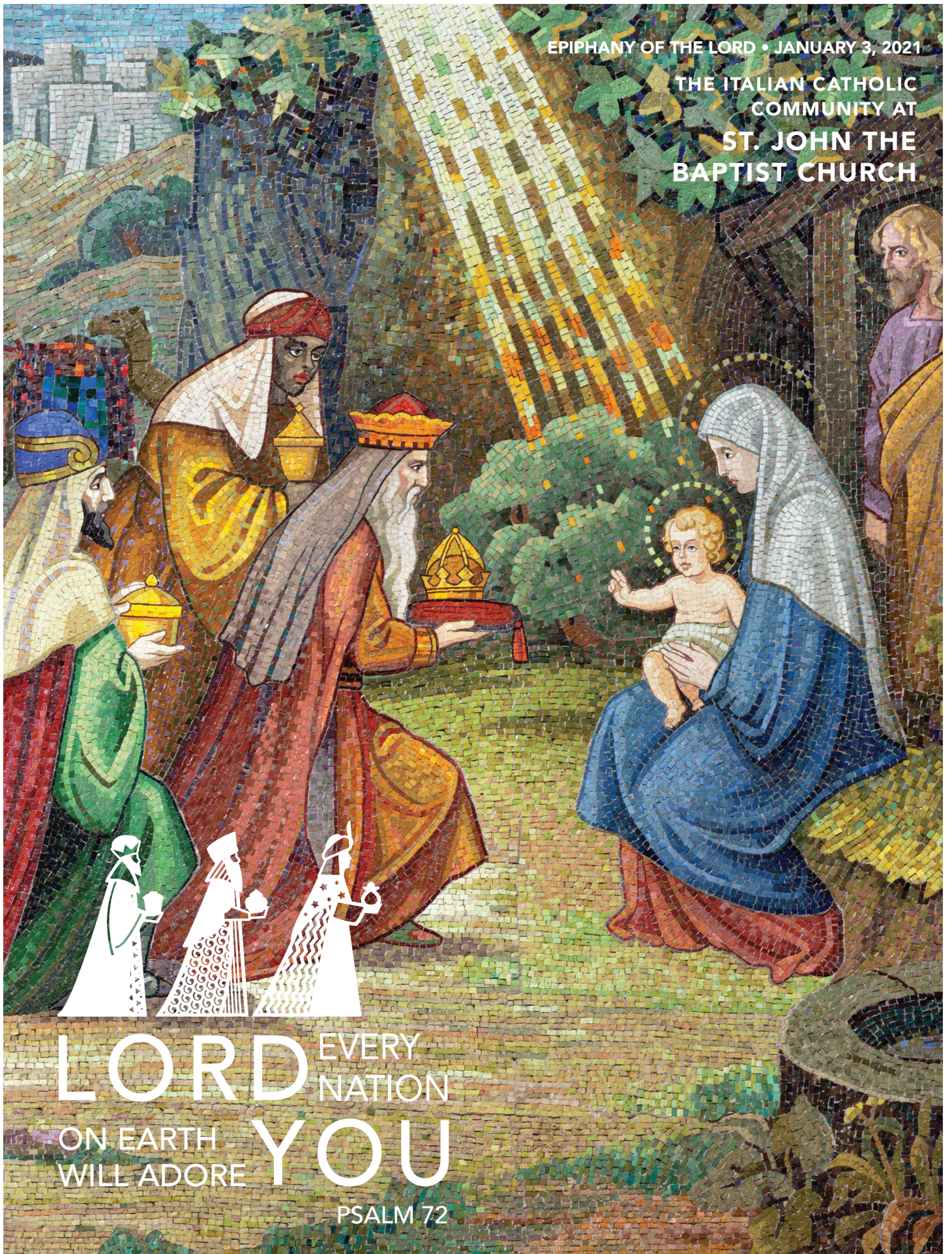


EPIPHANY OF THE LORD • JANUARY 3, 2021

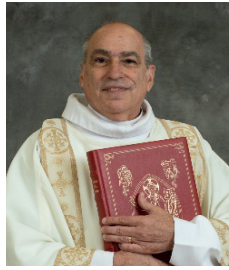
THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY AT  
ST. JOHN THE  
BAPTIST CHURCH



LORD EVERY  
ON EARTH WILL ADORE YOU NATION  
PSALM 72

**From the Deacon's Desk**

*Dear friends in Christ,*



There is an old, "corny" joke that some of you may have heard. A man hears only part of the **Epiphany** story that we will hear today in our Gospel. This part relates to just where the three **Magi** came from. "**Wow,**" says he, "**they must have been coughing a lot – probably smelled like smoke, too.**" "**Hmmm, why is that?**" asks a friend. "**Because we are told in the story that they came from a-far!**" – Get it – **A FIRE** ☺!

Now, of course, we know the **whole** story. It is not about only where the **three Wise Men** came from in the story. The **Magi** coming from the east represents the manifestation that the newborn child came for everyone – not just the **Jewish** people. However, these **Three Kings** bring strange, yet critically significant, gifts to the newborn child, the **Son of God**. They gave gifts that seem unusual to us, except maybe that first gift, one that has been coveted through the ages: **GOLD** – a natural gift for a king. The other **two** gifts are **FRANKINCENSE** – signifying divinity and **MYRRH** – signifying redemptive suffering. Both gifts figure predominantly in our salvation story.

As with the **Magi**, the light from the divine star still leads us to pay homage to **Jesus**. The gift we bring to **Jesus**, the gift He wants most from us, is our personal, loving relationship with Him. The **Magi** present their gifts and then go away. The shepherds pay **Jesus** a visit, and then go away. May we pay **Jesus** a visit, give Him our best gifts, and then take **Jesus** with us wherever we go.

**Saint John the Baptist pray for us,  
Have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year  
Deacon Frank**

Dear **St. John Parishioners** join me periodically on **St. Brigid of Kildare Parish** livestream. If you missed it, the videos are available at **St. Brigid YouTube channel** and **St. Brigid of Kildare Facebook page**.

**Celebrant for Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass,  
January 10, 2021  
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord  
Fr. Klingner**

**Confessions Heard before Mass  
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Sunday, January 3, 2021, 9:30 a.m.	
<b>Lector:</b>	Krissy Ciacchi
<b>Euch. Min.:</b>	Albert Iosue
Sunday, January 10, 2021, 9:30 a.m.	
<b>Lector:</b>	Davide Cugini
<b>Euch. Min.:</b>	Pat Rossetti

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**  
**Marian Lights:** *Joyce Tisone*  
 by Carl Tisone  
**Blessed Sacrament:** *Lucian Susi*  
 by Chris Soteriades

**PARISH INFORMATION**

*The Italian Catholic Community at St. John the Baptist  
 Corner of E. Lincoln and Hamlet Streets  
 Church Mailing Address: 168 E. Lincoln Street,  
 Columbus, Ohio 43215 • (614) 294-5319, Fax: (614) 294-4303*

*Livestream our 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on our  
 St. John the Baptist Facebook page or by visiting our  
 website [www.sjbitaliana.com](http://www.sjbitaliana.com)*

*Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
 Website: [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org)*

- Deacon Frank Iannarino** – Administrator
- Msgr. John Cody** – Weekend Assistant
- Father Charles Klingner** – Weekend Assistant
- Father Charles Cotton** – Weekend Assistant
- Father Antonio Kim** – Chaplain,  
*Korean Catholic Community*
- Ms. Aggie Howard** – Executive Assistant
- Ms. Victoria Gammell** – Secretary and Bulletin Editor
- Mrs. Gina Bishop** – Director of Liturgy
- Mr. John Huffman** – Organist and Musical consultant

**Holy Sacrifice of the Mass** – 9:30 a.m. each Sunday  
**Sacrament of Penance** – 9:00 a.m. (before Sunday Mass or by appointment)

**Sacrament of Baptism and Baptism preparation** (by appointment)

**Sacrament of Matrimony** (you must be registered at **Saint John** at least 6 months prior to scheduling your wedding by Deacon or Priest)

**Sacrament of Confirmation and Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults** (please make an appointment with Parish Administrator)

**Saint John Italian Festival** (please visit our website for more information)

**Sala Hall and Marrapese Hall** (scheduled with approval of Parish Administrator)

**Bulletin Deadline:** Announcements must be submitted in writing by **Tuesday at noon**.

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Sun. 1/3	9:30 a.m.	Carolyn Panzera by Sam & Donna Troiano
Sun. 1/3	9:30 a.m.	Cesidio & Gaetana Capoccia by Family & Friends
Sun. 1/10	9:30 a.m.	Joe Agriesti by Marie Spada Johnson
Sun. 1/10	9:30 a.m.	Gerardo Cugini by Marilena Cugini & Family

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARISH REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE**

Catholic Churches	Saturday	Sunday
St. Patrick's	7:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Church	4:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral	5:15 p.m.	8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m.
St. Mary Mother of God GV	4:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
St. Francis Assisi	No Mass	9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Sun. 1/3	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim, 12:00 p.m. 1:00-2:30 p.m. Meeting in Sala Hall
Fri. 1/8	KCC Mass Fr. Kim 7:00 p.m., SJB – Church

**2021 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings**

January 3 – *Epiphany of the Lord*  
Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

January 4 – *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*  
1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

January 5 – *Saint John Neumann, Bishop*  
1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44

January 6 – *Christmas Weekday*  
*Saint Andre Bessette, Religious*  
1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52

January 7 – *Christmas Weekday*  
*Saint Raymond of Penafort, Priest*  
1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22

January 8 – *Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16

January 9 – *Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30

January 10 – *Baptism of the Lord*  
Is 55:1-11/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

*\*Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated religious life.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL  
AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS\*\***

**\*\*If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input. For Vienna D’Alberto, who is residing at the Worthington Christian Village. Also, keep in your prayers Maria Lucchin, Laura Williams, and James Graf.**

**The Rosary before Mass on Sunday:** We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact the Men’s Faith Sharing group. We need a volunteer to help schedule the Rosary for each month. If you would like to volunteer to lead the Rosary, contact the office at 614-294-5319 for more information.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN**

December 20, 2020

Number of Envelopes Used Sunday – 25

Env.:	\$ 4,335.00
EFT:	\$ 1,298.33
Loose:	\$ 240.00
Holy Day:	\$ 95.00
Total:	\$ 5,968.33
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (358.10)
	\$ 5,610.23
Votive:	\$ 63.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$ 40.00
Total:	\$ 103.00

**?? \$ ?HOW IS ST. JOHN DOING? \$ ? \$ ?**

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/20-6/30/21)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 5,968.33	\$ 3,083.33	107%
FYTD:	\$72,125.00	\$69,097.08	(\$3,027.92)	-9%

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN**

December 27, 2020

Number of Envelopes Used Sunday – 43

Env.:	\$ 2,855.00
Loose:	\$ 176.00
Holy Day:	\$ 665.00
Total:	\$ 3,696.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (221.76)
	\$ 3,474.24
Votive:	\$ 37.00
Catholic Community Campaign:	\$ 10.00
Catholic Home Missions:	\$ 20.00
Diocesan Charities:	\$ 95.00
St. Anthony Bread:	\$ 22.00
Capital Improvements:	\$ 2.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$ 10.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 30.00
Total:	\$ 226.00

**?? \$ ?HOW IS ST. JOHN DOING? \$ ? \$ ?**

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/20-6/30/21)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 3,696.00	\$ 811.00	28%
FYTD:	\$75,010.00	\$72,793.08	(\$2,216.92)	-3%

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, January 4, 2021**

Maruja Paule and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, January 11, 2021**

Nick Perschetti and Aggie Howard

**PAVERS:** The front Pavilion of St. John’s Church is covered with Pavers. These Pavers are available for purchase and engraving in remembrance of family members and loved ones. For more information, please call the office of St. John’s at 614-294-5319.

.....  
: Thank you!  
: Thank you to Tony Tiberi and Maeder Quint Funeral Home  
: for donating our 2021 calendars both in Italian and English.  
: Please pick up your calendar after Mass each week or  
: contact the office (614-294-5319) to have one sent by mail.  
: .....



Thank you to all St. John parishioners who sponsored Christmas Flowers this Christmas Season!

**COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS –**

**ANSWERING PARISHIONER CONCERNS:**

In this week’s bulletin is an insert article regarding COVID-19 Vaccines and answering Parishioner concerns. For more information regarding these topics, please go to the following website links:

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e3ada1a6a2e8d6a131d1dcd/t/5fd3ce39e679895094dd1e49/1607716409962/NCBCVaccineStatementFINAL.pdf>,

The Ohio Catholic Conference <https://www.ohiocathconf.org/Portals/1/Bishop%20Statements/Ohio-Bishops-vaccine.pdf?ver=y7OHNpTaGQcG9qd-MaKqhQ%3d%3d>,

Making Sense of Bioethics <https://columbuscatholic.org/making-sense-out-of-bionetics>.

## AROUND US

**Liturgical Calendar:** The month of **January** is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**, which is celebrated on **January 3**. The first ten days of **January** fall during the liturgical season known as **Christmas**, which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remaining days of **January** are the beginning of **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and **Masses of Ordinary Time**.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of January 2021:**  
*May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.*

**Local Funds for Hunger Programs: Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl** grants are still available for pantries and schools providing food during the **COVID-19** pandemic. During the pandemic, the **Office for Social Concerns** distributed more than **\$90,000.00** in local **Rice Bowl** funds to help those in need in the **Diocese**. For the application, visit <https://columbuscatholic.org/catholic-relief-services>; ignore the deadline date and amount restrictions. For more information, contact **Erin Cordle** at **614-570-2950** (cell) or email her. Applications should be sent to [ecordle@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:ecordle@columbuscatholic.org).

**Season of Hope Monthly Themes: Seek Direct Service and Patience.** In order to overcome what **Bishop Brennan** calls a poverty of hope that is now experienced by many of our brothers and sisters, the **Diocesan HOPE Task Force** has developed a **bulletin insert** and **homily helps** on the themes of seeking direct service and patience. The homily helps has a special focus on addiction. For additional resources, visit [www.columbuscatholic.org/season-of-hope](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/season-of-hope).

**January 22, 2021: Respect Life Mass:** The annual **Respect Life Mass** will be **Friday, January 22, 2021, 10:30 a.m.** at **St. Joseph Cathedral**. On this day of the anniversary of the **U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade**, our diocese will join all dioceses of the **United States** in observing a **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. The **Mass** will be livestreamed on the **Diocese of Columbus YouTube Channel**. For more information, contact the diocesan **Office for Social Concerns** at [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org) or **614-241-2540**.

**Roe Remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse: Greater Columbus Right to Life** will sponsor this annual event on **Friday, January 22, 2021**, from noon to **1:00 p.m.**, following the **10:30 a.m. Respect Life Mass** at **St. Joseph Cathedral**. Note: The location of the **Statehouse** event is currently to be determined. Space limitations may exist, but the event will be livestreamed. For updates, visit [www.gcrtl.org/roe](http://www.gcrtl.org/roe).

**St. Vincent Family Center Foster Child Program needs foster parents:** Foster a child. Change a life. Nearly **16,000** children across the state of **Ohio** are living in the custody of child welfare and looking for a safe place to call home. **St. Vincent Family Center** connects children in **Ohio** who need a place of respite and stability with foster parents who provide loving, nurturing temporary homes. Founded as an orphanage on the **Near East Side of Columbus 150** years ago, **St. Vincent Family Center** remains deeply rooted in its mission of supporting the safety and well-being of children and their families across **Ohio**. We offer an intimate, family-centered approach to supporting foster parents, providing expert training, personalized coaching, and expert behavioral healthcare services to ensure the support you need to foster a child. If you know of parents in your parish who may be interested in becoming a foster parent, please ask them to call **614-400-1657** or visit <https://www.svfc.org/supporting-foster-families/>.

## Epiphany of the Lord:

Today, the **Church** celebrates the **Solemnity of the Epiphany**.



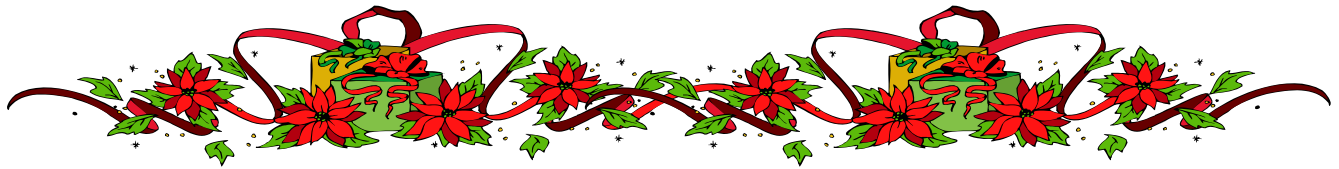
**“The Lord and ruler are coming; kingship is His, and government and power.”** With these words, the **Church** proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of **Advent**. **Epiphany**, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the **Advent Christmas Season**. Three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the **Christ Child by the Magi**, the **Baptism of Christ** and the **wedding feast at Cana**.



*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.  
~ Matthew 2:11*

## Prayer

*O God, our Creator,  
all life is in Your hands from conception until death.  
Help us to cherish our children and to reverence the awesome  
privilege of our share in creation.  
May all people live and die in dignity and love.  
Bless all those who defend the rights of the unborn,  
the handicapped and the aged.  
Enlighten and be merciful toward those who fail to love,  
and give them peace.  
Let freedom be tempered by responsibility, integrity and morality.  
**Amen***



## Saint John the Baptist ~ Christmas Flowers ~ 2020

**Name:**

**In Memory/In Honor of:**

Fr. Antonio Kim & The Korean  
Catholic Community

---

Mr. Mark Agriesti

The Agriesti Family

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cirolì

Colangelo Family, Centofanti Family,  
Cirolì & DiNardo Family

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Contino

Robert W. Contino, Anna Contino-Prosser,  
Anthony J. Contino Sr., Anthony J. Contino, Jr.,  
Giovanni & Helen Leggieri, Pasquale Leggieri &  
Angelo Leggieri

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Iosue

----

Miss Raffaella Leggieri

Mrs. Helen Leggieri, Mr. John Leggieri,  
Mrs. Anne C. Prosser-Contino, Mr. Robert Contino, Jr.,  
Mr. Pasquala Leggieri & Mr. Angelo Leggieri

Mrs. Rita Del Greco Kruezer

Exigsto & Viola Del Greco & Verne Del Greco Families

Mr. & Mrs. Don Kutsick

Nancy Rego & Helen Rego

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel LaPenna

Daniel LePenna & Donato LaPenna,  
Blateri Family & Galilei Family

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Marotta

Victor V. and Dorothy R Marotta

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Myers

Dean Quick & Alexandra Myers

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pagnanelli

Ed & Clara Pagnanelli, Bob & Ann Thompson,  
& Tony & Elsie Breitfeller

Judy Pishitelli

Deceased Members of the Pishitelli Family

Mr. Patrick Rossetti

Mary & Harvey Rossetti & The Coccia Family

Mrs. Caterina Sestito

Dominic Sestito

Ms. Irene Solazzo & Family

Deceased Members of Solazzo, Ventresca Families & Lucy DeLellis

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Susi

Nestor & Rose Susi

Pat & Denice Tiberi & Family

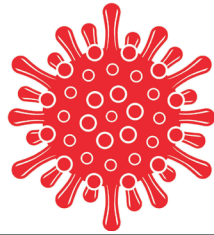
Rina Tiberi & Charles Block

Mr. Carl Tisone

The Tisone Family

Carol Ventresca

Ventresca & Damato Families



# COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

## Answering Parishioner Concerns

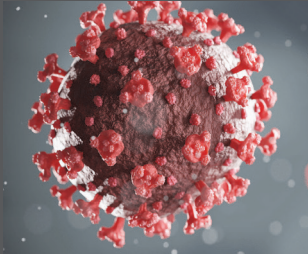
### RESEARCH

### HEIRARCHY OF VACCINES

**BEST:** Those developed using no foetal cell lines.

**NEXT BEST:** Those that used cell lines during testing and research but not in production of vaccine itself.

**LEAST:** Those using cell lines throughout process up to and including vaccine production.



## Cooperation with evil

### LEVELS FROM FORMAL TO REMOTE

Producers of vaccines have most culpability (Formal)  
Distributors have some culpability (Formal or Material)  
Those taking the vaccine have very little (Remote)



## CURRENT VACCINES APPROVED

### ONLY TWO PFIZER AND MODERNA

Neither uses cell lines in manufacture of vaccine, but both used pre-existing embryonic stem cells from 1970's and 80's to confirm their research. This places them in NEXT BEST category above.



## USE OF THESE VACCINES

FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC AMOUNTS TO REMOTE COOPERATION THAT IS ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF THE GREAT DANGER TO PERSONAL OR PUBLIC HEALTH.

USE OF OTHER VACCINES DEVELOPED LATER WOULD NEED TO BE EVALUATED ON THEIR OWN MERITS



*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: DIGNATUS PERSONAE 35:3*

"Grave reasons may be morally proportionate to justify the use of such "biological material". Thus, for example, danger to the health of children could permit parents to use a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin, while keeping in mind that everyone has the duty to make known their disagreement and to ask that their healthcare system make other types of vaccines available. Moreover, in organizations where cell lines of illicit origin are being utilized, the responsibility of those who make the decision to use them is not the same as that of those who have no voice in such a decision..

#### RESOURCES:

CDF: DIGNATUS PERSONAE 2008

USCCB STATEMENT: Moral considerations regarding the new Covid 19 vaccines

NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER (NCBCENTER.ORG)

Points to Consider on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines

OHIO CATHOLIC CONFERENCE: BISHOPS' letter December 16th 2020.

## Sunday, Jan 03, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### Bless this new year of grace

Some things are worth taking the time to do. After enduring the manifold burdens of this past year, few of us will need persuading that the annual Epiphany Blessing of the Home is a ritual worth investing in. Gather your housemates if living with others.

Download a home blessing ritual or create one yourself, using symbols especially meaningful to your participants. Which household items became especially significant during the pandemic and call for a special blessing? A cloth mask, a bar of soap, and Netflix may be featured as items of peculiar yet holy purpose in this year's rites everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). *"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."*

## Monday, Jan 04, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

### Preserve the legacy

Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first U.S.-born saint, started the country's first Catholic girls' school in Maryland, where she also founded the first American women's religious community, the Sisters of Charity. All those "firsts" multiplied into an incredible legacy of parochial education and religious life benefiting women that ripples to today. At Seton's beatification, Pope John XXIII said, "she sowed a seed in America which by Divine Grace grew into a tree." Perhaps you yourself are a beneficiary of her legacy. In the words of Pope Paul VI at her canonization, "Rejoice for your glorious daughter. Be proud of her. And know how to preserve her fruitful heritage."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:22—4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). *"He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom."*

## Tuesday, Jan 05, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

### Parishes for the people

What would U.S. parishes look like without John Neumann, the first naturalized U.S. citizen and bishop who was canonized? As a seminarian in his native Bohemia, John cherished Saint Paul's missionary epistles from the Bible and longed to serve the United States as a missionary. His wish was granted. After John's 1835 ordination he began to set up parishes and a network of parochial schools in New York. He served Germans and Native Americans and also learned Gaelic and Italian to better serve parishioners in Baltimore and Philadelphia. He introduced the Forty Hours devotion and set up parish missions for Lent. Ask John to pray for your parish today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). *"They were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things."*

## Wednesday, Jan 06, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

### Open the door to new life

So many have said that 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, marked by a pandemic that has taken lives and so much more, and a national election that challenged the U.S. belief in a united nation with liberty and justice for all. Though a new year is only the turn of a calendar page, it allows and encourages

new life, new perspective, new hope, and new energy. Let the life of the gentle and humble Saint André Bessette—who spent many years as a doorman for his monastic community—be our inspiration. May compassion and love of neighbor guide us into this new year.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). *"If God so loved us, we also must love one another."*

## Thursday, Jan 07, 2021

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

### And now for an announcement . . .

Even in an age when people are bombarded with messages, announcements can have particular cachet. They appear over and over in the gospels, from angels announcing Christ's birth to Jesus' announcement in today's gospel that he came to fulfill the words of Isaiah. The church continues to make plenty of announcements, from the calendar items announced at Mass to "announcements" in the form of pastoral letters and encyclicals about how to live contemporary Christian life. You probably announced your faith in a formal way at your Confirmation. How can you "announce" Christ today through your words and actions?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22a (215). *"He said to them, 'Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.'"*

## Friday, Jan 08, 2021

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

### Out of stillness, creation

As the Christmas season draws to a close, some treasure its highlights, others dread the January "blahs," and all of us could do well to follow Jesus' model in the gospel. After he cures a leper, the crowds and the demands on him increase. Many of us would plough into the need, then the adulation. Instead, he withdraws and retreats. This wintry season offers a time to withdraw and reflect. Think, for example, of the solitude necessary to create the kind of sacred art that Giotto was known for. He died on this day in 1337, so perhaps you can bring him to mind as you channel your own inner artist in the winter stillness. Create something new today!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). *"But he would withdraw to deserted places to pray."*

## Saturday, Jan 09, 2021

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

### Make space for Christ

This is the final day of the Christmas season. But it's always Christmas, every day of the year. Christ comes in our humanity, born into our human flesh. We are always united with Christ in a communion of divinity and humanity, realized in Jesus, shared with us. We celebrate that communion in the central act of our worship: We eat and drink the Real Presence of Christ in us. But like John the Baptist proclaims in today's gospel, that presence of Christ must increase in us as our own egos decrease. This is the way to fulfillment. Let Christ lead you today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). *"He must increase; I must decrease."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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614-294-4416  
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Fri: 4-10:30 pm; Sat: 5-10:30 pm

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