

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The Gospels present various moments when God's divine life is revealed to the world. For instance, after Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and a voice from heaven declared, "You are my Beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21-22). At the wedding feast at Cana, Jesus transformed water into wine (John 2:1-11). On this Feast of the Epiphany, we recall how God was revealed to the magi, visitors from distant lands who had not previously known God (Matthew 2:1-12).

The Scriptural passage for today's Feast of the Epiphany illustrates a reversal of fortunes: those who appear blessed may become unfortunate, while the less fortunate may receive blessings. The chief priests and scribes understood from the prophets that a ruler would be born in Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, to shepherd God's people, Israel. King Herod also became aware of this prophecy, yet none of them demonstrated love or respect for the newborn King whom God had revealed.

In contrast, the magi were foreigners unfamiliar with the prophecies or Scriptures concerning the birth of the Savior. They relied on their God-given ability to study and interpret the stars. Upon observing a unique star in the sky, they concentrated on its significance and followed its guidance. They were blessed because they chose to embark on the journey to seek the newborn King.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, let us pray that we do not take our faith for granted. May we avoid the mistakes of the chief priests, scribes, and King Herod, who were distracted by power and false hopes. Instead, let us learn from the magi, who showed passion and humility in seeking the truth. We can focus our hearts, minds, and efforts on following God's guidance in Scripture, in nature, in the people around us, and in the events of our lives. May we recognize and live in God's presence. When we face challenges, may we keep learning, growing, and searching for God with humble and eager hearts. Just as God provided a star to guide the magi to Emmanuel, may we also help others see God's presence and encourage them to begin their own journey to honor God. Amen.



ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gassaway, West Virginia

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 4, 2026

## Gospel

### Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judah, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."



After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

## Readings of the week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday—Jan. 1	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 John 3:22-4:6	1 John 4:7-10	1 John 4:11-18	1 John 4:19-5:4	1 John 5:5-13	1 John 5:14-21	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalms 2:7-8, 10-12	Psalms 72:1-4, 7-8	Psalms 72:1-2, 10, 12-13	Psalms 72:1-2, 14-15	Psalms 147:12-15, 19-20	Psalms 149:1-6a, 9b	Psalms 29:1-4, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25	Mark 6:34-44	Mark 6:45-52	Luke 4:14-22	Luke 5:12-16	John 3:22-30	Matthew 3:13-17

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More information on our parish website: <https://stthomasgassaway.org>

**Sharing God's Blessings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Dec 27 + 28, 2025</b>
<b>Collection</b>	<b>135 &amp; 1232</b>
<b>Mass Attendance</b>	<b>5 + 7 &amp; 45</b>
<b>Religious Ret. Fund</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Catholic Charities Christmas Day</b>	<b>10 &amp; 398</b>

**Thank you for your contribution**

**Liturgy Schedule**

**RISEN LORD CHURCH**

SUNDAY MASS: **8:30am**

**Liturgy Schedule**

**ST. THOMAS PARISH**

ROSARY: Sunday 10:30a.m.

**WEEKEND MASSES:**

**Sat: 4:00 p.m.** (Sunday Vigil)

**Sun: 11:00 a.m.**

**WEEKDAY: Tue & Wed: 4:00p.m.**

**Thu & Fri: 8:00a.m.**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**

Every Tuesday at 4:00p.m.  
 prior to Mass

**RECONCILIATION:**

- Any time 30 minutes before or after daily Mass, After Sunday Mass

**Christmas 2025 Flower Offering In Memory/Honor Of:**

Joe & Marian Agostino: Dec. 28, 2025  
 Leo & Dorothy Koller  
 Carl & Thelma May  
 May Family  
 Koller Family  
 June Agostino  
 Agostino Family

Martin & Kathleen Bronkhurst—January 6  
 Sienna, Dave, Clara

Sue Cunningham—Jan. 7  
 Deceased members of the Morton & Cunningham Families

Rick & Christine Allen: Allen & Frame Families—Jan. 10

McLaughlin Family McLaughlin Family—Jan. 11

Patricia McPherson—Jan. 13  
 Joe D. McPherson  
 Joseph & Theresa McPherson  
 Dorothy & Gerald Young

Constance Moore—Jan. 14  
 Deceased members of the Ashley, Lazur & Moore Families

John Taylor:  
 Ruth Taylor  
 John Taylor  
 Archabald Taylor  
 Earnest Taylor  
 Frank Kitts

Maxine Taylor:  
 Opha Turner  
 Eva Turner  
 Kenneth Turner  
 Bud Turner  
 Ella June Patton

Thomas & Candace Teubert:  
 In Honor of the Teubert Family

Phil & Theresa Peters:  
 William C. Taylor  
 Kathryn & Dick Minnich  
 Don & Frances Peters  
 Jim Carter  
 John Peters  
 Steve Peters

**HAPPY BIRTH DAY**

Marty Bronkhurst — Jan. 2

Dane Hopen — Jan. 3

Samuel Peters — Jan. 4

Jessica Porto — Jan. 6

Genevieve Harman — Jan. 7

Shaina Pugh — Jan. 7

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Bring up the Offertory Gifts</b>	<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>
January 4	Theresa Sutton	Carpenters	Pat McPherson/ Mac Bailes
January 11	Candy Teubert	McLaughlins	Pat McPherson/ Westley Carpenter
January 18	Pat McPherson	Shavers	Tom Teubert and Candy Teubert
January 25	Westley Carpenter	Kathy & Marty Bronkhurst	Fred Friend and Mac Bailes

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**January 4, 2026**

Vocation Views:

**God does not call through trumpets and midnight visions, but through the quiet recognition in the heart that something new is happening. As the Magi were attentive to the signs of the times, be aware of how God is calling you to be a disciple.**

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES &  
 SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
 800-553-3321

**Risen Lord  
 New Year Meal**



**Special Thanks**

*Angel Tree* 

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have picked up an Angel Tree ornaments and purchased gifts for the children in our county. You have made 10 children very happy this Christmas season. Thank you all for being so thoughtful, generous, and caring. Marian

*Christmas Flowers* 

Thank you very much to everyone for your generous contributions for the Christmas Flowers.



## Risen Lord Food Pantry Maysel, West Virginia

Thank You,  
Thank You .... !!!  
to Benefactors & Volunteers  
for Risen Lord Food Pantry  
December 18, 2025:

Ann Hall, Mike Mance, Vicky Grose, Eva Tax,  
Cheryl Hensley, Kathy and Larry Schoonover,  
Megan, Mitchell, Madison and Michael Murphy,  
Rick Allen, Tom Tuebert,  
Friends from Wheeling:  
John and Nick Turziano

Your sacrifice and support made it possible  
to share the love and joy of Thanksgiving  
with 323 families.

May we all be rejoicing with the Emmanuel !!!

*May God's richest blessings and grace  
pour upon you, your families and friends.*



## St. Thomas Food Pantry Special Thanks !!!

to Benefactors & Volunteers  
for St. Thomas Food Pantry  
December 11, 2025:

Marian Agostino, Pat McPherson,  
Connie & John Moore, Colleen Mahon,  
Rose DeProspero, Theresa & Phil Peters,  
Scott Lazur, Toney Marcum, Lydia Bennett,  
Zeb Bennett, Vicki Bennett, Rick Allen,  
Marty & Kathy Bronkhurst, Tom & Candace Teubert,  
Kari Friend, Allison Evans, Maxine Taylor,  
Matthew Peters, Bethany Peters, Phil Peters II,  
Benjamin Peters.

to share the love and joy of the Emmanuel  
with 102 families and 15 Moms.  
In the last several days, we also served 34 more  
families.

*May the joy, peace, love and blessings  
of the Emmanuel pour upon families,  
nation and world this Holy Season of  
Christmas and throughout the New Year.*

