

# Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

January 5, 2020



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

OLP

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### WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am

10:00 am

Tuesday-Friday 8:20 am

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 pm

or by appointment

### MARIAN PRAYER GROUP

2nd-5th Tuesdays 7:00 pm

3525 SW Patton Rd. Portland, OR

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office hours, Mon-Fri 8-4

# The Epiphany of the Lord

## Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *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.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



Thank you to the Patton Guild for taking the lead on getting the church ready for Christmas! We loved seeing so many generations of parishioners working together to make everything so beautiful.



Neighborhood House operates the largest food pantry on Portland's west side and they need our help! They provide emergency food boxes to approximately 500 families. There is a wicker container in the church vestibule where you can share your donations of canned or boxed food. Some suggestions include peanut butter, tuna fish, jam, and honey.

Help us feed those in need!

### WorldWide MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Rejoice in your marriage. Attend the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. To find YOUR WWME Weekend go to [rediscoverthespark.org](http://rediscoverthespark.org). For information about WWME contact Ron & Hilarie Tesch at 503-704-0836 or by email [reservations@rediscoverthespark.org](mailto:reservations@rediscoverthespark.org)

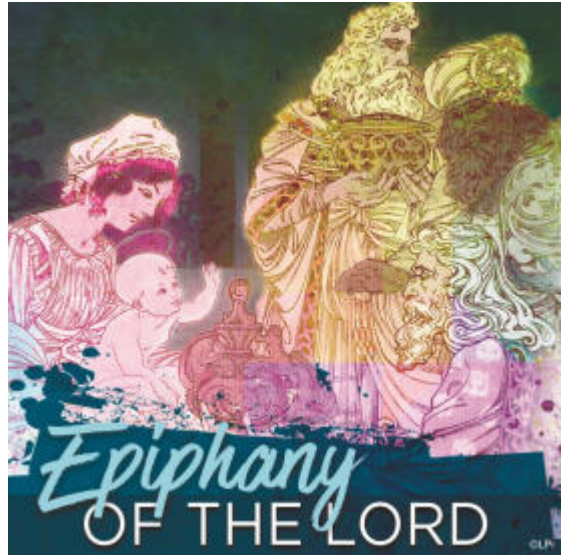
THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	FELLOWSHIP HOSTING																		
<p><b>Saturday, January 4th</b>            4:00 pm      Reconciliation            5:00 pm      Vigil Mass</p> <p><b>Sunday, January 5th</b>            8:00 am      Mass            10:00 am      Mass</p> <p><b>Monday, January 6th</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday, January 7th</b>            8:20 am      Daily Mass                            Julie &amp; Luke/Family</p> <p><b>Wednesday, January 8th</b>            8:20 am      Daily Mass                            Joe and Megan Flager</p> <p><b>Thursday, January 9th</b>            8:20 am      Daily Mass                            The Wildman Family</p> <p><b>Friday, January 10th</b>            8:20 am      Daily Mass                            Steven Sawyer</p> <p><b>Saturday, January 11th</b>            4:00 pm      Reconciliation            5:00 pm      Vigil Mass</p> <p><b>Sunday, January 12th</b>            8:00 am      Mass            10:00 am      Mass</p>	<p><b>Confirmation</b>            January 15th at 11:30 am            located in the Conference Room</p> <p><b>Family Religious Education</b>            January 15th at 9:00 am located in the 4th grade classroom</p> <p>Contact Margaret Schuster at            503-222-2055 or  <a href="mailto:mschuster@stmpdx.org">mschuster@stmpdx.org</a></p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1/4</td><td>6:00</td><td>Wine and Cheese</td></tr> <tr> <td>1/5</td><td>9:00</td><td>Patton Guild</td></tr> <tr> <td>1/5</td><td>11:00</td><td>Carolyn Harakal</td></tr> <tr> <td>1/11</td><td>6:00</td><td>Wine and Cheese</td></tr> <tr> <td>1/12</td><td>9:00</td><td>Bridlemile Guild</td></tr> <tr> <td>1/12</td><td>11:00</td><td><b>Volunteer Needed</b></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Toiletry Collection for the Homeless</b></p> <p>Fr. Jim Galluzzo and his team collect travel size toiletries to share with the homeless. Please drop your donations in the wicker basket in the church vestibule.</p> <p>For more information, contact Maureen at  <a href="mailto:neeruaam_1@yahoo.com">neeruaam_1@yahoo.com</a></p>	1/4	6:00	Wine and Cheese	1/5	9:00	Patton Guild	1/5	11:00	Carolyn Harakal	1/11	6:00	Wine and Cheese	1/12	9:00	Bridlemile Guild	1/12	11:00	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
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1/12	11:00	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>																		
	<p><b><u>Sign up Now for e-Giving!</u></b></p> <p>We have partnered with Faith Direct to make supporting STM more convenient, reliable and easy! Enroll at <a href="http://faithdirect.net">faithdirect.net</a> and use the code OR915. There is also a mobile app for easy tracking and on-the-go giving! Questions about e-Giving? Contact Annette Berent in the STM Business Office.</p>																			



## The Epiphany of the Lord Spiritual Reflection

I remember it like it was yesterday: I was sitting in a college conference room with about 250 other young people for a week-long summer retreat. Each day, the staff had put on a comedic skit that had a recurring set of characters: they were pirates in search of their treasure. With each episode, these young adults, dressed in outlandish costumes, acted the part of wandering pirates who find their treasure. In their excitement, they bring their find to the captain and are excited to open up the box to show him what they've found: gold, fame and popularity, wealth and security. The captain deciphers that what was presented is not the treasure they were looking for.

But on the fourth day, when the pirates open their treasure before the captain, they held up a large wooden crucifix! The worship team was cued in at just the right moment: this was the greatest treasure to behold! After 21 years of growing up Catholic, I had finally found the treasure of the crucified Jesus who died on the cross for me. I sang my heart out like never before! I got it ... or so I thought. Fast forward 25 years. This notion of "finding the treasure" has been a key element in my spiritual journey ... probably yours, too. But somewhere along the way, something changed. It went from trying to find the treasure "out there" to trying to find the treasure "in here" — meaning, in my heart. I have often reflected on the gifts that the magi brought to the Christ Child. They probably had been looking for this Christ Child longer than I have! And as soon as they got an inkling that their lifelong search might not have been an extended effort in futility, they set out on their journey across the desert. In essence, they brought the very best of what they have — their years of dedicated study and research and gifts befitting the long-awaited Messiah — to give to the infant. But oftentimes, the very best of what I have to offer this same Christ Child is not always noteworthy. Instead of gold to offer a king, I have aspirations of self-promotion at the expense of others. Instead of frankincense to offer the priest, I have the selfishness of appeasing my desire for pleasure and comfort. Instead of myrrh to offer the prophet, I have negative and sarcastic speech and thought patterns. None of these seem appropriate for the baby.



The consumerist in me thinks that I need to find a great online sale for the perfect gift for that special someone. The humanist in me thinks that I have to attend the best Christmas party where the food and merriment are in abundance. The skeptic in me wants to live vicariously through someone else's journey instead of going on the journey myself — kind of like King Herod. These seem more appropriate gifts to give, right? In reality, while I know that my treasure chest (my heart) is not ideal, it is what I have. I wish it were another way, but it is not. I am reminded that Jesus' birth is part of a divine plan of redemption, or as St. Athanasius describes it, the rebirth and recreation of the soul in the image of God ("On the Incarnation," 14). In one sense, the warped treasure chest that I have is the initial reason that there's a Christ Child in the first place! There's a marvelous exchange about to happen. If I can only learn to open my treasure chest to this Child, I can receive more than I offer: my tattered human life for his unfathomable divine life! It can sound like religious rhetoric that so many of us have heard time and again. It all sounds too good to be true ... until that "aha!" moment when you suddenly realize in your heart what your ears have heard for years: this helpless and innocent infant is the King, the fulfillment of all our human desires and aspirations. Then, worship is the only proper response ... just like the magi who opened their treasures and did him homage.

*Br. John-Marmion Villa, BSC LPI*

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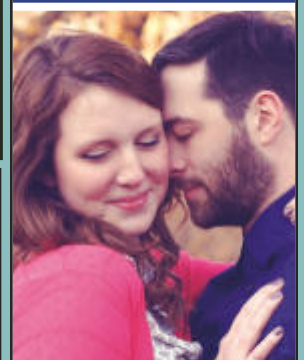
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