

Photo from the Archive of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland

# POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

APRIL 16, 1927 – DECEMBER 31, 2022



IN MEMORIAM

JANUARY 8, 2023 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | [STTHOMASMORERI.ORG](http://STTHOMASMORERI.ORG)



## *Feast of Epiphany*

Christmas and New Year holidays are over. This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Epiphany. Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world by the coming of the Magi. This feast is also known as the Feast of Three Kings. We don't know exactly how many kings came to visit Jesus after his birth but we do know they brought three gifts for our King.

### *The Origins of the Feast*

Christmas was traditionally a 12-day celebration beginning on December 25. Some cultures observed the event by exchanging gifts on the Twelfth Night of Christmas (the eve of Epiphany), taking on a similar role to Christmas Eve. Epiphany is among the three oldest key festivals of the Christian Church, the other two being Easter and Christmas. The festival was introduced in the second half of the sixth century in Rome, where Christ's birth was marked on December 25. The church in Rome began observing Epiphany on January 6 from the fourth century. Western and Eastern Churches have different themes and ways of celebrating of Epiphany. Though the traditional date for the feast is January 6, in some countries the celebration is held the Sunday after January 1.

### *Epiphany in Western Church*

In Western Christianity, the feast of Epiphany commemorates principally the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus Christ's physical manifestation to the Gentiles. It is sometimes called Three Kings' Day, and in some traditions celebrated as Little Christmas.

### *Epiphany in Eastern Churches*

In the Eastern Church, the festival primarily celebrates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan river and the ministry of John the Baptist. Epiphany is also known as Theophany in Eastern Christian traditions, which is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation (theophany) of God incarnate as Jesus Christ.

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany, Pope Francis encouraged people to spend time in the presence of Christ in adoration, like the Magi. Highlighting how the Magi defied Herod, Pope Francis said that the Magi are models of "a courageous faith" that is unafraid to challenge the sinister logic of power, "where in our day, modern Herods continue to sow death and slaughter the poor and innocent, amid general indifference." Like the Magi who took 'another way', our challenge today is to take new paths. Here we see the creativity of the Spirit who always brings out new things. The feast of the Epiphany is a moment to ask ourselves: "Where are we on our journey of faith?" What have I to offer to Jesus the Magi? Maybe little more time to adore Jesus in the New Year?

Peace,  
Fr. Joe Mappilamattel





St. Veronica Chapel decorating committee L to R:  
 Lisa Martineau, Roz Thomas, Jane Carter, and Judy McGinn.  
 Not pictured, Nancy DeCamp.



St. Thomas More decorating committee L to R:  
 Jean Winward, Pat Kurowski, Pati Paoella, Chris McLeod.  
 Not pictured, Nancy Andolfo and Kathy Leonard.

## Our beautiful churches!





# MASS *intentions*

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7th (Vigil)

4 PM – for the soul of Patricia Fogarty

5 PM – for the soul of Harrison Charles Goodwin

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8th

8 AM – for the soul of Mina Mueller

9 AM – for the soul of Gerry Jones

10 AM – for the soul of Peter Bower

11 AM – for the soul of Frank Palumbo

MONDAY, JANUARY 9th

9 AM – for the soul of G. Edward Martin

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10th

9 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Rose Primavera

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11th

9 AM – for the soul of Carmel Martin

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12th

9 AM – for the soul of Maria Mulroy

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13th

9 AM – for the soul of Anthony Masi

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th

9 AM – for the soul of Kevin Lovett

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th (Vigil)

4 PM – for the soul of John Merlino, Jr.

5 PM – Birthday Remembrance ~

Anne Del Monico

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th

8 AM – for the soul of Robert Brown

9 AM – for the soul of J. Joseph Garrahy

10 AM – 4th Anniversary ~ George Kwetkowski

11 AM – 1st Anniversary ~ Alfred W. Bulter

## 2nd Collection

The second collection next weekend  
is for The Catholic University of America.

## Knights of Columbus Monthly Membership Meeting

Monday, January 9th- 7PM

St. Thomas More Parish Hall



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
Pope Pius XII Council 5295



## Our Lady's Guild Meeting

Wednesday, January 11th  
10:00 AM

All are welcome to join at  
St. Thomas More Parish Hall

*"God wishes to establish in  
the world, devotion to my  
Immaculate Heart. If people do  
what I tell you, many souls will  
be saved and there will be peace."*

For more info contact Diane 401-996-3876

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Parish Lenten Mission 2023  
March 12, 13 & 14, 2023**

St. Veronica Chapel

**Fr. Michael Champagne**

Jesus Christ Crucified Community,  
St. Martinville, LA

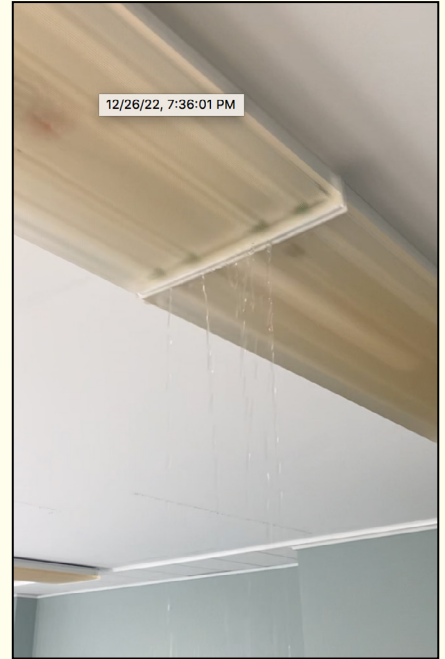
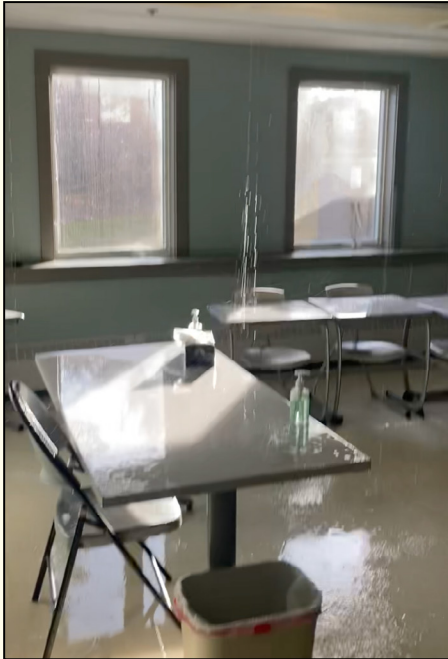


*Theme:*

Jesus Crucified and Eucharistic Revival



## ***Water damage at St. Veronica!***



A frozen pipe burst on December 26th at St. Veronica Chapel and caused damage to the lower classrooms, the kitchen and Msgr. Halloran hall. The Chapel was unaffected. Please be aware that the affected building will have limited use for some time, as we will be having major reconstruction repairs throughout.





# You're Invited

## Sunday January 15, 2023

St. Thomas More Church

Immediately following 10AM Mass

Interested in joining the Knights?  
Contact Bernie Casey  
617-293-9201



Please join Fr. Joe and several others for their induction ceremony and full knighthood into the Knights of Columbus. All are welcome to attend and witness this special occasion.

*A light reception will follow in the Parish Hall*



Thank you to our St. Thomas More Music Ministry,  
Top row, L to R: Nicholas Robenhymmer, Faares A. Deeb,  
Jim Mattucci, Michael Robinson.  
Front row, L to R: Kathy Monroe, Cindy Field,  
Marissa Maroni, Music Director, Angela Castellucci,  
Annie Alukonis, and Fr. Taillon.

## Men's Retreat

January 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

### "Speak Lord, your servant is listening"

Join us for our annual retreat at Enders Island.  
Fr. Mark Nowel, OP will lead us in prayer and reflection.  
Reconciliation and Holy Mass will be offered.

This is an opportunity for men to gather together to focus on God, their spirituality, and their faith.

#### Cost

(per person)

Single Room - \$150

Shared Room - \$120

Includes Three Meals

(Friday: Dinner & Saturday: Breakfast & Lunch)

To register, visit [www.popepiusxii.org/men-s-retreat](http://www.popepiusxii.org/men-s-retreat)

Please note any special dietary needs in the comments section on the registration form.



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.

MATTHEW 2:9



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# Happenings around the parish

## Gospel Reflections Group

All are welcome to join our informal discussion group which meets on Mondays from 10-11:30 AM in the parish hall. Over coffee & refreshments, we read and reflect on the Gospels of the coming week and share our personal insights of those readings.

## Men's Bible Study

Our parish has a very active group of men who meet each Saturday morning in the parish hall at 7:30 AM to discuss the Sunday scripture readings. This is very informal and all are invited to join.

## Pennies for the Poor

The small donation boxes on the church walls labeled "Pennies for the Poor" goes to the Diocesan Dire Emergency Fund in South County, which helps with rental assistance, utilities and prescriptions. Thank you.

## Prayer Chain Ministry

If you know someone who would like extra prayers, please call Jean at 783-3403 to express your request. Volunteers are needed and welcome to join this important ministry.

## Pray the Rosary

The rosary is prayed Monday - Saturday after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas More. All are welcome.

## Rosary Repairs

Drop broken beads in the box in the foyer using the envelope provided. Include your name and contact info. You will be contacted within a few weeks when your repair is complete.

## St. Vincent dePaul clothing bins

Accepts clothing and shoes. Bins located at the back of the St. Thomas More parking lot, inside the white fence.



## Relevant Radio "Morning Air" Show

Join Fr. Taillon at 550 AM every Wednesday at 8:00 AM or listen on [relevantradio.com](http://relevantradio.com)

- listen on your computer: <http://relevantradio.com>
- get the App for your phone: [relevantradio.com/app](http://relevantradio.com/app)
- listen on your radio: AM 550 in the Providence area

## Religious Education

Religious Education classes will resume  
the week of January 22nd.



Blood Emergency

## Critical Need

Consider donating blood at  
any Rhode Island Blood  
Center donor center  
throughout the state.



To register, visit  
[www.rIBC.org/locations](http://www.rIBC.org/locations)  
or call 401-453-8383

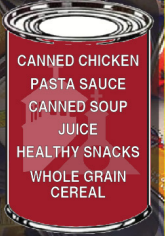
When donating, please be sure to use parish Sponsor Code 0626.

## WEEKLY PARISH FOOD COLLECTION

Many families in our area continue to struggle to put food on their table. Collection baskets are located at the entrance of both churches. Please consider donating an item or two from the list.

*All donations support a local food pantry.*

**Over 2,700 meals collected for local families so far this year**



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*Then they opened their treasures and offered him*

# GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH.

*Matthew 2:11*

January 8, 2023 • The Epiphany of the Lord

## SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Epiphany is a day when popular customs mostly overshadow scriptural accuracy. Matthew's Gospel never refers to kings coming to see Christ, nor to their number (only the gifts are enumerated), nor to their names. Matthew tells us only that some "magi" came with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Magos referred to members of the Persian priestly class; later it had the connotation of magicians and astrologers. Matthew's magi report that they have seen a star rising; its light was visible to them far beyond the boundaries of Israel, an early and significant symbol for Jesus, the Light of the World. At the end of Matthew's Gospel (chapter 28), the followers of Jesus worship him, an act foretold in the actions of the Magi today. The eleven are told to make disciples of "all nations," nations symbolized by the Magi. Today we hear our own mission: to worship Jesus Christ, and to spread his Good News everywhere, every day.

## STAR OF WONDER

In our day-to-day lives, we can experience epiphanies: new perceptions, unexpected insights, sudden changes in direction. In the liturgical year, Epiphany celebrates the appearance of a star in the heavens, a remarkable star followed by the Magi to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are not so different, our daily epiphanies and the Epiphany celebrated today. The arrival of the Magi certainly changed Mary and Joseph's perceptions of the world, the same way a helpless, tiny baby likely altered the Magi's insights as to what a star in the heavens would reveal. The story of the Magi—and the story of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—is filled with unexpected changes in direction, as God's plan continues to vary when it encounters people who cooperate with it, and others who attempt to thwart it. A deep and long reflection on this day we call Epiphany will uncover numerous epiphanies.

## STAR OF LOVE

Like all of the Christmas season, Epiphany celebrates God's eternal and infinite love. In a special way, this day shows how God's love is truly all-inclusive. The magi were not Jews, not part of the Chosen People who expected that the Messiah was coming to save only them. Early on in his Gospel, Matthew tells us that God's love will not be limited by our human presumptions or boundaries. We still struggle with the fact that God is constantly epiphan-izing us to grow beyond the limits of our experience or expectations, to move beyond the boundaries of the world around us. Let us pray that we might be given epiphanies to help us find grace where we didn't believe it existed, to aid us in understanding that God's love is most often shown by who is included, not who is excluded. May we open our eyes and hearts to know that the Christ-light shines everywhere.

## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalms 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13

Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

Matthew 2:1–12



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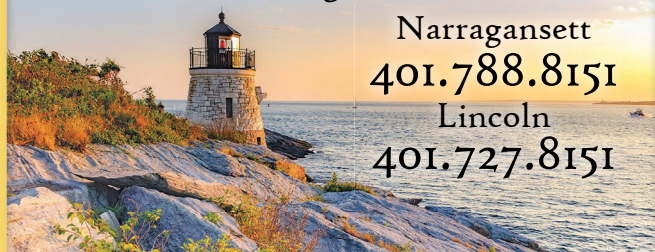
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