

# ST. MARIANNE COPE PARISH

Roman Catholic Churches of St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Joseph



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 7, 2024

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**Parish Office**  
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**Mass Schedule**  
at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm  
Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, noon

Daily Mass:  
Monday-Saturday, 8:30 am

**Confession**

Saturday: 9-9:45 am or by appointment

**St. Marianne Cope Outreach Ministry**  
[outreach@stmariannecope.com](mailto:outreach@stmariannecope.com)

**Prayer Chain**  
[prayerchain@stmariannecope.com](mailto:prayerchain@stmariannecope.com)

**Offertory:** Thank you for your generosity and continued support of the parish!

In addition to cash/checks, envelopes, or automatic bill payment for your donations, **Online Giving**, through debiting your credit card or bank account, is available. Visit the "Donate" tab on the website.

Join us for **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** on Mondays, 7-8 pm, during the Eucharistic Revival with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Exposition and Benediction. When a priest is available, confessions will be offered.

**Diaconate Ordination:** Peter McGovern, our deacon candidate, will be ordained on Saturday, June 15 in the morning at St. Patrick's. The parish will be hiring a bus for anyone who would like to attend. If you're interested in attending, please email your name and contact information to the parish staff at [office@stmariannecope.com](mailto:office@stmariannecope.com). Make sure the subject line includes: "Deacon Peter McGovern". A small donation will be asked towards the cost of transportation.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet at 10:30 am in the St. Thomas old school building on Monday, January 8. There will be NO meeting in February. New needleworks are welcome!

The **Outreach Ministry** is in need of soup, paper towels, laundry detergent, and hygiene products (shampoo and conditioner). If you can assist, please contact John at [outreach@stmariannecope.com](mailto:outreach@stmariannecope.com) or 914.953.0047.

**Thank you** for your donations to the **Christmas Collection**. The parish relies on the generosity of its parishioners and visitors in the Christmas Collection to meet our budgeted expenses for the upcoming year. If you have not sent in your contribution, we ask that you mail it to the parish, drop it off in the Collection Box, or donate through online giving. Thank you!

The Spiritual Adoption Committee of the Catholic Daughters of the America, Court Rita #264 invites you to join them for ~ the **March for Life** on January 19 in Washington, DC. Join them to be a voice for the most vulnerable! Bus will leave from Our Lady of the Lakes in Newburgh. Contact Wendy Brant for details and to register at 845.401.5160.  
~ **Stand 4 Life** on January 14 in St. Thomas of Canterbury's parking lot. Join them at 11 am to pray the Rosary. Then they will stand silently for 15 minutes facing Hudson Street with pro life signs to show support for the culture of life.

The **Parish Office** will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The **Bulletin Cover Image** is: "Adoration of the Magi", Bartolomé Esteban Murillo. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Due to early holiday print deadlines for the bulletin, **offertory amounts** will be reported a week later through mid-January.

# THE PASTOR'S CORNER

## HE IS THE EPIPHANY

**D**EAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, Good morning! Today we are celebrating the Epiphany, that is, the “manifestation” of the Lord. This Solemnity is tied to the biblical narrative of the coming of the Magi from the East to Bethlehem in order to pay homage to the King of the Jews: an episode on which Pope Benedict gave a magnificent commentary in his book on the infancy of Jesus. This precise moment was the first “manifestation” of Christ to the nations. Thus, the Epiphany brings to the fore the universal opening of the salvation brought by Jesus. The Liturgy today acclaims: *“Lord, every nation on earth will adore you”*, because Jesus came for us all, for every nation, for everyone!

Thus, this Feast lets us see a *double movement*: in one direction, the movement of God towards the world, towards humanity — the whole of the history of salvation, which culminates in Jesus — and in the other, the movement of men towards God — let us think of religions, of the quest for truth, the journey of the nations toward peace, interior peace, justice, freedom. And this double movement is driven by a *mutual attraction*. What is it that draws God? It is love for us: we are his children, he loves us and wants to free us from evil, from sickness, from death, and to bring us to his home, to his Kingdom. “God, by his sheer grace, draws us to himself and makes us one with him” (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangeli Gaudium*, n. 112). And from us too there arises a love, a desire: the good always draws us, truth draws us, life, happiness, beauty attracts us... Jesus is the meeting point of this mutual attraction, of this double movement. He is God and man: Jesus. God and man. But who took the initiative? God, always! God’s love always comes before our own! He always takes the initiative. He waits for us, he invites us, the initiative is always his. Jesus is God made man, made flesh, he is born for us. The new star that appears to the Magi was a sign of the birth of Christ. Had they

not seen the star, these men would not have set out. The light goes before us, truth goes before us, beauty precedes us. God goes before us.

The Prophet Isaiah said that God is like the flower of the almond tree. Why? Because in that region the almond is the first to flower. And God goes ever before, he is always the first to seek us, he takes the first step. God goes ever before us. His grace precedes us and this grace appeared in Jesus. *He is the Epiphany*. He, Jesus Christ, is the manifestation of God’s love. He is with us.

The Church stands entirely *within this movement* of God toward the world: her joy is the Gospel, to mirror the light of Christ. The Church is the people who have experienced this attraction and bear it within, in their hearts and in their lives. “I would like to say — sincerely — I would like to say to those who feel far from God and from the Church — I would like to say respectively — to all those who are fearful or indifferent: the Lord is also calling you to be a part of his people and he does so with deep respect and love!” (cf. *ibid.*, n. 113). The Lord is calling you. The Lord is seeking you. The Lord is waiting for you. The Lord does not proselytize, he loves, and this love seeks you, waits for you, you who at this moment do not believe or are far away. And this is the love of God.

Let us ask God, on behalf of the whole Church, let us ask for the *joy of evangelizing*, for we were “sent by Christ to reveal and communicate the love of God to all men and to all peoples” (*Ad Gentes*, n. 10). May the Virgin Mary help us all to be missionary-disciples, little stars that mirror his light. Let us pray too that hearts be open to receiving the proclamation, and that all men and women may be “partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel” (Eph 3:6).

*Angelus address of Pope Francis on  
6 January 2014 at St. Peter's Square.*

# Jesus and the Eucharist Independent Home Study #9

As you journey through this independent study of Jesus and the Eucharist, you may want to keep a journal of your observations, thoughts and questions. Sign in or set up your account (use zip code 12520) with [Formed.org](#). Search for “[Jesus and the Eucharist Session 5: God is With Us](#)”. (WATCH ONLY THE FIRST HALF OF THE VIDEO – stop at 33:37)

*From the very beginning, God desired to be with his people. From the Garden of Eden to the Exodus, from the tabernacle in the wilderness to the temple in Jerusalem, the God of the universe has chosen to accompany his people and dwell with them. The Sacrament of the Eucharist, as the gift par excellence, is the gift of Christ himself. Under the humble species of bread and wine, there is the sacramental reality of Christ's Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. God gives himself to us in the Eucharist to give us strength for our journey and to accompany us along our way.*

**Reflect on the Bread of Life Discourse (John 6:32–35, 47, 51):** “Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ So they said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst’... Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life... I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

## Consider some of the important points in this video:

- The Eucharist is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. A sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace established by Christ to convey his divine life. The Eucharist is the sacrament of sacraments: that one toward which all others are oriented. Bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ fully present.
- Transubstantiation (“trans”—to change and “substance”—the essence of something, what it really is) occurs when the outward appearance remains that of bread and wine, but the substance is changed into Jesus’ Body and Blood.
- This sacrament has been given many names: the Lord’s Supper; the Breaking of the Bread; the Holy Sacrifice; Holy Communion, and it is most commonly called the Mass or Eucharist (from the

Greek word mean “thanksgiving”.

- The Eucharist is truly God present with us. God’s power and love is in all things great and small. Through his love for us, God chooses—throughout history—to come to us in ways we can understand: in a cloud; in a still, small voice; as a child placed in a manger; in a tiny village; under the unassuming, tangible signs of bread and wine.
- All the sacraments are profound mysteries. And yet their outward signs, their appearances are humble. In the Eucharist, the outward signs of bread and wine point to a supernatural reality, a spiritual nourishment we can’t do without.

**Question to ponder:** When have you had a memorable encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist?

## MASS INTENTIONS

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

**Mon, Jan 8:** *The Baptism of the Lord*

8:30 +Maning Reodica by Remy Pana

**Tues, Jan 9**

8:30 +Jane Parente by Joe and Teddy DeLorenzo

**Wed, Jan 10**

8:30 +Feliciano “Sonny” Lucido by Remy Pana

**Thurs, Jan 11**

8:30 +Peter Marron by Pete McGovern

**Fri, Jan 12:** *St Marguerite Bourgeoys*

8:30 +Marcelle Tahtouh by Ireifej family

**Sat, Jan 13:** *St Hilary*

8:30 +Peter Gennuso by Carol Drislane

4:30 +Joan D’Fria by Joseph Ferrara; +Dr David Mendelson by Deacon John and Mrs Pelella

**Sun, Jan 14:** *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00 +Steven and Vera Finn by Vincent and Brenda Mannion and family

10:00 +Bill Fulton by family

12:00 The People of the Parish

Two intentions will be accepted at the Saturday, 4:30 Vigil Mass. The Sunday Mass at noon will be offered only for the People of the Parish. The offering for an unannounced Mass is \$10; for an announced Mass: \$15.

## READINGS FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### Reading I — Isaiah 60:1-6

The prophet announces that all parts of the world will come to Zion to rebuild Jerusalem. Then throughout land the glory of the Lord will shine forth.

### Reading II — Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul’s chief insight into the mystery of Christ is that Gentiles are to be recognized as full participants in the life of the Church.

### The Gospel — Matthew 2:1-12

The special personages in this episode are the magi, or wise men, who come to visit Jesus. Over time, Christianity has made them into kings, numbering them as three because of the number of gifts they presented to the Child. Above all, they symbolize the Gentile world coming to the Jewish Christ.

**Masses:** The book for announced Masses for 2024 is open. Please contact the parish office staff for available dates.

The Parish offers Mass the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 am for the deceased who are remembered in our **Perpetual Mass Enrollment**. These Holy Souls will be included in the prayers of the liturgy for a period of one year. The offering is \$30 and includes a leatherette memorial Mass folder. Next Mass will be February 3.

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