



Sacred Heart Church

A Roman Catholic Community

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www.sacredheartlynd.org

SERVED BY:

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Pastor

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SMALL BLESSINGS DAY CARE
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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

"And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Mt 2:6

January 4, 2026

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 1:30pm(Spanish)
Monday - Friday: 12:00pm in the church
Saturday: 9:00am in the church,
5:00pm in church (Anticipated Mass of Sunday)
Holy Days & Holidays: As announced in Bulletin

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00pm - 4:45pm
Daily: Upon request following the 12:00pm Mass

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents should contact the parish office to schedule an interview and register for the required baptismal preparation session.

Preparation: in the church at 7:00pm

Sacrament: in the church at 3:00pm
Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Apr. 4, May 17, Jun. 14, Jul. 12

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The Common Policy for Marriage in all Catholic parishes of New Jersey requires couples to begin preparation at least one year prior to the planned wedding date. It is advisable to contact the parish office before any other arrangements are made.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is available for all seriously ill members of our parish family. Please call the parish office.

R.C.I.A.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the Church's process to prepare to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please call the parish office.

PARISH REGISTRATION / OFFICE HOURS

We invite all new members of our parish family to register at the Parish Office during regular office hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday - Friday; Saturdays and Sundays Closed.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

World literature is filled with stories of "the search" - the voyages of explorers, the hunt for hidden treasure, the quest for the Holy Grail or the fountain of youth, and the never-ending search in the hearts of all for quality of life, for freedom and justice, and for peace.

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord epitomizes all of the longings in the human heart for intimacy with God. The Hebrew Scriptures were filled with promises about the coming of the Messiah. For the people, this meant liberation from oppression, from enemies, from poverty and slavery. But word of this promise filtered through to foreign nations, and touched a universal need for redemption and reconciliation.

So we find three astrologers - (or wise men, or kings) - from the East, from foreign lands, arriving in Jerusalem in search of a new-born king. The event became a part of the earliest Christian tradition, and has been celebrated ever since in all parts of the world.

The search goes on, even in our own time. People hunger for truth, for a sense of the nearness of God, for an understanding of the mysteries of life. They tend, so often, to look in the wrong places; they fail to recognize the face of God in ordinary circumstances. We imagine that the three kings must have found it incredible that the long-awaited Messiah would be born in obscurity and poverty. But with simple faith, they acknowledged Him and offered their gifts.

We can be so easily misled in our search for God; we look for miracles, for visions, for extraordinary manifestations. And all the while, God continues to show Himself in very ordinary ways: in the quiet heroism of those who suffer patiently; in the manifest heroism of those who risk their lives to save others; in the vigilance of those who defend our land and our values; in the gentle compassion of those who seek out the poor and the hungry; in the day by day faithfulness of spouses, of workers, of leaders, of scientists, of advocates of all kinds, in all segments of our society.

The Christmas season comes to an end much more quickly than all of our preparations for its arrival. So we need to reflect over and over again about the lessons we are taught at Christmas. Each of us has, to one degree or another, given ourselves over to God's plan for our lives. Day by day we renew that commitment of faith and trust, even though we often find that God's ways are not our ways.

We do not always understand where He is leading us. We frequently wonder why certain things happen, why our own plans don't work out. There are moments when we are tempted to think that our faith in Him has been betrayed, that He really has forsaken us and is not listening or caring any more. We feel like giving up; we want to stop praying.

The Epiphany reminds us that God manifests Himself to us in the most unforeseen and unexpected circumstances. This feast of the Epiphany arose early on in the Church to fill out the meaning of Christmas. It was the feast to celebrate the manifestation of the Incarnation to the whole universe. It embraced the fuller dimensions of the role of the Word-made-flesh - His coming to bring the nations together in peace, His coming to reveal the Father, His coming to change almost miraculously the quality of life for all people.

This is the time for new beginnings and resolutions - for a fresh start. Let's get back to basics for our resolutions. It is time to stop talking about how much we love one another and to really start showing that we do - and to continue to do so. Only then will we be able to tear apart the barriers that separate us, and come together as the family that God meant us to be. Only then can we truly be a people of hope within whom the Spirit lives and breathes.

The Good News of Christmas and Epiphany is "Emmanuel", "God-with-us!" We need only the light of strong, unwavering faith to see Him, to find Him, to serve Him in the people around us, the circumstances of our everyday living. We need only to believe in God's love for us - His unconditional, relentless love - and then we will more often recognize His presence and His power in sunrise and sunset, in storm and calm, in the faces of children and wisdom of the elderly, in moments of elation and heart-break. We will see His radiance and warmth behind every cloud of sorrow or failure that darkens our days.

Like the magi, our search goes on - but so does Epiphany! He is never far away, never hidden for those who look with faith.

Christmas Memorial Flowers

Your Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

In Memory of: _____ Other:\$ _____

_____ \$50

_____ \$35

_____ \$25

_____ \$20

_____ \$15

_____ \$10

St. Patrick's Celebration - March 7th

Your Help Makes A Difference

Your Unwanted Christmas Gifts Needed

Before you put those unwanted Christmas gifts that you received in the back of your closet, consider donating them to our parish. All **NEW ITEMS** will be used to make baskets for raffle that we will have at our St. Patrick's Day Celebration. All items can be left near the shrine of the Sacred Heart in the back of the church.

If you would be interested in helping set-up, serve or clean-up at the event, please call the parish office.

ONLINE GIVING AT SACRED HEART

Online Giving at Sacred Heart has never been easier and is just a couple of clicks away.

1. You can give to the parish through the Zelle online payment system offered through most major banks. When you create the Zelle payee for the parish, please use the parish email address: sacredheartchurch@comcast.net.

Please be careful when you type in the email address because once you "Zelle" the money from your account it can not be corrected.

2. You can visit www.sacredheartlynd.org, our parish website and click the Online Giving Options link. If you want to make a direct donation to the parish with your debit or credit card, you can click the direct donation link.

EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION 2026

While a day like Christmas is fixed in our minds and on the calendars on December 25th, many of the important feasts of the Church year move, based upon the date that Easter is set. Easter changes each year moving to the Sunday after the "Paschal Full Moon," and can fall between March 22 and April 25.

In ancient times before calendars were common, most people did not know the dates for the upcoming Liturgical year. On Epiphany Sunday, the upcoming dates were "proclaimed". After the singing of the Gospel, a Deacon or cantor, in keeping with an ancient practice of Holy Church, announces from the ambo the moveable feasts of the current year according to this formula:

Know, dear brethren, (brothers and sisters,)

that, as we have rejoiced at

the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,

so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the Eighteenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the Fifth day of April you will celebrate with Joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the Seventeenth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the Twenty-Fourth of May the feast of Pentecost.

On the Seventh day of June the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the Twenty-Ninth day of November the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

The Star of Bethlehem, also called the Christmas Star is a star in Christian tradition that revealed the birth of Jesus to the magi (or "wise men") and later led them to Bethlehem. According to the Gospel of Matthew the magi were men "from the east" who were inspired by the appearance of the star to travel to Jerusalem. There they met King Herod of Judea, and asked where the king of the Jews had been born. Herod then asked his advisers where a messiah could be born. They replied Bethlehem, a nearby village, and quoted a prophecy by Micah. While the magi were on their way to Bethlehem, the star appeared again. Following the star, it stopped this time above the place where Jesus was born. The magi found Jesus with his mother, paid him homage, worshipped him and gave gifts. They then returned to their "own country".

given by God to mark the birth of the Christ (or Messiah). Some theologians claimed that the star fulfilled a prophecy, known as the Star Prophecy. In modern times, astronomers have proposed various explanations for the star. A nova, a planet, a comet, an occultation, and a conjunction (massing of planets) have all been suggested. The star has also been interpreted as an astrological event.

"The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star. It was as if the journey had always been a part of their destiny, and was finally about to begin."

-Pope Benedict XVI

Address to seminarians in Cologne, August 19, 2005

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

SICK: Baby Ryan Joseph Lomuscio, Sal Russo, Charles Klimkowsky, Nancy Namoviez, Giovanna Muscara, Al & Joan Viscuso, Lea Pappas, Anita Barcia, Denise Swanteck, Maureen F. Coughlin, John Smith, Julius Single, Dave Tzrepla, Frank Buco, Sr., Christopher N. Coughlin, Vladimir Pudoff, Isabella Lugo, Tess, Francesco Giacchi, Mario Alongi, Sr., John Scivetti, Ken Stone, Timothy Yushak, Jaxson Rivera, Marilyn Loughran, Luca Ataide, Donald Tetreault, Norma Altreche, Linda Vasquez, Joelle Montillo, Vincent Russo, Nenita A. Jacildone, Anthony Scorre, Fely Czeslowski, Ely Ongoco, Perpetua Aspile, Andrea Globis, Laura MacDonald, Ava Romano, Fr. Anthony Di Stefano, Ruben Arevalo Jacildone, Helen Dowling, Dr. Leticia Luna, Jeanette Knowlton, Michele Gilmore, Milena Giacchi, Freddy Berrios, Maryann Sheridan, Naham, Rudy Rivas, Tania, Jaime Diaz, Romile Diaz, Julius Single, Jr., Tina Gentile, John Llewellyn, Patricia Anne Coughlin, Cathy Horoieski, Josephine Burns, Arnulfo Orozco, Assunta Santangelo, Clementine Vocaturo, Tin Maung Khin, Monroe Madsen, Ymilce Badia, Rita Blanco, Jeanette Tucci, Linda Kost

DECEASED: All those from our parish family the Lord has called home

CHURCH BELLS CELEBRATE & COMMEMORATE

The Sacred Heart Church bell rings:



SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH

In Honor of: Denise Bruno

Donated by: Brian & Carol O'Keeffe

CATECHESIS IN A CAROL



"The Twelve Days of Christmas" celebrates the time in the Christmas season which starts on Christmas Day and ends twelve days later on the traditional Feast of the Epiphany. It is a catechesis wrapped in carol. Each verse recalls an aspect of our faith. Do you remember the words? Can you guess what faith aspect each verse may represent?

*The **partridge in a pear tree** was Jesus Christ, the pear tree was the cross.

***Two turtle doves** were the Old and New Testaments

***Three French hens** stood for faith, hope and love.

*The **four calling birds** were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

*The **five golden rings** recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

*The **six geese a-laying** stood for the six days of creation.

***Seven swans a-swimming** represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

*The **eight maids a-milking** were the eight beatitudes.

***Nine ladies dancing** were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit-Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

*The **ten lords a-leaping** were the ten commandments.

*The **eleven pipers piping** stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

*The **twelve drummers drumming** symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

In observance of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and the New Years holiday, **the parish office will close at 2:00pm Tuesday, Dec. 30th. The office will reopen at 9:00am on Monday, January 5th.**

JANUARY 4, 2026



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Anticipated Sunday Mass

5:00pm Mr. & Mrs. Fred Giordano (Living)

SUNDAY - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Thomas Nelson

10:30 am Catherine Rullo

12:00pm Phyllis & Ed Hanratty

1:30 pm Maria Da Silva

MONDAY - St. John Neumann, Bishop

12:00pm Riley & Galindo Families

TUESDAY - Christmas Weekday/St. Andre Bessette, Religious

12:00pm Marilyn Lavender

WEDNESDAY - Christmas Weekday/St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

12:00pm Anne Montillo

THURSDAY - Christmas Weekday

12:00pm Joshua Bruce

FRIDAY - Christmas Weekday

12:00pm Lorenza & Julian Duran

SATURDAY - Christmas Weekday

9:00am Carmella Constantine

Anticipated Sunday Mass

5:00pm David Cuce

SUNDAY - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Thomas Robert Walsh

10:30 am Anne Montillo

12:00pm Pasquale Cedola

1:30 pm Carlos Christian Ruiz

CHRISTMAS MEGA 50/50 WINNER!

Congratulations to Rosemarie Vaccari, winners of our Christmas Mega 50/50. The parish raised \$5,000 in much needed funds! The winning ticket was #192

Thanks to all you participated. Special Thanks to Mike & Susan DeFrancesco for providing the tickets and for the technical support.



COME AND LISTEN

ARE YOU SUFFERING WITH NO ANSWER?
DO YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?
ARE YOU SEEKING HAPPINESS?

JESUS CHRIST IS LOOKING FOR YOU

**CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS
AND YOUTH (ages 12 & older)**

ONE WORD COULD
CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

Mondays & Thursdays
Starting Monday, January 12th
8:00pm in Parish Center Chapel
(former Convent)
Enter through the
parking lot entrance



SAVE THE DATE
Special Visitors
Coming To Our Parish
Sunday, January 4th
At 3:00 PM

The Three Kings will stop by our church on their way to adore the Christ Child on Sunday, January 4th at 3:00 PM. All are invited to come and greet them. The children of our parish family are encouraged to write letters to Kings and to give them to the kings when they visit and they will receive a gift from the kings.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

If you can donate any of these items, it would be greatly appreciated: Cereal, Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Pasta (including Spaghetti), Potatoes (small packages or canned), Vegetables, Coffee (regular and instant), Peanut Butter, and Jelly, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, Beans. Food items can be left near the shrine of the Sacred Heart in the back of the church. Thanks to all for the donations which help keep our food pantry stocked! **We would not be able to help our brothers and sisters struggling with food insecurity without you!**

As a reminder, we are unable to package out-of-date food products for distribution to our families.