

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Dec. 20	\$532
Dec. 25	\$1,502
Dec. 27	\$542

Please do not forget to mail or drop off your weekly offerings for our collection.

MASS SCHEDULE

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sat. Jan. 2	5:00 PM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish
Sun. Jan. 3	9:00 AM	For Henrietta Zellerer
Mon. Jan. 4		No Public Mass
Tue. Jan. 5	8:30 AM	For Tom Klump
Wed Jan. 6	XXXXX	NO MASS THIS WEEK ONLY
Thur. Jan. 7	XXXXX	NO MASS THIS WEEK ONLY
Fri.. Jan. 8		No Public Mass

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sat. Jan. 9	5:00 PM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish
Sun. Jan. 10	9:00 AM	For Joseph Kordenbrock

Prayer List—Jerry Ehlman, Eileen Ehlman, Sherri Moffett, Kenny Neuspickel, Kathy Barth, Charles Taylor, Ed Gripshover, Joy Sowder, Kathy Proctor, Steve Elmlinger, Sarah Hoffman, Mary Louise Cross, Cotton Teegarden, Mike Newcomb, the family of Fr. Mario Tizziani, Jeffery Huffman, Ed Grant, Don Bornhorst, Tom Geiman, John Hofstetter, Vernon Dixon, Bill Schneider, Chris Rauf, Katie Davis, Barry Bergman, Andrew Lauck, Bradley Franzen, and everyone who has been touched by the Corona virus.

BIRTHDAYS – Dec. 29-Megan Oldiges, Dec. 30-Michael Ryan, Jan. 1-Mary Cross, Jan. 3-Christine Thorwarth, Jan. 4-Caedan Feinauer, Jan.5-Barb Dirkes, Jan. 15-Linda Fryman, Jan. 19-Justin Huffman, Jan. 20-Joe Bach, Jan. 23-Jerry Ehlman

ANNIVERSARIES – Jan. 17-Mark & Jeanne Cooper, Jan. 17-Nathan & Christine Thorwarth



SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

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

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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 – please check each week's schedule

Confession Times:

Saturdays – 4:00-4:50 PM

Sundays – 8:00-8:50 AM

Wed. 5:30-6:20 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 OUR LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLLECTION FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE JAN. 17- This collection supports Opportunities for Life, a statewide, non-profit organization founded by the four dioceses in Kentucky. This organization offers non-judgmental and confidential support to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies by helping them to recognize the many opportunities and resources that exist for those who choose life. Through a toll-free number (1-800-822-5824) that is available to callers 24 hours and seven days a week, consultants at Opportunities for Life help women find answers to many questions about abortion, pregnancy tests, STDs, adoption, parenting, medical referrals, housing, and other issues. For more information, see www.opportunitiesforlife.org. Please be as generous as you can.

MONTHLY COLLECTIONS FOR NEEDY-We will begin collecting monthly items for St. Vincent de Paul soon. They will be letting us know what is needed most and we will put out a bin in the gathering space once we take the Christmas decorations down. Thanks in advance for helping supply items for St. Vincent de Paul to distribute to local families.

FROM THE PRIEST – THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI

We continue in the Christmas season 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

