



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

**The Epiphany Of The Lord**

Gathering: As With Gladness Men Of Old BB 113  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 98)

*All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God. (2x)*

Preparation: Beyond The Moon And Stars BB 48

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion: The First Noel BB 115  
 Child Of The Poor BB 100

Recessional: Hark, The Herald Angels Sing BB 105

**✠ PARISH TITHING ✠**

Our Parish needs to take in **\$9700.00** each week in order to make ends meet Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

**December 22, 2024**

**Offertory \$6,938.28**

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR  
 DECEMBER 25 and 29, 2024**

**WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS**

January 5 Property Management  
 January 12 No Second Collection  
 January 19 Fuel

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **Parish Giving** to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

You can also use your smart phone to scan the QR code below. The link will take you directly to Parish Giving so you can donate.



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you.

**PLEASE HELP US!**

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you - or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Thanks for being attentive and respectful!



**Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income**

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$1,500/\$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/\$25	\$750/\$15
\$15,000	\$750/\$15	\$450/\$9

**Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase**

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

**TAX TIME SUGGESTION**

Did you know? If you are 72 or older and need to take a “required minimum distribution (RMD)” from an IRA retirement account, a direct distribution to a qualified charitable organization, such as Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, can save you money on your taxes. Such a donation will count toward your required minimum distribution but will be excluded from taxable income. Ask your tax preparer or IRA trustee for more details.

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

If you would like an “end of year” financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2024, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

**DOXOLOGY AND CREED AT MASS**

Winter Ordinary Time begins on January 19. As we gather on that weekend, we will have ended our Christmas celebrations and continue to praise God in Ordinary Time until the beginning of Lent on March 5. During Ordinary Time, we will begin **reciting** the Doxology prayer that is sung in the Christmas and Easter Season – “Glory to God in the highest.” The prayer is fitting for Sundays as we honor God and God’s blessings in our lives. It is recited after the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass. There will be colored cards in the pews to help us get used to the prayer so that nobody need shuffle through the missalettes. We will use the prayer until Lent begins, when the Church suspends it until Easter. The same colored card will also have a reprint of the Nicene Creed – 1700 years old in 2025! We will also begin **reciting** the text of the Creed at Sunday Masses on January 19.

**HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED**

**Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed from December 2024 until Spring 2025.** This decision comes as result of the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

**CLOTHING DRIVE**

**Kimberly's 19th Annual Holiday Give Away!!!**

Guess who's back!!! I am so happy to be able to continue with this annual initiative! This year with 2 children in the mix we are ready to serve! We will be collecting clothing and nonperishable food items a week later than usual this year on January 11 & 12 at Holy Angels Parish Hall (downstairs of the church), from 12:00 to 4:00pm each day. We will be accepting donations for Catie's Closet, Ruth's House, Emmaus House, Lazarus House, Wish Project, and Saint Luke's Food Pantry. We are accepting CLEAN clothing of any size, any season, any decade. Any donations of socks or underwear must be new and packaged. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer please contact me at: [kimberly-andrade@comcast.net](mailto:kimberly-andrade@comcast.net). Your continued support throughout the years is the only way this works, so thank you in advance for continuing to support our cause! May you all have a safe and healthy holiday season and may God continue to bless you always.

Kimberly Clenord

**THE GOD MINUTE**

Every morning a small group of priests, religious, and lay people start their day in prayer. Soft music, sacred scripture, and thoughtful reflection are weaved into a 10-minute prayer called The God Minute. It's then uploaded for you to access and prayer along with on your own time. And it's free. Listen with your coffee in the morning, while driving to work, or taking a walk. See how easy and beautiful prayer can be.

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

**RETROUVAILLE**

**A Lifeline For Married Couples**

Does your marriage need help? We are a marriage program that continues after the initial weekend with follow-up sessions that further develop the concepts that we introduce on the weekend. Some of the topics we cover are: Communication Skills, Conflict Management, Family of Origin, Forgiveness and Trust, Love and Commitment, Marriage as a Vocation, Intimacy and Sexual Relationship. Email us at [NewEngland@HelpOurMarriage.org](mailto:NewEngland@HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 508-271-7155.

**WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER...**

**We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Winter even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Winter months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.**

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, January 5**

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Gr. K to 6 *Plaistow*  
 6:00 PM Evening Prayer *Newton*

**Monday, January 6**

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting *Plaistow*

**Wednesday, January 8**  
 Holy Angels Church Open  
 All Day for Prayer

**Thursday, January 9**

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*  
 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*

**Saturday, January 11**

12:00 to 4:00 PM Clothing Drive *Plaistow*  
 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

**Sunday, January 5**

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Gr. K to 6 *Plaistow*  
 12:00 to 4:00 PM Clothing Drive *Plaistow*  
 6:00 PM Evening Prayer *Newton*

**RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS**

**Attention Parents**

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind!

**MASS INTENTIONS**

We gather at the Eucharist to pray for anyone, living or deceased. If you would like to request a Mass for a particular intention such as thanksgiving for a new birth, healing for a sick friend or family member, or for a deceased loved one or friend, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or email [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net). The suggested donation is \$10.00 per Mass.

**PRAYER LINE**

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Saturday, January 4 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord**

*Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Paul Caron by John and Trisha Mainella  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, January 5 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord**

*Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12*  
 8:00 AM Barbara Duchemin by Jack and Barb Brotz  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM Bill Lueders (21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)  
 by his wife, Carole Lueders  
*Plaistow*

**Monday, January 6 ~ André Bessette, Religious**

*1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25*  
 8:00 AM Eileen Meader by Joan Meader  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, January 7 ~ Raymond of Peñafort, Priest**

*1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44*  
 8:00 AM All Souls Intentions  
*Plaistow*

**Wednesday, January 8 ~ Christmas Weekday**

*1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52*  
 6:30 AM Sr. Rolande Theroux, pm  
 by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary  
*Plaistow*

**Thursday, January 9 ~ Christmas Weekday**

*1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22*  
 8:00 AM Vincent Early, Sr. by Jack Brotz  
*Newton*

**Friday, January 10 ~ Christmas Weekday**

*1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16*  
 No Mass

**Saturday, January 11 ~ Christmas Weekday**

*1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30 (Day)*  
*Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Theresa Tremblay by Jackie Tremblay  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, January 12 ~ The Baptism of the Lord**

*Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22*  
 8:00 AM Paul Caron by Barbara and Jack Brotz  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM In Honor of St. Michael the Archangel  
*Plaistow*

**RADIO CATÓLICA**

Escuche Radio Católica WGUA 98.1 FM con una programación 24 horas al día. Música, oraciones, Misas, información y formación en la fe. Teléfono en cabina 978-683-1030. Oficina y línea de oración 978-688-9811. Descargue nuestra aplicación en su celular."




**Mass Times for travel**  
**masstimes.org**  
 "come to me all of you"  
 - Matthew 11:28

**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**  
**FOOD PANTRY**

As the new year begins, the Food Pantry is looking for new volunteers to help serve clients and maintain the Pantry. We are open on Wednesdays from 10 – Noon, Thursdays from 6-7 PM and on Fridays 10-Noon. We seek helpers who can stack donations on shelves, fill boxes for clients, climb stairs and lift at least 20 lbs. Since we are a “drive-up” service, volunteers are also needed to work outside delivering boxes to client vehicles. If you have a heart for helping and maybe a good workout, contact Marie in the Pantry at [mfarren88@hotmail.com](mailto:mfarren88@hotmail.com) or call 603 819-4949 and leave a message. We welcome all ages to help us serve those in need.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSINGS**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry, and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the longstanding inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten: **If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.**

In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date.

**Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.**

**From the  
Pastor's Desk**



**SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Our Parish properties are active places, where traffic and parked vehicles are a constant presence in the ebb and flow of a busy week. It is important to remember that because of the activity on both campuses, it is easy for someone looking for a quick deed to find a vehicle. **Please be sure to lock and secure your vehicle when you are parked on either campus.** If possible, secure valuables out of sight or make sure valuables in an open bed truck are secure. We have requested extra police presence in our lots during Masses, but patrols can only do so much. Each of us are responsible for making sure, as best we as are able, that our vehicles are safe and secure. Anyone seeing something or someone unusual in the lots is welcome to contact the local police.

**ADORERS NEEDED AT ADORATION**

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual but is a great source of grace for us as a parish family. We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord. Adoration takes place each Thursday in Newton from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM. We also need people at all times so we can have 2 people at each hour. If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305, or email her at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

**The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.**

**✘ PARISH DIRECTORY ✘**

Parish Office 603-382-8324  
Parish Prayer Line 603-382-8324 x 314  
St. Luke's Outreach Ministry 603-382-8324 x 315  
St. Luke's Food Pantry 603-819-4949  
Preschool 603-382-9783

Fr. Albert Tremblay [fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Cathy Smith [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Joyce Szczapa [jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Jackie Tremblay [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Val Barczak [mvmbarczak@comcast.net](mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net)



**MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE**

**Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus  
St. Jude Council #6617**

The Knights of Columbus and Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry would like to thank our parishioners for the ongoing support to feed those in need. Shopping lists and bags are provided on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month with the general collection of non-perishable items happening the following (4<sup>th</sup>) weekend. Food donations can also be left in the plastic totes at the rear of either church or brought to the Parish Office any time they are open. Prefer not to shop? Gift cards or checks can be made out to Saint Luke Food Pantry anytime. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
HAPPENINGS**

**Food Pantry and Giving Tree**

The Knights, with a portion of the proceeds from the *Pasta For A Purpose* dinner, purchased a new refrigerator to replace a very old one for our Food Pantry.

The Council also allocated over \$1500 to the Parish's Giving Tree. Several Knights, Associate Members, and family members pulled many, many tags and purchased the gifts to spend the \$1500, in addition to buying many gifts on their own.

**THE KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS  
ST. JUDE COUNCIL  
#6617**



**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

A Men's AA Step Meeting is held on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall (Holy Angels.) Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.

**PROJECT RACHEL**

Are you looking for renewal and freedom after abortion? Help and healing are available for mothers and fathers who have experienced abortion. Contact Project Rachel for confidential, compassionate care. Call 603-663-0192 or email [ProjectRachel@rcbm.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@rcbm.org).

**MASS ATTENDANCE WHILE SICK**

Anyone who has been recently exposed to COVID 19 or any other communicable disease should not attend public services of any kind. **Those sick should remain at home until such time as they are healthy.**

**Liturgy online or on TV...**

**Boston Catholic Television** [catholicstv.org](http://catholicstv.org)  
Sunday Mass from Notre Dame  
[catholicstv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass](http://catholicstv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass)  
Salt & Light TV [saltandlighttv.org](http://saltandlighttv.org)  
Eternal Word Television [ewtn.com](http://ewtn.com)



**Saint Luke the Evangelist  
OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work**

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Luke Outreach Ministry! Please know that your "dropped dollars" are being used wisely to help the poor in our area. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Luke Outreach Ministry box on your way out of church. Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those who need a hand up, not a handout.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00 PM.** We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. New members are always welcome!

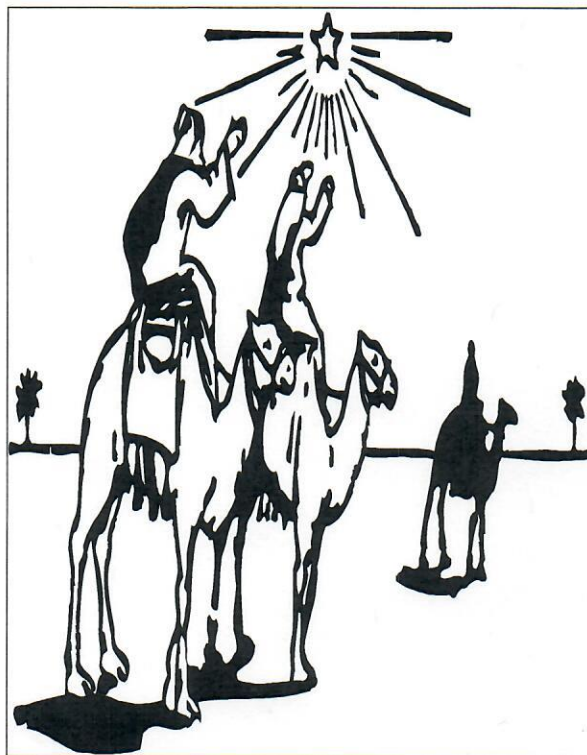
If you seek assistance or need information about St. Luke's Outreach Ministry, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, O LORD, and answer me  
for I am poor and needy.**

The Epiphany Proclamation, traditionally read on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, is proclaimed to announce the most important dates in the Church calendar. It is proclaimed today to announce the living Christ revealed to us in the Liturgy of the Church.

**B**rothers and sisters, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons, let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall together the year's culmination, the Easter Triduum of the Lord: his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial, and his rising to be celebrated between the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> and the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> of April.



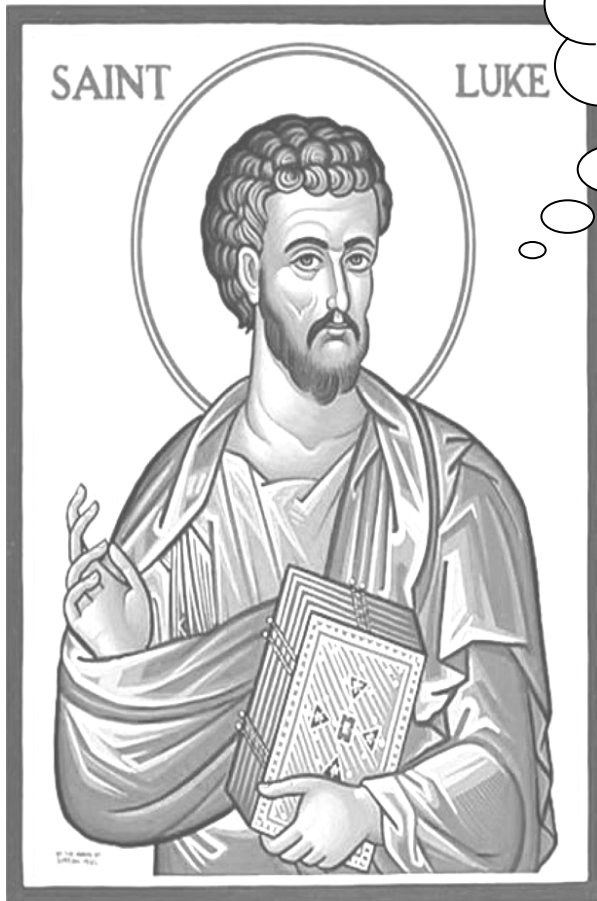
Each Easter - as on each Sunday, the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death.

From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy:

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of holy Lent, will occur on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March. The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated in the Churches of the Boston Metropolitan on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the Great season of Easter, will be celebrated on June 8 and this year the First Sunday of Advent will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints; our patron Luke on October 18, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, the Lord of time and history, be endless praise, forever and ever. AMEN.



## **Why don't you think about it too?**

**Parish Giving is a simple, secure and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries.**

- **Parish Giving allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smartphone**
- **You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend**
- **Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year.**
- **Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo and follow the easy registration instructions.**

**Parish Giving**



Where is the newborn King of the Jews?  
We observed his star at its rising

## EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

20 + C + M + B + 25

It is an ancient custom for Christians to bless their homes on Epiphany each year. With chalk, they put an inscription on the inside lintel above the front door. The series of numbers, letters and crosses changes only slightly from year to year. For example, at the start of the year 2025, the line will read as follows: 20+C+M+B+25.

Because Epiphany comes so near the beginning of the New Year, the numbers represent an annual renewal of God's blessing.

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words "*Christus mansionem benedicat.*" "*May Christ bless the house.*" The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing.

The crosses represent Christ, whom we invoke, and the saintliness of the magi. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing. The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven, and patron of the beginning and end of things. This blessing adds a Christian dimension to the traditional observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by God's eternal word in this holy season.

If you want to bless your home this Epiphany, read the opening verses of John's Gospel, pray the Lord's Prayer, then write the inscription for this year above your front door with chalk.



*Head of Household:* Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God for ever and ever.

*All:* Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. *Luke 19:1-9*

Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in height. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "Jesus has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.

The word of the Lord.

*All:* Thanks be to God.

*Head of Household:* 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. Fill us with the light of Christ. that our concern for others may reflect the light of your love. We pray through Christ our Lord. *All:* Amen.

*Head of Household:* May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and for ever.

*All:* Amen.

***Blessed 2025 to all!***



# Bringing Home the Word

The Epiphany of the Lord (C)

January 5, 2025

## Your Light Has Come!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Many traditional religions have in some way ascribed divinity to light—they claim either that light emanates from a god or that light itself is divine. This is probably because light is a primal necessity, essential for life. We find such thinking in today’s readings.

“Your light has come” (Isaiah 60:1), says today’s Old Testament reading. This is Isaiah’s glorious message for the people of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed; the people were scattered; the future looked bleak. This message must have filled the people with hope. Not only does light bring them hope, but the

light actually streams from their God. It is the Lord who shines, bestowing his radiance upon them. This light is filled with promise.

The story of the Magi is not meant primarily for children who delight in moving figurines of the three kings a bit closer to the stable every day. This is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment. The strangers, ignorant of ancient Israel’s traditions, were able to read the signs of the times. Because of their openness, they found the Light of the World. The learned men of Jerusalem were well schooled in the ancient promises, for they knew where to send the strangers. However, they felt threatened by these signs. They closed their minds and hearts to any omens that might imperil their positions of privilege. They had a chance to benefit from this new light, but they turned their backs on it. †

### Sunday Readings

#### Isaiah 60:1–6

Nations shall walk by your light, / kings by the radiance of your dawning.

#### Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

[T]he Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

#### Matthew 2:1–12

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.



**The story of the Magi is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment.**

### A Word from Pope Francis

Where did it originate, this spirit of healthy restlessness that led [the Magi] to set out on their journey? It was born of *desire*.... With no exaggeration, we can say that we are what we desire. For it is our desires that enlarge our gaze and drive our lives forward...beyond the fear of becoming involved and serving others and the common good.

HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 6, 2022



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What truth, or “epiphany,” that is waiting to be revealed frightens me?
- What can I do this year to draw closer to others and to God?

# Living in the Light of God

Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

Each day is an epiphany. We live in the light of God, who created us. We are redeemed in the light of Jesus, who poured out his life for the sake of sinful humanity. We are empowered to be the light of God for others by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Each day is an opportunity to open our hearts to let the light of God shine through us. Our light shines brightly when we choose to celebrate life and to share goodness, compassion, peace, and love with others.

Epiphany means living in the light of God and bringing the light of God to all the dark places in our families, communities, nation, and world. Epiphany challenges every Christian to be the light of love to unloving people, the light of forgiveness in unforgiving



situations, the light of kindness in a climate of incivility, and the light of understanding in the face of invincible ignorance. We are the glory of God in the world. We are the epiphanies who can make a difference in people's lives.

**Ponder:** Where do I need to let my light shine?

**Prayer:** Lord, your light gives us strength and shows us the way to God. Remove my blindness that I may see the light of goodness, peace, and love within myself and others.

**Practice:** Today, I will have a positive attitude and look for the good in others. †

From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas* by Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney, Liguori Publications (819407). Visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) for other books in the series.

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Advent Longing: Day-by-Day Reflections for Personal Growth" by Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Inside the Christmas story are smaller narratives, each one rich. One is the story of the three Wise Men at the beginning of chapter 2 of the Gospel of Matthew, where we read of the powerful contrast that exists between the reaction of the Wise Men and King Herod to the birth of Jesus. What's the lesson for us? Can we bless new life that threatens us? Like the Wise Men, can we lay our gifts at the feet of the young and move toward anonymity and eventual death, content that the world is in good hands, even if they aren't our own? The Wise Men did that for Jesus.

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## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, so that the dark corners of the world may awaken to your light and love, we pray: Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 6–11

**Monday,** Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 3:22–4:6 / Mt 4:12–17, 23–25


**Tuesday,** Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 4:7–10 / Mk 6:34–44

**Wednesday,** Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 4:11–18 / Mk 6:45–52

**Thursday,** Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 4:19–5:4 / Lk 4:14–22a

**Friday,** Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 5:5–13 / Lk 5:12–16

**Saturday,** Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 5:14–21 / Jn 3:22–30

Bringing Home  
the Word 

January 5, 2025

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