

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

*Matthew 2:11*



*Epiphany*



## **Church of Saint Philip**

**Pennsburg, PA**

**January 7, 2024**

**Rev. Anthony Hangholt, Pastor**

**Msgr. Charles Vance, Weekend Assistant**

**Deacon Michael J. Franks**

**Deacon Matthew A. Horvath**

**John Duffner, Business Manager**

**Shirley Misiak, Office Manager**

**Catherine E. Faust, Director of Music**

**Marlene Leidy, Parish Outreach Coordinator**

**Wendy Benner, Coordinator of PREP/Religious ED**

**Barbara Jaruszewski, Safe Environment Coordinator**

### **Parish Phone Numbers:**

<b>Rectory</b>	<b>215.679.9275</b>
<b>Religious Education/PREP</b>	<b>215.679.7839</b>
<b>Youth Ministry/Safe Env.</b>	<b>215.679.9275</b>
<b>Parish Hall</b>	<b>215.679.8116</b>
<b>Deacon Mike Franks</b>	<b>215.679.9275 X107</b>

### **Parish Staff Email addresses:**

[busmgr@spnparish.org](mailto:busmgr@spnparish.org)

[ofcmgr@spnparish.org](mailto:ofcmgr@spnparish.org)

[deaconmike@spnparish.org](mailto:deaconmike@spnparish.org)

[deaconmatt@spnparish.org](mailto:deaconmatt@spnparish.org)

[musicdirector@spnparish.org](mailto:musicdirector@spnparish.org)

[parishoutreach@spnparish.org](mailto:parishoutreach@spnparish.org)

[prep@spnparish.org](mailto:prep@spnparish.org)

[safeenvironment@spnparish.org](mailto:safeenvironment@spnparish.org)

### **Fax Numbers:**

<b>Rectory</b>	<b>215.679.0386</b>
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### **Church & Rectory Address:**

1325 Kliner Rd; Pennsburg 18073

**Hours:** **9:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

**Email Address:** [ofcmgr@spnparish.org](mailto:ofcmgr@spnparish.org)

### **Website Address:**

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

### **Religious Education Office Hours:**

1325 Kliner Rd.; Pennsburg

**Monday & Friday:** **Offices are closed**

**Tuesday & Thursday:** **8:00 AM – 4:00PM**

**Wednesday:** **12:00 PM – 8:00PM**

### **ROSARY: Prayed in the Saint Anne Chapel**

Monday's at 1:00 PM

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION in St. Anne Chapel**

**Monday – Friday:**

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

**Saturday's:**

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

### **FIRST FRIDAY MASS**

9:00 AM: in Church

Adoration: 10AM – 7:00PM in Chapel.

### **FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

For a floral arrangement to be placed at the altar, please call the rectory.

### **SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday – Vigil Mass – 4:00 PM

Sunday – 7:30 AM; 10:00 AM

Holy Day Masses as announced

### **WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

Daily Masses are celebrated in the Saint Anne Chapel.

Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday; Friday – 8AM

### **CONFESSIONS**

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:45 PM

OR at the Rectory BY APPOINTMENT.

### **PRE-JORDAN BAPTISMAL CLASSES**

Call the rectory office to register for classes between 10AM & 4PM.

### **BAPTISMS**

Call the rectory office to register your child for baptism between 10AM & 4PM.

### **SPONSORS**

Sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation need to be at least 16 years of age, be baptized and received the Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation, attend Mass weekly; and if married, be in a valid Marriage.

### **MARRIAGES**

Arrangements should be made at least SIX MONTHS before the date of the wedding.

### **NEW PARISHIONERS**

Stop by or call the rectory between 9:30AM-4:30 PM. Also, children who turn 26 years of age or complete higher education and continue to reside within our area should become individually registered parishioners.

### **SHUT-INS**

Call (215 679 9275) OR email the Parish Outreach Office: [parishoutreach@spnparish.org](mailto:parishoutreach@spnparish.org).

### **SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Call or email the Rectory Office.

## **OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

We are the Catholic Parish Community of St. Philip Neri, answering Christ's call to discipleship through Word, Sacrament and Service. We proclaim God's hope and love to all.

## **Mass Intentions**

**Sunday: January 7, 2024**

**Epiphany of The Lord**

4:00 PM – All Living/Deceased parishioners.

7:30 AM – Special Intention

10:00 AM – Rev. John J. Scarcia

**Monday: January 8, 2024**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

8:00 AM – A Special Intention

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM: Adoration in the Chapel.

1:00 PM – Holy Rosary Hour

**Tuesday: January 9, 2024**

**WEEK DAY (First week in Ordinary Time)**

7:20 AM – Holy Rosary

8:00 AM – A Special Intention

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM – Adoration in the Chapel

**Wednesday: January 10, 2024**

**WEEKDAY**

7:20 AM – Holy Rosary

8:00 AM – Kenneth R. Cox, (Rev. Anthony Hangholt)

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM: Adoration in the Chapel

**Thursday: January 11, 2024**

**WEEKDAY**

7:20 AM – Holy Rosary

8:00 AM – Francis & Pauline Nunan,

(Mark & Jutta Nunan)

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM: Adoration in the Chapel

**Friday: January 12, 2024**

**WEEKDAY**

7:20 AM – Holy Rosary

8:00 AM – A Special Intention

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM: Adoration in the Chapel

**Saturday: January 13, 2024**

**WEEKDAY**

**Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.**

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Adoration in the Chapel

4:00 PM – KOC Sheen Assembly, #3046

**Sunday: January 14, 2024**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30 AM – David McAllister,

(Gerald & Elizabeth McAllister)

10:00 AM – Living/Deceased Parishioners.



### **WE INVITE YOUR PRAYERS**

For the sick, those in hospitals, nursing homes, also for their caregivers; and all those we hold close in our hearts.

Please pray in particular for:

**Christine Abate; Amanda Azure; Brian Basta; Walter Belsky; Bonnie Boro; Paul Bowen; Grace Brenner; Dorothy "Dottie" Busfield; Allison Brick; Mila Burnett; Adam Canigiani, Jr.; Christian Vincent Caparra; Carol Clunk; Angela Desmond; Dolores Duffy; Lou Fahs; Gene Falasco; Liz Fronheiser; Frances Gibbs-Kail; Helen Gibbs; Kerry Goodwin; Robert Hale; Charlene Hamilton; Al Hammer; Bill Hanney; Estelle Haney; Catherine Hangholt; Kitty Heebner; Timothy Kail; Christine Kemp; Little Leo Kushnir; Hadley Ludwig; Caroline Marks; Mary Ann Moneghan; Maura Murphy; Francis M. Robinson; Marine Corporal Eugene Ruduski; Denise Shaw; Dick Stemp; Moira Stephens; Patty Sweeney; Christopher Szymkiewicz; Ray Szymkiewicz; Eunice Wagner; Nancy Walker; William Walker; and Frani Zappala.**

For those who have died, grant them eternal rest and peace.

### **LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

**First Quarter 2024 – January 13/14**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 PM:

Servers: Rachel Zaw; Emmalynn Pagnotta;

Lilyanna Pagnotta.

Lectors: Mike Misiak; Joanna Zappala.

Eucharistic Ministers: Dawn Ellis; Marci Jaman;

Annemarie Quigley; Jim Quigley

7:30 AM Mass

Servers: Adults

Lectors: Pete Frank; Janet Kendra.

Eucharistic Ministers: Jo Ellen Carr; Ray Carr;

Dave Boone; Lori Brozena.

10:00 AM Mass

Servers: Lauren Donahue; Rita Jean Cogle;

Harrison Wike.

Lectors: Terry Benner; Wendy Benner.

Eucharistic Ministers: Christine Adelsberger; Stephen

Adelsberger; Andy Souder; Mary Souder.



### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION:**

If you have questions about any of our Faith Formation activities, please **Contact: Eileen Koch-adultfaithformation @spnparish.org OR 215-696-2089.**

**BIBLE STUDIES** - Beginning the second week of January, we will be offering the following Bible Studies. Please choose the topic, day or time that works best for you and join us! If you are not able to sign up on December 16th and 17th, or you need a different day or time, please contact Eileen at 215-696-2089.

### **ASCENSION PRESS SESSIONS:**

TUESDAY 10AM - Topic: How to Pray Like Mary - six (6) sessions for Women and Men; Facilitator Frank Bauer; begins January 9<sup>th</sup>.

TUESDAY 7PM - Topic: No Greater Love: A Biblical walk through Christ's Passion - five (5) sessions for Women and Men; Facilitator Barb Jaruszewski; begins January 9<sup>th</sup>.

THURSDAY 6:30PM - continuation of Study of the Gospel of Matthew - Men's group; Facilitator Pete Frank; begins January 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **LITTLE ROCK SESSIONS:**

The following three (3) groups will be studying The Gospel of John - Eleven (11) Sessions

TUESDAY: 10AM - Women's group; Facilitator Wendy Benner; begin January 9<sup>th</sup>

WEDNESDAY: 7PM - Women and Men; Facilitator Beverly Plosa-Bowser; begins January 10<sup>th</sup>

THURSDAY: 10AM - Women and Men; Facilitator Regina Bernstein; begins January 11<sup>th</sup>

### **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**

Pope Francis has said, "In Spiritual Direction, I must examine what is happening in my heart, where the Spirit is moving, if I feel desolation or consolation... these are things to talk about with my spiritual director." Spiritual Directors are honored to journey with you in your efforts to deepen your relationship with God. Please consider contacting one of these Spiritual Directors:

Peg Choiniski, CSD: 610.850.1869;  
[pchoinskisd@yahoo.com](mailto:pchoinskisd@yahoo.com)

Heather Makowicz, CSD, LSW, MSW: 484.919.9808;  
[allowinggodtocomeclose@gmail.com](mailto:allowinggodtocomeclose@gmail.com)

**LECTIO DIVINA:** Reflection on Gospel and Readings for the coming Sunday. Meets every Thursday at 10:30AM. All are welcome! Facilitators Lino and Nancy Viola. For additional information, please contact Eileen Koch per above.

### **SPN Parish Council Holy Moment Thought...**

#### **"Why you need Wisdom"**

You probably are aware that Scripture tells us to build our lives on rock. That Rock is Jesus. If we do not build on Him, we build on sand.

To build your life on rock, you need Wisdom. Wisdom is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us make good choices and decisions. Wisdom deals with choice - this or that? Do you chose to build the foundation of your family home on rock or try to save money and compromise the foundation with inferior material?

True wisdom lies in hearing and doing the word of God, the will of God, the command of God. **How do we become wise? How do good and godly choices become a habit?**

#1. Pray for Wisdom every day. You will surely get it.

#2. Read and ponder the word of God daily. It is the source and foundation of Wisdom.

#3. Practice daily examination of conscience. You will see where you have been wise and foolish in the course of the day. You should resolve to act appropriately in the future.

Wisdom is listed as the first of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Ask for the Promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit. Ask and you receive Him immediately.

"Trust Me with all the events of your life. I will not abandon you. You are Mine and I will not forsake you. The decisions of men are all in My hands. Nothing will befall you that I do not permit. I will give you My grace to accept the changing circumstances of your life. It is I who am behind all that happens to you. Nothing escapes My wisdom; nothing escapes My love; nothing escapes My omnipotence. Trust Me, and be at peace. I bless you with all the love of My Sacred Heart. Do not be afraid. Tell Me again and again that you trust in My merciful love for you."  
(IN SINU JESU, June 17, 2008).

**Please consider saying the following prayer...Lord Jesus, through your merciful love and forgiveness you bring healing and restoration to body, soul, and mind. May your healing power and love touch every area of my life - my innermost thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and memories. Pardon my offenses and transform me in the power of your Holy Spirit that I may walk confidently in your truth and righteousness. AMEN**

### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION-A GIFT OF LOVE!**



Eucharistic Adoration-A Gift of Love!

Have you ever wanted to help someone but weren't sure what to do? Or perhaps you wanted to give a gift to someone but didn't know what to get? Consider sending a Eucharistic Adoration-A Gift of Love card to that person. Spend an hour of your time in front of the Blessed Sacrament and dedicate your hour of Eucharistic Adoration for a special person and his/her intentions. When finished, pick up a Eucharistic Adoration-A Gift of Love card to send to that person letting them know of your gift of prayer. A Gift of Love card is available at St. Anne's Chapel.

### **MOTHER OF MERCY HOUSE**



"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor"

Proverbs 22:9

Thank you for all you donate to the Mother of Mercy House. As you know it has been very a trying time for the people of Kensington and they do appreciate all that St. Philip Parish does for The Mother of Mercy House.

Listed below are the non-perishable donation requests for delivery to the Mother of Mercy House on Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

Instant and regular oatmeal, dry cereal reg size boxes, canned meats and tuna, Fruits and vegetables. Canned soups and beans, spaghetti, dry pasta and jarred or canned sauces.

**Diapers: size 3 to 5**

Please drop off your donations in one of the totes at each side door of the church or on the wooden box in the narthex. All donations need to be received by Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

As always, thank you for your generosity.

### **PARISH OUTREACH - FRIENDLY VISITORS:**

The Friendly Visitor Ministers of St. Philip Neri will bring Holy Communion while providing companionship and someone to talk to on a regular basis to homebound members of our parish.

If you or someone you know can benefit from this ministry, please contact Mary Souder, Ministry Leader at 215.518.1341 or email Parish Outreach at [parishoutreach@spnparish.org](mailto:parishoutreach@spnparish.org).

### **SHARE A RIDE TO CHURCH**

There are St. Philip Neri Parishioners who may not be able to drive to church but truly desire to attend Mass in person. We are looking for people to offer a fellow parishioner a ride to church. This would be someone in your neighborhood that would attend the same Mass time as you regularly attend. If you would like to offer someone a ride, please contact Marlene Leidy, Parish Outreach Coordinator, at 215-679-7333 or email at [parishoutreach@spnparish.org](mailto:parishoutreach@spnparish.org). Thank You!

### **WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Collection for December 17, 2023**

**Week 26**

*Sunday Collection*

**Sunday Collection for**

**Weekend of December 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**\$10,451**

*Diocesan & Extra-Diocesan  
Collections*

**Parish Fiscal Year Goal  
information will be published at  
a later date.**

### **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:**

Because of the early Bulletin transmittal schedules, the collections for December 24<sup>th</sup>, December 31<sup>st</sup>, and January 7<sup>th</sup>, will be published in the January 14<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

### **CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:**

Any parishioner who would like to receive their contribution statement for 2023, email Shirley at the rectory office ([ofcmgr@spnparish.org](mailto:ofcmgr@spnparish.org)) or call; if no answer, please leave a detailed message. Statements are mailed out upon request only.



**Join Father Anthony and Saint Philip Neri Parish on a special trip to ITALY from June 17-28, 2024.** ITALY awaits you with all of its history, culture and magnificent culinary experiences! Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! The trip includes: ROME; VATICAN CITY; CASCIA; ASSISI; SIENA; FLORENCE and VENICE. Price per person is \$4,799 (double occupancy) including transportation to and from the Airport. You must contact or go online to sign up for this trip. Website: [www.terrastc.com](http://www.terrastc.com); email to: [info@terrastc.com](mailto:info@terrastc.com) or 888.798.3772.

#### **PARISH HALL: Volunteers Needed**

- **Bingo:** We are always open to additional floor workers and kitchen help. Join a team, and volunteer 3 Sundays per year. Our main kitchen team will be retiring in June 2024. Looking for individuals, couples, families, interested in taking on this role
- 
- **Breakfast:** Always looking for new volunteers to make monthly breakfasts buffet successful. Openings for Thursday morning potato duty Saturday morning prep and set up
- Sunday morning cooks, servers, and clean up. Shifts are available to share the work.
- Youth are encouraged to volunteer, and this time is good for Community Service Time for school.
- 
- **Fish Fry:** Holding three Friday evening Fish Fry again in 2024. Shifts are available - Set up Noon - 3:00 PM, Cooking and food prep 3:00 - 7:00 PM, Clean up from 6-8 PM.
- 
- Due to continued delays, it has been decided that our monthly Parish activities will not be scheduled until all repairs/replacements are completed.
- We will inform all, as soon as we have a firm delivery and Installation date.
- Thank you for your patience.

Please contact our Hall Facilitator, Bill Robinson @ [hallfacilitator@spnparish.org](mailto:hallfacilitator@spnparish.org) or 215-896-5949.

#### **AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE**

**Date: Sunday, January 14 to Monday, January 22, 2024 (Following 3:00 PM Chaplet of Divine Mercy) Event: Novena to Three American Saints for Life.** Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton, Frances Cabrini,

and John Neumann are powerful witnesses to the Gospel of Life, each in their own time. This novena suggests three days of prayer to each of the saints for the promotion of life in our country and our Church today. Pray this novena along with us either in person at the National Centre for Padre Pio or via livestream on Facebook or YouTube.

Facebook: [Facebook.com/PadrePioI...](https://Facebook.com/PadrePioI...)

YouTube: [YouTube.com/@PadrePioI...](https://YouTube.com/@PadrePioI...)

**More Information:** [Flyer Attached](#)

#### **January - March 2024**

##### **Event: Come and See Weekends for Men Discerning a Call to the Priesthood**

Come & See events offer men (high school and post-high school) considering a vocation the opportunity to visit the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary to see what seminary life is like and explore a possible call to the priesthood.

**Location:** St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnewood **More info:** Visit [heedthecall.org/comean...](http://heedthecall.org/comean...) or contact Fr. David Friel, Vocations Director, [fr.dfriel@archphila.org](mailto:fr.dfriel@archphila.org)

#### **Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

##### **Event: Martin Saints Classical High School Open House**

Kick off Catholic Schools' Week with a visit to Martin Saints at our new location!

Martin Saints is a private Catholic high school currently located in Oreland, PA and moving to the campus of St. Titus parish in East Norriton in Summer 2024. As a member of the Chesterton Schools Network, MSC provides a rigorous, integrated curriculum taught through the lens of the Catholic faith. Our mission is to pass the Catholic faith to the next generation. Our goal is not merely academic excellence, but to cultivate love for all that is good, true, and beautiful. Daily worship and the classical liberal arts are at the core, centering everything we do. Additionally, our curriculum integrates craftsmanship, service learning, the fine arts, and outdoor adventure.

Come and visit us to learn more -- you are most welcome!

**Location:** 3006 Keenwood Road, East Norriton, PA 19403

**Register:** [www.whymsc.org/admission/#events](http://www.whymsc.org/admission/#events)

#### **February 16 - 18, 2024**

##### **Event: RETROUVAILLE:**

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage

Some couples feel lonely, frustrated, or angry in their marriage, often feeling shut off from one

another. Other couples experience severe conflict and never-ending arguments. RETROUVAILLE offers hope for all these marriages by teaching couples to communicate in a deeper, more meaningful way, healing hurts and rebuilding trust and intimacy. No relationship is beyond help.

**Location:** Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

**More Information:** Visit [HelpOurMarriage.org...](http://HelpOurMarriage.org...) or call 215 766 3944 or 800 470 2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

### Every Wednesday and Second Saturday, 12-1 PM

#### Event: Lunch in the Park with Christ in the City

Join Christ in the City missionaries as we serve over 50+ men and women experiencing homelessness, building relationships while enjoying lunch.

- **Every Wednesday, 12-1 PM** on the lawn next to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia (required training for new volunteers begins at 11:15 AM)
- **Second Saturdays, 12-1 PM** on Logan Square (required training for new volunteers begins at 10 AM)

**More info:** Registration is required and all new volunteers must attend a training prior to the event. Full details and registration available at: <https://christinthecity.org/philadelphia-lunch-in-the-park/>

### Monday Evenings, 8PM

#### Event: Virtual World Mission Rosary

Join hundreds of people throughout the Archdiocese who have regularly been praying the ROSARY LIVE! United in this most powerful prayer, we ask for the miraculous intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to hear our intentions and renew our Catholic faith as we pray in unity for our brothers and sisters in mission lands world-wide. On Mission Mondays, we pray the World Mission Rosary, created by Venerable Fulton Sheen, in which we offer each decade for one of five Mission areas, including the US.

**Location:** Use this Zoom link to join each Monday: [zoom.us/j/494480541...](https://zoom.us/j/494480541...)

**More Info:** Sponsored by the Pontifical Missions Societies ([phillymissions.org](http://phillymissions.org))

### First Fridays at 7:00PM

#### Event: Mass and Healing Service @ the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA

Description: Following Mass, there will be Praise & Worship, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and Healing Prayer Service. This is a special opportunity to encounter Jesus and invite the Holy Spirit to touch you deeply and heal those emotional,

mental, physical, relational, or spiritual places that are in need of God's healing graces. All are welcome!

**Questions:** Email [rafal@czestochowa.us](mailto:rafal@czestochowa.us) Call: 215-345-0600 or [Flyer](#)

### Monday Evenings, 8PM

#### Event: Virtual World Mission Rosary

Join hundreds of people throughout the Archdiocese who have regularly been praying the ROSARY LIVE! United in this most powerful prayer, we ask for the miraculous intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to hear our intentions and renew our Catholic faith as we pray in unity for our brothers and sisters in mission lands world-wide. On Mission Mondays, we pray the World Mission Rosary, created by Venerable Fulton Sheen, in which we offer each decade for one of five Mission areas, including the US.

**Location:** Use this Zoom link to join each Monday: [zoom.us/j/494480541...](https://zoom.us/j/494480541...)

**More Info:** Sponsored by the Pontifical Missions Societies ([phillymissions.org](http://phillymissions.org))

### LOOKING AHEAD...

**May 20-29, 2024** - [Marian Shrines Pilgrimage with Fr. Eric Banecker](#), Spain, Portugal, France

**May 31-June 2, 2024** - [National Eucharistic Procession passes through Philadelphia](#)

**June 8-12, 2024** - [GIVEN Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum](#), Washington, DC

**July 17-21, 2024** - [10th National Eucharistic Congress](#), Indianapolis, IN

### ONGOING...

- **Eucharistic Revival:** [phillyeucharisticreviv...](#)
- **Young Adult Groups & Events:** [phillyyam.org/events](http://phillyyam.org/events)
- **Events for Teens:** <https://phillyomy.org/events/>
- **Hope in Christ: Spiritual Support for Addiction** - [archphila.org/hope](http://archphila.org/hope)
- **Intercessory Teams for Priests** - [phillyevang.org/pray4priests](http://phillyevang.org/pray4priests)
- **Archdiocesan Missionaries of Mercy** - [archphila.org/mercy](http://archphila.org/mercy)
- **Institute for Christian Formation** - [Click here for website](#)
- **Pro-Life Pregnancy Care Resources** - [Click here for the free guidebook](#)
- **Be Encouraged: Catholic Support for Mental Health:** [archphila.org/support](http://archphila.org/support)



**Editor's note:** Starting with the week of December 31, 2023, Take Five for Faith has transitioned from day-to-day short reflections to one themed reflection for the week exploring key Catholic concepts. We will miss the daily reflections, and we know you will too. But we are hopeful that you will find value in this in-depth approach to mining the riches of our faith.

**JANUARY:** Happy new year of grace to you and to all whom your ministry serves! We complete the Octave of Christmas as we open a fresh page of a new calendar. This month contains two solemnities: Mary Mother of God, which is also the World Day of Peace (1); as well as Epiphany, which is Orthodox Christmas as well as the traditional day for the Blessing of Homes (7). While visiting every parishioner's home may be impractical, supplying a short blessing for family members, doors, rooms, and significant furniture like the supper table is a way to remind all of us what a source of blessing the idea of home is for us.

January also contains two feasts: the Baptism of the Lord (8) and the Conversion of Saint Paul (25). In addition, we honor three U.S. saints this month: Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton (4), Bishop John Newman (5), and Mother Marianne Cope (23). The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is the Sunday of the Word of God (21), followed by the Day for the Legal Protection of the Unborn (22). We observe Christian Unity Week (18-25) as we seek to heal division in the church, and Catholic Schools Week (28-Feb. 3) to prepare the church's future leaders.

Our nation honors civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. (15) as the international community remembers the Holocaust (27). We pray this year, as always, for peace on Earth and good will toward all.



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

07 January 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

**Preparation of the Gifts** \pre-pə-'rā-shən | 'gifts\

The set of ceremonial actions at Mass preceding the Eucharistic Prayer and Holy Communion. Includes dressing of the altar; bringing forward the bread and wine; and the community's personal sacrifices taken up in the collection. Formerly called the Offertory. The community offers a song of praise for all these gifts as the priest washes his hands in a purification rite.

**Pronunciation:** <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-preparation-gifts>

**CONTEXT**

The **Preparation of the Gifts** allows time for the preparation of our hearts. Like the Magi bearing gifts and doing homage to Majesty, we bring our gifts and our praise to the Table.

—Father Paul Boudreau

God has first blessed us with the gift of creation. Humans take those gifts given, wheat and grapes, and, using our creativity, make bread and wine. Then, we bring those gifts we have received and labored over to present them at the Altar/Table that they might be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. Finally, we receive them back in Communion. The procession of the **Gifts** says, in essence, “Behold the gifts God has given us!”

—Father Roc O'Connor, S.J.

**WHY IT MATTERS**

We take great care preparing other festive tables for our most cherished gatherings. Could we do less for the table where the Real Presence of Christ will be made tangible for us?

From the General Instructions of the Roman Missal: The altar or Lord’s table, which is the center of the whole Liturgy of the Eucharist,



is made ready. . . . The offerings are then brought forward. It is a praiseworthy practice for the bread and wine to be presented by the faithful (73).

## RELATED WORDS

Corporal | urificator | Missal | Chalice

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

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### Is Epiphany about giving or getting gifts?

“We three kings of Orient are/ bearing gifts we traverse afar.” Nowhere in the gospels does it claim there are three kings. They are magi, hereditary priests of the ancient Medes and Persians. At least the carol gets one thing right: this wise group does bear gifts. Gold symbolizes wealth and power. Frankincense, used in prayer, represents the divine Presence. Myrrh prepares bodies for burial. It's an ominous sign that would make a startling gift. . . . But they were appropriate honors for the King of the Universe, the Divine Son, and the crucified Lord.

We also bear Jesus gifts at every Eucharist: bread, wine, and our financial sacrifice. “Made by human hands,” these gifts are transformed and returned to us as the Body and Blood of Christ, and then redistributed for those in need.

More gifts come to us by way of this shared Table. Grace pours out on the assembly. Grace forgives sin, and rescues us from every evil. This is one gift you don't want to put at the bottom of a closet.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask*:  
<https://tinyurl.com/QCA-presentation-gifts>

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## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

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SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (JANUARY 7)

### Remember our migrant roots

America was once renowned as the land where people could come to breathe freely. Scripture reminds us of the considerable gifts that migrant people bring with them. Whether king or commoner, each person offers what they have to make the community more dynamic.

Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6;  
Matthew 2:1-12 (20:  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010724.cfm>).

*“Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you.”*

## FAITH IN ACTION

Let's welcome the newcomer and remember that the infant Jesus was once a migrant, too.

# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of January 07, 2024



## What Do You Seek? | The Search | Episode 1

What is that deep longing in our hearts all about? We're all living for something, and we all strive for that something out there that is ultimately going to make us happy. But what is it? Watch Episode 1 of The Search to begin to answer this question.

## ARIANISM & APOLLINARIANISM

## Arianism

Is Jesus truly God? Learn about the fourth-century heresy, Arianism, and the derivative heresy of Apollinarianism.



## Who Are the Magi?

In this FORMED Now! special episode, Dr. Michael Barber sits down to reflect on the Magi from the Gospel accounts and what spiritual lessons can be learned from this historical event recorded in Scripture.

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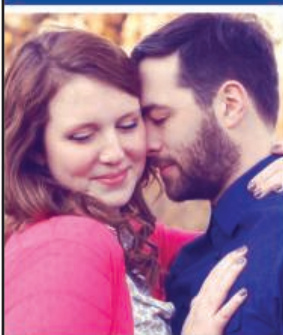
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