



# JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

THEY CAME BEARING GIFTS OF  
GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.



*Church of St. Thomas More*

*Parish Office: 603-868-2666*

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*Website: [stmdurham.org](http://stmdurham.org)*

**January 5th, 2025**  
**Epiphany of the Lord**

**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. The witness to the significance of Jesus is 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 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 on Shakespeare’s “Twelfth night.”*

*Fr. Andy*

***O Come Let Us Adore Him***

**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 & **Sunday No 5pm Mass  
resumes January 26, 2025**

**WEEKDAY MASS**

12:10pm Mass Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
***Please call the office to confirm weekday Masses.***

**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon, Tues, & Thurs 9-3pm & Wed 9-1pm **Closed Fri**

**January 4th-5th 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 11th-12; The Baptism of the Lord**

Reading I: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
Reading II: Titus 2:11-14-3:4-7  
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16,21-22



**January 4th-5th The Epiphany of the Lord**

Saturday 5pm – † Ursula Weber Crews  
Sunday 9am – † Foos & McCool Deceased Family Members  
Sunday 11:15am– † Colleen Weale



**January 11th-12; The Baptism of the Lord**

Saturday 5pm – † Christine Mason  
Sunday 9am – † Helen Donnelly  
Sunday 11:15am– † Thomas Maciolek







### OFFERTORY UPDATE:

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

Offertory for December 15th **\$4,112.00**  
Offertory for December 22nd **\$4,639.00**

*"Give and it shall be given to you." - Luke 6:38*  
*Thank you for your generous contributions.*



### MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

Our goal is **\$20,000.00**  
Please help us reach our goal.  
Currently we are at **\$6,340.00**

**Your generosity is greatly appreciated!**



### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

*Ed Donnelly*  
*Barbara Farrington*

*Peter Farrington*  
*Dot Meneghin*

*For all our homebound and residents of our local nursing homes  
and care facilities.*



### Memorials for Deceased Loved Ones

Cataneo Family  
Frederick F. Holmes

Boucher Family  
Castro Family

LaRochelle & Cardarople Family  
Deceased members of the Murph/Goudron Families



A special thank you to our  
dedicated, generous parish volunteers  
who work many hours behind the  
scenes to prepare for Advent and  
Christmas Celebrations: our creative  
and inspiring liturgical Environment

Ministry and meaningful Music Ministry call us from Advent  
simplicity to Christmas Glory!

We also thank our Lectors, Ushers and Eucharistic  
Ministers for their faithful commitment to proclaiming God's  
Word; administering, the Body of Christ and offering  
hospitality to our Parish community.



## EPIPHANY

### New Year Blessing of the Door

**20+C+M+B+25**



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:

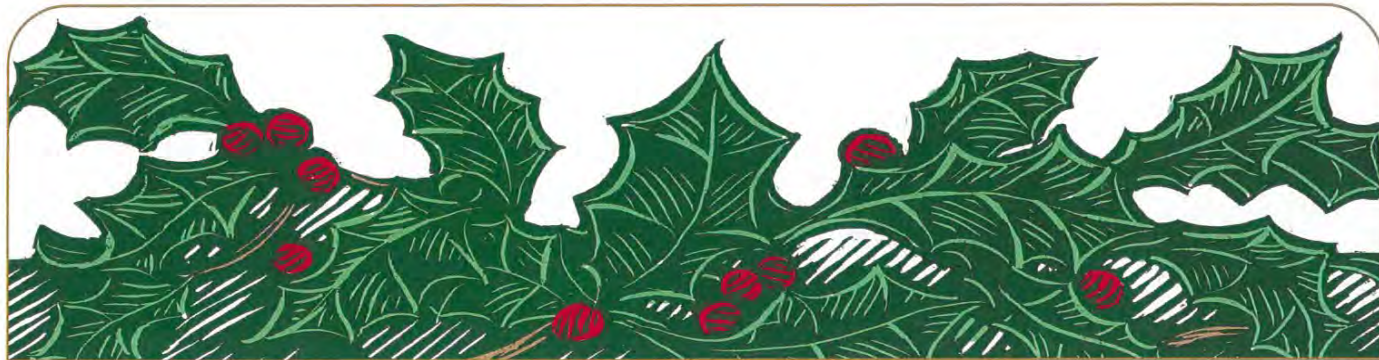
Each year, the inscription is the new year separated by C+M+B. For instance, in 2025, the inscription will be **20+C+M+B+25**.

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."

**Prayer card and chalk will be available at the entrances of  
the Church**





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, January 6

#### Consolation and Desolation

“Do not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God,” warns John the apostle. Indeed, it is critical to discern God’s will. St. Ignatius of Loyola writes about the states of consolation (joy, peace, being settled) and desolation (fear, anxiety, being unsettled) in prayerful decision-making. Per St. John’s encouragement to deepen our spiritual awareness, take time today to learn about Ignatian discernment. Consider how you can practice prayerful discernment. *Today’s readings: 1 John 3:22—4:6; Psalm 2:7bc–8, 10–12a; Matthew 4:12–17, 23–25.*

### Tuesday, January 7

#### Abundance

Jesus takes five loaves and two fish to feed the vast crowd gathered to hear him preach. The disciples are skeptical as Jesus turns a small amount of food into an abundance that feeds five thousand people. Invite your family to reflect on the abundance with which God has blessed you. Gather at the end of the day and say a prayer of gratitude, naming some of those blessings. *Today’s readings: 1 John 4:7–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4, 7–8; Mark 6:34–44.*

### Wednesday, January 8

#### Take Courage

In today’s Gospel, Jesus walks on water during a storm to reach the disciples. They are terrified, but Jesus says to them: “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!” The wind dies down and the disciples are astounded. Their hearts are hardened, as they cannot comprehend Jesus’ self-revelation as the Son of God. Find a church in your area that offers Eucharistic adoration. When you go to pray, consider how you can keep your heart from hardening. How can you surrender your fears? *Today’s readings: 1 John 4:11–18; Psalm 72:1–2, 10, 12–13; Mark 6:45–52.*

### Thursday, January 9

#### Liberty

Highlighting Jesus’ mission of liberation, the Gospel proclaims that he will especially serve the marginalized and forgotten, bringing “glad tidings to the poor.” From the first reading, we hear that “God is love.” Further, “We love because he first loved us.” Set time aside this week to serve someone who is afflicted or oppressed. While you serve, pray with John the apostle’s words: whoever does not love another “whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” *Today’s readings: 1 John 4:19—5:4; Psalm 72:1–2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Luke 4:14–22a.*

### Friday, January 10

#### Withdraw to Pray

Jesus cleanses a leper and, while word of his ministry spreads and crowds gather to listen to him, he withdraws “to deserted places to pray.” Amid his healing and preaching, Jesus models the importance of cultivating a prayer life. Spend time creating a prayer space in your home. This should be a space to which you can withdraw, like Jesus. Set time aside to pray in this space at least once every week. *Today’s readings: 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; Luke 5:12–16.*

### Saturday, January 11

#### Idols

Take John the Baptist’s words to heart: “He must increase; I must decrease.” To do so, “be on your guard against idols,” as the first reading states, and consider what takes you away from God. Before going to sleep tonight, prayerfully review your day. How did you give glory to God? What “idols” distracted you from doing so? *Today’s readings: 1 John 5:14–21; Psalm 149:1–2, 3–4, 5, 6a and 9b; John 3:22–30.*





# EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## Radiant Light

God our guiding light,  
you illuminated the long path to our  
Lord for the Magi.  
Like the travelers,  
we are overjoyed by your radiant  
presence made known to us.  
Though darkness blankets the world,  
your glory shines upon us.  
May we gather,  
walk by your light,  
and pay homage to you all the days  
of our lives.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**  
**Treasures for the Lord**



*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.* The Magi travel to pay homage to the Holy Family after Jesus is born, a fulfillment of the prophecy we hear in the first reading. Isaiah urges Jerusalem to “rise up in splendor,” for the light has come. He tells of people who journey a long distance, “bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.” The Magi do just this and bring three gifts to honor baby Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. There is much symbolism in these gifts: gold identifies Jesus as a king; frankincense, used as incense for offerings, symbolizes prayer; myrrh, used in healing and embalming, foreshadows Jesus’ death.

Though it may feel like Christmas is over as the world has moved on from celebrating the holiday season, the Church celebrates Christmas until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (this year, that is next Sunday, January 12). In the spirit of Christmas, reflect on what treasures you possess to give to the Lord, on what gifts you can offer to your community and the Church. After your prayerful reflection, offer a gift to someone this week. A person in your community might appreciate the gift of quality time; an agency might welcome your volunteer hours; children in your family would appreciate the gift of faith through faith-sharing on the Epiphany; and organizations that serve families appreciate monetary gifts.

# KENT & PELCZAR

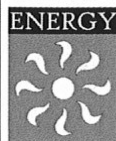
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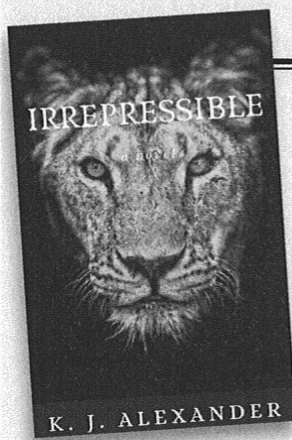
Please Continue  
To Pray For



World Peace

IRREPRESSIBLE

K.J. Alexander



To her, she's just  
another foster kid.  
To them, she's the  
queen who will  
save them all.

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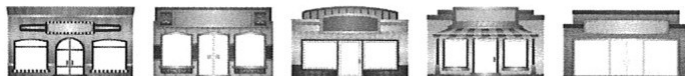
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