

Background on the Gospel Readings



The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ."

The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They came from the East and journeyed to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they brought as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically, several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including His birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His baptism by John, and His first miracle at Cana.

-Taken from www.loyolapress.com

A New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart;

A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait for the coming of these things,

with the wisdom to recognize them when they come.

Amen.

Stewardship Report: Revenue

December 20th:	7,700.00
Faith Direct:	2,702.00
Total Offortory:	10,402.00
Last Year:	10,648.00

Due to the early deadline to submit this week's bulletin, the Stewardship Report for Christmas and Dec. 27th will be included in next week's bulletin.

Building and Maintenance Fund: The second collection **this weekend** is for our regular Building and Maintenance Fund. This monthly collection enables us to make ongoing repairs to our parish and school buildings and grounds.

Looking Ahead

'Lost and Found' Clean-Out: Have you lost your reading glasses? How about a hat or gloves? Lost items found in the church are placed in the ushers' closet. Please ask an usher to assist you in locating your missing items. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity after January 17th.

Marathon to Support the Academy of St. Matthias
Sign up to run and fundraise with us! On March 12, 2016, teachers and friends from all over the country will come to Washington, D.C., to support the Academy of Saint Matthias the Apostle! Sign up for the run at <http://runrocknroll.com/dc>.

Fourth Archdiocesan Women's Conference: On Saturday, February 27, 2016, the Fourth Archdiocesan Women's Conference, "Divine Mercy in Prayer and Action," will be held at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg, MD, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be an English and Spanish track. The day will also include Mass, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, a fabulous lunch, and many workshops to choose from. The day will end with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Adoration. For more information, contact Maria Suarez Hamm in the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4499 or at mhamm@adw.org, or visitwww.adw.org/womensconference.

The St. Matthias Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group
meets every Sunday in the Church after the 10:30 am Mass. All are welcome.

Hosting An Event? Friendship Hall is available for rent. For information, please contact Thad Ereme at 301-459-4814 x 207 or email tereme@stmatthias.org.

Winter Baseball Camps: Catholic University head baseball Coach Ross Natoli will conduct Advanced Development Baseball Camps on the weekends from Jan. 10th—Feb 13th for players ages 7-18. For more information, please contact Coach Natoli at Natoli@cua.edu or 202-319-6092. Visit the website at www.rossnatolibaseballcamps.com

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Items of Note

Missals for Sale: Saint Joseph Missals for 2016 are available for sale in the church vestibule and at the Hughes Center parish office. The cost is \$4.00.



Calling all Teens! The Saint Matthias Teen Youth Group will hold its next meeting on Sunday, January 10th from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Hughes Center. Refreshments will be provided. Parish teens in grades 9 through 12 are welcome. Registration forms are available in the pamphlet rack in the Church vestibule. For more information, contact Le-Marie Thompson at 301-452-2258 or Arlene Taylor at 301-459-5549.



Youth Rally & Mass for Life: The Youth Rally and Mass for Life will be held on Friday, January 22nd, 2016. Each year on the morning of the National March for Life, thousands gather from around the nation to participate. Tickets are required for entry. For more information and to register for free tickets, please visit <http://YouthRallyandMassforLife.org>.



Knights of Columbus Scholarships: The Maryland State Council and Insurance Advisors of the Knights of Columbus sponsor several Catholic high school scholarships. Saint Matthias teens are encouraged to apply. You may obtain specific information and applications by visiting <http://www.kofc-md.org/>. Applicants will be judged on academic excellence, personal qualifications, and financial need. The application deadline is February 1st.

Women's Day of Reflection will be held at St. Andrew Apostle Church in Silver Spring, MD, on Saturday, January 16th from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. Cost is \$20. Visit <http://standrewapostle.org/day-of-reflection-2016> for more information and registration.

Holy Water Bottles are available for purchase in the vestibule of the church and at the parish office. The cost is \$3.00.

Academy of Saint Matthias Lottery:



Purchase your raffle tickets from the Hughes Center parish office during regular business hours. Tickets are \$10 each.



Celebrant Mass Schedule for the Weekend of January 9/10

5:00 pm	Msgr. Balbago
8:00 am	Father Canice
10:30 am	Father Ford
6:00 pm	Father Milt



Mass Intentions for the The Christmas Season

Monday, January 4: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30 am Alice Ball
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Confessions
8:00 pm Benediction

Tuesday, January 5: Saint John Neumann, Bishop

8:30 am Frank Falls

Wednesday, January 6: Saint Andre Bessette

8:30 am Lolita Compas and Joe Manlapaz, Jr.

Thursday, January 7: Saint Raymond of Penyafort

8:30 am Donald R. Dietrich

Friday, January 8:

8:00 am John Duggan

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 9:

5:00 pm Carmelo Gugliotta

Sunday, January 10:

8:00 am Robert Taylor
10:30 am Innocent Ihegbe
6:00 pm Elizabeth Reedy

Readings for the Baptism of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1 - 4, 6 - 7

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34 - 38

Gospel: Luke 3:15 - 16

Please pray for the sick and homebound in our parish, our neighbors, family, and friends:

Ronnie Davis; Jack Jordan; Kay Kaderabek; John and Joan Kodak; Joe Makowski; Rocco Martino; Tim O'Leary; Marion Prout; Madeline White, Eugene Zehner

-For our military, protect them from all harm.

-For all the faithful departed, may they rest in peace.

Names will be placed on our prayer list for 4 weeks. To place a name on the list, please contact Pat Ford at 301-459-4814 x 201 or email pford@stmatthias.org

Bless Your Home on Epiphany

The gospel tells us that the Magi found Christ "on entering the house." The door to your home is a holy threshold. You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk the numbers of the year and the letters: 20 + C + M + B + 16. Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Adolph Adam points out that it may also mean "Christus mansionem benedicat" or "May Christ bless this dwelling." It's appropriate to bless your door in January—*janua* means *door* and the first month is the door to the New Year.

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