

January 3, 2021

St. Mark's Catholic Church

Rev. Msgr. Sean P. Flynn, Pastor

Rev. José Fernandez-Bangueses, Resident Priest

Rev. Bernard N. Mohan (*Wednesday and Friday*)

Deacon Michael Keary

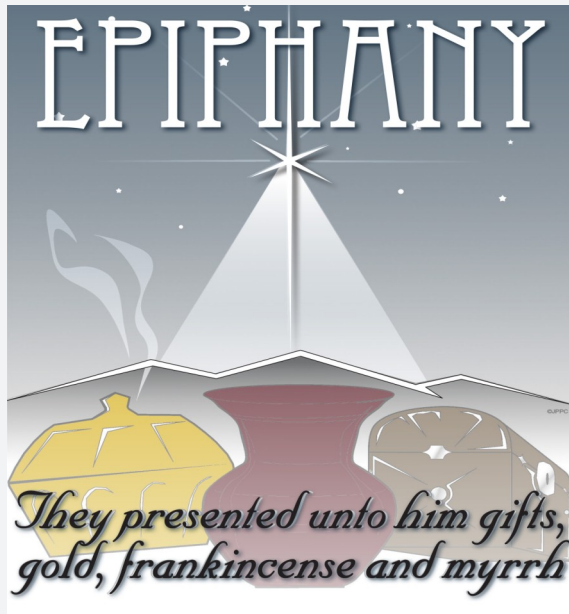
**"THEN THEY
OPENED THEIR
TREASURES
AND OFFERED
HIM GIFTS
OF GOLD,
FRANKINCENSE,
AND MYRRH."**

MATTHEW 2:11

215 Crescent Pkwy, Sea Girt, NJ 08750 Phone 732-449-6364 Web: www.stmarkseagirt.com

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The Epiphany of the Lord



Lectionary: 20

Reading I Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory.

Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.

Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.

Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R.(cf. 11) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son;

He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading II Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation.

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Alleluia Mt 2:2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

After their audience with the king they set out.

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

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.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



Accept our
gifts also,
O Lord

Readings for the Week January 3, 2021

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13;
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17;
Lk 4:14-22

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20;
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b;
Jn 3:22-30

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9;
Mk 1:7-11

Thank You! We are so grateful to all those who financially sacrifice each week to support our parish and it's ministries!

We would especially like to thank all of those who faithfully use their weekly parish contribution envelopes and those who give online through the Parish Giving Program.



Please join us on Friday's for Adoration immediately after 11:00 AM Mass with Benediction at 1:45 PM. It will also be broadcast on livestream @ stmarkseagirt.com

Please Note: At this time, because of Covid 19, we are not accepting clothing, or any personal books, devotionals, religious articles or Rosary beads. In the future we will gladly accept your donations, but at the present time and for the safety of all those concerned, we are asking that these items not be left at the church. Thank you.

Pray FOR THE SICK

The list of parishioners, relatives, and friends are in need of your prayers for healing. To ensure the consent of the person whose name appears here, the pastor's policy requires that only they or a family member may request a name be added to this list. If extended prayers are needed or a loved one is unable to attend mass and would like to receive Holy Communion in a home or assisted living, please call **Donna at 732-449-6364 ext. 100.**

Benjamin Ohlweiler

Jeremy Pavlick

Lucy Gargano

Julia Buonocore

Fred Buonocore

Christine Frauenheim

Alexandra Gavilanes

Sarah Gallagher

Jimmy Azzollini

Vivian Wilson

Ken Hauck

Dorothy Waugh

Patricia Cavanaugh

Rose Courtney

Grace Philhower

Jim Bogan

Maria Valdez

Ani Slevin

Cathy Shalloo

Please Note: The names of the sick will remain on the list for four weeks unless otherwise notified.

Any parishioner who has not been able to attend Mass and would like to have a Eucharistic Minister bring Holy Communion to them, please contact Donna at the rectory, 732-449-6364 x100 or email donna@stmarkseagirt.com



We would like to thank all those who have attended Mass the past few weeks, who wore a mask and adhered to the social distancing requirements. We wish to remind those who are afraid to come to Mass because of health issues, that the dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day obligation will remain in effect until further notice.





This Week's Mass Intentions



Date	Intention	Requested by
Monday, January 4		
7:30 AM	† Anne and Michael Mitchell	JoAnn McGuirk
	† Deceased Members St. Mark's Holy Name	
11:00AM	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mark's Altar Rosary	
Tuesday, January 5		
7:30 AM	† Patricia Boyle	David and Courtney Forrester
11:00 AM	Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Butler	Family
Wednesday, January 6		
7:30 AM	† Patrick O'Neil	John and Joaneileen Coughlan
	† Rev. Joseph A. Gancila	Don Sabatini
11:00 AM	† John Francis Kelly	Ed and Judy Blaha
Thursday, January 7		
7:30 AM	Gary Nee , (Special Intention)	Regina and Patrick Whiffin
11:00 AM	† James and Mary Mitchell	JoAnn McGuirk
	† Thomas Whelan	Peggy Whelan
Friday, January 8		
7:30 AM	† Christopher Schneider	Peggy Whelan
11:00 AM	† Dolores Randazzo	Schreck Family
	† Mary J. Flynn	Jerry Flynn
Saturday, January 9		
7:30 AM	† Mildred Pantiliano	Reynolds Family
4:30 PM	† Buonocore and Hoblitzell Families	Family
	† Maureen Smith	Family
Sunday, January 10 The Baptism of the Lord		
8:00 AM	† John Fitzgerald	William Travers
	† Arthur L. McCarthy	John and Pat Gibbs
10:00 AM	† Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Geiger	John and Maria Checton
	Dylan Finn, (Special Intention)	Howell Middle School South Sunshine
	† Thomas Jappe	Redmond Family
	People of the Parish	
5:00 PM	† Silviano Ramirez	Daughter and Family
	Private Intention	Family
	† Carlos Benitez	Family

*The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.*



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Thank you!



613 St. Mark Sea Girt NJ 08750

Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. Check out the website listed for benefits and details.

REFLECTIONS ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.



For much of contemporary secular society, Christmas is over for another year. For Catholics and Christians, however, there is “still more to come.” This weekend, January 4-5, the Roman Catholic Church anticipates the Christmas feast of the “Epiphany of the Lord,” traditionally celebrated throughout the Western Christian world on January 6. Known by many other names in a number of different cultures – “Little Christmas,” “Three Kings’ Day,” the “Twelfth Day of Christmas,” “Twelfth Night,” etc. – this feast extends the Christmas season by commemorating the visit of the “magi” or “wise men” to the Christ Child. What is the Feast of the Epiphany all about in the Church?

Most of us are familiar with the legendary presence of the “three kings” from manger scenes in our churches and homes. We can sing the words of the popular hymn “We Three Kings” from memory. We know the gifts they brought as they followed the Christmas star to the place of the Nativity: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The story of the “three wise men” or “magi” is derived from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2, where the sacred author describes their visit to King Herod in Jerusalem in search of the “newborn king of the Jews.” They told him they “saw his star at its rising” and – recalling the words of the prophet Micah that the “one to rule Israel” would come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) – they wanted to pay him homage.

“Troubled” by this news of competition, King Herod dispatched them to Bethlehem and directed them to return to him once they found him there. And so, following the star, they entered “the house and saw the child with Mary his mother” and presented their gifts. They had a dream, however, not to return to King Herod and, so, they journeyed home via another route.

That’s the story. It is only found in the Gospel of Matthew, nowhere else in the scriptures. In the early centuries of the Church’s developing tradition, the visit of the three magi had a great impact on its imagination and became part of the whole liturgical representation of Christ’s birth, his early life, his baptism by John in the Jordan and his first public miracle at the wedding Feast of Cana. Eventually, the Epiphany became a separate liturgical celebration as did the commemoration of the Baptism of the Lord.

Let’s focus on the celebration of the Epiphany as we Catholics have come to know it.

First, the “magi.” They are also called “wise men,” “kings,” and “astrologers.” It is this last identification would explain their interest in and attraction to the “star.” The term itself comes from ancient Greek and Arabic expressions used in many ways but, basically, to describe men of great learning – hence “wise” men. Although not Jews themselves, they would be familiar with many ancient religious traditions and customs. This would explain their knowledge of the prophecies of Micah, which they quoted to King Herod. Matthew notes that they came “from the east.”

Scripture does not claim that they were “three” in number nor does it identify them as “Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar” as later tradition customarily names them. The presumption that there were “three” of them comes from the three gifts Matthew says they offered to the child and his Mother: gold, representing royalty – Micah predicts he will “rule Israel;” frankincense, used in ancient worship rites – the magi “prostrated themselves and did him homage;” and myrrh, a perfume used at the coronation of kings or to anoint the dead – perhaps a prediction of the eventual death of the king.

Next, the star. Whether or not the star was a miraculous or unusual apparition is not clear from the story itself. It is entirely possible that the star was clearer in the sky at the time of the journey of the magi “from the east.” It cannot be dismissed or discounted but it certainly was interpreted at the time to have a special prominence or significance. It does add to an amazing story.

In his book “Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives,” Pope Benedict XVI observed that it was not the star that determined the child’s destiny but the child who directed the star.

Finally, the story itself. “Epiphany” comes from a Greek linguistic expression that is translated as “display” or “manifestation.” In Matthew’s account, the visit of the magi is intended to demonstrate or “manifest” that Jesus, the child of Mary born in Bethlehem, is the long-awaited Messiah of Israel, predicted by the prophets of old. They called upon King Herod during their journey as a courtesy because they presumed that he, too, shared their enthusiasm for the anticipated birth of “a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church observes that “The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world” and that the magi’s coming to Jerusalem, in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews, shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be the king of the nations (Catechism, 528).”

For Catholics and Christians, Christmas does not end with the celebrations of December 25 or January 1 or even January 6. No, Christmas begins on the great feast of Christ’s birth and continues with the visit of the magi to Bethlehem, with the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River and with the Wedding Feast of Cana when his miraculous power is first publicly revealed.

The Lord Jesus Christ, born of Mary, adored by the magi, is the Messiah, the Son of God and Savior of the World. Let the celebration continue! With the magi this Sunday of the Epiphany, “come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!”

Prayer to Jesus for Coronavirus Healing

Jesus Christ You traveled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. At Your command the sick were made well. Come to our aid now in the midst of the global spread of the corona virus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus, may they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Carry in Your arms those who have died from the virus and bring them home. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. May they know Your Peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who put themselves at risk in serving the sick. May they know your protection. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they were meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long term solutions to help prevent future outbreaks. Our Lord Jesus stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us Your Peace. Jesus Christ heal us. Amen

Catholic Charities News

Community Services is Catholic Charities' link to parishes in the Trenton diocese. Serving families in crises, we provide food, mortgage, rent and utilities assistance, temporary housing, counseling, and immigration services. To learn more about Catholic Charities Community Services visit our You Tube presentation. Click on: <https://youtu.be/-r8YRyPCIY4> If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Catholic Charities at 800-360-7711.

Save-the-Date for the 2021 Bishop's Anniversary Blessing Events

To ensure that all 2020 anniversary couples are able to receive our bishop's personal blessing for the milestone anniversaries of 1 year, 25 years and 50 or more years, Bishop O'Connell extends his invitation to all couples celebrating their 1st or 2nd, 25th or 26th, or 50th or more anniversary in 2021 to the Bishop's Anniversary Blessing events to be held on Sunday, October 10 for Monmouth County Parishes. Registration will be available in July 2021. Visit <https://dioceseoftrenton.org/building-strong-marriages>.

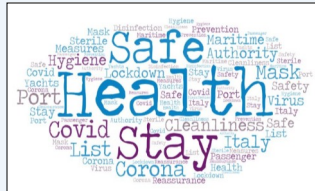


St. Mark's Altar Rosary Society

St. Mark's Altar Rosary Society will be reciting the rosary after the 11am mass on the first Monday of each month.

We invite those that cannot make it to church, to join us from home in the recitation of the rosary. In this way we continue to honor our Blessed Mother and follow her directions to continue praying for an end to abortion and all the intentions of her Immaculate Heart.

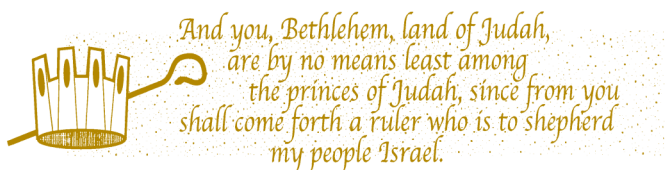
St. Mark's would like to let our Parishioners know what practices we have in place to protect them during the pandemic so



that they can make informed decisions on whether they feel they would like to attend in person Masses. Social distancing with roped off pews which allows those present to sit at least 6 feet apart, all pews, door handles and railings are sanitized after every Mass daily and during the weekend Masses and Sacraments, sanitizer is at the front and side entrances, bathrooms are cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis, masks must be worn by everyone in the church, the priests and Extraordinary Ministers use hand sanitizer before distributing Communion, Communion is distributed one side at a time to allow for social distance, the windows are open during Mass to help circulate air, collection baskets are placed on the Altar rail rather than the Ushers handling the collection, weekend requirement is entrance thru the front doors for Parishioner count but you may exit thru all doors.

If you have any questions please call the Rectory Office at 732-449-6364.

If you know someone who doesn't have access to the internet and would like a copy of the bulletin, please reach out to the Rectory at 732-449-6364.





THE *Epiphany*
OF THE *Lord*

Iglesia de "San Marcos" Apostolado Hispano

Misa Dominical: Domingo 5:00 p.m.

Misa de Semana: Martes 6:00 p.m.

Msgr. Sean P. Flynn, Pastor
Rev. José Fernández-Banguesses,
Sacerdote Residente

josefernandez@stmarkseagirt.com

Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 122.

Horario de oficina en Español:
Lunes, Miércoles y Viernes 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Andrea Martínez, Apostolado Hispano

liz@stmarkseagirt.com

Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 104.

Fax: (732) 449-1646

Directora del Ministerio de Religión

Diana Zuna Nieves

diana@stmarkseagirt.com

Teléfono: (732) 449-6364 ext. 105

Solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor ~ Enero 3, 2021

Primera Lectura: Isaías 60, 1-6

Levántate y resplandece, Jerusalén, porque ha llegado tu luz y la gloria del Señor alborea sobre ti. Mira: las tinieblas cubren la tierra y espesa niebla envuelve a los pueblos; pero sobre ti resplandece el Señor y en ti se manifiesta su gloria. Caminarán los pueblos a tu luz y los reyes, al resplandor de tu aurora. Levanta los ojos y mira alrededor: todos se reúnen y vienen a ti; tus hijos llegan de lejos, a tus hijas las traen en brazos. Entonces verás esto radiante de alegría; tu corazón se alegrará, y se ensanchará, cuando se vuelquen sobre ti los tesoros del mar y te traigan las riquezas de los pueblos. Te inundará una multitud de camellos y dromedarios, procedentes de Madián y de Efá. Vendrán todos los de Sabá trayendo incienso y oro y proclamando las alabanzas del Señor.

Salmo Responsorial: 71, 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13

Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

Comunica, Señor, al rey tu juicio y tu justicia, al que es hijo de reyes;
así tu siervo saldrá en defensa de tus pobres y regirá a tu pueblo justamente. R.

Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

Florecerá en sus días la justicia y reinará la paz, ere tras era.
De mar a mar se extenderá su reino y de un extremo al otro de la tierra. R.

Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

Los reyes de occidente y de las islas le ofrecerán sus dones.
Ante el se postrarán todos los reyes y todas las naciones. R.

Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

Al débil libraré del poderoso y ayudará al que se encuentra sin amparo;
se apiadará del desvalido y pobre y salvará la vida al desdichado. R.

Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

Segunda Lectura: Efesios 3, 2-3a. 5-6.

Hermanos: Han oído hablar de la distribución de la gracia de Dios, que se me ha confiado en favor de ustedes. Por revelación se me dio a conocer este misterio, que no había sido manifestado a los hombres en otros tiempos, pero que ha sido revelado ahora por el Espíritu a sus santos apóstoles y profetas: es decir, que por el Evangelio, también los paganos son coherederos de la misma herencia, miembros del mismo cuerpo y partícipes de la misma promesa en Jesucristo.

Aclamación antes del Evangelio: Mateo 2,2.

R. Aleluya, aleluya.

Hemos visto su estrella en el oriente y hemos venido a adorar al Señor.

R. Aleluya.

Evangelio: Mateo 2, 1-12.

Jesús nació en Belén de Judá, en tiempos del rey Herodes. Unos magos de oriente llegaron entonces a Jerusalén y preguntaron: "¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que acaba de nacer? Porque vimos surgir su estrella y hemos venido a adorarlo". Al enterarse de esto, el rey Herodes se sobresaltó y toda Jerusalén con él. Convocó entonces a los sumos sacerdotes y a los escribas del pueblo y les preguntó dónde tenía que nacer el Mesías. Ellos le contestaron: "En Belén de Judá, porque así lo ha escrito el profeta: Y tú, Belén, tierra de Judá, no eres en manera alguna la menor entre las ciudades ilustres de Judá, pues de ti saldrá un jefe, que será el pastor de mi pueblo, Israel". Entonces Herodes llamó en secreto a los magos, para que le precisaran el tiempo en que se les había aparecido la estrella y los mandó a Belén, diciéndoles: "Vayan a averiguar cuidadosamente qué hay de ese niño y, cuando lo encuentren, avísenme para que yo también vaya a adorarlo". Después de oír al rey, los magos se pusieron en camino, y de pronto la estrella que habían visto surgir, comenzó a guiarlos, hasta que se detuvo encima de donde estaba el niño. Al ver de nuevo la estrella, se llenaron de inmensa alegría. Entraron en la casa y vieron al niño con María, su madre, y postrándose, lo adoraron. Después, abriendo sus cofres, le ofrecieron regalos: oro, incienso y mirra. Advertidos durante el sueño de que no volvieran a Herodes, regresaron a su tierra por otro camino.

