

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

4 JANUARY 2026

Readings for Sunday, January 4: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12.

All nations are invited to sing the Lord’s praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

Readings for Sunday, January 11: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17.



**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Wednesday.
Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 5:00
PM in the Church. Benediction at 5:00 PM.**



<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
5 Jan.	MON. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
6 Jan.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Simon Nagel II	Nagel Family
7 Jan.	WED. 9:00 AM	Kunz Family	Patrick Cornely
8 Jan.	THU. 9:00 AM	Nicholas Lenhardt	Wife, Mary
10 Jan.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Maria Then & Rafael Then, Sr.	Deacon Ray
11 Jan.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.
PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING of the parish especially those in homes and hospitals.
REMEMBER OUR TROOPS: Pray that God will bless and protect our young men and women in the military.



NOVENA IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL on Mondays after the 9:00 AM Mass. All are welcome to join in this special Marian Devotions.

WOMEN’S SOCIETY MEETING on Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 PM in the Social Hall. Hostess: Mariann Horan.



THE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP leads the recitation of the Rosary every Sunday before the 9:00 AM Mass. They also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses. All are welcome to join in these Marian Devotions.



2026 MASS BOOK - Requests for Mass Intentions to be offered in 2026 can be made at the Parish Office. There is a limit of one weekend Mass per person requesting the Mass Intention. This is necessary due to the limited number of weekend Masses available.

LOST WEEK

Collections at PPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 21, 2025. \$3,974
2025-2026 Year to Date Collections. \$103,428
Figures from the December 28 collection will be printed
in the January 11 bulletin.

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

MEMORIES ‘N’ MORE

610-326-1911

CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.
Call the Parish Office for more details.

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 20/21:

4:00 PM Mass 147
9:00 AM Mass - 152
Total Attendance - 299



APPAREL ALERT! Orders are being accepted for our parish apparel. Items available are: T-Shirt - \$10; Sweatshirt with hood - \$25; Men’s and Women’s Polo Shirts - \$25. Colors available are Kelly Green and Sunburst Yellow. 1/4 Zip - \$35; Full Zip hoodies - \$30 -

color is Forest Green. Logo on all apparel is in the upper left corner. Sizes: S to XL - larger sizes are available (just add \$2) and we have youth sizes too! **PROMOTE YOUR PARISH!!!** Complete the order form in the vestibule of Church and return to the parish office along with payment or contact Maria Boyer (mboyer@sgsm62.org).



CHURCH MAGNETS are available at the Parish Office. They can be placed on your car or refrigerator. Cost is \$5.00 each.



PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET

based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Winning ticket number must be the exact number drawn for the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are sold on a monthly basis. The prize for the winning ticket is \$50.00 on weekdays and \$100.00 on Sundays and one specially-designated weekday. **This is our major fundraiser for the parish. We encourage each family to purchase at least one ticket each month. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- December 15 - #250 - unsold
- December 16 - #059 - unsold
- December 17 - #200 - unsold
- December 18 - #948 - unsold
- December 19 - #762 - unsold
- December 20 - #467 - unsold
- December 21 - #085 - unsold

Because of *You*— They are Ready to Lead.



Support the formation of our future priests.

Your gift to the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Appeal prepares them to lead the Church with wisdom, compassion, and the heart of Christ.



Donate Today at
scs.edu/appeal or Scan Here

If you prefer to give by check, mail your gift to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
CL# 5315, P.O. BOX 95000-5315, Philadelphia, PA 19195-0001



MINISTRY SCHEDULE - JANUARY 10/11

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Nester

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Bracaglia; Break, Tammaro & Tammaro; Choir, George

Altar Server - Morris

Greeter - Scheidt

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Bernhard; Break, C. Buccaglia & Boyer

Altar Servers - Logaivau & Logaivau

Greeter - Carr



American
Red Cross

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE on January 5 and 19 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Consider donating blood for those in need. Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Tuesday, January 6 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.



LOW GLUTEN HOSTS - We have low gluten hosts for those who need gluten free. Please see Father before Mass to let him know you require the low gluten host.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of: **ANNA M. GEORGE** from Helen Chieffo, Vivian Fitch; **PHILOMENA BRACAGLIA** from Lew Murgia.



SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST on January 4 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Stowe. Come and enjoy a breakfast of your choice. We serve pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, scrapple, eggs

your way, a variety of omelets, and different types of breakfast bowls. Breakfast is served from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.



BLESSING OF THE HOME ON EPIPHANY

The blessing of homes on Epiphany is a centuries-old custom in the Church. Blessed chalk is used to mark the doors of the house while praying for protection and blessing for all who live there – drawing forth imagery from the book of Exodus and the first Passover. The chalk on the door is a visible reminder to all of their Christian life and a challenge to live virtuously both in and out of the home.

The door is marked with the initials of the names traditionally given to the Magi: **Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar**, surrounded by the numerals of the current year. The initials CMB can also stand for the prayer *Christus mansionem benedicat*, Latin for “May Christ Bless this House.”

20 + C+M+B + 26

PRAYER

Let us pray. O Lord, holy Father Almighty, everlasting God, we beseech thee to hear us: and vouchsafe to send thy holy Angel from heaven, to guard and cherish, protect and visit, and evermore defend all that dwell in this house. I call upon thy Saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, to protect my family and my home from every harm and danger, and I place this mark over my door to remain as a constant reminder to us and all who enter here that my house is truly a house of the Lord. O God, make the door of my house the gateway to thine Eternal Kingdom. All this we ask through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord.

Amen.

POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL PAWS PROGRAM - The PAWS (Panthers Achieving Worthwhile Success) Program at Pope John Paul II High School in Royersford supports the individual needs of students with learning differences through instruction and academic accommodations within the Panthers' Learning Center, our hub of academic support. An Information Sessions about the program will be held on Thursday, January 8 at 6:00 PM in the Panthers' Learning Center at PJP to outline the program objectives and support structure, enrollment process, fee and financial aid opportunities. To register or for more information, contact Mr. Joseph Rogers, Director of Academic Support at jrogers@pjphs.org.



RETROUVAILLE:
REDISCOVER THE LOVE
IN YOUR MARRIAGE:
 Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille. If you know

anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 6-8 at the Family Life Center in Malvern. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

RESTORE: A HEALING RETREAT FOR MEN AND WOMEN AT THE MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE - Thursday, January 29 to Sunday, February 1. How do anxiety, compulsive behaviors, or emotional wounding get in your way of the meaningful and authentic relationships you were made to experience? God desires to bring us restoration and healing so we will live from the truth that we are His beloved sons and daughters. Through unique, facilitated healing encounters, our Lord gently invites us into a fully integrated experience – mind, heart, body, spirit, soul. Come...and let Him Restore you! Retreat Leaders - Father Stephen DeLacy and De Yarrison of You Are Made New Ministry. For more information visit www.youaremadenew.com/restore-retreats or email De at de@youaremadenew.com.

Be Encouraged:
 Catholic Support for Mental Health

Resources to assist with healing, accompaniment and flourishing
archphila.org/support

HOPE IN CHRIST:
 Spiritual Support for Addiction

Find Catholic support for you or your loved one struggling with addiction at:
archphila.org/hope

Catholic Events • Support Groups
 Retreats • Personal Stories
 Patron Saints • Healing Ministries
 • and more •

A website provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

JANUARY 4, 2026 - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The designers of our Church's liturgical, or worship calendar we can presume to work from the best of motives and only after prayer and consultation. And so it is that this Feast of the Epiphany, long celebrated on January 6th, was moved back in 1970 to this Sunday. That is a good thing, I suppose, because the event is most worthy of a celebration on a day when the most faithful Catholics can do it. Sunday, after all, is the Lord's Day.

But sometimes such changes affect the humblest of God's creatures in a hurtful way. I count my own Mom among them. You see, she was a humble person all her life, but she was at the same time proud that her birthday was January 6, and that for a good portion of her life she just happened to live in Epiphany Parish in South Philadelphia. I have no memory of her ever having complained, but I am sure the change was at least a pin prick of her ego.

The Epiphany in its older setting also marked the last of the "Twelve Days of Christmas," memorialized in a Christmas carol that demands explanation of its medieval references.

But the chief importance of this feast is that it celebrates the coming of Christ to the wide world of the Gentiles, apart from the narrower confines of the Jewish world. The Jews were then, and remain to this day, God's chosen people. Our Lord came among us as a Jewish man. Our Lady, His Mother and ours was a Jew by birth. So was her beloved spouse, the obedient, brave, and humble St. Joseph. Add in the Twelve Apostles. This fact underlines the awful scandal of antisemitism among some Christians.

The Bible clearly tells us that God became man in Jesus to save the entire world. Nobody is left out of His love. Nobody is exempt from giving Him praise, honor and reciprocal love. Least of all, we sinners. That in itself is always worth celebrating, no matter what the date.

I believe that the words of Edna St. Vincent Millay (d. 1950) convey the breadth of the Epiphany event.

"The world stands out on either side
no wider than the heart is wide;
above the world is stretched the sky
no higher than the soul is high.

The heart can push the sea and land
so far away on either hand;
The soul can split the sky in two
and let the face of God shine through."

Reading I: Isaiah 50:1-6

The prophet offers a vision of Zion as a city that radiates with divine glory. It draws the nations together to worship the one true God. It is honored by foreigners.

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

St. Paul is a steward of divine mysteries. God's grace has come to him on its way to others, namely the "Gentiles," as well as "the sons of Israel."

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

As the new Davidic king, Jesus is born in David's hometown. The Magi, who were most likely astrologers from Persia, become the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to recognize the Kingship of Jesus. In a real way, in that regard, they were our ancestors.