



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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for N

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The 2025 Holy/Jubilee Year: 2024 - A YEAR OF PRAYER for the 2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. He has also announced a year of prayer in preparation for the Jubilee. The Holy Father announced its launch on 21st January 2024, the fifth annual celebration of the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. Earlier, the Pope had written: "From now on I am happy to think that the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, will be dedicated to a great 'symphony' of prayer so as to rediscover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him." Recently, the Dicastery for Evangelization issued a prayer resource in Italian. "Teach Us to Pray" is now available online in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Polish. For free downloads, please visit: <https://www.iubilaum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/verso-il-giubileo/2024-anno-della-preghiera.html>

Calendar of Events

May 9, 2024 Pope Francis released the Bull of Indiction "Spes non confundit" (Hope does not disappoint)
December 24, 2024 Jubilee Year begins in Rome on the Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
December 29, 2024 (Holy Family Sunday) Jubilee Year begins in local dioceses
December 28, 2025 (Holy Family Sunday) Jubilee Year concludes in local dioceses
January 6, 2026 Jubilee Year concludes in Rome
*Various Celebrations will occur throughout the year at the Vatican and in the Dioceses of the United States. For example, there will be weeks for artists, communicators, military, healthcare workers, persons with disabilities, deacons, youth, etc. For a complete calendar of these occasions, please visit Jubilee Celebration Calendar.pdf (usccb.org)
For a complete text of the Papal Bull <https://www.iubilaum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/bolla.html> Several aspects of the Bull refer to liturgy and are well worth noting – Mass preparations; baptismal fonts; indulgences; the Common Date of Easter (the East and West will celebrate on the same date in 2025); reconciliation and missionaries of mercy; and more. It does not appear that local dioceses should formally have a "Holy Door," but the Bull does encourage local pilgrimages to cathedrals and other sacred places.
VATICAN RESOURCES -- <https://www.iubilaum2025.va/en.html>
Resources/Webpages available in English, Spanish, Italian, French, German, Portuguese, Polish, Chinese and Arabic.

Deacon Joseph Cechnicki, Parish Life Coordinator
Joseph.Cechnicki@rcda.org
Father Juanito Asprec, Parochial Vicar
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Father Nathaniel Resila, Parochial Vicar
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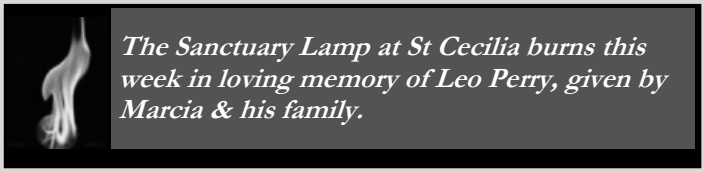
*O Sacred Heart, O Love Divine
Do keep us near to Thee
And make our love so like to Thine
That we may holy be*

[REFRAIN]
*Heart of Jesus, hear
O Heart of Love Divine
Listen to our prayer
Make us always Thine*

*O Temple pure, O House of gold
Our Heaven here below
What sweet delights, what wealth untold
From Thee do ever flow [REF]*

*Ungrateful hearts, forgetful hearts
The hearts of men have been
To wound Thy side with cruel darts
Which they have made by sin [REF]*

Tuesday, Jan. 7– 6PM PASTORAL PLANNING with Tom Cronin. PPC, Trustees, Officers & Members should plan to attend. Venue: St. Mary's Church Hall, Amsterdam



The Sanctuary Lamp at St Cecilia burns this week in loving memory of Leo Perry, given by Marcia & his family.



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

2.) † Repose of the soul of David Dodge, requested by Beth DeRosa.

Sun. Jan 5, 9:00 am (SC)- 1.) For the angels adorning our memorial tree, given by their family and loved ones.

2.) † In memory of Alphonso Mancini, requested by Andrea Moran.

3.) † Repose of the soul of Ronald Laberge, requested by Carolyn Dunderdale.

Tues. Jan 7 thru Sun. Jan 12, 2024

Tue. Jan 7, 8:00am (SH) - No intention requested.

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

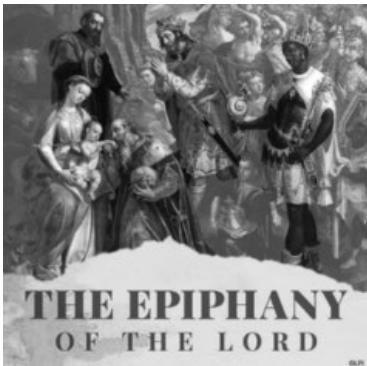
Thurs. Jan 9, 8:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish.

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

Sat. Jan 11, 4:00 pm (SH) - † Repose of the soul of Gloria Twardzik, requested by Tony & Lorrie Stellato.

Sun. Jan 12, 9:00 am (SC)- 1.) † In loving memory of Philip Dunderdale, requested by Carolyn Dunderdale.

2.) † In loving memory of Leo Perry, requested by Marcia & his family.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

**January 5, 2025 - The Epiphany of the Lord
Mathew 2:1-12**

Have you ever wondered why the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew’s Gospel tells us, “Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their “treasures”? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn’t that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi’s gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with “gold” (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

-Father John Muir
©LPi

Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Jan 4 (SH)	Katherine Downing Kathy Avery	Jan 11 (SH)	Chris Caffrey Mark Caffrey
Jan 5 (SC)	Kathy Marcais Dianne Kierpiec	Jan 12 (SC)	Ann Mahon Kathy Marcais

Counters Schedule

Jan 6 (SH)	Katherine Downing Deb Swarczewski	Jan 13 (SH)	Barb Bilins Kathy Avery
Jan 6 (SC)	Lorna Quinn Flo Stanton	Jan 13 (SC)	Sandy Hayes Kathy Marcais

Food Pantry

Jan 22 (SC)	Andrea Moran Louise Carville Michele Furnare
Feb 5 (SH)	Barb Bilins Wendy Hall



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saint Cecilia Weekly Raffle: Through the month of December (beginning Dec 1) we will be alternating a raffle weekly for baked good or a \$20 gift certificate from a local establishment. Raffle tickets will be \$1 per chance and will be available at the church entrance.

Saint Cecilia Bottle Drive: We will be collecting bottles/ cans at St. Cecilia. There will be a receptacle in the parking lot near the rectory entrance and also in the hall.

CARDS IN JANUARY -St Cecilia Card Party :
The card party will continue in January. The dates are the 13th and the 27th (Monday). Please come play cards and visit with friends.

Spaghetti Dinner for 10th Grade Confirmation Class :
The 10th grade Confirmation class is selling tickets for a Spaghetti Dinner at Checkers Out on Rte. 30A. Tickets are \$12 each and include spaghetti, two meatballs, and a salad. Tickets can be purchased now through January 12th and can be redeemed on **ANY DAY FROM JANUARY 2nd THROUGH THE 31st** (closed Mondays). Dine in or call 518-736-4630 for takeout. You can purchase tickets from any 10th grade Confirmation student or text/call Angela Yetto at 315-439-4659 or angyetto@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support!

Save the Date—St. Kateri: May 28, Thurs, 6:30 PM

- A discussion on the book **A HEART FOR GOD** by Michael Youseff. This little book discusses the qualities the biblical figure King David of Israel had that were pleasing to God and what our life should look like if we have some of these qualities.

June 26, Thursday, 6:30 PM - A discussion on the book **PRAYER** by Bishop Robert Barron on the types of prayer in the Catholic tradition, comments by spiritual Masters, and how can I establish a solid routine of prayer.

**** For more information call the shrine at 518-853-3646 or Fr. Joe at 336-602-4412 ****

Second Collections

Jan 4/5 - Fuel/Heat

Jan 25/26 – Repair /Maintenance

ALWAYS
REMEMBERED

† Altar wine at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **January** has been sponsored at the request of **Tony & Lorrie Stellato**.

† Altar hosts at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **January** have been sponsored at the request of **Tony & Lorrie Stellato**.

† Altar wine at **Saint Cecilia** for the month of **January** has been sponsored in loving memory of Sal Furnare at the request of **Michelle & family**.

† Altar hosts at **Saint Cecilia** for the month of **January** have been sponsored in loving memory of Sal Furnare at the request of **Michele & family**.

Join us as we Open the Jubilee Year of 2025 In the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany Sunday, January 5, 2025

- **1:30pm:** Prayer Service (Collectio) begins at Historic Saint Mary's
- Pilgrimage begins after the Prayer Service (Collectio), half mile prayerful procession to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- **3pm:** Mass begins at the Cathedral. Bishop Edward Scharfenberger presides.

Parking Options:

- **Park at the Cathedral** (in the lot behind the Cathedral or parking garage across the street).
 - If you plan to take part in the walk (pilgrimage), you can park at the Cathedral. A shuttle bus arrives at the Cathedral at 1pm to take you to Saint Mary's. The shuttle is for walkers only. **There is NO RETURN SHUTTLE.**
 - **To reserve a seat on the shuttle,** RSVP to Kathy Barrans at kathryn.barrans@rcda.org or (518) 801-2771.
- **Park at Historic Saint Mary's** - keep in mind, it will be dark when Mass ends at the Cathedral and you have to walk back to your car at Saint Mary's.

This is a great opportunity for us to come together as a people of faith to celebrate the start of a Holy Year.

To learn more about the Jubilee Year
<https://www.rcda.org/jubilee-2025>

May we all become Pilgrims of Hope



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.

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