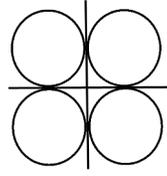


# ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

## January 3, 2021 Epiphany of the Lord

### Mission Statement

St Paul's Parish Family exists for the purpose of witnessing and proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ, that message proclaimed in word, worship, service: love God, love your neighbor as yourself.



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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.

- Mt 2:10-11

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**Mass Times**

Saturday, 4:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

**Confession**

Saturday 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
 or by appointment

**Weekday Masses**

Tuesday, Wednesday &  
 Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

**Parish Staff**



**Pastor:** Fr. Paul Gitau  
**Deacon:** Mark Robbins  
**Coordinator of Music:** Tom McGary x31  
**Faith Formation & Sacramental Prep Coordinator:**

fr.paul.gitau@dor.org  
 mark.robbins@dor.org  
 thomas.mcgary@dor.org  
 Sue Ward 671-2110  
 susan.ward@dor.org  
 robin.martz@dor.org  
 helen.stirpe@dor.org  
 ben.obrien@dor.org  
 jodie.hickey@dor.org

**Business Manager:** Robin Martz x30  
**Facility Cleaning Coordinator:** Helen Stirpe  
**Maintenance Coordinator:** Ben O'Brien  
**Administrative Asst.:** Jodie Hickey x21  
**Finance Council Chair:** Tom Napoli  
**Parish Council Chair:** Scott Rutan  
**Parish Trustees:** Deb Urtz-Gleason & Dave Galeazzo  
**Multi Parish Finance Director:** Joan Sullivan: 671-1100 x21 joan.sullivan@dor.org

**Office Contact Info**

The parish office is still closed to visitors, however we are in the office to answer phone calls on Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursday & Friday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

**Phone:** 671- 2100  
**Emergency Number:** 369-9687  
**Website:** www.stpaulsrcc.org  
**Diocese of Rochester:** www.dor.org

*Upcoming Events*



**Tuesday, January 5**  
*St. John Neumann, Bishop*  
 8:30 a.m. Mass

**Wednesday, January 6**  
*Christmas Weekday*  
 8:30 a.m. Mass  
 9:00 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Thursday, January 7**  
*Christmas Weekday*  
 8:30 a.m. Mass

**Saturday, January 9**  
*Christmas Weekday*  
 2:00-3:00 p.m. Individual confession  
 4:00 p.m. Mass

**Sunday, January 10**  
*Baptism of the Lord*  
 10:00 a.m. Mass

**Financial Snapshot**

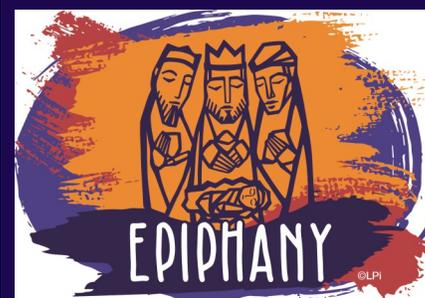
	November 2020	July 2020-November 2020
Collections	\$35,473	\$176,870
Donations/ other revenue	\$3,838	\$20,144
Expenses	\$25,648	\$231,073
Operating surplus/deficit	\$13,663	\$(34,059)

Expenses include quarterly invoices paid in July & October. St. Paul Church relies on the generous contributions of our parishioners to continue providing the programs and ministries of the parish.

**Let Us Pray for Those in the Military**



- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Jason Aman       | Josh Bartlett      |
| Zach Bartlett    | Sean Black         |
| Bryan Gross      | Andrew O'Brien     |
| Tom Weisenreder  | Cydney Blong       |
| Mason Serrano    | Michael J. Desiato |
| Andrew Zani      | Daniel Thomas      |
| Jay Riesenberger |                    |



## *Seeds for the Journey*

The story of the Magi (Wise men) is one of the most well-known and loved stories of the Christmas season. The Magi are the object of books and poems, Christmas cards, carols and decorations, and our nativity scenes only seem to be complete when we place the Magi and their camels in front of the manger.

But what do we really know about these three strangers from the East who come to honor the baby Jesus? Matthew tells us very little, and most of what we think we know is really a mixture of folklore and tradition. For example, we assume there were three Magi based on the fact that three gifts were given, but Matthew doesn't say how many Magi there were. And we don't know for sure who they were: kings, astrologers, Zoroaster priests, seers, or Wise men. Nor do we know exactly where the Magi came from except from the east. But that could be anywhere from Arabia to as far away as Persia (Iran).

And what are we to make of the star? Was it truly a star? Or was it a comet, or an asteroid, or a planet, or the eclipse of two planets, as scientists now suggest? But how could a planet or a star simply stop and hover over the place where Jesus lay? Thus, while the story of the Magi stirs our imagination and peaks our curiosity, it's likely that we will never know all of the details. But perhaps Matthew never intended us to. Because what really matters to Matthew, and what is demonstrated in the story of the Magi, is that the mystery of God has been, and continues to be, revealed to people of all nationalities who seek to know the truth.

As the story of the Magi in today's Gospel makes clear, Jesus came to us not as an earthly King in a marble palace or a golden chariot, with power and glory, but as one who shared in our humanity. He came as a child in the midst of poverty in a world dominated by ruthless kings, emperors, and religious leaders who were blind to the truth. Yet, this child Jesus is the Messiah, the light of the world, the Lord of Lords, and the King of Kings, for all people of all time; the child for whom the Magi risked their lives, both to serve and to honor, with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Several years ago in an essay for the Journal, "Christian Century," Herbert O'Driscoll wrote, "The Magi represent forever and for all of us the wisdom that recognizes human life to be a journey taken in search of One who calls us beyond ourselves into faithful service, One before whom we are prepared to kneel, and to whom we offer the best of our gifts, flawed and unworthy though they be." As O'Driscoll suggests, in the Magi we see an image of our own journey of faith. As the documents of Vatican II make very clear, we are a pilgrim people, a people continually moving towards God, constantly seeking God's face. And like the Magi we find God in the most unexpected of places: in the faces of the poor, the sick, the homeless and the homebound, the grieving, the addicted, the unwed parent, the troubled teenager, the unemployed, the divorced, and the migrant worker. In short, we find God wherever there is human suffering.

The Magi were seekers of God who stepped out in faith in response to God's invitation to honor and serve a stranger, a baby, by the name of Jesus. You and I are personally invited by God to do the same. By virtue of our baptism we become children of the light; and, like the Magi, we are called to follow the light, to serve the light, to be and reveal the light, who is Christ, to the people we meet on our own faith journey.

As we bring a close to the official celebration of Christmas, I hope and pray that the light of Christ will penetrate our hearts and our minds and guide us to lives of genuine love and service; lives that truly do honor Jesus - who is our Lord, our King, and our Savior.

*Mark*

## Bethany House Wish List for January

- ◆ Enfamil with iron -- powder
- ◆ diapers (size 5 and 6 )
- ◆ diaper wipes
- ◆ cleaning products
- ◆ hat/gloves for adults

Please place your donations (in a paper bag) in the collection box in the Narthex during Mass. **(Enter the narthex via the door on the left and remember to wear your mask and to social distance!!!)** The Good Sam Outreach Committee will deliver our donations to Bethany House at the end of the month. Thank you!

## St. Paul's Memorials

Did you know that St. Paul's offers a few different ways to honor/remember your loved ones?

**Votive Candles:** As you say a prayer to our Mother Mary, you may light one of our votive candles that twinkle in the corner of the worship area. Candles can be lit at any time. We reset the timer each Friday. Envelopes for your free will donation are located on the tower shelf close to the kneeler.

**Sanctuary Lamp:** Our sanctuary lamp in the worship area can be booked in honor/memory of your loved one a week at a time. The lamp is currently being booked for 2021 and there are quite a few weeks available. The donation for the lamp is \$10 and the name of your loved one is published in the bulletin. .

**Sanctuary Flowers:** We are currently booking Sanctuary Flowers for 2021. Flowers are on display in the sanctuary on any available weekend of your choice. The minimum donation for flowers is \$40. Your loved ones name will also be published in the bulletin.

**Memorial Donations:** You may make a Memorial Donation in honor/memory of someone at any time throughout the year. If you would like an acknowledgment to be sent please include the name and address of the next kin.

To reserve flowers and lamps, or for more information regarding the memorial options, please contact Jodie in the parish office at 671-2100 x21 or via email [Jodie.hickey@dor.org](mailto:Jodie.hickey@dor.org)

## Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ~LPi*



# CMA 2020-2021 "Christ Our Light"



If you haven't yet made your CMA pledge, we need you! We will receive a discount if we increase our participation rate so each gift is a great help!

If you didn't receive your CMA materials and envelope call the office and we can send you one. Or visit the DOR CMA website to make a gift online:

[www.DOR.org/CMA](http://www.DOR.org/CMA)

Thank you to the 242 families who have already given, we are very grateful for your support!



## Giving Options—Thank You!

Go to our website ([stpaulsrcc.org](http://stpaulsrcc.org)) and click on the DONATE link.

Or give through your bank's online bill pay feature.



Try the **GIVEPLUST<sup>+</sup>** MOBILE APP



To donate by text, send your contribution amount to 833-931-1892



Mail your check:  
**St. Paul Church**  
**783 Hard Road**  
**Webster, NY 14580**

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### FIRST READING:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

### PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

### SECOND READING:

It was not made known to people in other generation as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 2:5-6)

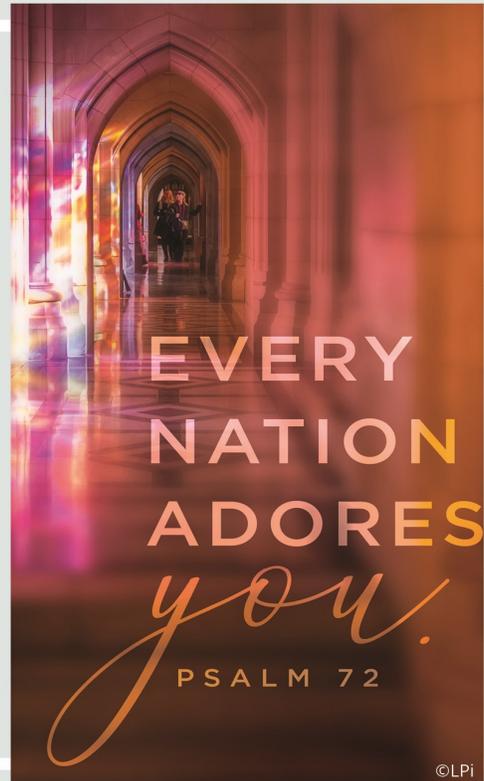
### GOSPEL:

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. (Mt 2:10-11)

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### OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week  
Monday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious  
Tuesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop  
Wednesday: St. André Bessette, Religious  
Thursday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest  
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord



## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

In late 6th century BC, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed an unimaginable future of glory for Israel in the wake of their return from seventy years of captivity in Babylon. What message of hope does our nation need today?

### SECOND READING

Paul speaks of God's "revelation" to include Gentiles as "coheirs" and "copartners" with Jews in the divine promise fulfilled in Christ Jesus. How welcoming are you to those you consider outsiders?

### GOSPEL READING

The magi's visit to discover the "newborn king of the Jews" caused great anxiety for the religious leaders of Jerusalem, including King Herod. Why do you think some people are not open to the good news of Jesus Christ?