

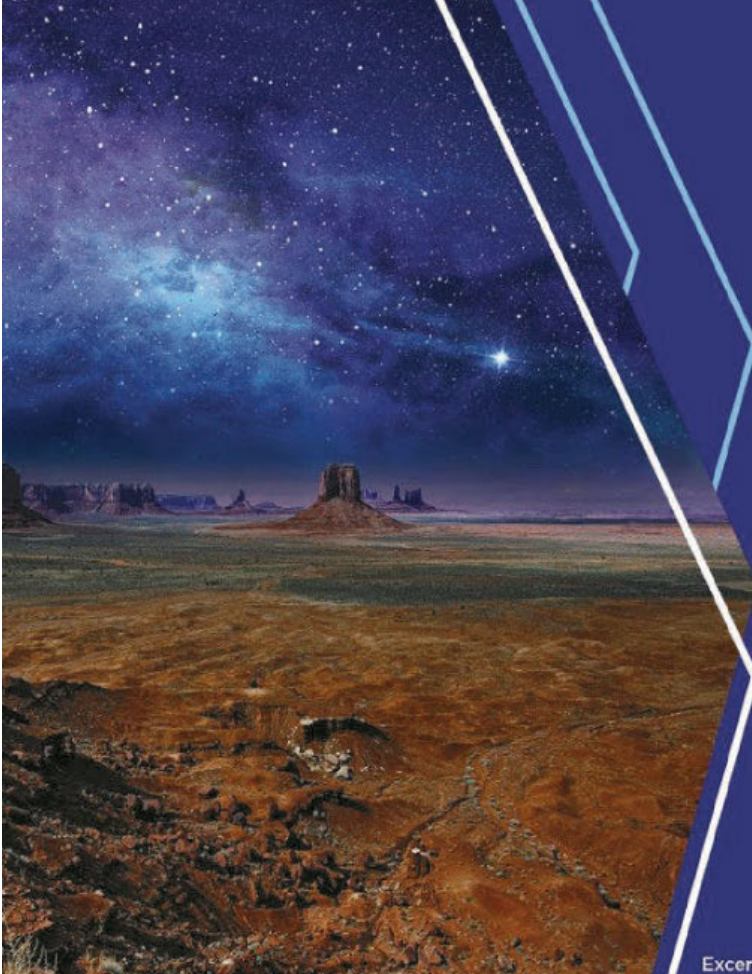
JANUARY 7, 2024

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH, FONDA NY
SACRED HEART CHURCH, TRIBES HILL NY

Deacon Joseph Cechnicki, Parish Life Coordinator

Father Juanito Asprec, Parochial Vicar

Father Nathaniel Resila, Parochial Vicar



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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." - Mt 2:1-2

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

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~Weddings-Baptisms-Funerals~

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Office hours:

Monday & Wednesday, 9am to 2pm



† Altar wine at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **January** has been donated in loving memory of **Louie & Ann Stellato** at the request of **Tony & Lorrie Stellato**

† Altar hosts at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **January** has been donated in loving memory of **Peter & Virginia Szykowski** at the request of **Lorrie & Tony Stellato**.



The Sanctuary Lamp at Sacred Heart will burn this week in memory of Bill Szykowski, given by Lorrie & Tony Stellato

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 7, 2024 – The Epiphany of the Lord

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, “This place is boring. I want to go somewhere.” So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, “Where am I truly at home?”

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, “**They were overjoyed at seeing the star.**” This star will bring them *home*, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you’re a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, “Follow me! I will take you home!” Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

~Father John Muir

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat. Jan 6, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) †For the angels adorning our memorial tree, given by their family and loved ones.

2.) Blessings on the 65th Anniversary of Bob & Betty Donohue, requested by Lorrie & Tony Stellato.

Sun. Jan 7, 8:30 am (SC) - 1.) †For the angels adorning our memorial tree, given by their family and loved ones.

2.) † In memory of Teresa Campochiaro, requested by Joey Ford & family.

3.) † In memory of George Spannbauer Jr., requested by Pat & George Galeazza.

Mon. Jan. 8 thru Sun. Jan. 14, 2023

Mon. Jan 8, - No Mass

Tue. Jan 9, 8:00 am (SH) - No intention requested.

Wed. Jan 10, 8:00 am (SC) - No intention requested.

Thurs. Jan 11, 8:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish.

Fri. Jan 12, 8:00 am (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Sat. Jan 13, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) † In loving memory of Ann “Pat” Stellato, 7 yrs passed, requested by Tony & Lorrie Stellato

2.) † In loving memory of our friend John Simeone, requested by Mary Lynn & John Walcensky.

Sun. Jan 14, 8:30 am (SC) - † In memory of George Spannbauer, requested by Joey Ford & family.

Mass Intentions: Mass Intentions are needed for both parishes. Having a Mass celebrated for a person or a specific request has a long history in the Catholic Church. Requesting a Mass is not only a sign of your own faith and flourishing, but of your heart for those who these Masses are intended.

Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Jan 6 (SH)	Mark Caffrey Tony Stellato Lorrie Stellato Cathy Parry	Jan 13 (SH)	Cathy Parry Katherine Downing Theresa Kovian Lorrie Stellato
Jan 7 (SC)	James Wray Ken Stuff Dianne Kierpiec Bill Quinn	Jan 14 (SC)	Ann Mahon Michele Furnare Andrea Moran Kathy Marcais

Counters Schedule

Jan 8 (SH)	Noreen Brownell Deb Swarczewski	Jan 16 (SH)	Katherine Downing Barb Bilins
Jan 8 (SC)	Lorna Quinn Flo Stanton	Jan 16 (SC)	Sandy Hayes Kathy Marcais

Food Pantry

Jan 24 (SC)	Florence Stanton Marjorie Savoie
Jan 31	





The Feast of the Epiphany reminds us that in their Gospels Matthew and Mark gather together stories about the childhood of Jesus, each pointing to different aspects of his significance. They both bring out the unique importance of Jesus in God's plan. He is the Son of God come among us for the salvation of the world.

The feast of Christmas in the Western church picks out Luke's account of Jesus' birth in the stable when shepherds come to honour him. The liturgy and the hymns of the feast focus on the mystery of God's joining us in the vulnerable humanity of Jesus.

In the Eastern Church the major feast is that of the Epiphany, which focuses on Matthew's story of the coming of the Wise men to honour Jesus with gifts. The heart of the feast lies in the revelation of Christ to the non-Jewish world represented by the Magi. It recognises the stages of God's showing himself to the world, first to the Jewish people and then, through the Jewish Jesus, to all people. It is a feast of light: Jesus is the light of the world and brings light to all who believe in him.

The Feast of the Epiphany is important because it reminds us of the different ways in which God has shown himself in the world and shows that these point to God's greatest gift to us in Jesus. He is our way to God. But the feast also shows us that we do not own God. God speaks to us as he wishes. In the Gospel story God speaks through people whose wisdom came from religious traditions other than those of the Jews, God's chosen people.

Today God continues to speak through the wisdom and religions of our world, and through them draws us closer to Christ in whom is all wisdom. God's light falls on many places, draws people by many stars. We should bow with respect wherever we find light.

Like Christmas the Feast of the Epiphany also points to the way of suffering that the Son of God will take for our salvation. Luke's Gospel alludes to it in the poverty of Jesus' birth and in the forecast of a sword that will pierce Mary's heart. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus is immediately at risk from Herod's murderous designs and must go with his parents as a refugee to Egypt. Perhaps, too, the gift of myrrh, an opiate as well as a perfume, hints at his crucifixion.

Christmas and the Epiphany dwell on two different aspects of the coming of Christ into the world. That they form part of the one story is shown visually in the presence of both the shepherds and the Magi in the cribs of our churches.

~ By Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ, 6 January 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Contributions: Along with the Sanctuary Lamp and flowers for the altar you can now sponsor the altar wine and hosts in memory of a loved one. Wine and hosts will be \$20 each per month. You can stop by your parish office or even put the information in the collection basket for your chosen sponsorship.

Sacred Heart Winter Gather: Saturday Feb.3, after Mass, we will gather in the hall at Sacred Heart for Fellowship and comfort food. Please make plans to join us and feel free to bless us with one of your favorite comfort dishes (soup, chili, mac-n-cheese).

The Music Ministry of Historic St Mary's Church is excited to announce the start of a Church Children's choir! Any children from first to eighth grade are encouraged to join. Projected date for first rehearsal is early February 2024. More information will be forthcoming to all churches in the next few weeks. Please contact Michela Riccio, Music Director of St Mary's Church, with any questions 518-705-9468 michelaalbertariccio@gmail.com

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Sacrament of Reconciliation: To acknowledge the need for the future as a network of parishes in the Amsterdam area, the sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated each Saturday at St. Mary's Church in Amsterdam with Fr. Juanito, Fr. Nate and Fr. Bob available to hear confessions. Confessions will be heard from 3:00pm to 3:30pm each Saturday and all the parishioners are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity. The network includes St. Cecilia's from Fonda, Sacred Heart from Tribes Hill, St. Stephen's from Haganan and St. Mary's, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and St. Stanislaus' from Amsterdam.

Upcoming Second Collections:

Jan 6/7 - Fuel/Heat

Jan 27/26 - Repair/Maintenance

Feb 3/4 - Evangelist

COLLECTIONS & ATTENDANCE		
<i>DEC 30 & 31, 2023—WEEKEND TOTALS:</i>		
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WEEKLY COLLECTION	912.00	671.57
OTHER	415.00	420.00
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PARISH TOTAL	1327.00	1091.57

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