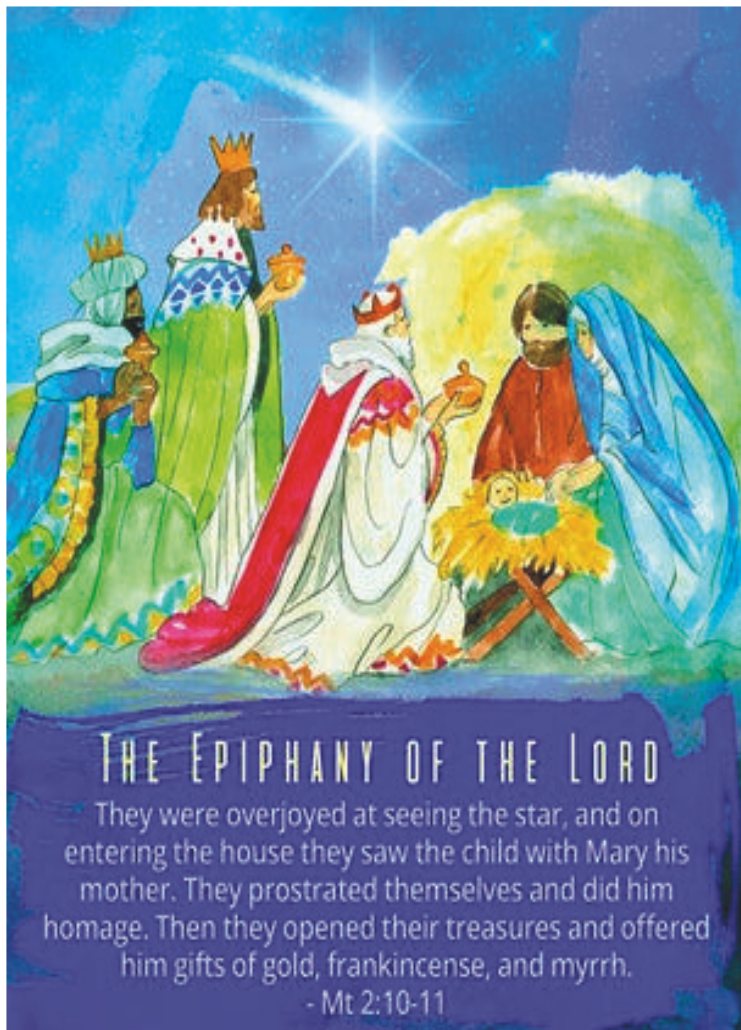


Precious Blood Parish

St. Agnes Church
400 Merwin Avenue
Milford, CT 06460



St. Mary Church
(Parish Office)
70 Gulf Street
Milford, CT 06460



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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.

- Mt 2:10-11

Precious Blood Parish is a Roman Catholic community of faith in Milford, Connecticut rooted in the Word of God and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. We are missionary disciples who seek to bring the presence and the message of Jesus Christ to others through prayer, faith formation and assisting the needy through ministries grounded in the works of mercy.

We Welcome All Visitors

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil

4:30 pm	St. Mary
5:00 pm	St. Agnes

Sunday

7:30 am	St. Agnes
8:30 am	St. Mary
10:00 am	St. Mary
10:30 am	St. Agnes
11:30 am	St. Mary
4:30 pm	St. Mary

DAILY MASSES

7:00 am	St. Mary
7:30 am (Saturday)	St. Mary
9:00 am (Mon-Fri)	St. Agnes

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 pm—4:30 pm	St. Agnes
Monday 6:00 pm—7:00 pm	St. Mary

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PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH, MILFORD

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Agnes Church

Mon January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

9:00 *Carol Ruggiero* by her husband

Tue January 5 St. John Neumann

9:00 No Intention

Wed January 6 St. Andre Bessette

9:00 No Intention

Thu January 7 St. Raymond of Penafort

9:00 No Intention

Fri January 8 Christmas Weekday

9:00 *Health & Blessings for Bernice Stewart*

Sat January 9

VIGIL

5:00 No Intention

Sun January 10 Baptism of the Lord

7:30 No Intention

10:30 *Emanuele Bertilino* by Philpottis, Schmidts, Poseys

Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

Sun: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Mon: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt
4:12-17, 23-25

Tue: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34

Wed: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk
6:45-52

Thu: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 1
1]/Lk 4:14-22a

Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk
5:12-16

Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b
[cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [
11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/
Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11



Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity, opened the first American parish school, and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this in the span of 46 years while raising her 5 children. She told her sisters, "The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner he wills it; and thirdly, to do it because it is his will."

St. Mary Church

Mon January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:00 *Louie Picitelli* by Leo Brunell

Tue January 5 St. John Neumann

7:00 *John Rinaldi* by Cathy and Tim Rinaldi

Wed January 6 St. Andre Bessette

7:00 *Andrew Walther* by Wendy Valteau

Thu January 7 St. Raymond of Penafort

7:00 No Intention

Fri January 8 Christmas Weekday

7:00 *Michael Kamenitsky* by Mary Beth & Michael

Sat January 9 Christmas Weekday

7:30 No Intention

VIGIL

4:30 *Joseph Farina* by his family

Sun January 10 Baptism of the Lord

8:30 *Louis and Anna D'Amato* by their family

10:00 *Rev. James J. Cronin*

11:30 *Connie Nettles* by Fran Sudusky

4:30 *Parish Blood Parishioners*



The Sanctuary Lamp
Week of January 3, 2021
Is in Memory of
Susan and Michael



Sometimes called Twelfth Night (12 days after Christmas), Epiphany is derived from the Greek word meaning "manifestation." We commemorate the occasion on which God, through Christ, was made manifest to the whole world, represented by the Magi. Epiphany was first used in the Christian sense by St. Paul referring to both the first and final coming of Christ in his letter to Timothy "He saved us...now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who brought life and immortality to light through the gospel...." and in his letter to Titus "For the grace of God has appeared saving us all...as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the great God and our savior Jesus Christ."

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Dear Friends:

This Sunday marks a new beginning of sorts. This is the first Sunday of a new year, and a year that we all hope after the trying year through which we have been, will see a return to some semblance of normalcy of life. In spite of all the challenges we have had to face, both individually and as a nation and a world community, we have much for which to be thankful as we launch into 2021. For the near future at least, we will have to continue to be vigilant and careful regarding COVID-19, wearing our masks, keeping social distance, and washing our hands properly. Doing such can seem to be a nuisance at times, but it really is an act of Christian love. In following the protocols, we not only do what we can to care for our own health, we also do what we can to help others around us, whether they be loved ones or people we may pass in the store or elsewhere, stay healthy and safe. There is an important maxim that is taught in Catholic theology, namely "that grace builds on nature." This teaching holds that we are obligated to do all we can in a given situation, and then God, according to his goodness and holy will, takes it from there. It is never proper just to sit idly by and expect God to do everything for us. God does love us and wants the best for us, but he also asks that we work with him and do what we can in living out our lives.

The Annual Collection for 2020 was a resounding success. We surpassed our goal of \$60,000. The total received as of the writing of these words, just a few days before Christmas, is \$62,269. I thank everyone who made a gift to the collection, and again, even at the risk of sounding repetitive, I do want to thank you, the people, for your outstanding and ongoing generosity to the parish. We could not do what we do without your support.

By way of reminder, our twinning ministry with Ste. Therese Parish in Marbial, Haiti, is still in place. The committee meets regularly to discuss ways that we can do something to help the people there who are in such need. A recent vote of the committee, which I endorse, is that we send a contribution of \$500 monthly to help to feed the children of Marbial, many of whom, if they are fortunate, might get just one meal a day. Happily, we have funds on hand to support that additional outreach, again thanks to your generosity over the years. Due to the pandemic and the ongoing political situation in Haiti, we will not be sponsoring a medical mission for the foreseeable future, but we are setting aside some of the funds in reserve in the hope that a medical mission to Marbial can take place when possible. In the meantime, should anyone feel so inclined, we will continue to welcome contributions to the Haiti ministry. As always, make checks payable to Precious Blood Parish and note on the memo line "Haiti" and your gift will be properly credited. With Lent approaching in just over a month or so, we will once again have the Healing Tree available in both churches with proceeds going to the Haiti ministry. Making donations to that effort is an excellent way to practice almsgiving, one of the pillar spiritual practices of our faith, especially in Lent.

In conclusion, let me, on behalf of the clergy and staff, wish all of you a wonderful, happy and healthy New Year!

Rev. Robert X. ...

WHO WERE THE MAGI?



We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There's a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men *magoi*. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean "magician," but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We're not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says "the east." History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from they traveled hundreds of miles and represent the manifestation of Christ to the entire known world. The identification of the Magi as kings is linked to Old Testament prophecies that describe the Messiah's being worshipped by kings in Isaiah and the Psalms, "*Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations serve him.*" Early readers reinterpreted Matthew in light of these prophecies and elevated the Magi to kings.



The Thanksgiving drive-through Food Drive and Blessing at St. Mary Church was a HUGH SUCCESS! The **John Rigely Food Pantry** ministry would like to thank everyone who came out to the event. Over 165 cars kept our volunteers busy; they were blown away by the tremendous amount of food, gift cards and money that was donated. Even days later people continued to drop off donations. Not only did people give items, but so many wanted to give their time and volunteer. With so much negativity around us, this was an uplifting, heartwarming afternoon. The clergy gave many blessings to gracious and grateful parishioners and non-parishioners alike. The need is great and you can continue to give, online if you wish, at preciousbloodparishmilford.org/giving.



The Mass Intention book for 2022 will be open **January 15th**. Please do not request Masses for 2022 before that date.



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

Why have modern presidents relied on 'faith advisers'?

Politicians love to use religion and faith to legitimize their policies in order to make themselves and those policies appear "righteous." How can Trump's faith advisers and Biden's incoming ones both be right when their views on faith and policies mostly contradict each other, and in some cases are contrary to a high view of Scripture?

Abraham Lincoln raised the same question in his second inaugural address when he said of the conflicting advice he was receiving from unsolicited faith advisers of his day: *"Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other....The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes."*

In his *"Prescription Against Heresies,"* Tertullian viewed faith *"as the submission of our will to the Divine Authority."*

Nathan's direct confrontation of David led to David's writing one of the great Psalms of genuine repentance and acknowledgement to God that *"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge."* (Psalm 51:4)

That's the kind of faith adviser who should matter to any leader.

GOD LOVE YOU—Ven. Fulton J. Sheen

"Two considerations are helpful in developing a good disposition. The first is to be mindful that a happy conscience makes a happy outlook on life, and an unhappy conscience makes us miserable on the inside and everyone else miserable on the outside. When our conscience bothers us, whether we admit it or not, we often try to justify it by correcting others, or by finding fault with them. The readiness to believe evil about others is in a large part ammunition for a thousand scandals in our own hearts. But by finding black spots in others, they believe they distract attention from their own miserable state. The good conscience, on the contrary, finds good in others even when there is some discontent with self."



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Rev. Sam John, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Lijo Thomas, Parochial Vicar
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Deacon John Hoffman
Deacon Paul Jennings

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Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Pfc. Ron Murray,

Jordan Grassmann USN, Michael A. Eno USN, SR Justin Plantamura USN, John Henry Phelan, Capt. Richard Brantley, Michael Casey USN, SSGT. Armando Lizasuain CPO, Dakota Owen USA Lt. Col. Jason Dymond, Joshua Ehret Po1USN, Pfc. Daniel Hewston, Col. Andrew Whiskeyman, Colin O'Sullivan USAF, Spec. Anthony Olenski, William F. Gilson USAF, SSGT. Michael Foss, MSgt Carlie Blacklidge, 2nd Lt. Brendan Hayes, SSR Matthew Hunt USN, CDR Matthew Fanning, Maj. Jonathan Rembetsy, Charles J. Grant, Alec Rossetti MA2USN, Maj. Patrick T. Horvat, Pvt. Colby Kmetz USA, Pvt. Erik Johnson USM



Tax statements for the 2020 calendar year will be available, **by request, at the rectory** during office hours at the **end of January.**

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 – William Ewart Gladstone, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

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