

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Dec. 31 & Jan. 1	\$1,169
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MASS SCHEDULE

(L=Living, †=Deceased)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sat. Jan. 6	5:00 PM	For †Genoa Scott
Sun. Jan. 7	9:00 AM	For the Living and Deceased People of the Parish
Mon. Jan. 8	8:00 AM	For Mike Lemming (L)
Tue. Jan. 9	8:00 AM	For Corbin Musial (L)
Wed. Jan. 10	8:00 AM	For †Joseph Kordenbrock
Thur. Jan. 11	8:00 AM	For John Jackson (L) [Adoration & Confessions 6-7 PM]
Fri. Jan. 12	8:00 AM	For †Allen "A.J." Jones

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat. Jan. 13	5:00 PM	For the Living and Deceased People of the Parish
Sun. Jan. 14	9:00 AM	For †Marie Roth

PRAYER LIST—Jerry & Eileen Ehlman, Verna Payne, Kate & Colton Sherold, Emmitt Thomas, Jeff suffering from Meniere’s disease, Tony Bach, Mike and Bill Lemming, Dave Neuspickel, Bonita & Jim Happe, Andy Sper, Billie Huffman, Larry Slusher, Roger High, Cheryl Miller, Sherry Jackson, Sarah Gripshover, Jeanne Eanes, Bill Schneider (Dominion Assisted Living 4009 Siegalman Dr. Florence, KY. 41042 Room 215), Ree Wagner, Randy Goodhew, Patty Neuspickel’s son Jim, Alan Fields, Imogene Fisk, Larry Cappel, Sean Timmerding, Rodney Gurren, Maverick Orth (2 years old), Bill Edelbroich, Jim Wolfe, Steve Vaughn, and John Jackson.

BIRTHDAYS— Jan. 3-Karly Bach, Jan. 3-Christine Thorwarth, Jan. 4-Caedan Feinauer, Jan. 6-Trisha Moore, Jan. 8-Myra Cooper Jan. 10-Rachel Broering, Jan. 11-John Mills, Jan. 15-Linda Fryman, Jan. 20-Joe Bach, Jan. 23 -Tim Dickerson, Jan. 23-Jerry Ehlman, Jan. 29-Maybalee Miller.

ANNIVERSARY— Jan. 17-Mark and Jeanne Cooper, Jan. 17-Christine and Nathan Thorwarth,

Please send any requests for prayers or memorials to the parish email or call to make a request. If you birthday or anniversary is not listed, let Linda know.



SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Jacob Straub – Cell (859) 445-2436

Address: 13782 Decoursey Pike Morning View, KY 41063

Phone: (859) 356-6530

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Parish Email: stmatthew13782@gmail.com – Bulletin submissions by Fri. afternoon

Parish Website: stmatthewskenton.org

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays – 5:00 PM

Sundays – 9:00 AM

Weekdays – 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursdays 6-7:00 PM

Confession Times:

Saturdays – 4:00-4:50 PM

Sundays – 8:00-8:50 AM

Thursdays—6:00-6:50 PM

Parish Staff and Volunteers

Religious Education – Roseanne Rawe (859) 635-1572

Bulletin/Prayer List – Linda Fryman (859) 240-2377

Parish History/Cemetery Info – Patty Neuspickel (859) 472-2508

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7, 2024

KENTUCKY MARCH FOR LIFE—Join other Pro-Life Kentuckians on Tuesday, January 23 for the 2024 Kentucky March for Life & “Love them Both” Rally. The program will begin with Mass at Good Shepard Parish in Frankfort, followed by a rally at the State Capital. The event will end with a procession to the Cemetery of the Innocents in the historical Frankfort Cemetery. The Pro-Life office will be organizing buses that will leave from Northern Kentucky. If you are interested in traveling with other parishioners from the Diocese, please contact the Pro-Life Office for more information, 859-392-1500.

EPIPHANY WATER & CHALK—Fr. Straub has blessed Epiphany water and has made it available in the holy water dispenser. This is a special blessing for water which can only be done in connection to this particular feast. There is also blessed chalk and instruction sheets for blessing your homes available at the church entrance.

LECTOR— Jan. 7—Bill Funke, Jan. 14—Bernie Rawe

CLEANING—Dec. 31—Kathy and Wanda Bach, Jan. 14—Lisa and Jeanne Cooper



FROM THE PASTOR – THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI

We conclude the Christmas season this year with today’s celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord. The word *epiphany* comes from the Greek *epiphaneia* which means a “manifestation” or “appearance”. Eastern or Greek Catholics call this feast the Theophany, to specifically identify it as a divine appearance (*theophaneia* is the Greek for “appearance of a god”). The feast of the Epiphany is most notable for the appearance of the Magi or Three Wise Men or the Three Kings who make a journey to see the Christ Child.

Who are these Magi, especially when their appearance in the Gospels is quite short (they only appear in Matthew 2:1-12)? The *Catholic Bible Dictionary* defines the term in general as “Ancient wise men who were specialists in dream interpretation, astrology, and sometimes magic.” St. Matthew reveals to us in the Gospel that these Magi had seen a new star rising in the East and took it to mean the birth of a new king. They pursue the star which leads them to see the newborn King in Bethlehem and to offer him gifts.

It seems rather strange to us to hear of these offerings: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What is the significance of these gifts? Why should they be offered to such a Babe? The ancient Fathers of the Church, upon reflection and prayer over this passage, emphasize that there exists a hidden meaning or mystery to each of these gifts.

-Gold is the natural offering given to a king. A king deserves (and sometimes demands) a tribute as a sign of showing one’s fealty. To offer the newborn King the finest metal we can acquire demonstrates that He is the one to whom all allegiance belongs above anything on this earth.

-Frankincense is an item that has belonged almost exclusively in the west to worship. Incense has been (and continues to be) an essential element of divine worship, especially in the Church. To offer frankincense signifies the acceptance that this helpless Child is indeed God incarnate.

-Myrrh is another resin (along with incense) from the Middle East which is primarily used in burials. Its purpose is to help embalm the body in preparation for burial. To offer a newly-born Babe such a morbid item signifies that they understood that this Child lives to die on the Cross and rise again on the third day.

How wise these Magi are indeed to offer such symbolic and necessary gifts for Jesus to use in this life and unto eternity. Let us bring our own gifts of praise, adoration, and allegiance to the newborn King this day and each day of our lives. Let us grow in wisdom through the help of the Magi to seek the King and treasure Him all our days!

Fr. Jacob Straub

P.S. Thank you to everyone for your Christmas cards & gifts. I’m so grateful to be your pastor.