

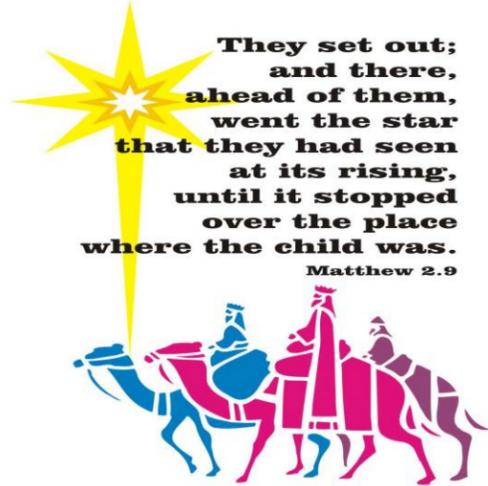
Mass Intentions (Jan 3 & 4, 2026)

Sat. Jan 3/4:30 p.m. Ivy, Raymond & Fabian Edward - Edward family

Sun. Jan 4 /10:00 a.m. Nick Baird - Teresa Baird
David Awe - Teresa Baird
Eileen Shanahan - Shanahan & Scott family

NO WEEKDAY MASS UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



First Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6) The Glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Second Reading (Ephesians 3:2-3a.5-6)

Now the mystery has been revealed: now the Gentiles have become fellow heirs of the promise.

Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12)

We have come from the East to pay homage to the king.

Reflection:

Religion can be a form of escapism, a fix to get us through the day, the week, the year. If so, than religion really is, as Karl Marx described it, the opium of the people.

Christianity is about involvement, not escapism.

Just as the magi spotted the star, we are called to read the signs of our times, to be alert to GOD peaking to us in our lives. We are called to have the courage to act on our convictions, to leave our old familiar securities and embark on the journey of discovering GOD. We are challenged to recognize the presence of GOD in the particular circumstances of our lives. GOD does not want to help us escape. He comes to be one of us, to be one with us, to ask us to join HIM in transforming life from within. He invites us to participate in his work of creation and his work of redemption. That is the mystery of the incarnation. He asks us to help make his presence and glory manifest in our world.

May you continue to be enlightened by the Light of Christ and shine the light upon others.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV FOR THE LIX WORLD DAY OF PEACE

1st JANUARY 2026

Peace be with you all: Towards an “unarmed and disarming” peace

“Peace be with you!”

This ancient greeting, still in use today in many cultures, was infused with new life on the evening of Easter on the lips of the risen Jesus. “Peace be with you” (Jn 20:19, 21) is his Word that does not merely desire peace, but truly brings about a lasting transformation in those who receive it, and consequently in all of reality. For this reason, the Apostles’ successors give voice every day throughout the world to the most silent of revolutions: “Peace be with you!” [From the very evening of my election as Bishop of Rome](#), I have wanted to join my own greeting to this universal proclamation. And I would like to reiterate that this is the peace of the risen Christ – a peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. It comes from God who loves us all unconditionally. [\[1\]](#)

The peace of the risen Christ

The Good Shepherd, who gives his life for the flock and has other sheep not of this fold (cf. Jn 10:11,16), is Christ, our peace, who has conquered death and broken down the walls of division that separate humanity (cf. Eph 2:14). His presence, his gift and his victory continue to shine through the perseverance of many witnesses through whom God’s work carries on in the world, becoming even more visible and radiant in the darkness of our times.

The contrast between darkness and light is not only a biblical image describing the labor pains of a new world being born; it is also an experience that unsettles us and affects us amid the trials we face in our historical circumstances. In order to overcome the darkness, it is necessary to see the light and believe in it. This is a call that Jesus’ disciples are invited to live in a unique and privileged way; yet it also finds its way into every human heart. Peace exists; it wants to dwell within us. It has the gentle power to enlighten and expand our understanding; it resists and overcomes violence. Peace is a breath of the eternal: while to evil we cry out “Enough,” to peace we whisper “Forever.” Into this horizon the Risen One has led us. Sustained by this conviction, even amid what [Pope Francis](#) called “a third world war fought piecemeal,” peacemakers continue to resist the spread of darkness, standing as sentinels in the night.

Sadly, it is also possible to forget the light. When this happens, we lose our sense of realism and surrender to a partial and distorted view of the world, disfigured by darkness and fear. Many today call “realistic” those narratives devoid of hope, blind to the beauty of others and forgetful of God’s grace, which is always at work in human hearts, even though wounded by sin. Saint Augustine urged Christians to forge an unbreakable bond with peace, so that by cherishing it deeply in their hearts, they would be able to radiate its luminous warmth around them. Addressing his community, he wrote: “If you wish to draw others to peace, first have it yourselves; be steadfast in peace yourselves. To inflame others, you must have the flame burning within.” [\[2\]](#)

To be continued

Next Sunday a second collection will be taken after communion for St. Peter the Apostle. Please use the assigned envelope in your box for this collection. Thank You!

Please pick up your SUNDAY ENVELOPE BOXES for 2026 available at the back of the church arranged in alphabetical order for your convenience.
Please note contributions \$20 and below for 2025 will not be assigned an envelope box for 2026. However, you will receive a tax receipt for any contribution you make during the year by providing you name and full address.
If your box is not available, please continue using a blank envelope with your contribution and 2025 number and leave your name, phone number and box number on the sheet provided on the table. The parish office will call you when one is assigned to you. Should you take the wrong box by mistake, please don’t forget to return it.
► In order to keep our data base updated and for tax purposes, all envelope users for 2026 are kindly requested to complete one of the envelopes with your name, address and phone number. Thank you!

 **The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week In memory of Luis Aizon.**
By - Beth Villondo

Our collection for Dec 28 was - \$ 1666.60
It is only the hand that is open to give that is open to receive. God cannot give us what we refuse to take and God cannot give to us when our hands and hearts cling to things.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

IT’S OUR 1ST COFFEE SUNDAY FOR 2026. COME JOIN US IN THE HALL FOR COFFEE & COOKIES!