



**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
**01/02/2021 - 01/10/2021**  
*Welcome to Mater Dei Parish!*  
*Happy New Year!*



**DAILY & WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**DAILY MASSES**

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY:  
 9:00 AM, & 4:00 PM & SATURDAY  
 MORNING AT 9:00 AM. ALL MASSES  
 ARE AT ST. MARY'S. THERE WILL BE  
NO NOON MASS AT ST. MARY'S  
DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY.

**MASS IS ALSO CELEBRATED EACH  
 FRIDAY AT ST. JAMES AT 4:00 PM**

**WEEKEND MASSES**

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM @ ST. MARY'S  
 5:30 PM @ ST. BENEDICT'S  
SUNDAY: 8:30 AM @ ST. EDWARD'S  
 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM @ ST. MARY'S  
 10:30 AM @ ST. JAMES



**Thank You for Your Generosity to  
 our Mater Dei Parish Churches**

*Week of December 20, 2020*



Envelopes: **\$15,051.00**  
 Loose: **\$ 4,237.85**  
 Online: **\$ 399.00**  
**TOTAL: \$19,687.85**  
 Christmas: **\$11,801.85**

Christmas Collections

2020	2019	2018	2017
\$11,801	\$7,385	\$10,229	\$7,865

There is a special collection next weekend for Insurance. Please be as generous as possible.



**Keep Them in Your Prayers**

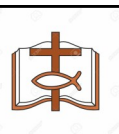
**Fr. Curtis Miller**, Pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Barton, has been suffering from a "non-Covid"

illness and must recuperate and rest during the month of January. The Bishop has asked our Mater Dei Priests to cover Masses at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church in Orleans, St. John Vianney Church in Irasburg and Church of the Conversion of St. Paul in Barton during Fr. Curtis' absence. Please keep Fr. Miller in your prayers for a speedy recovery and our Vocationist Fathers as they take on this added responsibility.

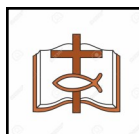
*Christ Our Hope:  
 Building A Vibrant Church*

From our 700 parish families, Mater Dei has received **89 gifts** totaling **\$128,127**, which is **27%** of our parish goal.

Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated to the campaign. If you have not yet contributed, please prayerfully consider how you can help. Every gift makes a difference. Your sacrifice will help us build a vibrant parish now and well into the future.



**RCIA CONTINUES  
 THIS WEEK ON  
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 5TH  
 RITE OF CHRISTIAN  
 INITIATION FOR ADULTS**



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BEGIN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR CATHOLIC FAITH, PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, HOLY COMMUNION OR CONFIRMATION, OR STARTING THE FORMAL PROCESS OF JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

CLASSES ARE HELD EVERY OTHER TUESDAY.

THE NEXT RCIA CLASS WILL BE;

**WHEN: JANUARY 5, 2021**

**TIME: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**WHERE: ST. MARY'S RECTORY**

**TOPIC: MARY AND THE SAINTS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL DEACON WARD NOLAN AT (802) 624-4964 OR EMAIL NEKDEACON@GMAIL.COM

**Mater Dei Parish and Estate Planning**

Are you thinking about the future and planning your estate?

Why not consider making Mater Dei Parish a beneficiary of your will?

You can designate which one of our parish churches you would like your gift to go to, and even earmark your contribution for a specific project or project. Our needs are many and we rely on the generosity of our wonderful parishioners to meet these needs. Please keep Mater Dei Parish in your prayers as you make these important decisions. Thank you for your continued support of our Parish.



**Update about Fr. Tom**

After Fr. Tom anointed a parishioner who was suffering from Covid, he quarantined for two weeks at St. Edward's Rectory. He had a negative Covid test and was able to rejoin us in time for Christmas! Thank you for your prayers.

*Please pray for the repose of the soul of † Irene Rose St. Laurent and for her grieving family.*





### God's glory continues to shine in our world.

Where do you need to carry the light of Christ? Consider consecrating your life to God and becoming a light for the world. If you think God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. James Dodson, Director of Vocations, at the Vocations Office at **(802) 658-6110, X 2275** or visit **vocations@vermontcatholic.org** for more information.

### VOCATIONIST'S CORNER



Important January Ordination Dates:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Fr. Benny's 10th Anniversary
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Fr. Antony's 30th Anniversary
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Fr. Thomas Naduviledath's 13th Anniversary



### The Gifts of the Magi

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah, before telling us the Good News, notes the opposite spiritual truth: that "darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples." "But," he continues - and this "but" makes all the difference - "upon you (Jerusalem) the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory." Isaiah wrote this after the defeat and exile of God's people (the darkness). But now His people are back home and the Temple of God has been rebuilt (the light, glory).

But wait - we realize that Isaiah isn't speaking to literal Jerusalem. Rather, he is prophesying to the then-future Messiah, addressing the capital city Jerusalem, the city of the great kings, as a figure of speech to speak to Jesus: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you." Isaiah peers into the future and sees Christ: "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance." "All from Sheba will come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord."

In the second reading, St. Paul explains something that God had not made known until then, but now "was made known by revelation." This new surprise from God is that He includes in his covenant, not only His ancient people the Israelites, but also us Gentiles (that is, all who are from other nations) who are "co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus". What a gift! Without it, we Gentiles would be lost.

Today's Gospel reading begins with the urgent question posed by the Magi, who were Gentiles: "Where is the newborn King of the Jews?" "Magi" were members of the elite and educated class in several eastern lands, often professionals, rulers, and kings. These Magi had traveled from an unnamed country because they knew that a great king had been born in Judah. Judah's reigning king at the time was Herod, who had been enthroned illegally by the Roman Empire to be their puppet. When King Herod learned of the Magi's arrival and the purpose of their search, he was "greatly troubled" to say the least, and so were many of the citizens, at the prospect of a rival king. Thus continues the ages-long tendency of the powerful, even the powerful of Jesus' own country, to oppose God. It was Gentiles, not Israelites, who were the first to recognize publicly that this new-born child was the King of the Jews, the one who had been awaited for centuries, and who was the hope of the world. They had come to pay him homage by offering him the precious gifts of their trade that Isaiah had prophesied: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. If they had then reported back to Herod, as they had been asked to do, then Herod could have easily executed Jesus. But the Magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. So these foreign kings frustrated the illegal king in order to protect the Eternal King, by departing for their country by another route.

### www.materdeivermont.com

Log in to our **new & improved Parish Website** to keep up with upcoming parish events & happenings at Mater Dei.

Google: **materdeivermont.com**

You will find daily Mass streamed online at 9:00 am, opportunities to pray the Rosary and participate in Bible study, blogs by Fred Barker and Deacon Ward, daily messages from Fr. Rijo, the Mater Dei You Tube channel, and so much more!!!

You won't believe all the parish news, pictures & videos, along with info from the diocese you will find!



### Adoration and Holy Mass at St. James

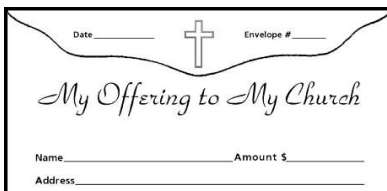
Adoration has now begun at St. James each Friday at 3:00 pm followed by the celebration of Holy Mass at 4:00 pm.

All are welcome to join us.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR VARIOUS CHRISTMAS INITIATIVES AT ALL OUR PARISH CHURCHES. YOUR GENEROSITY HELPED TO MAKE CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER FOR OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND NORTHEAST KINGDOM CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES.



### 2021 Church Envelopes Have Arrived!



You will find the 2021 church envelopes by the doors of each Church. If you are unable to find your envelopes where you

usually attend Mass, please add your name to list next to the boxes of envelopes and call the parish office at (802) 334-5066 and we will track them down for you.

Thank you for your continued generosity to Mater Dei Parish.

*Oh Come, Let us Adore Him!*