

**Pulpit Announcements
Feast of the Epiphany
January 2, 2022**

**Happy New Year and Welcome to all who are here today on the
Feast of the Epiphany.**

**Whoever you are, or wherever you find yourself on the journey,
know that here at St. Matthias, All Are Welcome.**

- Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end; thus our memorial Christmas trees will be taken down Saturday, January 8th from 10:00 am up until 3:00 pm if needed. Volunteers are needed to strip the trees of lights and cords, pack them away and take down the trees. If you have ornaments on any of the trees that you would like to keep, please remove them by January 6th. See further details on page 9 of the bulletin. The lighted trees and the outdoor manger will remain up through midnight January 6th.
- If you haven't already made plans, you won't want to miss the Franklin HS Madrigals after the 12:00 Mass. At the Mass itself, we will celebrate the Feast of the Three Kings with an English/Spanish bilingual Mass presided by Fr. Ron Machado of Most Holy Name of Jesus Church in Perth Amboy.
- Finally, St. Matthias is looking for a general maintenance worker with a black seal license. Responsibilities for the parish and school are listed on page 10 along with contact information for applications.

We are often caught up in how our faith affects and is affected by the country and politics of the country where we live. And we as Catholics have a tendency to "get into the weeds" when it comes to living the gospel. But today's readings tell us that salvation is universal and provide for us a much wider view of our church as we celebrate the universality of Christ's message.

In the Gentile magi, the divisions of culture, religion and nation are reconciled because as we sing in the Psalm today, "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." If we believe that every nation, every religion has some gift to offer God, can we dare refuse to accept the gifts that strangers bring us? A multicultural society and church are witnesses to the inclusiveness that Christ asks of us.

Music for Our Assembly
Feast of the Epiphany
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Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun...Baruch 5:5.

Entrance Hymn- We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, Moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

**O star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain. Gold I bring to crown him again.
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. **Refrain**

Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising gladly raising, worship him, God on high. **Refrain**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume; breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain**

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11. Text and music: Carols, Hymns and Songs, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

Responsorial Psalm 72

Lord every nation on earth will adore you.

Preparation Hymn - As with Gladness Men of Old - DIX

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to thee, our heav'nly King.

Text: 77 77 77; William C. Dix, 1837–1898. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872; adapt. by William H. Monk, 1823–1889.

Communion Hymn - The First Noel

The first Nowell, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon the knee,
And offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

Text: Irregular with refrain; trad. English carol, 17th cent.; verse 6, alt. Music: Trad. English carol, 17th cent.

Closing Hymn - Joy to the World Joy to the World

ANTIOCH/Dean Baskerville/Laurie Roberts/Tammy McMorrow

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, And heav'n and nature sing, 3x

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, 3x

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love 3x,

Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98:4–9; Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759;

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PRAYERS FOR THE MASS

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.**

**Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

**The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.**

**For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.**

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Prayers of the Faithful
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Our response is: Lord of Enlightenment, hear our prayer.

- 1. For the church, gathered from all nations...May her holiness shine out as a guiding star to bring to Jesus those who are still in darkness, we pray...**
- 2. For world, national and local government leaders...That wise men of every country and every religious background may come to understand the truth that Jesus alone is God made flesh and place their gifts gratefully at His feet, we pray...**
- 3. For this faith community of St Matthias...That the faith and persevering search of the magi inspires us during the dark times of our journey, when only the light of a great star leads us on through the night, we pray...**
- 4. For those who travel a dark road of misery, especially those who are ill in body, mind or spirit, and those on our Parish and School family sick list...Bring them joy in finding a star to guide and lead them to the mercy of the Lord, we pray...**
- 5. For all who have died, especially Kathleen O'Neill, Patricia Rantkowski, Carol Demler, Julia Mae Burch and Joyce Shamy...Bring them to rest in the radiant presence of the Savior whom they sought in the shadows of this passing world, we pray...**
- 6. For the intentions in the hearts of all those in this assembly, (LONG PAUSE)...May we follow the guiding star of our Lord to peace of heart, we pray...**

PRIEST _____ (MASS INTENTION)

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You, and I believe your words: "*Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.*" Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen