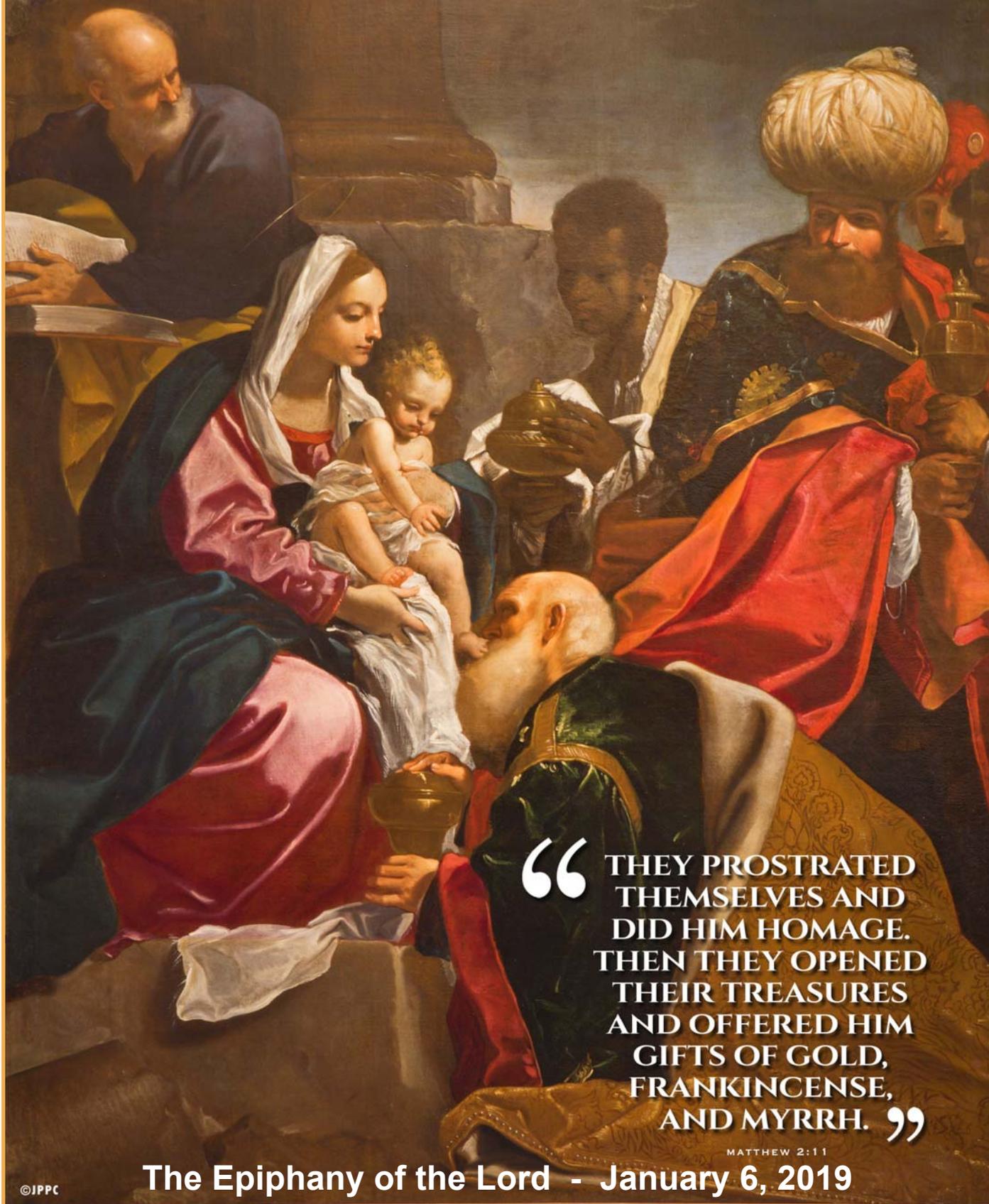


# ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Roman Catholic Church



“ THEY PROSTRATED  
THEMSELVES AND  
DID HIM HOMAGE.  
THEN THEY OPENED  
THEIR TREASURES  
AND OFFERED HIM  
GIFTS OF GOLD,  
FRANKINCENSE,  
AND MYRRH. ”

MATTHEW 2:11

The Epiphany of the Lord - January 6, 2019

## SEEING THE STAR

*From Pope Francis' address for the Feast of the Epiphany given in St. Peter's Square on Wednesday, 6 January 2016.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Good morning! In today's Gospel, the narrative of the Magi coming from the East to Bethlehem to adore the Messiah, conveys a breath of universality to the Feast of the Epiphany. This is the breath of the Church which wants all peoples of the earth to be able to encounter Jesus, to experience his merciful love. This is the desire of the Church: that peoples may find Jesus' mercy, his love. Christ is newly born, he does not yet know how to speak, and already people — represented by the Magi — can meet him, recognize him, worship him. The Wise Men stated: "we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him" (Mt 2:2). Herod heard this as soon as the Magi arrived in Jerusalem.

These Wise Men were prestigious men, of a distant religion and different culture, and they were on their way to the land of Israel to worship the newborn king. The Church has always seen in them the image of humanity as a whole, and with today's celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany, the Church almost tries to direct, respectfully, each man and each woman of this world to the Child who is born for the salvation of all.

On Christmas Eve Jesus manifested himself to shepherds, humble and scorned men — some say brigands. They were the first to bring a little warmth to that gelid cave in Bethlehem. Then the Magi arrived from faraway lands. They too were mysteriously drawn by that Child. The shepherds and the Wise Men were very different from each other; however, they had one thing in common: heaven. The shepherds of Bethlehem immediately hastened to see Jesus, not because they were particularly good, but because they kept watch in the night and, raising their eyes to heaven, they saw

a sign, they heard its message and followed it. It was the same for the Magi: they observed the heavens, saw a new star, interpreted the sign, and set out on their journey, from afar.

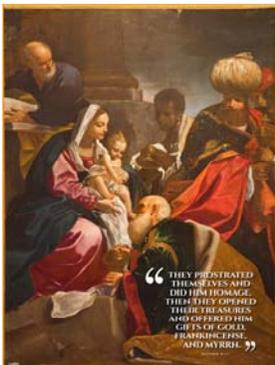
The shepherds and the Wise Men teach us that in order to encounter Jesus it is necessary to be able to lift our gaze to heaven, not to withdraw into ourselves, into our own selfishness, but to have our heart and mind open to the horizons of God, who always surprises us, to be able to welcome his messages and respond with readiness and generosity.

When the Magi, the Gospel says, "saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly" (Mt 2:10). For us too, there is great comfort in seeing the star, in other words in feeling guided and not abandoned to our fate. The star is the Gospel, the Word of the Lord, as the Psalm states: "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (119[118]:105). This light guides us to Christ. Without listening to the Gospel, it is impossible to encounter him! The Wise Men, indeed, by following the star arrived at the place where they found Jesus. Here "they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him" (Mt 2:11).

The experience of the Magi exhorts us not to be satisfied with mediocrity, not to "cut corners", but to seek the meaning of things, to fervently explore the great mystery of life. It teaches us not to be scandalized by smallness and poverty but to recognize majesty in humility, and to be able to kneel before it.

May the Virgin Mary, who welcomed the Wise Men in Bethlehem, help us to lift our gaze from ourselves, to allow ourselves to be guided by the star of the Gospel in order to encounter Jesus, and to be able to humble ourselves to adore him. In this way we will be able to bring to others a ray of his light, and to share with them the joy of the journey.

Source: jpcnet



### The Epiphany of the Lord

Epiphany is a festival principally solemnized in honor of the discovery Jesus Christ made of himself to the Magi, or wise men; who, soon after his birth, by a particular inspiration of Almighty God, came to adore him and bring him presents. Two other manifestations of our Lord are jointly commemorated on this day in the office of the church: that of his baptism, when the Holy Ghost descended on him in the visible form of a dove, and a voice from heaven was heard at the same time: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The third manifestation was that of his divine power at the performance of his first miracle, the changing of water into wine, at the marriage at Cana, "by which he manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him." Upon so many accounts ought this festival to challenge a more than ordinary regard and veneration; but from none more than us Gentiles, who, in the persons of the wise men, our first-fruits and forerunners, were on this day called to the faith and worship of the true God. (Source: ewtn.com)

**Your Parish Office Is Open:  
Monday-Friday: 9 am-3 pm  
www.ststthomasjoseph.com**

**Pastor:** Rev. Rees Doughty  
frdoughty@stt-stj.com

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. John Kwaku Sah

**Weekend Assistant:** Rev. Robert Phelps

**Deacons:** Leonard Farmer, Anthony Ferraiuolo,  
John Hanley, Joseph Lieby, John Pelella

**Parish Office**

845.534.2547 · office@stt-stj.com · FAX 845.534.1357

**Faith Formation Office**

845.534.9393 · reled@stt-stj.com

Faith Formation Coordinators:

Anmarie O'Connor and Mary Ellen Tiernan

**RCIA/T**

845.661.8586 · metiernan@stt-stj.com

Coordinator: Mary Ellen Tiernan

**St. Thomas Church**

340 Hudson St., Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12520

**Sunday Masses**

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

**Weekday:** Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am

**Confession**

Saturday: 9-9:45 am (or by appointment)

**Miraculous Medal Novena**

Monday after 8:30 am Mass

**Rosary:** Monday-Saturday after 8:30 am Mass

**St. Joseph Church**

4 Saint Joseph's Pl., New Windsor, NY 12553

**Sunday Mass**

Sunday: 12:30 pm

**Weekday:** Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass

**Confession:** Wednesday, 6-6:30 pm

**Adoration:** Wednesday, 5:30 pm

**Our Monthly Fellowship**

**Breakfast** is Sunday, January 6, after the 9 am Mass at St. Thomas. Come have a donut and coffee and meet your fellow parishioners!



**New Altar Servers Training.** If your child is 10 years old, in 4th grade or older, and wants to serve on the altar, training will be Tuesday evenings starting January 22, 7-8:30. If interested, send Gene Fenton an email at genefenton44@gmail.com. All children must be accompanied by a parent to the practices.

Our **Food Pantry** is in need of paper goods, toilet tissue, laundry detergent, jarred sauce, peanut butter, jam/jelly, coffee, cereal, syrup, hot cereal. Thank you for your continued support!



**Reminder: Faith Formation Classes** for children begin in First Grade. Registration for all 2019/20 classes will begin in April 2019. For more information, contact Anmarie O'Connor at reled@stt-stj.com, or 845.534.9393; or contact Mary Ellen Tiernan at metiernan@stt-stj.com. Information about classes (including a video on Family Formation) is also available on the parish website (ststthomasjoseph.com).

**Calendars for our 2018/19 Faith Formation Classes** are on the parish website under the "Ministries" tab. Upcoming Classes: **January 12:** Reconciliation Parent/Student Workshop 12-2 pm (for students receiving First Holy Communion in April/May); **January 13:** Family Faith Formation, 10-11 am.

**OFFERTORY**

**Dec. 22/23:** \$8,334.30

**Online Giving (Dec 17-23):** \$862.90

**Christmas Flowers:** \$238.00

**Shrines:** \$216.84

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of the parish! Please consider Online Giving for your donations. It is safe and secure and you decide when your gift is made, for how much, and for which collection. Visit the "News/Events" tab at ststthomasjoseph.com, and click on "My Own Church" for more information.

**Stay Involved By Staying Informed!** Visit ststthomasjoseph.com (the Parish website) for information about joining: STAR Youth Group; Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas; Knights of Columbus, Council 7460; Catholic Daughters of Americas, Court Rita #264; and our Mothers' Prayer Group. Another great way to stay informed is to sign up for **Flocknotes** using your cell number or email at the parish website (ststthomasjoseph.com).

**Got Ink Cartridges?!** The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Rita #264 Ink Cartridge Recycling Program takes place January 6-February 10. Recycling boxes will be available on Saturdays and Sundays, Faith Formation classes, and Fellowship Breakfasts.

There are several National Catholic Daughters of the Americas **Scholarships available:** \$1,000 to an 8th grade student entering a Catholic High School in 9th grade in Fall 2019; \$1,000 to a JCDA member entering college in Fall 2019; \$2,000 to a member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Campus Court; \$2,500 Fr. Leonard Bachmann Graduate School Scholarship. For more information, call Rose at 845.534.9245.

# ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH

St. Andre Bessette (1845-1937)

Feast Day: January 6

Patron Saint of Hurting Hearts

*“When you say to God, Our Father,  
he has his ear right next to your lips.”*

Blessed Andre was born near Quebec, and entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross as a Brother. He performed humble tasks for over forty years and entrusted all of the poor and sick who flocked to his cell to the care of St. Joseph. During his life he was able to have a chapel built to the spouse of the Virgin Mary. After his death, the shrine grew into the great basilica known as St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. (Source: catholicculture.org)



**The Catholic Faith. On Demand!** Visit [formed.org](http://formed.org), and enter the St. Thomas/St. Joseph parish code: FHHFCV to gain FREE access to thousands of movies, video programs, audios, and ebooks.



Founded by a young parish priest now on the path to sainthood, the **Knights of Columbus** has helped strengthen men, their families, their parishes, and their communities since 1882. Today, there are more than 1.9 million members of the K of C doing good across the world. For information about joining our Council 7460, contact Grand Knight Peter McGovern at [kofc7460@gmail.com](mailto:kofc7460@gmail.com), or visit the Council's website, [cornwallkofc.org](http://cornwallkofc.org) or Facebook page.

**Touring Tuesdays** in the Archdiocese of New York are universal open houses scheduled during the school day so that prospective families may see Catholic schools in action. At each school, Parent Ambassadors are on hand to greet parents and potential students and share their firsthand experiences. Upcoming Touring Tuesday Events for 2019 will be held 9-11 am on January 8, January 29, February 12, March 5, March 19, and April 9. To schedule an appointment or for an alternate date, visit [CatholicSchoolsNY.org](http://CatholicSchoolsNY.org).

From the **Archdiocese of New York on Child Protection**: Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P.: 212.371.1000, x2949, [victimassistance@archny.org](mailto:victimassistance@archny.org). More information is available at [archny.org](http://archny.org).

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Mon, Jan 7: St. Raymond of Penafort**

8:30 am +Claudia Cullen by Kathy Kissel;  
+Pedro Antonio Torres by Diana Tutini and family

**Tues, Jan 8**

8:30 am +William Young by Kelly family;  
+Pedro Antonio Torres by Dominick Nisi

**Wed, Jan 9**

8:30 am +Anne Greehy by John Greehy  
6:30 pm +Jerry Kucker by George Whittaker

**Thurs, Jan 10**

8:30 am +Joan Donlan by Michael and Teresa Early

**Fri, Jan 11**

8:30 am +Miltha Ferraiolo; Dimitrios Papageorgiou  
by Diana Tutini and family

**Sat, Jan 12**

8:30 am Intentions of the Bywater Family  
4:30 pm +Rachel Accilli by Joe Seeley;  
+Jeanne Farnan by William Grace

**Sun, Jan 13: The Baptism of the Lord**

7:30 am +Lillian Toffler by Kathy Kissel  
9:00 am +Theodore Beahm by Philip and Julia Flotard;  
+Rachel Accilli by John and Judy Carnright

11:00 am Pro Populo

12:30 pm +John Soricelli by Carol Soricelli

ALL Masses  
are celebrated at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church,  
except for the Sunday, 12:30 pm Mass  
and the Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass,  
which are celebrated at St. Joseph Church.

*Pro Populo (For the Intentions of the People of the Parish)*

*Mass Intentions are scheduled through the Parish Office. Offering for an announced Intention is \$15. Up to two separate intentions will be accepted at the Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm and the Sunday 9 am Mass. The Sunday 11 am Mass intention will only be designated "Pro Populo".*