

JANUARY 8, 2023



**Our Lady
Star of the Sea**

Roman Catholic Community
in the Diocese of Bridgeport



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



*This week the Sanctuary Candle
burns in memory of
Raymond Towle
requested by Marian Nangle.*



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

4:30pm Raymond Carrano, 8th anniversary)
(req. by Helaine Carrano)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

9:00am John Carty (req. by Glynn family)
11:00am Gertrude Hurteau (req. by family)

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00am Ruth Maggio

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

8:00am Janina Bogdanowicz

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

8:00am Elizabeth Fisher (req. by Lauren & Chad Bellmare)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00am Peter & Beth Cavello

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00am Alina Marchel

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

4:30pm Mire Gjuraj (req. by daughters)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

9:00am **Blessings & God's Protection for Walsh family**
(req. by family)

11:00am Joan M. Perna, 1st anniversary
(req. by Kerry Schmeiler)

WEEKLY COLLECTION:



This Year
1/1/23 \$ 6,543;
Last Year
1/2/22 \$ 5,769;



**THE EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD**

"Where is the newborn
King of the Jews?
We saw his star at its
rising and have come to
do him homage!" - Mt 2:2

A friend of mine is a young priest who teaches high school physics at a Catholic boys' prep school. Like many today, the boys often think science and religion are enemies. So, he delights in their raised eyebrows when he reminds them his first full-time job as a priest was to be an astrophysicist. He cataloged the size, shape, and matter of distant stars. He tells them, "Science gave me more love for God, not less."

The Magi were something like scientist-astronomers. Like today's scientists, they employed disciplined methods of discovering dependable patterns in the world. Their rigorous commitment to the truth led them to the joy of discovering Jesus. Their love for knowledge leads them to worship the Source of all knowledge. Luke says of them, "**They were overjoyed at seeing the star.**"

We may see the universe as cold and empty and feel sad. But why should we do that? The Magi, like my priest-friend, show us there is another way to experience the world. We use our intelligence to discover the beautiful patterns in the world - in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology, neuroscience, and so on - and allow this to lead us to greater love for God. So, my fellow Magi: the world needs us to be overjoyed at finding God in science and, finally and fully, in Jesus.

Father John Muir ©LPi



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Faith Formation, Christ Beside Me and Confirmation preparation resume at regular scheduled times this Sunday 1/8/2023. For more information, please email Dee Fumega olssdre@yahoo.com

VIRTUS TRAINING (PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN FOR ADULTS), MUST BE UPDATED EVERY FIVE YEARS IF YOU HELP IN ANY CAPACITY AROUND OUR WONDERFUL PARISH

Protecting God's Children® for Adults is training conducted by VIRTUS® certified facilitators on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The training makes participants aware of the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five easy steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse. Two videos are the centerpiece of the training: **A Time to Protect God's Children™** and A Plan to Protect God's Children. The facilitators incorporate policies and procedures into the training defining child sexual abuse, addressing the reporting of child sexual abuse, the screening and selection of employees and volunteers, and victim advocacy. <http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>

Christ came on earth to reveal an extraordinary message, the message of love, joy and happiness. Christ asks us to have love for one another, to be reconciled to one another, to accept one another. Each of us has been entrusted with a special gift, a sacred responsibility: to show others how the mystery of God is among us.

With gratitude for all your support to our parish I am holding you in my heart and prayer this Christmas season, asking God to bless you with joy and peace. I wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas season and a grace-filled New Year 2023.

Father Peter (reprinted from 1/1/23 Bulletin)

Epiphany OF THE LORD

“Epiphany” means manifestation. And the “Epiphany of the Lord” is Jesus’ manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it’s also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were “wise men” who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem, they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the “star” that God is using to call you. It is closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way.

Reflect, today, upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. What is God using to call you to Himself?