

# Epiphany

## Of The Lord



# SAINT CASSIAN PARISH

187 Bellevue Avenue Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 • (973) 744-2850 • stcassianchurch.org

## Epiphany

January 7, 2024



### MASS SCHEDULE

#### Lord's Day

Saturday: 5:30PM

Sunday: 7:30AM; 9:30AM; 11:30AM

**Weekdays:** Tuesday through Saturday: 8:15AM

**Holydays:** 8:15AM and as announced

### Office Information:

#### Served by:

Rev. Steven D'Andrea, Parish Administrator

Rev. Msgr. Anthony Kulig, Weekend Assistant

Deacon Roberto Demetillo

Stephen Powers, Director of Music

Keri Misurell, Director of Faith Formation

Maria Llanes, St. Cassian School Principal

### Parish Phone Numbers

Parish Office .....(973) 744-2850

Fax..... (973) 744-6187

Email.....parishoffice@stcassianchurch.org

Website .....www.stcassianchurch.org

Religious Education Office.....(973) 744-2850

Music Office .....(973) 744-7864

St. Cassian School.....(973) 746-1636

Fax.....(973) 746-3271

Email.....info@stcassianschool.org

Website.....www.stcassianschool.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00AM—3:30 pm

**OCIA** (Order of Christian Initiation, formerly RCIA) Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Were you baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation? Call the parish office for details.

The **Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated one Sunday each month except during Advent, Lent and the summer months. In order to baptize your child at St. Cassian, the family must be registered parishioners. Parents, and godparents if available, must attend a preparation class (7:00 PM) prior to the date of baptism (1:00PM). Once registered, contact the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to make arrangements for the date of baptism. See schedule within Scan here to download Parish Registration Form



Arrangements to celebrate the **Sacrament of Marriage** must be made at least one year before the desired date. Do not make firm plans for the reception prior to speaking with a priest. Call the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to speak with a priest.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** brings the Holy Spirit's gifts of peace and courage. It is not necessary to wait until the point of death for anointing. Contact a priest through the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is celebrated every Saturday between 4:15PM-5:00PM in the church or at another time convenient to the priest and penitent.



# Feast of the Epiphany

*In the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception the Magi are depicted in the Nativity Chapel in the Great Upper Church.*

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany, when Western Christians celebrate the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. It represents the coming of Jesus to all – to Gentiles and Jews alike. The Magi saw the star from afar and traveled to worship the Christ Child. They brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh – each of which tells us something about Jesus' identity. The account of the visit of the Magi can be found in Matthew 2:1-18. According to Scripture, "wise men from the East" followed a star to Jesus' location and then "fell down and worshipped him" (Matt. 2:11). The traditional belief that there were three wise men is a development based on the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh recorded in Matthew 2:11. Since the seventh century, the Western Church has recognized these three Magi by the names

Casper (a.k.a. Gaspar, Kasper), Melchior, and Balthasar. The identification of the wise men as kings may have developed from a reading of Psalm 72 that says, "May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him" .

Most Nativity scenes include the Magi, but we know from Scripture that they did not arrive until later. Some Bible scholars suggest that this may not have occurred until up to a year and a half later, based on King Herod's command in Matthew 2:16:"Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. "

As mentioned previously, Matthew's Gospel is silent on the number and political status of the Magi. These are later developments in Christian tradition and not a matter of Gospel record. These traditions arose from biblical inferences.

Of the Magi, Pope Benedict XVI explains that it is possible these men were part of a Persian priesthood, or they could have been something else . Whoever they were, they were probably not Jewish. The term "magi" refers to a group of astrologers, wise men, or priests in ancient Persia. The word itself is derived from the Greek "magos," which originally comes from the Old Persian word "maguš." The magi were known for their knowledge of astronomy and other esoteric arts, and they held a special role in Persian society. Kings were in the habit of gathering the best and brightest into an advisory body of wise men, stargazers, and dreamers. Magi are consulted in the Book of Daniel and by Pharaoh in the time of Joseph. The Greek word magi indicates these men were astrologers and interpreters of omens—following a star and dreaming dreams.

All three gifts are ordinary offerings and gifts given to a king. Myrrh being commonly used as an anointing oil, frankincense as a perfume, and gold as a valuable. The three gifts had a spiritual meaning: gold as a symbol of kingship on earth, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of deity, and myrrh (an embalming oil) as a symbol of death.

What subsequently happened to these gifts is never mentioned in the scripture, but several traditions have developed. One story has the gold being stolen by the two thieves who were later crucified alongside Jesus. Another tale has it being entrusted to and then misappropriated by Judas. One tradition suggests that Joseph and Mary used the gold to finance their travels when they fled Bethlehem after an angel had warned, in a dream, about King Herod's plan to kill Jesus. And another story proposes the theory that the myrrh given to them at Jesus' birth was used to anoint Jesus' body after his crucifixion.

As Pope Francis stated:

*It is not enough to know where Jesus was born, as the scribes did, if we do not go there. It is not enough to know that Jesus was born, like Herod, if we do not encounter him. When his place becomes our place, when his time becomes our time, when his person becomes our life, then the prophecies come to fulfillment in us. Then Jesus is born within us. He becomes the living God for me. Today we are asked to imitate the Magi. They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look, but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the center, but bow down before the One who is the center.*



## Mass Intentions for the Week of January 7

### For those who are ill:

John Anderson	Leigh Major
Alesia Maria Andras	Sr. Idoia Martinez
Mary Blatz	John McCarthy
Leo Botwin	Patricia Melo
Frank Briamont	Mary McGuire
JoAnne Callahan	Frank Mongioi
Dominek Capela	Thomas Nelson
Marilyn Castellano	Dr. David Pallotta
John Flynn	Mildred Pasino
Dennis Gannon	Rosemary Raleigh
Virgilio Geulan	Ronald Rego
Dan Greiner	Dr. Lorraine Reyes
Steve Grube	Jaxson Rivera
Jennifer Gullace	Rhonda Sen
Joyce Hakimian	Elizabeth Smith
David Hogan	Olaf Stechow
Noel Jordan	Dennis Swanson
Cassie Lopolus	Lindsay Trembulak
Marcia Mann	

<b>Sunday January 7th</b> Epiphany	5:30PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 11:30 AM	John C. Kerr People of the Parish Ronald De La Roche Stephen Mazujin
Tuesday - Saturday morning masses are celebrated at 8:15AM; Monday morning mass is private		
<b>Monday Jan. 8th</b> Baptism of the Lord		Janice Garone
<b>Tuesday Jan. 9th</b> First Week in Ordinary Times		Edward F. Gaffney
<b>Wednesday Jan. 10th</b> First Week in Ordinary Times		Colleen Mahoney
<b>Thursday Jan. 11th</b> First Week in Ordinary Times		Matthias Naughton
<b>Friday Jan. 12th</b> First Week in Ordinary Times		Anne Dunne
<b>Saturday Jan. 13th</b> St. Hilary Bishop & Doctor of the Church		Debra Przybylinski
<b>Sunday Jan. 14th</b> Second Sunday in Ordinary Times	5:30PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 11:30AM	Carmen M. Marnell Jan Arnold People of the Parish Colombia Dittamo

**For those who have died:** Penelope Brisco, Eileen Harrington

Please remember these names in your daily prayers.

### ROSARY INTENTIONS...

<i>Monday</i>	For safety and freedom for the people of Ukraine
<i>Tuesday</i>	All military and protective services especially in areas of violence; protect them, grant peace to their loved ones
<i>Wednesday</i>	Respect for sanctity of life from conception to natural death
<i>Thursday</i>	Unity among churches and nations
<i>Friday</i>	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life; all parishioners living and deceased

### Baptism Schedule

January 2024	Baptism	January 14 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	January 9 <sup>th</sup>
February 2024	Baptism	February 11 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	February 6 <sup>th</sup>
April 2024	Baptism	April 14 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	April 9 <sup>th</sup>

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>MON.</b>	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1Jn 5:1-9 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Mk 1:7-11
<b>TUES.</b>	1 Sm 1:9-20 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Mk 1:21-28
<b>WED.</b>	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Mk 1:29-39
<b>THUR.</b>	1 Sm 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 Mk 1:40-45
<b>FRI.</b>	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 Mk 2:1-12
<b>SAT.</b>	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mk 2:13-17
<b>SUN.</b>	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42

May 2024	Baptism	May 12 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	May 7 <sup>th</sup>
June 2024	Baptism	June 9 <sup>th</sup>
	Class	June 4 <sup>th</sup>



20 + C + M + B + 24

In Fr. Steve's pastoral Christmas letter he reminisced about his childhood memories and the family customs. "Christmas placed great importance on family and your home. Today more than ever, your homes have to be a sacred place for you and your family. You must protect it and keep the drama and the negativity out. Your home must be your sanctuary, a place where you invite God to be present in your home and to be a part of your lives". In this spirit we will continue our parish tradition of distributing house blessing kits to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany.

#### A BLESSING FOR YOUR HOME

Epiphany is the day when we ... mark our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year". The blessing of the home consists of a prayer and the inscription in chalk over its main entrance door "20 C + M + B + 24" — three crosses, the initials of the three kings, and the year. The first and last numbers simply refer to the current year. The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Some also suggest "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means, "May Christ bless this dwelling!"

#### How To Do It

- Take home the package of blessed chalk and the accompanying prayer.
- Gather your household: Everyone should be involved. For those who live alone, consider inviting a friend or neighbor. Or gather at your church to chalk the church entrance.
- Say the prayers below while writing the inscription above your door (the inscription is intended to go on the outside of the door but many people put it on the inside to avoid having it washed away by rain or snow or 'bleached off' by summer sun:

#### Prayers for Chalking the Door

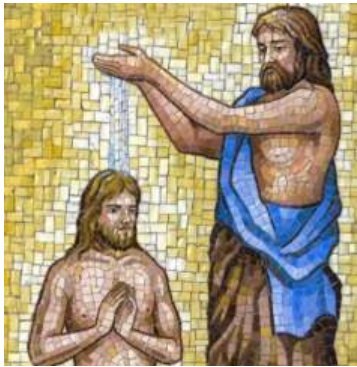
To bless your home, use the blessed chalk, above your front door: write 20+C+M+B+24 while saying:

The three wisemen, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-four years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence, Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever.

### Baptism of the Lord—Jan. 8



In the liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord signifies the end of the Christmas season. The Baptism of the Lord is notable because it marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. This event is documented in all the gospels except John.

Christ's baptism remarkably shows all three Persons of the Trinity at the same time: the Son being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending, and the Father speaking from the heavens. In this event, the Father and the Holy Spirit confirm the deity of Christ, and Jesus submits to his Father's will.

When Jesus comes to John, John hesitates to baptize him. John's is a baptism of repentance, and Jesus has nothing for which he needs to repent. Why then does Jesus insist on being baptized? By choosing to be baptized, Jesus fulfills all righteousness – preparing himself to be a perfect sacrifice for us. Source: [nationalshrine.org/blog/the-significance-of-the-baptism-of-the-lord/](http://nationalshrine.org/blog/the-significance-of-the-baptism-of-the-lord/)



photo by G.Garitan

### St. Hilary of Poitiers—Jan. 13

This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a “disturber of the peace.” In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy. He was bishop of Poitiers in France.

Raised a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his God of nature in the Scriptures. His wife was still living when he was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ. The heresy spread rapidly. Saint Jerome said “The world groaned and

marveled to find that it was Arian.” When Emperor Constantius ordered all the bishops of the West to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith in the East, Hilary refused and was banished from France to far off Phrygia. Eventually he was called the “Athanasius of the West.”

While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the Council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the Church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home. Hilary was welcomed by his people.

## Christmas Poinsettia and Church Decorations In Memory of:

### In Memory of :

Carole Bosco

Deceased Members of the Fischer and Cavagnaro Families

William Caso

Deceased Members of the Lodato Family

Brian Fiore

Deceased Members of the Ocejo and Llanes Families

Deceased Members of the Melchiorre Family

Patrick Hannan



Shepherds, Inn keeper, Angels, St. Joseph ,a Wise man and a cow getting dressed. (Left to Right )



Confirmation candidates—Readers



Donkey, Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, Star angel

# Christmas Pageant

Cast ....Students of the CCD program



Cows, Innkeeper, Angels, Wise Men



Shepherds, Sheep, Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, Star Angel, Cows, Innkeeper, and Angels

# NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

# Parish Calendar

## Hospitality

Volunteers are still needed  
 No need to commit to every Sunday.  
 Contact Mary Cavagnaro at (973) 744-2850 or [mary@stcassianchurch.org](mailto:mary@stcassianchurch.org) for more info and available dates.



January 7	Epiphany of the Lord Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30
January 14	Children's Liturgy of the Word 9:30

## PLEASE HELP HOWEVER YOU CAN!

We will be collecting hot and cold cereal and any of the usual items we collect on the weekend Jan. 13/14 .

Thank you for your continued generosity.



SIGNS OF STEWARDSHIP	Gift of Treasure 12/16—12/17
Minimum weekly needed	\$16,250
Regular Weekly Collection	\$6,420
Faith Direct Average	\$6,765
Weekly Total	\$13,185

## Ministers for the Weekends in January

If you have not replied with your availability for the coming round of assignments, January 6 through March 17, your consideration in an immediate reply would be most appreciated.



161 James Street    Morristown, NJ 07960

### JANUARY 19, 2024—JANUARY 21, 2024 Men's Weekend Led by Fr. Steve Pugliese, S.J.

Where is Our Hope? What is it to hope only in Christ? To hope only in God? Join us as we discuss that hope and its many manifestations on our weekend retreat.

### JANUARY 26, 2024—JANUARY 28, 2024 Co-Ed Weekend Led by Fr. Joe Costantino, S.J.

Exploring the Many Ways of Prayer. Are you in a rut with your prayer life? Perhaps you may even feel as if you have no prayer life at all or maybe your prayer life simply needs to be given a new shot of life and energy. Wherever you are in your prayer life and faith journey, this retreat is for you.

### FEBRUARY 2, 2024 –FEBRUARY 4, 2024—Co-Ed Weekend—Healing Encounters led by Christine Eberle

We all stand in need of healing. As earthen vessels, our fragile bodies, minds, and spirits long for the soothing touch of our loving creator. But how do we press it? How do we open ourselves to the kind of encounter that enables genuine transformation? And what does healing look like? On this retreat we will pray with stories of people—biblical and contemporary—who experienced healing in different ways, and explore our own healing encounters with Jesus.



*Behold daily he humbles himself as when from his 'royal throne' (Wisdom 18:15) he came into the womb of the Virgin; daily he himself comes to us with like humility; daily he descends from the bosom of his Father upon the altar in the hands of the priest.*

—Saint Francis of Assisi



# Kids' Corner

## Finding Baby Jesus

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. On this feast we remember when the wise men came from the East and worshipped baby Jesus.



The wise men wanted to find the great King and give Him their best gifts. They studied long and finally knew where He was. Then they had to travel a great distance to find the baby King. When they found Him they knelt before Him and gave Him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, which were all costly treasures.



Do you want to find the greatest King? You know Who He is! You don't have to travel far to find Him- He comes in every Mass!

Do you want to give your best gift to the baby King Who loves you so much? You don't need to give Him gold or frankincense or myrrh. You can give Him your heart! Love Jesus and He will always be with you!



Answers to the Wise Men Puzzle: Top: 3, 6, Middle: 5, 1, Bottom: 2, 4.

# The Wise Men Puzzle

Do you know the story of the wise men who came to worship Baby Jesus? What order do these pictures go in? Write the numbers from 1 to 6 in the boxes.

<p>The wise men found Jesus and worshipped Him, giving Him gifts.</p>	<p>An angel told Joseph in a dream to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt.</p>
<p>Herod sent soldiers to kill all the babies in Bethlehem!</p>	<p>Some wise men in the East saw a star that was a sign of something... The Messiah must be born!</p>
<p>The men went to King Herod to see if he knew where the new king was.</p>	<p>An angel warned the wise men and told them to go home another way.</p>

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

## St. Hilary



Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany. The Epiphany is a special part of the Christmas season. What's it all about? Connect the dots to find out!

<p>HILARY WAS BORN TO A WELL-TO-DO PAGAN FAMILY IN WHAT IS NOW FRANCE, AROUND THE YEAR 300. HE DISCOVERED THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD IN THE BIBLE.</p>	<p>Now! What is this all about?</p>	<p>HE WAS BAPTIZED AND SOON AFTER HE WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE BISHOP.</p>
<p>BUT THE HERETICS CALLED ARIANS, WHO SAID JESUS WASN'T GOD, SENT HIM AWAY.</p>	<p>Well, I'm going to make the best of my time!</p>	<p>THE KING GOT TIRED OF HIS PREACHING AND SENT HIM BACK TO FRANCE.</p>
<p>ON HIS WAY HE HEARD HYMNS THAT TAUGHT ERRORS ABOUT THE FAITH, SO HE BEGAN TO WRITE ONES THAT TAUGHT THE TRUTH.</p>	<p>I have a question...</p>	<p>BACK IN HIS OWN DIOCESE, SAINT HILARY CONTINUED TO TEACH THE PEOPLE THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FAITH, AND WAS ALWAYS KIND TO HIS ENEMIES.</p>
<p>We've got to get rid of this bishop!</p>	<p>WHILE IN EXILE HE STUDIED AND WROTE ABOUT THE FAITH.</p>	<p>Jesus even says He is God...</p>
<p>Come for dinner and we can have a chat about it.</p>		

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*Father Steve we wish you the best of luck and all of God's blessings as you begin your new ministry at St. Cassian's Parish*



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