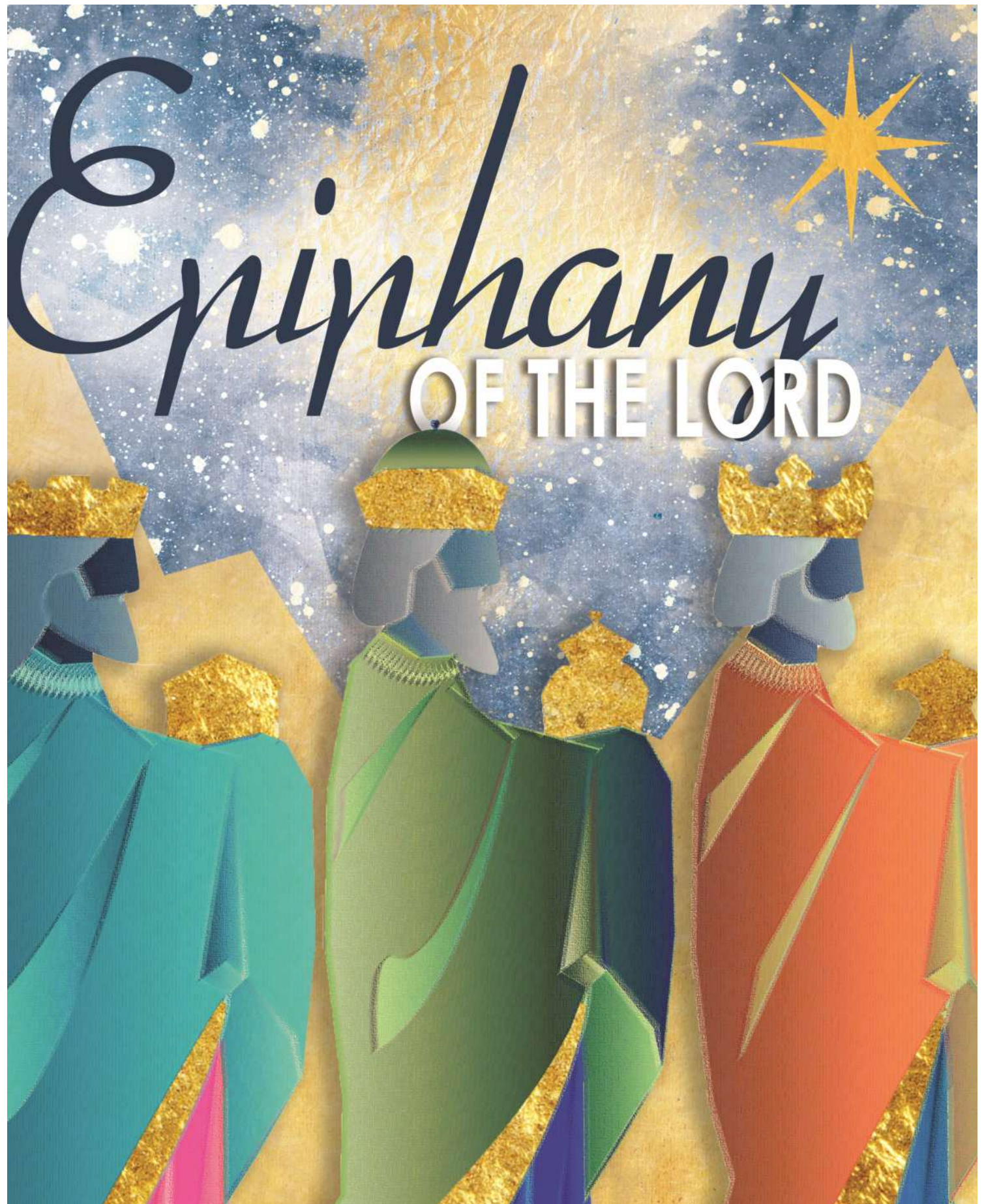




Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church ~ Ridgewood, NJ ~ January 4, 2026

PARISH DIRECTORY
www.olmcridgewood.com

Parish Office: 1 Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-4309
Phone: 201.444.2000 Fax: 201.444.2002

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday—9AM-8PM | Saturday-Sunday—9AM-2PM

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Dear Friends,

On this 1st Sunday of the New Year, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy **New Year**, not Happy New Liturgical Year (in December) and not Happy New Program Year (in September), but **Happy New Year**, as in the flip of the calendar. I hope your holidays were filled with love, joy, celebration and gratitude for your families and friends with whom you celebrated.

Speaking of gratitude, I can think of no better way to enter into the New Year then to give thanks to God for the blessings of the past year:

-I give thanks to God for all of you, the entire parish family of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, for all of you who joined us for the celebrations of the love God has for us in enfleshing His Son, the Word, in the human body of Jesus whose birth in the flesh we celebrated last week. Your presence/participation in this great Feast warms my heart and, I hope, all of yours as well. I know there are priests who decry the presence of those who rarely come, except for major holidays like Christmas. I do not. To come is to have faith and we are all traveling that road of a deepening faith. We know what Jesus did with five loaves and two fish. He works miracles with whatever we offer him. Thank you for offering him your presence.

-I give thanks to God for all those who contributed to our Christmas celebrations, the ushers, the greeters, the Music Ministry, the servers, the readers, the Eucharistic Ministers, the decorators of both the church and the auditorium. It's gratifying to hear so many people comment on the beauty of the church and the mood it sets to truly celebrate the joy of the season. This thanks includes the crew that creates the "*presepio*," the extensive presentation in the St. Joseph's Shrine that tells the whole story of the infancy narratives. Did you know it's created new each year and is never exactly the same from year to year? This year it was significantly different but just as beautiful and just as engaging of our imaginations. It's also gratifying to see so many people stop after every Mass, from the time it goes up to the time it is removed, to remember the fullness of the Christmas story and for all those who gave live presentations of the Christmas story or parts of it, the Spanish/English Christmas play and the 3 Kings (and their camels) and for those who created the new "still" scene on the front lawn of the church, after the old one was damaged in a wind storm last year.

-I give thanks to God for the wonderful staff here at Mount Carmel, literally everyone, from the priests to the sacristans to the part time receptionists. They are all dedicated to helping this community grow in faith.

-I give thanks to God for all who have been so kind and considerate in sending all sorts of Christmas gifts to the rectory, the cakes, cookies, chocolates, fruits, nuts and libations. It is so generous and kind of you to remember us

with these gifts, and often, with words of thankfulness and encouragement. All of them add warmth to our own experience of the joy of the season.

I hope your Christmas was filled with the special experience of the Presence of the newborn Child who brings you peace, and hope for the future, knowing His “enfleshment” is a real guarantee that He walks with us, accompanies us, is by our side in every moment of our lives. The first reading for the Mass on New Year’s Day is the famous reading from the Old Testament Book of Numbers. The Lord tells Aaron (Moses’ brother) he is to bless the people with these words, **“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.”** (Numbers 6:24-26). We live in an “attention economy,” one in which vendors, either service or product, are always trying to get our attention. And we hear that all day long, from so many sources, our televisions, computers, iPads and iPhones. But those words from Numbers tell us something different. They don’t tell us to get God’s attention—just the opposite. They tell us God is giving us His attention, that His face **shines** upon us and He looks upon us with kindness. There is not a moment that goes by that we are not in the Lord’s gaze, looking upon us kindly, shining upon us with graciousness. May I suggest that when you awaken each day, you remember that and travel the paths of that day believing it and living by it.

Last year, I shared with you my conversation with the Cardinal about my retirement, the outcome of which was that I would stay another year and retire on July 1, 2026. As we enter 2026 it is my intention to keep to that understanding. The protocol would be that I would write an official request for retirement from active ministry on or about February 1 which I intend to do. Of course, the Cardinal has the last word on the disposition of that request. And so, I begin my last six months as pastor of this extraordinary community we call Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I will have more to share in the months ahead.

Grace and Peace for the New Year,
Fr. Ron

STEWARDSHIP

“Brothers and sisters: you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for your benefit.” St. Paul’s words to the Ephesians, part of today’s 2nd Reading, remind us that stewardship essentially is for others. For St. Paul, it was for the communities he founded and served. For us, particularly, it is for our community. We are gifted in order to use those gifts to build up the community, which is the local church. The Christian Steward especially uses gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure** for this building up of the community. How do you build God’s kingdom?

The parish Stewardship of Treasure last week was \$17,151. The Stewardship of Treasure for the month of December will appear in next Sunday’s bulletin. God bless your continued support of the parish and the work of the Gospel. That New Year’s resolution is still open to you—to support the parish by using online giving, either **WeShare** or **Venmo**. It’s a great way to practice the Stewardship of Treasure.



YOUTH MINISTRY FOOD DRIVE
NEXT SATURDAY
JANUARY 10TH—9AM-12NN

DRIVE THRU—SCHOOL BUILDING DRIVEWAY

FR. ENGLISH: Anything high in protein!! Bagged or Canned Beans (Black & Kidney), Chick Peas, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Nuts, Canned Meats (Chicken, Spam, Ham), Tuna, Oatmeal, Cereal, Granola Bars, Pop Tarts, Complete Pancake Mix, Syrup, Juice (Apple, Tomato, V8), Jiffy or Similar Muffin Mix, Coffee, Tea, Saltine Crackers, Raisins, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Shelf Stable Milk, Canned Veggies

SOCIAL SERVICES: Cereal, Oatmeal; Pasta/Pasta Sauce; Peanut Butter & Jelly; 100% Fruit Juice; Hearty Soups; Rice; Hot Chocolate Mix; Canned Tuna/Chicken/Ham; Shelf Stable Milk, Cleaning Products, Laundry Detergent; Personal Toiletries

RIDGECREST

Small sizes preferred as most residents live alone.

Depend Brand Adult Briefs for Women any size; Paper Towels; Toilet Paper; Tuna; Canned Chick Peas/Lentils/Black Beans; Bran, Original Cheerios (not honey nut), Raisin Bran, Rice Krispies; Canned Chicken/Tuna; Bottle Water (gallon); Sugar Free Pancake Syrup; Low/No Sugar Instant Oatmeal; Salad Dressings; Coffee (instant or ground, regular or decaf); Green Tea Bags; Mayonnaise; Rice; Peanut Butter/Jelly; Mayonnaise; Shelf Stable Milk, Sponges, Toilet Bowl Cleaner; Tissues; Olive Oil (smaller bottles)

HEALING MEALS: Fresh Carrots/Celery/Onion; Kosher Salt; Barilla Lasagna Noodles (**NOT** oven ready); Whole Wheat Elbow Macaroni; Olive Oil; Canned Diced Tomatoes; Canned Cannellini Beans; Dried Lentils; Canned Chick Peas; Vegetable Broth; Paper Towels; Cleaning Disinfectant Spray

Drivers Needed at 10AM & 12NN
Contact Glen McCall, gmccall@olmcridgetwood.com

FR. ENGLISH —FROZEN CASSEROLE MINISTRY
PANS/RECIPES AVAILABLE AT ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND

FROZEN CASSEROLE DROP OFF—SATURDAY, JAN. 10TH
(AT OUR MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE—9AM-12NN)

Please help us provide frozen casseroles to the Fr. English Food Pantry. Easy recipe options are provided with pans and lids. Casseroles must be **FROZEN**. Your generous response will make it possible for a family to sit around the dinner table and enjoy a prepared meal.

Questions? Call/Text Barbara—201.615.9624



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or scan the QR code here.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Religious Education Grades 1-6



First Eucharist Parent Meeting

Wednesday, January 14th—9:30AM **or** 7:30PM
Parish Center

One parent per family should attend either session.

When Families Gather Session Options

Virtual Baking Session with Sarah Shutrop

Sunday, January 11th, 1:45PM-2:45 PM

Monday, January 12th, 7:00PM-8:00PM

Parents Only Session

Wednesday, January 21st, 7:30PM-8:30PM Parish Center

Children of the Eucharist

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
3:45PM-4:15PM or 4:25PM-4:55PM
Daily Mass Chapel

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS—LISTEN UP!

We are seeking volunteers from the high school Youth Group to hang with our Jr. High students at their weekly gatherings—Thursdays, 3:45PM-5:00PM.

Lead the opening icebreaker. Run an activity. Provide mentorship. This is an excellent opportunity to grow in faith and help others with their faith journey in the process.

Scan this QR code to sign up!



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS... THERE'S MORE!

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity? The Jr. High program is seeking enthusiastic and responsible high school students to serve as teacher assistants for our 7th & 8th grade faith formation classes. Volunteers will assist with classroom activities, lead small group discussions, and foster a welcoming faith-filled environment. This is a wonderful opportunity to earn service hours while growing in your own faith.

Scan this QR code to sign up!



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Gertrudes Bautista, Matthew Bowden, Kevin Cannon, Anthony Damiano, Allen Deraney, Patrick Downes, Therese Egan, Joseph Harkins, Louise Harrison, Harry Henky, Ann Marie Iacona, Mary Ellen Lavelle, Ann McDermott, Rosetta McNicholas, Arlene Monaghan, Patricia Neary, Felicity Osorio, Philip Parker, Elizabeth Peck, Margaret Preston, James Roth, William Scully, Paul Sharko, Alger Stone, Jeffrey Tarleton and James Toscano



**OLMC's Ministry of Motherhood
MOMs MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7TH
9:15AM—PARISH CENTER**

Guest Speaker: Kelly Mantoan

Topic—Finding Peace & Joy in Our Vocations

Join us for upbeat and charismatic Catholic speaker, Kelly Mantoan. Kelly will share ways of finding true joy in our vocations despite the challenges we may face. Start off your new Year with a positive mindset about how God is calling you and how you can follow His will. For more information, go to www.olmcmoms.com or email Alexis Kenny, OLMCMomssridgewoodnj@gmail.com.

**MOMS OF ALL AGES WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!
No RSVP Required! COMPLIMENTARY BABYSITTING!**

**REFLECTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
JANUARY 13, 2026 | 7:30PM | PARISH CENTER**

Open to all Parish Families

(Content geared towards teens and older.)

Join us for an inspiring evening with author "Coach" Dave Powers, who will share insights from his booklet, Reflections for Christian Athletes. Designed for athletes and their families, this event will explore how faith, discipline, and purpose intersect on and off the field. Through 22 powerful reflections, Dave helps athletes and coaches connect daily with God, strengthen their character, and live out Christian principles in today's competitive sports world. Registration preferred but not required. Scan this QR code to register.



REGISTER NOW!

**ANNUAL MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT
FRIDAY-SATURDAY—JANUARY 30-31, 2026**

Registration is now open for our Annual Men's Cornerstone Retreat held in the Parish Center. Use the QR Code here to register now.

Expect to find camaraderie, fellowship and opportunity for renewal in a relaxed environment. This year's event is fast approaching, scheduled one week before Super Bowl LX. Consider it a gift to yourself.

Questions/More Information:

Contact Rob Michel, rpmtns@gmail.com



VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD NEWS

Caretakers Support Group for Neurodegenerative Disease

First Monday of every month—6PM-8PM—Ridgewood YMCA
Call 201.444.5600 x302 to register.



**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
(PEA)
CHAPEL IS OPEN 24/7
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Everyone is invited to come to the PEA chapel at any time to give praise and thanks to God and to pray for our loved ones and all of mankind. The chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even overnight. Better yet, sign up for a weekly Holy Hour that is good for you. Help keep the door open to anyone seeking God—to anyone seeking peace.

SCHEDULED ADORERS NEEDED

Sundays: 2-3AM; Wednesdays: 2-3AM;
Fridays: 4-5AM; Saturdays: 5-6PM

For more information

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com



**Join us for Discovering Christ
Beginning January 20, 2026**

This isn't some **SNOOZY** church event where you sit in metal chairs, drink bad coffee and listen to somebody drone on and on about everything wrong with you. No. This is an experience! It's not about religion. It's about **the real you and the real Christ**.

This 6-week Tuesday-evening experience is for **anyone 18 or older (who has not participated already)**:

- Enjoy a **free dinner** and good company
- Listen to a **real and relevant reflection**
- Share thoughts in a **small-group setting**
- Head home — then come back the next week. You'll want to.

ChristLife is for ANYONE—baptized, unbaptized, longtime church-goer, or just curious

Where: Alternating locations between Mt. Carmel and St. Gabriel in Saddle River

When: Tuesday evenings, starting January 20, 2026
7:00PM-9:15PM

More Information—See the website or go to:
lp.constantcontactpages.com/cu/6RL8PxZ

Scan the QR code above to register!
Consider bringing a friend!

**Come. See. Discover—what might be
next in your faith life**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Anthony Bollhofer, Aedan Cannon, Nick Haddad,
Durkin McCarthy, John Morano, James Nardelli,
Michael Ortolani, Robert Smith, Thomas Tesoriero

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Jan. 4	1:30PM OCIA (MR) 1:30PM Bell Choir Practice (PCB) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PC) 7:30PM Costello/Hogan Conf. Group (YCB) 7:30PM Harrington/Rollauer Conf. Grp (YCA) 7:30PM Scali/Winnert Conf. Group (RE1)
Mon Jan. 5	12:30PM Staff Meeting (MR) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Contemporary Choir (Church) 7:30PM Men's Cornerstone (MR)
Tues. Jan. 6	3:45PM Jr. High 7A (PC) 4:00PM Religious Ed Grades 1-6 (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (GYM) 5:45PM Shrake Religious Ed (REC!) 8:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed. Jan. 7	9:15AM MOMs Monthly Meeting (PC) 3:45PM Jr. High 7B (PC) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 8:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Thurs. Jan. 8	10:30AM Sunday Liturgy Scripture Study (SMR) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:15PM WCST Team 25 (MR)
Fri. Jan 9	10:00AM WCST Bible Study (SMR) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
Sat. Jan. 10	9:00AM CYO Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM Youth Ministry Food Drive (Driveway) 11:00AM First Penance (Church) 2:00PM First Penance (Church) 6:30 PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)

**Weekly Scripture Reflection Thursday Mornings
Parish Center—10:30AM-11:45AM
All are Welcome!**

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." ...St Jerome

It is not necessary that you attend every Thursday but, if you plan to attend, please contact Linda English so that materials may be available for you.

Linda—lenglish122@gmail.com or text 201.207.5920

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Dale Adamo, Luis Badillo, Frederick Bruno, Mike Bucci, Charles Buckley, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Nick DiDonato, Maura Gillen Eidschun, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Julianna Grace Giles, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Susan Lois, Campbell McArthur, Christine O'Brien, David Oswald, Margaret Peak, Mary Kathleen Ramge, Linda Reo, Cathy Ricciuto, Art Rippas, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Nancy Steen, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Carmen Vega-Torres, Christina Volpe, Rochelle West, Rosemary Wright, Walter John Zelop, Jr.

Parishioners may call the Rectory with the name of a family member who is sick to have them included in our prayers.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



TODAY'S READINGS

1. Isaiah 60:1-6

The closing oracles of Isaiah celebrate the restoration of Jerusalem. Newly reconciled with God and recently returned from the darkness of exile in Babylon, the people, represented as Jerusalem, are invited to rise from their feet and witness all the wonderful things God has in store for them. The darkness and thick clouds of the peoples' past are replaced by light. And the nation itself becomes that for the nations, guiding them along the path that leads to God. In thanksgiving for this priceless lesson in faith that Jerusalem offers them, the nations bring their riches to the holy city.

2. Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

As a steward, Paul understands that all that God has revealed to him was to be passed on to others. Essential to this mission is the realization of the universality of God's loving and saving concerns for all humankind. Though the universal character of God's plan was envisioned and encouraged by the prophets (as in Isaiah in the 1st reading), the provincialism that narrowed the vision was a major barrier for the Chosen People. Now, however, God has made it clear that all enjoy the Promise.

3. Matthew 2:1-12

The Matthean theme of Jesus' rejection by Israel, but acceptance by the gentile world is prefigured in this infancy narrative. Not only do the gifts portend Jesus' kingship (gold), his priestly ministry (frankincense) and his sacrificial death (myrrh), they prefigure the announcement of universal salvation by the gentiles, over and above its acceptance by the Chosen People. While the kings represent the gentile world, Herod, the priests and scribes and all Jerusalem represent those Jews, considerable in number, who will reject Jesus. It is a clash of Kingdoms, but the Kingdom of God will triumph.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. Have you ever been moved to action by a star, a vision or an inner voice? When?
2. Are you a "light to the nations?" Do you believe it is part of your calling to lead others to believe in Jesus Christ?
3. Matthew's story of the Epiphany is about the message that is now open and available to "outsiders." Whom do you treat as outsiders? Does this Gospel say anything to you about that?

NEXT WEEK'S PRESIDERS

Sat. 1/10	5:30PM	Fr. Jakov
Sun. 1/11	8:00AM	Fr. Ron
	9:30AM	Fr. John Carlos
	11:00AM	Fr. Ron
	12:30PM	Fr. John Carlos
	3:00PM	Fr. Jakov
	6:30PM	Fr. Jakov

Late changes appear on the website
after 12NN the Saturday of that weekend.

Monday, Jan. 5 *Saint John Neumann, Bishop*

- + 6:30AM **Thomas Rynne**
req Erin & Pat Taddei
- + 8:30AM **Richard Maltezos**
req The Lewis Family
- +12:00NN **Lucia Engel**
req The Engel Family

Tuesday, Jan. 6 *Saint André Bessette*

- + 6:30AM **Geraldine Sweeney**
req Rosemary & William Flynn
- + 8:30AM **Teresa Pivrotto**
req Maureen Grassi
- 12:00NN **Special Intention of Augustin Velasco**
req Her niece, Pilar Shilad

Wednesday, Jan. 7 *Saint Raymond of Penyafort*

- + 6:30AM **Keith Grovine**
req Marie Addesa
- 8:30AM **In Thanksgiving**
req The DeCastro Family
- +12:00NN **Raymond John DeLeon**
req Laurie Gallo

Thursday, Jan. 8

- 6:30AM **Special Intention of the Uber Children & Grandchildren**
req Steven & Yvonne Uber
- + 8:30AM **All The Souls In Purgatory**
req Stefano & Domenica Bussanich
- +12:00NN **Timothy Connors**
req Dcn. Bob & Tessie Liwanag

Friday, Jan. 9

- + 6:30AM **Norm Delaney**
req The Delaney Family
- + 8:30AM **All The Souls In Purgatory**
req Stefano & Domenica Bussanich
- +12:00NN **Alejandra Caceres**
req The McClure Family

Saturday, Jan. 10

- + 8:30AM **Jo Delaney**
req The Delaney Family
- + 5:30PM **Helen Pazer**
req Richard & Patricia Pazer

Sunday, Jan. 11 *The Baptism of The Lord*

- 8:00AM **For The People of the Parish**
- + 9:30AM **Charles Cooney**
req Paula & Michael Cooney
- +11:00AM **John Jordan**
req Rebecca & John Jordan
- +12:30PM **Don Barone**
req His Family
- 3:00PM **Maybol Bello & Guzman Barquero Saborio Family**
req Maria Ospina
- + 6:30PM **Mary McNiff**
req The Bolduc Family



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