



# Sacred Heart Church

A Roman Catholic Community

324 Ridge Road, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Phone: 201-438-1147 Fax: 201-507-5861

[www.sacredheartlynd.org](http://www.sacredheartlynd.org)

## SERVED BY:

Rev. Theemas Pankiraj  
Pastor

Rev. Cesar Chen  
Parochial Vicar

**PARISH OFFICE**  
**615 NEW JERSEY AVE**

Charles Sofio  
Parish Manager  
[sacredheartchurch@comcast.net](mailto:sacredheartchurch@comcast.net)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ryan Tobiason  
Parish Catechetical Leader  
201-935-3094

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Linda Durocher  
Principal  
201-939-4277  
[ldurocher@sacredheartlynd.org](mailto:ldurocher@sacredheartlynd.org)

**SMALL BLESSINGS DAY CARE**  
201-935-0506

**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK**  
973-497-4000



## 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. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

## SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 1:30pm(Spanish)  
Monday - Friday: 12:00pm in the church  
Saturday: 9:00am in the church,  
5:00pm in church (Anticipated Mass of Sunday)  
Holy Days & Holidays: As announced in Bulletin

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00pm - 4:45pm  
Daily: Upon request following the 12:00pm Mass

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents should contact the parish office to schedule an interview and register for the required baptismal preparation session.

**Preparation:** in the church at 7:00pm

**Sacrament:** in the church at 3:00pm  
Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Apr. 16 (8:30pm), May 15, Jun. 12

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The Common Policy for Marriage in all Catholic parishes of New Jersey requires couples to begin preparation at least one year prior to the planned wedding date. It is advisable to contact the parish office before any other arrangements are made.

## SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is available for all seriously ill members of our parish family. Please call the parish office.

## R.C.I.A.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the Church's process to prepare to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please call the parish office.

## PARISH REGISTRATION / OFFICE HOURS

We invite all new members of our parish family to register at the Parish Office during regular office hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday - Friday; Saturdays and Sundays Closed.

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The key to understanding today's Gospel passage is to bear in mind that Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish audience, a people who quite familiar with, for instance, today's first reading where Isaiah speaks of a time that nations shall bring gold and frankincense to Israel. Matthew beautifully connects the dots and proves beyond every doubt that Jesus is the exact fulfilment of promised Messiah. While Luke presents us with so many details surrounding the birth of Jesus such as the names Angelic apparitions to Mary, Zechariah, Mary's visitation to Elizabeth, the fact that the birth took place during the census of Caesar Augustus, the fact that Angels appeared to shepherds who kept watch at night etc., Matthew simply says: "When Jesus was born... wise men from the East came to Jerusalem."

While Luke presents the Christmas story just as the events panned out like a journalist would do, Matthew's version of the same Christmas story opens our eyes to certain deep truths regarding this baby that had just been born in a manger. Matthew's version is a manifestation, a revelation, an epiphany of Jesus Christ. Today's feast is like a second Christmas but with a slight difference. While we celebrated the birth of the baby Jesus on the 25th of December, we are celebrating today the realization that God himself was born in human flesh. Hence, while Luke's Gospel sufficed for Christmas Day, Matthew's interesting detail forms the basis for our celebration today.

What is contained in Matthew regarding the birth of Jesus that isn't contained in Luke, Mark and John? Simple, the visit of the wise men. Who were these wise men and what impact did their visit have to say about the identity of the new born Jesus? How did they know about Jesus and what lessons do we learn from them?

Matthew does not tell us how many were these wise men neither does he mention their names. The only information Matthew provides regarding them was the fact that they were from the East and that they knew how to read the stars. This information though tiny is in itself an Epiphany in that: One, it reveals the fact that Jesus wasn't born simply for the Jewish nation (Jesus was more than a national Hero, He was born as SAVIOUR OF THE WHOLE WORLD) and: Two, it reveals that Isaiah's prophecy as contained in our first reading today had just come to pass that light shall arise from Israel attracting the wealth of nations, a multitude of camels from Midian, Ephah, Sheba etc. From the wise men's visit, we can see that God had us in mind from the very moment of Jesus' birth. This is exactly what St. Paul teaches us in today's second reading. We are not strangers to the Christian faith, we are "fellow heirs, members of the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus."

The wise men did not have the privilege of having an Angel appear to them like the case of Zechariah or Mary, they probably had no knowledge of the prophets. A star captured their attention and they clearly were able to understand that this star was an indication of the birth of a KING. Not just that, the star seemed to have suggested the need to go and see this newly born King. The star itself is another Epiphany as it reveals that Mary's child is a King, indeed, the King of kings; a King whose coming among men cannot be ignored; a king whose very presence requires the necessary adoration and movement of all other kings. This was why Herod was GREATLY DISTURBED at the news of the birth of this particular king. On the other hand, the fact that the star led the wise men to move from their homes reveals that nature is vocal, nature speaks; nature tells us of the wonder of God the creator. The wise men were wise enough to understand that the star was not god to be worshipped but a voice that spoke of God. Never make the mistake of being deceived by this passage into all kinds of idol worship, palm reading, fortune telling and so on.

Something went wrong along the journey. The wise men upon getting to the land of Israel took their eyes off the star and assumed there is no better place to find the new King than in the Palace of Herod. As it would later turn out to be, this mistake of theirs would cost the heads of many children later. Herod was terrified at the news of a king but was wise enough to consult the chief priests and scribes regarding the Christ (the long-awaited Messiah). Herod even helped the wise men by telling them to go to Bethlehem to search for the child but he did so with a wrong motive. This experience teaches us never to take our eyes from God; that not all that glitters is gold, that the palace may seem attractive yet it may not be God's plan for us; that not all those who smile with us mean well for us and that in moments of difficulty and anxiety, we can find light by reading the Bible just like Herod who consulted the chief priests and scribes when he was troubled.

The wise men upon seeing the child FELL DOWN and WORSHIPPED HIM. This very act is another Epiphany; the wise men didn't just come to say 'hello', they worshipped the child as God, they fell down, meaning they prostrated themselves before the child. They adored the baby Jesus. When we go to Mass, we are supposed to do exactly what the wise men did. Nevertheless, it takes a person who truly believes that God is present in a particular place to fall down. The question is: "what kind of gifts do I render to Jesus? And what do my gifts say about Jesus?" Indeed, the best gift we can offer to Jesus today is the gift of a righteous life, a pure heart and hands willing to do God's commands. Make your life an epiphany to the world and worship Him. Don't just be a spectator at Mass, bring your whole being into the worship of God; avoid every form of distraction. That same Jesus worshipped by the wise men is here.

Lastly, the wise men brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is again another Epiphany; a revelation of the identity of Jesus as KING, PRIEST AND SAVIOR of the world. He rules as King with gold, He sanctifies as a Priest with incense and as Savior of mankind, Jesus' body would be preserved with myrrh when he offers his life for our salvation. *The question is: "what kind of gifts do we render to Jesus? And what do my gifts say about Jesus?" Indeed, the best gift we can offer to Jesus today is the gift of a righteous life, a pure heart and hands willing to do God's commands. With the help and grace of God let's make our lives epiphanies to the world!*



## THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

The Star of Bethlehem, also called the Christmas Star is a star in Christian tradition that revealed the birth of Jesus to the magi (or "wise men") and later led them to Bethlehem. According to the Gospel of Matthew the magi were men "from the east" who were inspired by the appearance of the star to travel to Jerusalem. There they met King Herod of Judea, and asked where the king of the Jews had been born. Herod then asked his advisers where a messiah could be born. They replied Bethlehem, a nearby village, and quoted a prophecy by Micah. While the magi were on their way to Bethlehem, the star appeared again. Following the star, it stopped this time above the place where Jesus was born. The magi found Jesus with his mother, paid him homage, worshipped him and gave gifts. They then returned to their "own country".

given by God to mark the birth of the Christ (or Messiah). Some theologians claimed that the star fulfilled a prophecy, known as the Star Prophecy. In modern times, astronomers have proposed various explanations for the star. A nova, a planet, a comet, an occultation, and a conjunction (massing of planets) have all been suggested. The star has also been interpreted as an astrological event.

*"The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star. It was as if the journey had always been a part of their destiny, and was finally about to begin."*

-Pope Benedict XVI  
Address to seminarians in Cologne, August 19, 2005

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## EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION 2022

While a day like Christmas is fixed in our minds and on the calendars on December 25th, many of the important feasts of the Church year move, based upon the date that Easter is set. Easter changes each year moving to the Sunday after the "Paschal Full Moon," and can fall between March 22 and April 25.

In ancient times before calendars were common, most people did not know the dates for the upcoming Liturgical year. On Epiphany Sunday, the upcoming dates were "proclaimed". After the singing of the Gospel, a Deacon or cantor, in keeping with an ancient practice of Holy Church, announces from the ambo the moveable feasts of the current year according to this formula:

Know, dear brethren, (brothers and sisters,)

that, as we have rejoiced at

the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,

so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the Second day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the Seventeenth day of April you will celebrate with Joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the Twenty-Ninth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the Fifth day of June the feast of Pentecost.

On the Nineteenth day of June the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the Twenty-Seventh of November the First Sunday of Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever.

Amen.



**Oh, Star of Wonder, Star of Night,  
Star With Royal Beauty Bright!**

*The Three Kings are on their journey to meet  
Baby Jesus....*

*And they are stopping off at our parish to greet us!*

*Place: Sacred Heart Church  
Date: Sunday, January 2nd  
Solemnity of the Epiphany  
of the Lord  
Time: 3:00 PM*

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*Children are invited to bring letters for King Melchior, King Gaspar and King Balthasar. They will have an opportunity to meet the kings and receive a special gift.*



## *Food Pantry Update*

**We are stocking up our parish family food pantry to help our brothers and sisters in need during the cold winter months. Can you help us make winter a little warmer for those living with food insecurity?**

If you can donate any of these items, it would be greatly appreciated: Vegetables, Fruit, Spaghetti, Potatoes (small packages or canned), Peanut Butter, Jelly, Macaroni and Cheese, and Tea. *Note that great vegetable and fruit prices can be found at Lidl's and Aldi's.* Thank you for all of the generous donations. It's only with your help that we are able to keep our food pantry stocked. *As a reminder, we are unable to package out-of-date food products for distribution to our families.*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

**SICK:** Betty Tynan, Baby Ryan Joseph Lomuscio, Sal Russo, Charles Klimkowsky, Nancy Namoviez, Giovanna Muscara, Al & Joan Viscuso, Lea Pappas, Anita Barcia, Denise Swanteck, Maureen F. Coughlin, John Smith, Julius Single, Dave Tzrepla, Frank Buco, Sr., John Stemkowski, Christopher N. Coughlin, Vladimir Pudoff, Isabella Lugo, Tess, Francesco Giacchi, Mario Alongi, Sr., Grace Dacchille, John Scivetti, Joseph Caramanico, Ken Stone, Rosie Perez, Timothy Yushak, Simplicia Ramirez, Corazon Santos, Jaxson Rivera, Marilyn Loughran, Dorothy Mayerchak, Beth Branigan, Luca Ataide, Donald Tetreault, Mario Diaz, Jeanne Dziencio, Norma Altreche, Joseph M. Diaz, Patrick H. Diaz, Kim Stefani, Linda Vasquez, Joelle Montillo

## DECEASED:

### CHURCH BELLS CELEBRATE & COMMEMORATE

The Sacred Heart Church bell rings:

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2ND

**In Honor of:** The Intentions of the Cavalcante Family

**Donated by:** Jim & Isabel Cavalcante

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 4TH

**In Honor of:** The Memory of Marie Cavalcante

**Donated by:** Jim & Isabel Cavalcante

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 8TH

**In Honor of:** Michael F. Bonner

**Donated by:** Brian & Carol O'keeffe

## CATECHESIS IN A CAROL

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" celebrates the time in the Christmas season which starts on Christmas Day and ends twelve days later on the traditional Feast of the Epiphany. It is a catechesis wrapped in carol. Each verse recalls an aspect of our faith. Do you remember the words? Can you guess what faith aspect each verse may represent?

\*The **partridge in a pear tree** was Jesus Christ,

the pear tree was the cross.

\***Two turtle doves** were the Old and New Testaments

\***Three French hens** stood for faith, hope and love.

\*The **four calling birds** were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.

\*The **five golden rings** recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

\*The **six geese a-laying** stood for the six days of creation.

\***Seven swans a-swimming** represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

\*The **eight maids a-milking** were the eight beatitudes.

\***Nine ladies dancing** were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit-Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

\*The **ten lords a-leaping** were the ten commandments.

\*The **eleven pipers piping** stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

\*The **twelve drummers drumming** symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

**JANUARY 2, 2022**  
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Anticipated Mass for EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5:00 pm Peter & Carmela Sofio

### SUNDAY - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Amelia T. Reyes (Tita Mel)

10:30 am Jesus F. David

12:00pm Fred Biancone

1:30 pm Maria Da Silva

### MONDAY - Christmas Weekday/Holy Name of Jesus

12:00pm Maria & Achille D'Angelo

### TUESDAY - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

12:00pm Ella Alberta (Living)

### WEDNESDAY - St. John Neumann, Bishop

12:00pm Manuel Noya Gude

### THURSDAY - Christmas Weekday/St. Andre Bessette, Religious

12:00pm Mr. & Mrs. Sabino Salerno

### FRIDAY - Christmas Weekday/St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest

12:00pm Juana Lema Gonzalez

### SATURDAY - Christmas Weekday

9:00 am Adelaida Baugan & Cardinal Grom

### Anticipated Mass for Sunday

5:00 pm Billy Kotchkowski

### SUNDAY - BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Veronica Patulot

10:30 am Francesco Cappadona

12:00pm T. Riley & A. Galindo Families

1:30 pm Amador Castelo Rodriguez

## STEWARDSHIP

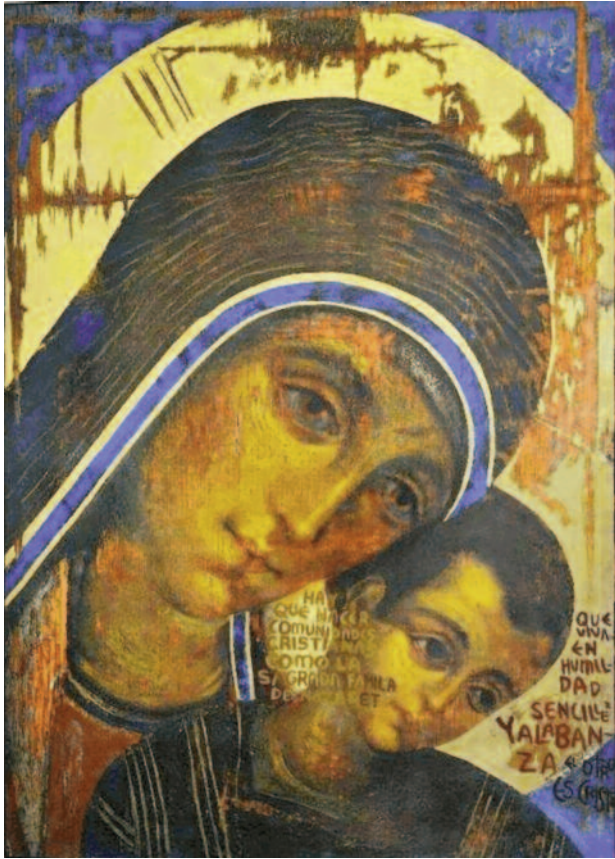
December 19th

Sunday Collection - \$7,741

Early Christmas - \$455

Add'l Retired Religious - \$121

Add'l Immaculate Conception - \$25



## COME AND LISTEN

“FOR MY YOLK IS EASY,  
AND MY BURDEN LIGHT”  
Matthew 11:30

ARE  
CARES & WORRIES  
WEIGHING YOU DOWN?

COME & LISTEN  
ONE WORD COULD CHANGE  
YOUR LIFE.

**Mondays & Thursdays**  
**Starting Monday, January 10th**  
**8:00pm in Parish Center**  
**(former Convent)**

Enter through the  
parking lot entrance

**CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS**  
**AND YOUTH (ages 13 & older)**

**Free babysitting will be available**

## Bless Your Door On Epiphany

On this glorious feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, here again is the traditional blessing from the Roman Ritual with a little explanation of it.

Epiphany Inscription Over the Doorway of the Home

20 + C + M + B + 21

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*. “May Christ bless the house.” The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing. The crosses represent the protection of the Precious Blood of Christ, Whose Sacred Name we invoke, and also the holiness of the Three Magi sanctified by their adoration of the Infant Christ.

The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God’s blessing. The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and protector of the beginning and end of things. This blessing “christens” the ancient Roman observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by the Adorable and Eternal Word of God in the womb of the Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

To bless your home this Epiphany, first read the Prologue of Saint John’s Gospel (John 1:1-18), followed by the Our Father, and the Collect of the Epiphany; then write the inscription for this year above your front door with blessed chalk.

Blessing of Chalk

V. Our help is the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to Thy people.

Grant that they who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the doors of their homes the names of Thy saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord. And the chalk is sprinkled with Holy Water.