they "opened their treasures" and offered this baby costly and precious gifts. Only a deep and sincere faith could justify such a surprising scene.

Real faith often runs contrary to worldly wisdom. Without the firm belief that Jesus was the Messiah, it would seem absurd to travel all those miles and part with all that gold, much less to bow down in the presence of a poor child. But the eyes of faith can see much more than the eyes of the world alone. The Magi understood that all the prestige and possessions of the earth are nothing in comparison to the kingdom of heaven. They wanted to use their worldly wealth to give glory to the King of Kings, rather than for their own glory.

Taking the Three Kings as models, we can examine our own lives. Are we willing to "travel" for our faith, leaving our comfort zone for the sake of the Gospel? Are we willing to share our "wealth" to glorify God? Are we willing to submit our desires and plans to the authority of Christ? As we begin the journey of this New Year, let us resolve to follow in the faithful footsteps of the Magi.

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**The Epiphany of the Lord**, is observed as a church festival in commemoration of the coming of the **Magi** as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles or in the Eastern Church in commemoration of the baptism of Christ. This year, we celebrate The Epiphany on Sunday, January 8th.



On January 9th, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord**.

This brings to an end the **Season of Christmas**. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolic of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

*Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas*

**MEAT RAFFLE**

The Italian Festival Committee is hosting a Meat Raffle on **Sunday, January 8, 2023** at 1:00 PM at the Wheelock Inn, 82 Wheelock Ave, Millbury, MA.

D'Errico's Market will be providing the meat for the event. There will be many chances to win. Come and join us on January 8th, 2023. In addition to the meat raffle, there will also be a 50/50 raffle, as well as a couple of basket raffles.

Come and join the fun!

**ITALIAN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Italian Festival Committee Meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 12th at 6:30 pm** in the Parish Center.

**ROSARY MASS**

When was the last time you prayed the Rosary?

We will be praying the Rosary with Msgr. **Pedone Sunday, January 15th at 10:00 AM prior to the 10:30 AM Mass**. Rosary beads will be distributed as well as a guide to praying the Rosary prior to 10:00 AM. These Rosary beads have a name attached that we have been asked to mention in prayer.



After Mass, The Mount Carmel Knights of Columbus will have a free Pancake Breakfast as a thank you to the continued generosity of our parishioners in the Parish Center.

All are welcome!

**God's Gift of Time**

Now that the busy-ness of the Advent season has passed and the Christmas season closes, let us take more time to praise God for his magnificent gifts and to hold on to the true meaning of the epiphany which we celebrate today..

Let us reflect on the gift of time. It sounds so simple, so obvious; time is a gift. Yet, because we are human, we sometimes forget to honor time. Instead, we ignore it, wrestle with it, mismanage it and take it for granted.

If we take some time, we can see the significance of the gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense and myrrh - in our own lives.

Our time on this earth is gold. It is so priceless. Once it passes, we can't get time back. Yet, God gives us memories in time's place. *So what memories are you going to make with your time today? How will you spend and share your gold?*

Our time is a precious and desired commodity like frankincense and myrrh. These aromatic resins were used to inspire the senses as well as comfort and heal. Time anoints us with love, comfort, struggle, growth, healing, discovery and the chance to experience hope and joy in our daily lives. *So how are you using your time to love and grow? How are you using your time to heal physically and emotionally? What will you discover today? What brings you joy? What gives you hope? How will you offer your precious time to comfort others?*

**Time is God's magnificent gift.**  
By Karen Kiefer, Boston College

Financial Stewardship  
For the week ending January 1, 2023

Income

Offertory:		
Week-End	\$3,000.05	
On-Line Giving	3,765.00	
Mail	1,155.00	
Solemnity of Mary	525.00	
Maintenance	260.00	
First Offering	140.00	
Fuel	80.00	
Christmas	45.00	
Catholic University	25.00	
Ash Wednesday	20.00	
Priest Retirement	20.00	
Home Missions	20.00	
Total Offertory		\$9,055.05
Candles		200.00
Mass Stipends		95.00
Sanctuary Candle		40.00
Total		<u>\$9,390.05</u>

Disbursements

Music (December)		
Organists	\$1,325.00	
Choir Director	900.00	
Cantors	625.00	
Total Cost of Music		\$2,850.00
Diocesan Invoices (December)		5,300.00
Salaries and Wages		1,628.00
Funeral Stipends		1,510.00
Employee Benefits		916.33
Religious Retirement		913.00
Rectory—Food & Household		878.53
Mass Stipends		410.00
Software License Renewal		283.49
Rubbish Renewal		138.60
Supplies		36.96
Total		<u>\$14,864.91</u>

Average Weekly Amount Needed for Parish Operations		\$8,400.00
Total Amount Deposited	\$9,390.05	
Less: Diocesan Collections & Restricted Funds	(85.00)	9,305.05
Cash Over/Short		<u>\$905.05</u>

Ministry Assignments January 14-15

January 14 @ 4:00 pm

Lector – Sandra Mercurio  
Ministers – Chet DiLeo & Tom Lavin

January 15 @ 8 am

Lector - Joe Sama  
Ministers - Joe Sama

January 15 @ 10:30 am

Lector—Maria Sciannameo  
Ministers - Heather Morello & Virginia Lelakis

Please arrange for a substitute if you cannot fulfill your assignment. Thank you for the good work that you do!

If a substitution is made, please contact Julie so the announcement sheets will be correct.

Upcoming Events

Adult Faith Formation (every Monday - 6:30 pm)

Golden Years (every Tuesday)

Knights of Columbus Meeting—7 pm  
(every 3rd Wednesday) All men of the Parish are welcome to attend.

Jan. 8—Meat Raffle Fundraiser for the Italian Festival

Jan. 12—6:30 pm—Italian Festival Meeting

Jan. 14—Pro-Life Morning of Reflection and Enrichment @ Cathedral of St. Paul, 9 am-1-pm  
Contact Respect Life Office @ 508-929-4311 for details. Registration required.

Jan. 15—Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Knights of Columbus

Jan. 19—7:30 pm Respect Life Mass @ St. Paul Cathedral

Jan. 20—March for Life in Washington, DC



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~~~~~  
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**MASS  
INTENTIONS**

Saturday, January 7, 2023—4:00 p.m.  
**Brendan Shanley (Anniversary)** by the Shanley Family

**Jack R. Caputo** by John and Patty Oliver  
**Domenic Conte & Rose Conte, Kosta & Marie Patramanis** by Family

Sunday, January 8, 2023—8:00 a.m.  
**Catherine Gazorian, Lodia Benoit and Henry Benoit Sr.** by Karen and David Gouin

Sunday, January 8, 2023—10:30 a.m.  
**Susan G. Porcaro** (10th Anniversary) by son Michael C. Martin  
**Father Frank Liistro** by Michael C. Martin  
**Elizabeth Cariglia** by Family  
**Martha Londardo, Dominic Pascucci and Carmine Picurelli** by Carmine and Esther

Monday, January 9, 2023—7:00 a.m.  
**Pierno Perno** (42nd Anniversary) by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cianci and Family

Tuesday, January 10, 2023—7:00 a.m.  
**The People of the Parish**

Wednesday, January 11, 2023—7:00 a.m.  
**Prayer Wall Intentions**

Thursday, January 12, 2023—7:00 a.m.  
**The Sick of the Parish**

Saturday, January 14, 2023—4:00 p.m.  
**In Thanksgiving for Maria Banzuela** by Family  
**Kelli Chenevert Palumbo** (29th Anniversary) by Parents  
**Margaret Riggieri** by Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Chionchio

Sunday, January 15, 2023—8:00 a.m.  
**Linda E. Sacco** by husband Pat Sacco and Family

Sunday, January 15, 2023—10:30 a.m.  
**Riccardo Cazzaniga** by Wilma Sutka  
**Rocco Visci** (Birthday Remembrance) by Family  
**Sandra Brouillard** (6th Anniversary) by Elizabeth Santley  
**Mr. and Mrs. James Generelli Jr.** by Family  
**James Driscoll** by a Friend



**Please pray for the sick of our parish:** Francis Cafone, Donna Grasseschi, Lori Blackwell, Matteo Fiore, Patrick Loconto, Frank “Butch” Rano, Sylvia Pusateri, Thelma Ortiz, Cynthia Pedone, Roland Dionne, Sue Cozzolino, Anthony DeAngelis, Anthony & Paul Locantore, Ann Servidio, Joseph Vancelette, Madelyn Martin, Anthony Paldino, Ann Marie Verdolino, Charlene Swalec, Irene Bastardo, Lorrie Tufano, Silvia Cazzaniga, Maxwell Mitchell, Lynn Wagner, Carol Youngstrom, Rudy Aromando, Richard and Rita Sharameta, Cindy Worthington, Beverly DeMarco, George Burton, Charlotte O’Mara, Renate Perry, Angela Vizzo, Jacob Rivera, Stephanie Berthiaume Cowie, Fulvia D’Amico, Dermot Kelly, Margaret Setaro, Isabella Gamble, Melissa Totaro, Nancy Meringolo, Veronika Montiverdi, Nancy Molinari and Joyce Molinari. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

*Rest in Peace*

*We, the parish community of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto, extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Marion J. Ritacco and Anna Cutillo. God grant them peace forever and bring comfort to their families and friends.*



**MOUNT CARMEL GOLDEN YEARS CLUB**

**January 2023**

**January 10, 2023**

10:00 AM Socializing  
 10:30 AM Board Meeting  
 12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social  
 After Lunch Bingo

**January 17, 2023**

10:00 AM Socializing  
 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM VNA “Keep Well Clinic”  
 12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social  
 After Lunch Bingo

**January 24, 2023**

10:00 AM Socializing  
 PAPER SALE  
 12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social  
 After Lunch Bingo

**January 31, 2023**

10:00 AM Socializing  
 12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social  
 After Lunch Bingo

**\*Bingo for members only**

**ALL DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK WOULD BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED.**



*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*

**Sunday, Jan 08, 2023**

**Bless this mess**

Do a perimeter walk of your home. What do you see? Each room tells a story, every corner contains a chapter about who lives here and what happens between these walls. Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers recommends we bless our homes annually on Epiphany in imitation of the wise ones who once followed the divine presence to a humble dwelling. What sort of blessing might each area need?

What requires a blessing: the kitchen table, living room sofa, or home office desk? A child's room or elder's sickbed? Don't forget the front door—the passageway to every other story that involves us.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."*

**Monday, Jan 09, 2023**

**Be a carrier of peace**

Pigeons and doves are different species within the same family of birds. The homing pigeon, also called the mail or carrier pigeon, is a variety bred for its ability to find its way home over extremely long distances of up to 1,000 miles or more. Because of this skill, they were used to carry messages throughout history. The dove, of course, is a symbol of peace and hope, and famously carried an olive branch to Noah on the Ark after the great flood. If you want to send a similar message, you don't have to go nearly as far. Just extend peace and hope across the dinner table or over the neighbor's fence.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17 (21). "He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him."*

**Tuesday, Jan 10, 2023**

**Give peace every chance**

On this day in 1920, the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. On this same day in 1946—following World War II—the UN General Assembly met for the very first time, gathering on church property at the Methodist Central Hall in London. And on January 10, 1984 the United States and Vatican City re-established full diplomatic relations after 117 years. It's not enough for Christians to worship the Prince of Peace. "We must work tirelessly to avoid war between nations and peoples," writes Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). "There is a need to ensure ... tireless recourse to negotiation, mediation, and arbitration." Learn more at Pax Christi USA.

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28 (306). "The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes."*

**Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023**

**Measure with mercy**

On this day in 314—or the day before; the history is unclear—Pope Saint Miltiades died after a life of historic twists and turns that would help define the Early Church. Born to North African parents, Miltiades was the second of the Catholic Church's three African popes, having been elected in 311, shortly after the end of the persecutions of Emperor Diocletian. As pope, Miltiades was most famous for rejecting the Donatists, who argued that apostates who repented needed to be re-baptized (and re-ordained, if priests). In an age of manifestly imperfect priests, may we model Pope Miltiades' mercy and forgiveness for all the fallen—starting with ourselves!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39 (307). "They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up."*

**Thursday, Jan 12, 2023**

**Pull back the curtain with contemplative prayer**

Fans of The Wizard of Oz relish the moment when a curtain is drawn and the Great and Terrible Oz is shown to be an ordinary man. In a way, the tradition of contemplative prayer is an attempt to pull back the curtain but with reverse results. Instead of seeing the wondrous as ordinary, contemplation is meant to move people to see the depth and intricacy and wonder of the ordinary. In other words, contemplative prayer wants us to see God's face everywhere. Consider the times when God's presence became tangible for you. Build a time into today to seek that presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45 (308). "Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"*

**Friday, Jan 13, 2023**

**The word is out**

Saint Hilary, born in Poitiers in southwest France in 315, had a learned education but was not raised Christian. Able to read the biblical languages, however, he was drawn to Christianity by the beauty and power of the prologue of the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18) and spent his life in strong defense of the divinity of Jesus, a controversial subject at the time. Recognition of his tireless efforts eventually earned him the high title of doctor of the church. Perhaps John's prologue has a word to speak to you as well. Why not dip into its powerful language today?

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12 (309) "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?'"*

**Saturday, Jan 14, 2023**

**Accepted unconditionally**

Levi was an outcast of his people. Because of his position at the Roman customs post, not only he but also his family were held in disdain. His alliance with the Romans was considered treasonous and his wealth ill-gotten. Levi had many character flaws, yet Jesus chose him as a disciple, and he accepted. This is good news for the outcasts of our generation, the people our society and sometimes our church counts as unacceptable. It's good news for all of us, to be honest, as we all fall short in one way or another. Thankfully, Jesus sees past our shortcomings. Imitate Jesus before judging others.

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17 (310). "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

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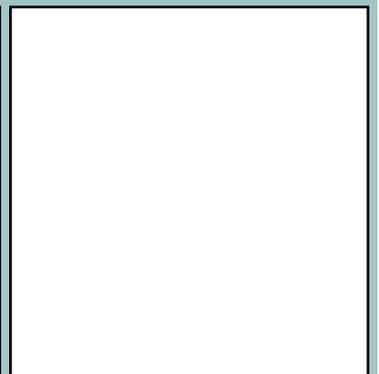


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