

## *Saint John XXIII Parish*

...and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him.





Mass Intentions

Saturday  
SJE 4:00 PM

IJ 6:00 PM

Sunday  
SJE 8:00 AM

IJ 10:30 AM

Tuesday  
IJ 8:30 AM

Wednesday  
SJE 8:30 AM

Thursday  
IJ 8:30 AM

Friday  
SJE 8:30 AM

Saturday  
SJE 4:00 PM

IJ 6:00 PM

Sunday  
SJE 8:00 AM  
IJ 10:30 AM

*January 2 Anticipated Weekend Mass*

Deceased loved ones of  
Kevin Natwick

Deceased loved ones of Douglas Dame

*January 3 Epiphany of the Lord*

Deceased loved ones of  
Anne Marie Bitler

Theresa Duchesne 2nd Anniv.  
By her family

*January 5 Saint John Neumann*

Intentions of the parishioners

*January 6 Saint Andre Bessette*

Walter & Mary Doyle by Rita Clark

*January 7*

Deceased loved ones of Joanne Charron

*January 8*

Intentions of the parishioners

*January 9 Anticipated Weekend Mass*

Joseph & Anna Brie

By Dan & Ginny Dumont

Relatives & friends of

The Beaulieu & Blanchette Families

*January Baptism of the Lord*

Intentions of the parishioners

Tom Dupont 16th Anniv.

By Steve & Denise Theriault

*IJ = Infant Jesus Church SJE = St. John the Evangelist Church*

**SISTERS OF HOLY CROSS  
CLAIRE DANEAU LEGACY FUND**

For the past seven years the Sisters of Holy Cross have sold raffle calendars to help fund their orphanage in Haiti. Due to the pandemic and the aging membership of the Sisters, they will no longer sell calendars. If anyone would like to continue to support the orphanage donations can be forwarded to : Sisters of Holy Cross, c/o Claire Daneau Legacy Fund, 365 Island Pond Road, Manchester, NH 03109. Thank you for all the support and encouragement throughout the years.

**PRAYER INTENTION BOOK**

We invite you to enter your prayer requests in our Intention Books located at the main entrance of both churches. These intentions are remembered in the "Prayer of the Faithful" at all of our Masses.

**Readings for the Week – January 4 through January 10**

**Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22

**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

**Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11 n



# Saint John XXIII Parish



## REFLECTIONS FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

From boyhood I have always loved the Epiphany story, perhaps because the magi manage to bring a touch of the exotic and color to the nearly monochrome stable scene of the first Christmas. More than that, their very arrival after a presumably long dangerous journey has always underscored the attractive power and authentic divinity of the baby Jesus. Also, the stark contrast the gift bearers make with the humble homespun couple and their newborn has always struck me with how God acts in ways that challenge our expectations.

Of course, we should not be surprised how often God does this, thoroughly upsetting our ideas about “how things ought to be.” When our notions clash with His, urging us to ask for Him to change His decision, He simply refers to His prior admission that “My ways are not yours” and the added codicil “Learn from Me.”

We could ask “Shouldn’t the wise men have pooled their resources to set up this young couple and their child in the best room at the inn?” Not a proper question albeit a natural one. We have to accept God the Father’s “No” to that.

To that we add the vexing question for the Jews at that time: “Why does Yahweh allow these gentiles to receive a warm welcome from God when we are His chosen people?” A hard pill for them to swallow as they heard this story.

Inevitably we come to think about our personal failure in at least one aspect of our lives. One would think that after all this time, all these centuries since the Bethlehem event, and the clear teaching of the grown up Nazarene, we would still be guilty of racial prejudice. And what about this awful habit of practically naming ourselves “God’s selected ones” all the time forgetting the petty betrayal of Him involved in our every sin? One could analyze that each sin of ours is like a spike of rough straw chafing an infant’s skin. Or more heinous, like a thorn crowning a condemned God-Man’s sacred head.

We have our work cut out for us, as in our imaginations we rise up from our knees behind the wise men when they stand up. We know they won’t be going back to Herod with any report. Nor will they take the same route home. Nobody who has seen Christ goes away the same. They will have learned without any words from the Holy Infant what it takes to be truly wise. All of this is what makes the Epiphany celebration wonderful. Our Eastern rite brothers and sisters celebrate this day more than Christmas. It is the day our God revealed Himself as Someone available to everybody and not to just one race.

When I find myself tempted to join the growing number of cynics in the world beyond my front door, who seem more aggressive these days than we are in spreading their convictions, I can recall this scene for comfort. It has adorned many a Christmas card; been added to literary fiction in Henry Van Dyke’s story of “The Other Wise Man,” and immortalized in music as the subject of Menotti’s opera “Amahl and the Night Visitors.”

In my mind I see the weary camels shaking the tiny bells in their livery. I hear rustling silk in the apparel of the extraordinary travelers from the East. I smell the aroma of incense competing with the stink of the stable. And I see the look of delight on that tiny Face which I believe with all my heart to be my God’s countenance.

May that same God love you throughout this New Year and give you His peace.

*Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Week Ending ~ Dec. 19 & 20, 2020

Adult Envelopes (105)	\$3,468.00
WeShare (Online Giving) (50)	\$870.00
Loose Cash	\$217.00
<b>Offertory Total:</b>	<b>\$4,555.00</b>

*May our loving God bless you  
for your continued generosity!*

## BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS

Your donations to our recent "Baby Shower for Jesus" for the Real Options Pregnancy Center were very much appreciated. Your continued generosity over the years, especially during these challenging times, is awesome! Thank you!

## ONLINE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Have you recently lost a spouse, family member or friend, and are struggling with grief and loss? Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, “Bereavement – Experiencing Loss, Being Lost and Finding your Way Again,” a six-series program helping participants learn about the dynamics of grief, discover new ways to cope while healing and gain the opportunity to be supported and support others also sharing a painful journey. Sessions will be held on Thursdays (January 28 – March 4) from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register, visit [www.cc-nh.org/beravement](http://www.cc-nh.org/beravement). You may also call 603-752-1325 or email [efrenette@nh-cc.org](mailto:efrenette@nh-cc.org).

## CORPUS CHRISTI FOOD PANTRY VAN DRIVER NEEDED

Corpus Christi Food Pantry is in need of a volunteer to drive the pantry van. Someone to make “food pick-ups” at the food bank in Manchester and at local grocery stores in Nashua. This position requires some “muscle” and good driving record. If you can help, please call Maryellen at 882-6372 or email [corpuschristifp@outlook.com](mailto:corpuschristifp@outlook.com)

## SAINT JOHN HUDSON COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY GROCERY COUPONS

St. John Hudson Community Food Pantry continues to look for your unused grocery coupons to shop to fill their shelves. Coupons can be placed in the receptacles at both church entrances in Hudson and the main entrance in Nashua. They can accept coupons that are expired (within a 6 month period) which can be redeemed by our Armed Forces at their local PX stations.

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Please consider Your Parish in Your Will.  
For further information, please call the Parish Office.  
Thank you.

**Child Safety Reporting**  
If you know of or suspect abuse or neglect of a minor (under 18 yrs.), you must report it to the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families: 1-800-894-5533 or 603-271-6566.

If you have experienced abuse by someone representing the Catholic Church, you may contact the Office for Healing and Pastoral Care of the Diocese of Manchester: 603-668-0014 or 800-475-5585 x233.

Sponsored by the Office for Ministerial Conduct, Diocese of Manchester.

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**What's My Name?**  
The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

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