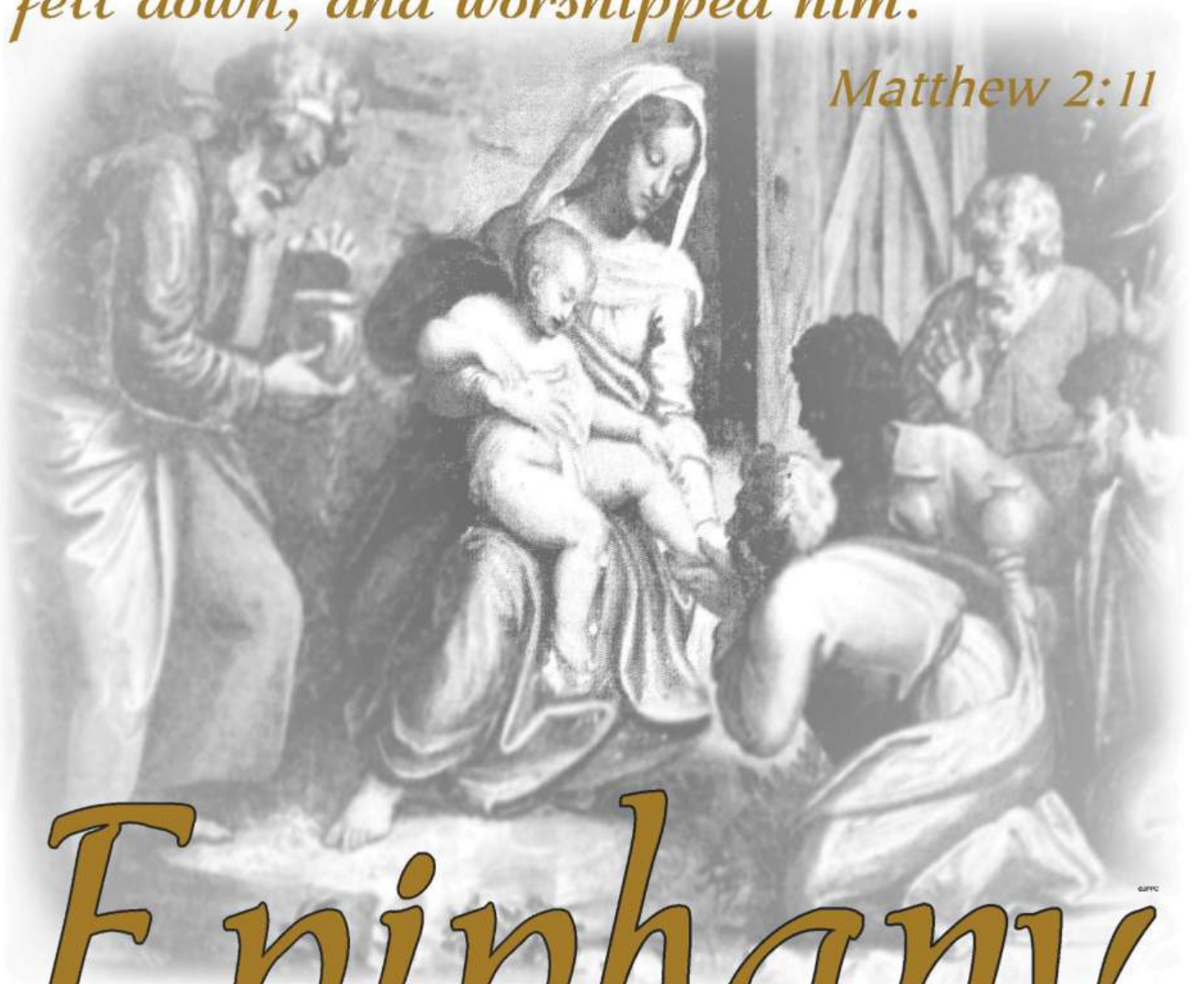


*On coming to the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him.*

*Matthew 2:11*



# *Epiphany*

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, January 07, 2024

# ST MARY'S CHURCH



14833 Kutztown Road ▪ Kutztown, PA 19530

[www.StMarysKutztown.com](http://www.StMarysKutztown.com)

[www.facebook.com/stmaryskutztown](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryskutztown)

Church, Meeting Rooms, Business & Parish Offices:

Phone : 610-683-7443 ▪ Fax : 610-683-7625

Email: [Parish@StMarysKutztown.com](mailto:Parish@StMarysKutztown.com)

Religious Education Center: 610-683-6454

Email: [RelEd@StMarysKutztown.com](mailto:RelEd@StMarysKutztown.com)

## PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastor	Fr John Maria
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Msgr Walter T Scheaffer
Transitional Deacon	Rev. Mr. N. Romero Brelinsky
Permanent Deacon	Dcn. Howard Schultz
Coordinator/Religious Educ	Mrs. Ann Pergosky
Director of Music Ministry and Parish Secretary	Mrs. Anne Sitarik

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Auxiliary	Theresa Bieak & Deb Massa
Men of St. Mary's	Mr. Tom Cengeri
Pro-Life Committee	Mr. John Tucker, O P
R C I A	Fr. John Maria

## DIOCESAN INFORMATION

Diocesan Policies and Procedures on Youth Protection:

[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org)

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Wendy S Krisak, Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

Office of Safe Environment Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS ; PO Box F, Allentown, 181-5-1538 Tele. 610-871-5200 x2204

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service:

[www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or 800-276-1562



## **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil	4:30 pm
Sunday	8:30, 11:00am
Daily Masses	7:30am (Monday – Friday) 8:00am (First Saturdays)

## **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** - Every

Wednesday, 7-8 pm and First Friday of the Month, 8 until 9am

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** – Baptism is celebrated at various times, often 11a Mass, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Baptisms are also scheduled privately upon arrangement with families. Parents must contact the Religious Ed Office to arrange Baptismal Prep sessions and learn all the details.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - Saturday, 3:30-4:20p, Sundays 8:00-8:20; 10:30-10:50 am, Wednesdays 7:00-8:00p and by appointment

**SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK** – Those who are dangerously ill or facing serious surgery may receive this healing Sacrament. Please contact Father John Maria to make arrangements.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY** – Congratulations! Couples must contact Father John at least six months in advance of desired date. Marriage Preparation is required for proper celebration of a valid and Sacramental marriage.

**PROSPECTIVE GODPARENTS/SPONSORS** asked to serve as Baptismal Godparents or Confirmation sponsor must request an eligibility certificate from the parish priest. To serve in this special role parishioners must: Be in full communion with the Catholic Church; Attend Mass weekly; have received Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation & Confirmation; Married individuals need be validly married in the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish Office and allow 2 weeks to process.

**HOMEBOUND** – Parishioners homebound and unable to attend Mass please contact the Parish Office to arrange visitation, to receive Holy Communion

**HOSPITALIZED** - Call the Rectory to notify of someone in the hospital so we can pray for and possibly visit them. Each hospital in our Diocesan boundaries is either covered by a local parish or has a priest on call at the hospital.

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP** - Welcome to St. Mary's Parish! Please contact the Parish Office to meet with Father John and become registered. We also ask those who move to notify the parish

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** – Education for parish children occurs September 10 through April. Contact Religious Education office: 610-683-6454 for registration.

### *Center-based*

- Levels 1 to 5 meet every week, Sundays, 9:40-10:50am
- Level 6-8 meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 6-8pm
- Youth Group (9-12) Stay tuned for upcoming events.

*Home-based* Arrangements may be made for select grade levels, contact Ann Pergosky

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, JANUARY 07, 2024

*We are a welcoming community called to deepen and share our faith*

# MASS Intentions

Mon	01-08	7:30a	Sr. Geraldine Cantwell, IHM
Tue	01-09	7:30a	Joseph Domeracki
Wed	01-10	7:30a	William and Celestina Keller
Thu	01-11	7:30a	Earl and Eleanor Frantz
Fri	01-12	7:30a	Joseph Soga
Sat	01-13	4:30p	Edward Ehrets
Sun	01-14	8:30a 11:00a	Roy Bellenoit People of the Parish

*Altar flowers in memory of Tom and Jane Quirk this week.  
Blessed Sacrament candle in memory of all deceased children.*

## READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun	01-07	<i>Solemnity Epiphany of the Lord</i> - Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12 <i>Feast-Baptism of the Lord</i> - Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Ac
Mon	01-08	10:34-38; Mk 1:7-11 or, in Year B, Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11
Tue	01-09	1 S 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28 or 1 S 1:1-8, 1:9-20; Mk 1:14-20, 1:21-28
Wed	01-10	1 S 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
Thu	01-11	1 S 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
Fri	01-12	1 S 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
Sat	01-13	1 S 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17
Sun	01-14	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sun Ordinary Time</i> - 1 S 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Co 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

## MUSIC MINISTRY

	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
4:30p	DeWald, Heather Casey, Peggy	Sitarik, Anne Moore, Mark
8:30a	Skoronski, Nathan Cebenko, Steve	Spanier, Chris Moore, Mark
11:00a	Pirnot, Tom Skoronski, Katherine	Thomas, Cathy Moore, Mark

Collection Dec. 24:	OLG	Church	Expenses
Regular Collection	\$2,425.25	\$13,285.00	\$11,237.61
Building Fund		\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$25.00	\$50.00	
Parish Partnership	\$110.00	\$1,028.00	
Other Regular Income	\$2,005.00	\$80.00	

## HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING?

1. Visit our church website at [www.stmaryskutztown.com](http://www.stmaryskutztown.com)
2. Click on the Online Giving link
3. Complete the online registration form. It's that simple! For more info or help setting up your account please contact the parish office: 610-683-7443



Logan Alkons	Ken Gorski	Joanne O'Connell
Caleb Bauer	Bijou Greenwood	Benedicta Otchere
Christopher Bennett	Muriel Hadnagy	Rick Padilla
Claudia Berg	Devon Hanna	Ed Pilarski
Greg Bradford	Jacqueline Hartz	Pat Regensburger
Monica Bradford	Linda Haurus	Rosemarie Reimert
Bradford family	Hannah Hayduk	Bill Pettit
David Byer	Kathy Henry	Megan Roth
Nadia Cahill	Lillian Karch	Nina Hertzog
Drew Cengeri	Michael Karch	Rundle
Meaghan Clark	Joanne Kear	Richard Rusconi
Colleen Wolff	Patricia Keeney	Sr. Mary Sapanara, MSC
Jerome Costanzo	Jane Kern	Tina Scatamacchia
Kim Costanzo	Milton Kern	Jim Sherman
Nancy Devlin-Litinsky	Carol Korbe	Barbara Shidisky
Dave Ebling	Cena Knowles	Tracy Snyder
Trent Eidle	Henry Kryeski	Nicole Sosik
Patricia Farabaugh	Edward & Rosemary Law	Todd Tanis
Paula Fehlinger	Harry Lewellen	Ralph Touch
Joey Flecher	Julie Lindsey	Amy Turko
Tammy G.	Eva Malanczuk	Christine VanDoorn
Joe Galantino	Dennis Martinsen	Phillip Vazquez
Michelle Galantino	Barry, Sharon Miller	Joseph Wawrzak
Sandra George	Elaine O. Miller	Bonnie Wessner
Lucy Ginsiorsky	Nikolette Nolte	Emily Wickle
	Diana Novi	

Contact office to update list: [secretary@stmaryskutztown.com](mailto:secretary@stmaryskutztown.com)

## Please Pray for all those serving our nation

Keenan Albright	Anthony DiPietro	Nick Marakovits
Kyle Albright	Charles Douglass	Melissa Marks
Michael Barron	Joseph Douglass	Laura Miller
Andrew Barthol	Keith Essig	Spencer Morris
Frank M. Bieda	Ryan Flanagan	Heather O'Donnell
John Boyer	Kale Follweiler	Menaka Nayyar & Anthony Pirnot
Matthew Boyer	Michael Allen Haak	Jake Schmeck
Jonathan Cardé	Diane Henry	Phillip Talarico
Ryan Cengeri	Joshua Joseph	Steve Ziegler
Eric Cunningham	Dan King	
Timothy DeVall	James Knight	

Contact office to update list: [secretary@stmaryskutztown.com](mailto:secretary@stmaryskutztown.com)

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 01.07** Children's Liturgy of the Word, 8:30a  
Elementary Religious Ed., 9:40a  
Level 2 Parent meeting, 9:45a  
 Women of Grace, 6p
- Tue 01.09** Faith Sharing, 10a
- Wed 01.10** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 01.11** Music Ministry, 7p  
 R.C.I.A., 7p
- Sat 01.13** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday daily Mass, 8a  
 Pray the Rosary, 4p

### EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 01.14** 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Capital Improvements  
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a  
Level 2 Parent mtg., 9:45a  
 Men of St Mary's mtg. 10a  
Junior High ministry, 6p
- Tue 01.16** Faith Sharing, 10a
- Wed 01.17** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 01.18** Mary's Café, 7p  
 Music Ministry, 7p
- Sat 01.20** Pray the Rosary, 4p  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Parish Partnership

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Submit items by 12n one week prior to Sunday. *Submit full-page items two full weeks in advance.*

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP:** Welcome! Please register for parish membership. Call 610-683-7443 for an appointment and find out about all the parish has to offer! *Please inform us if you are moving.*

Watch/visit WFMZ TV Stormcenter for parish cancellation notices due to winter weather.

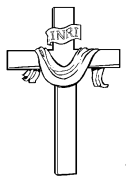


**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** To begin receiving offertory envelopes, please contact the parish office: [secretary@stmaryskutztown.com](mailto:secretary@stmaryskutztown.com)

**2024-FLOWER/BLESSED SACRAMENT MEMORIALS:** Call/email the parish office to sponsor altar flowers or Blessed Sacrament Candle in memory/honor of a loved one

**ST. CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN CTR AT KU:** FYI to those who sometimes attend the "Last Chance Mass" at the Newman Center, KU, the last Fall semester 5p Mass was Dec. 10. Masses will resume there at 5p, Jan. 28.

Remember in your Prayers Msgr. John P. Murphy and Fr. William N. Seifert, clergy of our diocese. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. *Amen*



**MARY'S CAFÉ:** On Thursday, January 18 at 7p in the Religious Ed center, all are invited to join Fr. John's MARY'S CAFÉ; topic is "The Holy Sacrifice of Mass." The Mass is a central part of our faith, and many of us know the words by heart. And yet, there are many misconceptions and questions. In this talk, Fr John will explain the big picture, as well as the meaning of the different parts of the Mass. Bring your questions and bring a friend!



"Mary's Café" is a great opportunity to get together with others at the parish, and to grow in your faith. The talk is informal and informative, allowing time to ask questions on the topic at hand, and others as well! Light refreshments will be available. Hope to see you Thursday, January 18 at 7p in the Religious Ed Center!

**CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS!** St. Mary's is updating the contact information for all who are part of our parish family. We would appreciate it if you'd take a moment to



scan the QR code or visit: <https://forms.gle/iFwTC4vt3CDrof4x9> to complete the brief form. Look for paper copies in the gathering area if needed. Thanks for your help in this effort!

**PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE:** As many know, St Mary's has produced parish directories every five years, the last directory in 2015. A new directory was planned, and photos were taken following the 2019 parish anniversary. Sadly, the Covid pandemic disrupted parish life which led to reduced participation. To further complicate the project, the directory company preparing the project went out of business! Thanks to several dedicated parishioners, we have a finished directory, and now have a limited release. The first 150 copies are reserved for photographed families. Contact the parish office to pick up your copy! 50 copies are available—first-come, first-served. We will accept names for the waiting list. Digital copies available upon request. Freewill donations welcome to defray expenses. We look forward to a full version in the coming years!

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FATHER JOHN MARIA

The account of the Magi is such a heart-warming part of the Christmas season. It is so charming, that we may be tempted to dismiss its importance as mere sentimentality. On this great Feast of the Epiphany, may we be renewed in understanding of its meaning.

The birth of Christ fulfilled all of the promises God made to His chosen people Israel, but those promises included His coming for the people of all nations. For all of us who have originated from nations throughout the world, this feast is for us. The Lord came for us!

The Magi were educated men of distant cultures, in search of the newborn King. In the lavishness of their gifts, we can see a stark contrast with the poor Jewish shepherds who witnessed the first manifestation when Christ was born.

But despite their gifts and sophistication, they had the most important qualities in common with the shepherds -- they had hearts humbled and open to God's promise, seeking His truth. In this new year, may our hearts be humble and open to growing in the Lord's truth and grace!

**HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL** new student registrations now open for next school year! We'd love you to join our school family! For info and tour contact Head of School, Kelly Precht: [kelpre@hgaschool.org](mailto:kelpre@hgaschool.org) 610-921-4124

**SURVIVING DIVORCE:** 7-8p, Jan 08 thru March 25, weekly. St. Benedicts, Mohnton. A confidential program offering hope and healing after divorce. Info: Joe Boylan: 610-781-6415 or [joeboylan17@gmail.com](mailto:joeboylan17@gmail.com)

**ST. MONICA MINISTRY HOLY HOUR:** 6p, Jan 09, St. Theresa Church, Hellertown. Come take part in this St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour. Come ask Our Lord's mercy and to invoke the powerful intercession of St. Monica for fallen-away loved ones. Join a meeting and book discussion immediately after in the rectory. No registration is required. Learn more, email: [StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com](mailto:StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com)

**HGA Regional School DINE OUT EVENT: Mon. Jan 15** dine out at Austin's, Coastal Grill and YOGO Crazy, Wyomissing. Mention HGA Regional School and they'll donate a portion of your bill to HGA Regional School.

**HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL COUGAR CASH RAFFLE!** thru Feb. 02 visit [holygardianangelsregionalschool.square.site](http://holygardianangelsregionalschool.square.site) for tickets. Last year's prize was nearly \$4,500!

**MAKE STEWARDSHIP YOUR RESOLUTION IN 2024:** Making an estate plan is an act of care for yourself, your loved ones, and your community. You can outline important financial and healthcare decisions for the future, provide for your loved ones, and act as a steward of all God has given.



Through our new diocesan partnership with FreeWill start the new year by completing this act of care. FreeWill is a secure online platform that walks you through creating your estate plan — 100% free of cost. Visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/giving](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/giving) or scan QR code.

**EXPLORE \*NEW\* DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT NEEDS**  
Visit: [www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment)

**WINDOW TO THE WOMB -- BABY'S DEVELOPMENT FROM CONCEPTION:** Live Action developed a video that walks one through each trimester of pregnancy, day by day, by presenting an animated baby's development starting from conception. When clicking through the weeks, you'll be able to read notes on the screen that describe certain aspects of the child's development. The following link is to the video: <https://www.windowtothewomb.app/>

**Word of Life:** "O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties. Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion." ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities; "A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers"

**9 DAYS FOR LIFE:** Join thousands of Catholics nationwide praying the annual 9 Days for Life novena, January 19-27. Sign up today at [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com)

**RETROUVAILLE:** Rediscover the Love in your Marriage. Thousands of couples have healed their marriages at Retrouvaille (*retru-vee*). Get help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Learn to build communication skills and increase intimacy. **Next program: Feb. 16-18 weekend** at the Family Life Center in Malvern. Info or Register: 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. *All inquiries strictly confidential.* [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)

**REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**  
This beautiful Epiphany feast always holds a unique place for me and my family, especially when the date for it was fixed at January 6, the "Twelfth Day of Christmas." That was my beloved mom's birthday. Added to the fact that my mother spent her early years in the Epiphany parish located in South Philadelphia.

Now that the Epiphany is celebrated on a Sunday the date is flexible. But this was a good change, because the feast was often lost to churchgoers when it fell on a weekday. The event deserves our full attention because of its significance.

What it celebrates is captured in the very word "Epiphany" itself. It means a "manifestation" or "showing." It is the showing of Christ Christ to the wider Gentile world beyond the world of the Jews. It implies His embrace of the same.

Up until now, we note that Christ came into the Jewish world. Both His earthly parents were good Jews, as were His grandparents and His whole extended family. St. Matthew, writing for Jewish converts to the faith, wanted to let them know that Christ came to embrace the whole world, and not just one nation.

So for today, we can meditate and learn about "the wideness of God's mercy." His divine plan for the salvation of the world does not involve exclusions. Still, the perennial questions arise: "Who or what is at the center of our lives? Is it really Christ Jesus or not?"

Here is a selection from the texts for today's feast found at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in London:

*The Magi*

It might have been just someone else's story;  
Some chosen people get a special king,  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.  
They did not know his name but still they sought him  
They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In palaces they found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

# Epiphany House Blessing (chalking the door)

Celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany, (January 7, 2024), it is a tradition of using chalk to write above the home's entrance asking for God's blessing on the home and those who dwell in or visit the home.

As the family gathers in prayer, it is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our lives and home.

## Opening:

**All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Leader: *Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Reading:

Leader: *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."*

*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.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## House Blessing:

Leader: *(using chalk blessed at Mass, write on the outside of your house, or inside above the front main entrance, or next to an entrance):*

C + M + B + 2024

saying "*May Christ bless this house.*"

- The numbers represent the New Year.
- C M B stands for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" latin for "May Christ bless this house"
- C M B also stands for the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, & Balthasar
- The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2024 is the year of the blessing.

## Concluding Prayer:

Leader: *Asking for God's blessing we pray:*

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

**All: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live here and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



**HOUSE BLESSING:** *As always Fr. John Maria is available to bless your house upon request.* 0195-6

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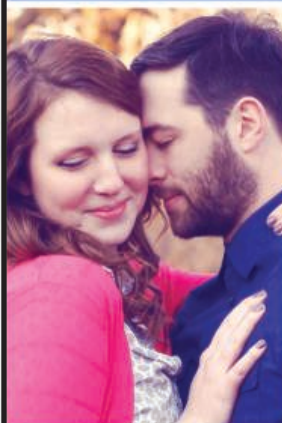
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