



MATTHEW 2:9

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | JANUARY 7, 2024 www.saintjamesparish.org



45 South Springfield Ave, Springfield, NJ 07081 (973) 376-3044

> Office Hours: (Closed 12-1PM for Lunch)

Mon-Tue 8:30AM-3PM Wed 8:30AM-7PM Thu-Fri 8:30AM-3PM

Church Visiting Hours: Mon-Fri: 8AM-2:30PM Sat: 9AM-1PM

#### MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday, January 13: 5:00PM - Fr. Santos

Sunday, January 14: 8:00AM - Fr. Paladino 10:00AM - Fr. Dennehy 12:00PM - Fr. Santos

#### DAILY MASS:

Mon-Fri:	7:30ам
Saturday:	8:30am
U.S. Holidays:	8:30am

#### **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday at 4:00PM or by Appointment; Please call the Office.

#### **DEVOTIONS:**

**Rosary & Novena:** Mondays at 7:00PM in the Church and on Facebook Live

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday Holy Hour at 7PM

Second Saturdays at 3PM

### **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS** Today's Feast of the Epiphany tells

Today's Feast of the Epiphany tells **two stories**. The **first** story is about the world with an all-too-common theme: a power-hungry, politically ambitious ruler who was motivated by greed and the maintenance of rule. The **second** story is one of faith and the search for

truth. And I think that these are two stories that we can all relate to.

**PASTOR'S COLUMN** 

It's not hard to see that Herod was someone who was overly preoccupied with the things of this world. He was concerned with how best to leave his mark and maintain his power; he was pensive with how history was going to remember him. The Magi, on the other hand, *look to the sky beyond their immediate world – beyond themselves - in search of truth.* 

We can say that they follow this inner impulse of a God that led them on an incredible adventure.

I think that it's obvious that the Church wishes us to associate ourselves with these Magi, in the hopes of being led by that same inner impulse leading to the Christ child in a manger. But maybe there's a part of us that can relate to Herod and his preoccupation with the things of the world, things that can make our journey towards God less of a priority. Therefore, a good and sober question to ask ourselves on this feast is: **What is it that's keeping us from progressing on our journey of faith?** 

Friends, in the life of every person - especially the Christian - there's this interior "star," if you will, which **calls** us and **leads** us to Christ. But the trick is we must *LOOK UP* and recognize its presence! **The "star" of our faith is always in the night sky of our lives.** 

May you and I acknowledge its presence by **looking up**, by **walking humbly** like the Magi, with **faith**, even in the midst of uncertainty and doubt. **May the Star of Faith always burn brightly in the night sky of your life.** 

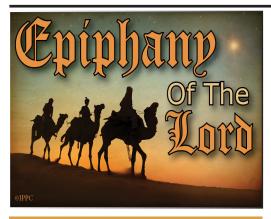
IR. D. P.C. J

Fr. David C. Santos Pastor

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on Earth, Earth in heaven, a human being in God, God in a human being, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body.

-Saint Peter Chrysologus



### SUNDAY READINGS

#### FIRST READING Isaiah 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.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 72

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

#### SECOND READING Ephesians 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.

#### GOSPEL Matthew 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.

Visit www.usccb.org to access Mass readings online.

### SAINT JAMES MINISTRIES



# Famíly Faíth Formatíon

Happy Three Kings<sup>.</sup> Bay !



This Sunday, January 7th, is our **Family Faith session**. We look forward to having all the families together for Mass followed by our session on the Bible. The session will conclude with a fun Play-Doh activity together.

**Confirmation** preparation **Year 1** group – Our next session is this **Tuesday, January 9th from 7PM to 8:30PM** in the Church. Make sure to complete the reflection on The Chosen (episode 4) by January 8th.

On Friday, January 12 from 6PM to 7:30PM, the Confirmation Candidates Years 1 and 2 will have the opportunity to get together in the school gym to make blankets and bring teddy bears, to be donated to the Springfield First Responders. You should have already received my email with the Sign-up Genius link to sign up for the event, please contact me if you did not receive it.

Ana Serra-Prescott, Director of Family Faith Formation aprescott@saintjamesparish.org (973) 376-2061.

### Saint James Prayer-Line Ministry

Members of this ministry pray for people who are ill, in the hospital, undergoing surgery, or who have been in an accident, are grieving the loss of a loved one, or "Special Intention".

If you know of someone in need of prayers, or if you would like to become a member of this ministry, please contact Maureen Bernor by e-mail: **Prayer-LineMinistry@saintjamesparish.org** 



Christmas Memorials

THE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

> **Raffaele & Sabino Battaglia** r/b The Battaglia Family

#### THE WREATH IN THE SANCTUARY IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Matthew Swajkowski r/b Cynthia & Matthew Vincent & Alison Swajkowski

THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NARTHEX IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

The Swajkowski & Felegi Families r/b Cynthia Swajkowski

#### THE CHRISTMAS TREES IN THE SANCTUARY ARE DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**The Deceased Members of The Delmauro Family** r/b The Battaglia Family

Grandson, Michael P. Bongiovanni r/b Deacon Jerry & Family

> Nic Cacouris r/b Wife, Joan Bratsch

**Tony Graziano** r/b Anne Graziano & Family

Paul & Ann Marie Bentivegna r/b The Bentivegna Family

THE WREATH PLACED AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

> Marie & Ettore Vecchione r/b Daughter, Jill

THE OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS CRECHE IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

> Pete Petino r/b Family

THE WREATH PLACED AT THE SHRINE OF SAINT JAMES IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Philip & Rose Ann Citro* r/b Daughters and Family

THE WREATH OVER THE DOORS INSIDE THE CHURCH IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Irene Kareivis & Catherine McCluskey r/b Kathy & Joe Kareivis

#### THE WREATH OVER THE DOORS IN THE NARTHEX IS DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

John D. Pflug, III & Garrett Gurrieri r/b Family

THE WREATHS ON THE OUTDOOR COLUMNS ARE DISPLAYED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

> **The Deceased Members of the Battaglia Family** r/b The Battaglia Family

> > The Zara Family r/b Battaglia Family

Angela and Daniel Raimondo r/b Evelyn Raimondo-Kaiser & Maryann VanVolkenberg

Hanna Grasso r/b Niece, Joan Bratsch & Family

> *Louis Stiglitz* r/b Wife, Marilyn Stiglitz

**Susan Lang** r/b Mother, Marilyn Stiglitz

*Mary Moessner* r/b Daughter, Marilyn Stiglitz

r/b Daughter, Marilyn Stiglitz

The Deceased Members of the Mossner Family r/b Marilyn Stiglitz

> Mary Stawasz r/b Marilyn Stiglitz

### **REGISTER TODAY!**

## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

# A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH CHRIST'S PASSION

NO

GREATER

### DATES TIMES LOCATION

### **INTRO SESSION**

Monday, 1/29 7-8:30PM in School Gym

### FIVE STUDY SESSIONS

Mondays OR Tuesdays beginning week of Feb. 12-March 11 7:00-8:30PM in School Gym Thousands sought Jesus during his life. Only a few followed him to Calvary.

#### What will you do?

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—and grow closer to Jesus.

#### SIGN-UPS AFTER ALL THE MASSES AND THROUGH FLOCKNOTE.

If you have questions please send email to: smallgroups@saintjamesparish.org



### FOR THE KIDS

### Matthew 2:10 NIV

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Find the words from the Bible verse below.

S	Q	В	Q	Y	L	Q	Q	Μ	Κ
G	В	S	S	А	W	F	V	Ι	G
0	М	Т	Т	Н	Е	Y	М	Ρ	D
С	V	Н	А	D	R	V	Q	Ζ	L
Y	Е	Е	R	V	Е	Ι	М	К	Μ
А	J	Y	R	Т	W	F	С	С	Ρ
Ι	G	С	Т	J	J	0	S	Ν	Ι
Ι	V	Ζ	Ρ	Q	0	Μ	F	А	Ζ
А	R	Μ	Q	В	U	Y	R	G	Е
Μ	Ρ	J	G	Κ	W	Н	Е	Ν	Μ
0	Т	Х	Т	Н	Е	Т	W	D	Ρ

### THE EPIPHANY INVITATION: WHAT GIFTS CAN WE OFFER JESUS?

As the Christian church worldwide celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany, what can we resolve to offer Christ?

The three kings are laden with gifts that are not merely precious and expensive. With their offerings, they are recognizing the dignity of the newborn Child: He is King, He is God, He is man. But what gifts can we offer Him on Epiphany (traditionally celebrated on January 6 in many parts of the world)?

#### Gold, frankincense and myrrh

To the king belongs **gold, a symbol of wealth and splendor**. The holy of holies in the Temple of Jerusalem was covered with gold, a way of worshiping God, King of the world:

"Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold. And he drew chains of gold across the front of the inner sanctuary, and he overlaid it with gold. He overlaid the whole house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar which was by the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold" (1 Kings 6:21-22)

**Incense is a symbol of prayer** that goes up to God comes back to him:

"May my prayer rise up to you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice" (PS 141:2)

And elsewhere:

"Then another angel with a gold incense burner came and stood at the altar. And a great amount of incense was given to him to mix with the prayers of God's people as an offering on the gold altar before the throne" (Rev 8:3)

#### Myrrh is both the fragrance of anointing -

"Your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else. Myrrh, aloe, and cassia perfume your robes. In ivory palaces the music of harps entertains you." (PS 45:8-9)

— and the announcement of the suffering of the Lord, true man among us. It is written in the Song of Solomon (1:13):

"My beloved is like a fragrant pouch of myrrh spending the night between my breasts."

Regarding this verse, St. Bernard said:

"Ever since my conversion, I have taken care to hold this bouquet of all the Lord's sufferings close to my heart. Among all the branches of the fragrant myrrh, I have been careful not to omit either the myrrh that he was watered with on the cross or the myrrh that was used to anoint his body before burial. The whole of Jesus' life is perfumed with myrrh, from that of the Magi to that of Nicodemus, who "came with a mixture of myrrh and aloes." (Jn 19:39)

We, too, on this day can bow down and worship Jesus by offering Him gold (almsgiving with our material goods); incense (a renewal of our prayer life); and myrrh (our faith in His humanity that saved us). - *Claire Patier* 

Edifa - published on 01/06/21 https://aleteia.org/cp1/2021/01/06/the-epiphany-invitation-what-gifts-can-we-offer-jesus/

### AROUND THE COMMUNITY

SEASONS welcomes anyone who has lost a significant other to participate in our activities and to meet people who are in a similar situation. SEASONS is a non-denominational support group for individuals who have experienced the loss of a partner, including divorced, separated, or widowed individuals, and for those never married. *Our meetings take place monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the First Presbyterian Church, 11 Springfield Ave. in Cranford.* Please enter through the middle door on Springfield Ave., or call **908-418-8602**.

#### Out with the old... to help others...



"Out with the old and in with the new" is a popular expression at this time of year. Would you be willing to clean out that closet or attic to help the many struggling members of our society? One way to do this is by donating any unwanted clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, toys, tools, children's books, and knickknacks to the Catholic Charities Donation Bin(s) located on the Church grounds. May your continued generosity brighten every day of the New Year. Thank you.

### SACRAMENTS



#### BAPTISM

Please call the Rectory to schedule your child's Baptism: (973) 376-3044

### RECONCILIATION

4:00PM on Saturdays or by appointment.

### VOCATIONS

Thinking Priesthood? Are you being called? Visit the Archdiocese of Newark Office of Priestly Vocations. Call: 973-313-6190. Email: info@newarkpriest.com. Social media: @NewarkPriest. Web: newarkpriest.com

### Do you know someone who...

Was never baptized, or was baptized in another Christian denomination, and has expressed interest in becoming Catholic? Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?

Saint James the Apostle Church offers an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for adults and for children/youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm, accepting setting.

For more information, please call (973) 376-2061

#### ADULT SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION & RCIA

Please call the Rectory for information concerning the RCIA process. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process where individuals who seek to receive the Sacraments of Initiation or who have never been baptized enter into full communion with the faith.



### WORD SEARCH ANSWER KEY



### **MASS INTENTIONS, PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS**

SATURDAY, JA	ANUARY 6
5:00pm	John Montana, Sr.
-	r/b Janice Montana
	Grace O'Mahoney O'Brien
	r/b Linda & Bob Donnelly
SUNDAY, JAN	UARY 7
<b>The Epiphany</b>	of the Lord
8:00am	Amelia Montana
	r/b Janice Montana
	Ray Alberti
	r/b Wife
10:00am	Romualdo & Carmela Circelli
	r/b Carmela Fusco
	Casma & Salvatore DeNichilo
	r/b Inneo Family
12:00pm	Angelina & Carmelo Rivano
	r/b Marion Rivano
	Irene Villanova
	r/b Lesniewski Family
MONDAY, JAN	
Baptism of the	
7:30am	Mariam Avaguajo
THECOAY IAN	r/b Veronica
TUESDAY, JAN 7:30am	
7:30am	Salvatore Zotti r/b Wife & Children
WEDNESDAY,	
7:30am	John Montana, Jr.
7.SUam	r/b Janice Montana
THURSDAY, J	
7:30am	Dr. Frank Mazzarella
	r/b Theresa & Michael Quick
FRIDAY, JANU	
7:30am	Rafael & Gladys Perez
	r/b Veronica
SATURDAY, JA	ANUARY 13
8:30am	Caesar & Edward Rivano
	r/b Marion Rivano
5:00pm	Carmela & Romualdo Circelli
	r/b Carmela Fusco
	Antonina Plaia
	r/b Mary Stoffer
SUNDAY, JAN	
	y in Ordinary Time
8:00am	Jack Mahoney
	r/b Family
	George Kimmel r/b Ann Marie Milanesi
10:00am	
iu.uualli	Joseph Kazimar r/b Geri Ann, Brandon & Tyler
	Mary Jane Roethlin
	r/b Bernstein Family
12:00pm	Vincent & Mildred Genco
12.00pm	r/b Nancy Caputo
	Daniel & Angela Raimondo
	r/b Evelyn Raimondo-Kaiser &
	Marianne Van Volkenburgh



#### SANCTUARY LAMP:

Dennis Capio r/b Veloso Family

BREAD & WINE: Joseph Giaccio r/b Rachelle & Michael Hafey

To memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp by the Tabernacle or the Bread and Wine, please call the Rectory Office.

#### A TIME TO HEAL

Pat Annelli, Jackie Belitti, Anita C. Bentz, Barbara Bentz, Severina Bion, Deacon Jerome Bongiovanni, Victoria Burns, Gerry Campagnola, Enid Cabot, Dolores Cardillo, Thara Chandran, Lena Chromowski, Phyllis Colosimo, Celine Correia, James Curry, Diane Deitz, Jean DePasquale, Carmela DeSarno, Robert Devon, Jr., Marguerite Duchantier, Victoria Egner, Alfredo Fernandes, Berta Franco, Ann Graziano, Carole Griner, Steven Hensle, Laura Hughes, Eddie Jenna, Dana Kelley, Dexter Kennedy, Art Kistler, Irene Kurpieski, Camille LaTouche, Dina Ledogar, Maureen Le Goff, Lucille Lerner, Andy Lindgren, Angelina Lipski, Chenoa Lipski, Richie Lipski, Menotti Joseph Lombardi, Jr., Marian Lordi, Richard Lorenzo, Barbara Ludolph, Erica Luther, Toni Ann Marabello, Maria Martino Fender, John Mannarino, Angie Mazzarisi, Leonard McGinley, Stan Mickham, Richard Miele, Andres Montero, Timothy Morgan, Martin Muguerza, Ive Mureny, Christian Murphy, Cassidy Musson, Carol Muzacs, Michael Neer, Mary O'Connor, Rafaelina Oliviero, Anna P., Erin Pado, John Reiss, Ben Rumer, Anthony S., Richard Salort, Alice Serrao, Jack Silbert, Ray Slater, Stephanie Toth, Tracy Tuten, Anne Wallis, Elisa Warshall

**Please Note:** For privacy reasons and HIPAA regulations, names may only be added by members of the immediate family after they have received permission of the one who is sick. In the event of serious illness or hospitalization, the rectory should be notified. Visits to the sick and homebound are made by the priests, deacons and ministers of the Eucharist. It is not necessary for someone to be "gravely ill" to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

### A TIME OF WAR AND PEACE

Tim Arentz, Lance Corporal Kevin Bernor, Brian Braine, Sean Curran, Maj. Sean P. Eadie, Stacy Enyeart, David Fenton, Shane Fenton, Luis Fonseca, LCPL Christopher P. Garrigan, 2LT Christopher W. Impellizzeri, Capt. Brian Jacobs, LCPL Kyle Thomas Lynaugh, Stephen Patricco, Aric Patten, Phillip Patten, Aaron Pluto, 1LT John Rogacki, Capt. Stacia Rogacki, Capt. Stephen Rogacki, 2LT Raymond Williamson



### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# DO YOU LIVE IN UNION COUNTY AND NEED HELP WITH:

### Housing Insecurity? Rental Assistance? Legal Representation? Credit Counseling and more?

Please contact JOE CORREA immediately: jcorrea@thewaterfrontproject.org

### www.thewaterfrontproject.org

A nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting economically disadvantaged people – the working poor, seniors, veterans, and those living with disabilities – to address their civil legal issues and concerns.

### **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURES**

Collection Totals Weekend of December 23 & 24

<b>Regular Collection:</b>	\$ 4,935.00
Online Giving:	\$ 4,143.00
Total:	\$ 9,078.00

#### Total Christmas Gifts through 12/25/23: \$54,629

We accept online credit card donations. Parishioners wishing to mail-in or drop off their weekly contribution in the Rectory mail slot are welcome to do so.



### **ONLINE GIVING**

To sign up for Online Giving, please visit saintjamesparish.org or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

Thank you for your generosity!

**FRAUD ALERT:** Please be aware that emails are being sent out by scammers claiming to be members of the Saint James parish community, including Fr. David Santos. Please disregard any emails from anyone claiming to be associated with Saint James, including Fr. David Santos, with solicitation to purchase gift cards or offer any other cash donations. In any event, please feel free to call the parish rectory to confirm any and all solicitation before contributing. We have contacted the local authorities to make them aware.



### FINANCE COUNCIL CORNER

May the blessings of God be with our St. James parish community in the New Year.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests. Luke 2:14

### ST. JAMES BOUTIQUE

Be sure to visit the online boutique for Saint James the Apostle Parish commemorative apparel and items. We have hoodies, quarter-zips,

polos, and more!

Scan the QR code to check out all of our merchandise!



GRATEFUL • THANKFUL



### **OUR PARISH IS SERVED BY:**

PASTOR

Father David C. Santos frsantos@saintjamesparish.org

**PERMANENT DEACON** Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni *Please call the rectory to reach Dcn. Jerry* 

**PERMANENT DEACON** Deacon Hugh A. Keffer hkeffer@saintjamesparish.org

PERMANENT DEACON Deacon Michael DeRoberts deaconderoberts@saintjamesparish.org

WEEKEND ASSISTANT Father John Dennehy

PARISH COUNCIL pastoralcouncil@saintjamesparish.org **DIRECTOR OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION** Mrs. Ana Serra-Prescott aprescott@saintjamesparish.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE Ms. Nancy Caputo ncaputo@saintjamesparish.org

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY** Mr. Philip La Gala musicdirector@saintjamesparish.org

OFFICE MANAGER Mrs. Colleen Tyra ctyra@saintjamesparish.org

**BOOKKEEPER** Mrs. Katie Hyman businessoffice@saintjamesparish.org

PARISH TRUSTEES Mrs. Janet Petino and Mr. John Pflug