



# JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

THEY CAME BEARING GIFTS OF  
GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.



*Church of St. Thomas More*  
*6 Madbury Rd, PO Box 620*  
*603-868-2666*

**January 7, 2024**  
***The Epiphany of the Lord***  
***Thirty-Second Sunday After Pentecost***

**Welcome Child of God!**

*No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,  
No matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, race, ethnicity or spirituality, or marital situation,  
No matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue,  
You belong to Jesus Christ and you belong to us!  
You are invited, accepted and respected here at the Parish of Saint Thomas More.*

*Take our hands, Lord Jesus, leading us in courage to confront with courage the forces which oppress and divide.  
Take our hearts, Lord Jesus, and open them to the truth which will set others free.  
Accompany us on our way, Lord Jesus, as we seek to share our Roman Catholic faith and life in your Spirit.*



**EPIPHANY**

Christmas is too rich to be celebrated on one day only, hence we continue to take different aspects of this great mystery for further reflection. This is the strangest of the Christmas stories. The plot is full of mystery, intrigue; and what a cast of characters. Few personalities in the Bible have provoked so much discussion as the "Magi."

What significance do they hold for the contemporary believer? The Magi's value is theological. They witness to the significance of Jesus as *universal*. All men and women in all times and places are invited to discover in Jesus the source of a new relationship with God and with one another.

Probably the Magi's greatest lesson is that they were not alone. They confirmed each other in their belief and in their hope. They believed, they hoped, they kept going. *What do I believe? What do I hope? With whom do I share my visions?* Some questions to ponder from Shakespeare's "*Twelfth Night*."

*Fr. Andrew*

**CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE**

*A Community of Parish & University Ministry*  
*PO Box 620, Durham, NH 03824; 603-868-2666;*  
[\*stmdurham@comcast.net\*](mailto:stmdurham@comcast.net)

**MASSES & OFFICE HOURS**

**WEEKEND MASSES**

Saturday 5pm  
Sunday 9am & 11:15am

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**No 12:10pm this week**

**Regular Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9-3pm  
Wednesday 9-1pm  
**Closed Friday**

**January 6th-7th; The Epiphany of the Lord**

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

**January 13th-14th; 2nd Sunday in ordinary Time**

Reading I: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19  
Reading II: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20  
Gospel: John:1:35-42



**January 6th-7th; The Epiphany of the Lord**

Saturday 5pm – † Evelyn Smick  
Sunday 9am – For All STM Ministers  
Sunday 11:15am – For All STM Ministers

**January 13th-14th; 2nd Sunday in ordinary Time**

Saturday 5pm – † Evelyn Smick  
Sunday 9am – STM Parishioners  
Sunday 11:15am – † Thomas Maciolek



### St. Thomas More Food Pantry Update: December 2023

Our STM Food Pantry served 270 individuals from 10 towns in December along with giving out close to 60 Christmas Baskets.

Thank you to Service Credit Union for their very generous donation in December. We are poised to begin our 2024 year serving New Hampshire residents in need coming to us.

As always, if you would like to join our team, even if you can only volunteer once, your time and talents are welcome.

Contact Regina Smick-Attisano at [rasamom3@comcast.net](mailto:rasamom3@comcast.net) to match your availability with our opportunities.

This week, at the pantry, we have a need for:

- Toilet Paper
- Coffee pods
- Crackers



### OFFERTORY UPDATE:

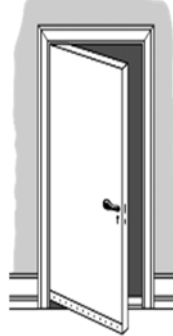
Average Weekly Regular Offertory Amount needed to meet our Annual Budget **\$5,192.31**

Offertory for December 25th /Christmas **\$12,618.25**

Offertory for December 31st **\$6,186.00**

*"Give and it shall be given to you." - Luke 6:38*

20+C+M+B+24



### EPIPHANY

### New Year Blessing of the Door

The chalking of the Door is typically done on January 6th on the Feast of the Epiphany and celebrates the revealing of Christ to the world in three events: The visit of the Magi when Jesus is revealed to the Gentles, the baptism of Christ by John, and the changing of water to wine at the Cana wedding. God revealed Himself to us

and dwells with us and we desire the life in our homes to reveal Christ to others. This short liturgy is a way of yearly marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols to intentionally set our homes apart as places of Christian hospitality; as safe and peaceful outposts of the Kingdom of God in the world; as habitations of healing and rest. We again invite God's presence into our homes and ask His blessing upon all those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year.

Chalk is used in this service as an ordinary substance of the earth, dust put to holy use. It reminds us that we are of the dust of the ground, the most ordinary of substances, and yet are fashioned as holy beings for most holy purposes. Chalk will not permanently mark the dwelling. Weather will likely cause the marking to fade over time, but each time we view it upon entering our homes we will remember the reason for it and rededicate ourselves to that purpose. Typically, the markings are intended to remain at least until the Feast of Pentecost but need not be removed at all. Another year passes and a new Epiphany arrives, and will again dedicate ourselves to be Lights of the World.

### The Inscription:

Each year, the inscription is the new year separated by C+M+B. For instance, in 2024, the inscription will be **20+C+M+B+24**.

Church tradition names three of the Magi— Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar— and on Epiphany we celebrate these three kings and their gift-bringing. The numbers of the year are the bookends of the inscription. "C M B" above the door, also stands for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for "Christ, Bless this house."



### 200 CLUB WINNERS

The new year of 2024 rang in December's lucky winners:

*Karin Mullin*

*Linda Dugas*

*Pat Cardarople*

*Congratulations to All!*

There's plenty of time to become a new member or renew your membership before the January drawing.

Subscription options are for 3, 6 or 12 months, at a cost of \$50, \$100 or \$200 respectively. Simply write a check made payable to: St. Thomas More Church. Don't forget to put 200 Club in the memo section. Mail it, along with your contact information [address, phone, and email], to the parish office at:

St Thomas More Parish, PO Box 620, Durham NH 03824

### Special Anniversary Drawing

Don't miss out on the chance to be included in February's special anniversary drawing on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Your subscription payment needs to be into the parish office by Monday, February 19 to have a chance to win special prizes of **\$500, \$300 or \$100**.

For additional member information contact Tom Dolan at [tomdolan84@hotmail.com](mailto:tomdolan84@hotmail.com) or 603-519-0369

*A special note of thanks to all those who have supported and continue to support the club. You have made a difference!!*



### Memorials for Deceased Loved Ones

*Tillinglast & Carclidi Families  
Paul & Richard Cardarople*



### Angels behind the Scenes

*Many thanks and blessings to all volunteers who help with Church Environment, office helpers, food pantry volunteers, all of our ministers and volunteers that help to make our Church welcoming, festive and special. These angels are our greatest treasure at St. Thomas More.*

*Thank you for your generosity and gift of time. We are always looking for more angels, if you'd like to earn your wings.*







## THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

### Monday, January 8

#### The Baptism of the Lord

The Scriptures turn from Christ's infancy to his initiation and mission. At his baptism the Holy Spirit anointed and revealed Jesus as the Son of God. We are invited to ponder our baptism, which welcomed us into the community of the children of God. Pull out baptismal pictures, garments, and mementos, and recall the stories of baptisms in your family. Reach out to godparents and godchildren with a note or a call. Remember our baptismal commitment to keep the light of Christ burning brightly in our lives. *Today's readings: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7; Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 3, 9–10; Acts 10:34–38; Mark 1:7–11.*

### January 9—February 13

#### Ordinary Time

Our six-week journey from the First Sunday of Advent to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord has come to an end, and the Church now enters the season of Ordinary Time. There is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. It is named after ordered or counted time. There are five Sundays, thirty-eight days of time before Lent. Change your prayer space colors to green and reflect on how you hope to grow spiritually in the not-so-ordinary weeks ahead.

### Wednesday, January 24

#### St. Francis de Sales

St. Francis de Sales served the Church in sixteenth-century Europe with his extraordinary gifts of communication about the spiritual life for the laity. He was tenacious in evangelizing through his humility, wisdom, teaching, and eloquent writing. Some of his letters to the faithful are collected in the book *The Introduction to the Devout Life*. Francis de Sales is the patron saint of writers and journalists. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–17; Psalm 89:4–5, 27–28, 29–30; Mark 4:1–20.*

### Thursday, January 25

#### Conversion of St. Paul

A brilliant, highly educated Jewish Roman during the first century, Paul was converted from a zealous persecutor of the early Christians to the most prolific and compelling disciple of Christ. Without a doubt, Paul accelerated the growth of the Christian community like no other evangelist. He was beheaded in Rome for his tenacious faithfulness. Read Acts, chapters 9–28, to recall his full story. *Today's readings: Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22; Psalm 177:1, 2; Mark 16:15–18.*

### Wednesday, January 31

#### St. John Bosco

St. John Bosco followed his call to minister to poor and neglected youth in Turin during the early nineteenth century. His patience and compassion for children seemed limitless. He opened a church and a home and school for boys who would otherwise have been without care. He founded the Salesian order, named after his favorite saint, St. Francis de Sales, as well as an order of women to do similar ministry for girls. John Bosco is remembered as the patron saint of children. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9–17; Psalm 32:1–2, 5, 6, 7; Mark 6:1–6.*

### Friday, February 2

#### The Presentation of the Lord

Today's feast commemorates the purifying of Mary according to Jewish law, forty days after the birth of a male child, as well as the consecration of the child in the temple. This feast is always celebrated with candles (it used to be known as Candlemas) because of Simeon's recognition that in the person of Jesus, God has given us "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people, Israel" (Luke 2:30–32). Prepare a special meal, light candles for the table, and read chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel at prayer time. *Today's readings: Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40.*





# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## Enlighten Us

Radiant God,  
you are the source of all light and joy.  
Illuminate our communities  
and show us the way to live in peace  
and harmony.  
Shower us with knowledge of your  
holy will  
and grant us courage to manifest  
your presence throughout the world.  
Help us to bring the Good News  
of your life among us  
to the ends of the earth.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**  
**Look Back, Look Forward**



*Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12.* Little is known about the three visitors from the East who paid the Holy Family homage. Still we can't help but marvel at their determination to meet Jesus despite the distance and that their only guide was a star.

In many cultures, Epiphany is celebrated with as much festivity as Christmas. The day may be marked with parades, parties, gift-giving, the three kings cake, and holiday meals. Create annual traditions to make Epiphany special in your household. The liturgy offers a house blessing on this day. Inscribe 20+C+M+B24 with chalk on the door frame. It stands for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "let Christ bless this house" and the current year. Custom

attributes the letters to the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Bring the figurines of the three Magi closer to the manger, light candles, and sing your favorite Epiphany and Christmas carols.

The Christmas season ends at sundown on the Baptism of the Lord. This weekend invites us to look back upon our journey since the beginning of Advent. From waiting for the coming of Christ, to welcoming him anew into our lives, and then making a permanent home for him in our hearts, we also traveled far. What new insights did you uncover along the way about the in-breaking of God into humanity? How will your faith journey bring you closer to Christ in the coming year?

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**READY.GOV**

Don't be afraid...Be Ready

**HEAVENLY ANNIVERSARY  
BLESSINGS TO  
OUR PARENTS**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 1964**

We Love & Miss You Very Much,  
Your Five Kids!! XO



**Act now to  
help end hunger.**

In the United States, one in  
nine people face hunger.

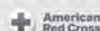
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