

PEACE

There is no place like
HOME

Glory to **GOD** in the highest
heaven, and on earth *peace* to
those on whom his *favor* rests.

LUKE 2:14

*The Church Of Epiphany
Brick Township, New Jersey*

The Church of Epiphany

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

615 Thiele Road ~ Brick, New Jersey 08724

Phone: 732-458-0220 / Fax: 732-458-0855 / Website: www.churchofepiphany.org



Served By

REV. MICHAEL SANTANGELO -----Pastor
REV. ROBERT LAFERRERA-----Weekend Assistant
LOUIS V. COMMISSO (Retired) -----Deacon
MICHAEL MULLARKEY-----Deacon
RONALD NOWAK (Retired)-----Deacon
KIM LORENTZEN-----Director Religious Education
DANIEL DANTONI-----Director of Music
DONNA WOODLEY-----Parish Secretary
CAROL LORE-----Finance Secretary
KELLY CURCIONE-----Administrative Asst. Rel. Ed
MICHAEL & AMY NOWAK-----Middle School Youth Group
BARBARA FAVRETTO-----High School Youth Group

Rectory Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm

Office is closed for lunch 12:00pm – 1:15pm

Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm (no lunch break on Friday)

Religious Education Office

Same as Rectory Office Hours

Kim Lorentzen – Director of Education

kim@churchofepiphany.org

Kelly Curcione – Administrative Assistant

kelly@churchofepiphany.org

Welcome to our Parish

Please fill out a registration form to be affiliated with Epiphany Parish. Registration forms can be found on the parish office door or online on our website.

Masses

Saturday Vigil-----4:00 pm

Sunday-----8:00 am & 10:30 am

Holy Day Masses -----Mass as Announced

Confessions-----3:00 pm – 3:30pm

Sacrament of Marriage

Saturday 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm. Couples should contact the Parish Office to make preparations at least 1 year before the planned wedding date.

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is ordinarily celebrated the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 12:00 pm. To schedule Baptism, please call the Parish Office, at least one month in advance.

Sponsor Letters/Requirements

The following is required by Canon Law to be a Catholic Godparent/Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. Be at least 16 years of age. Have completed the Sacraments of Initiation. (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation). If married, have a marriage that is canonically valid and recognized by the Catholic Church. Be a registered and active parishioner living a life of faith. You must be registered with our parish for at least 3 months before we will provide a sponsor letter. Although you may have registered with our parish, if you are not attending Mass regularly and using the envelope system there is no way for the parish office to confirm regular Mass attendance. Please contact the Parish Office to confirm your status with our parish.

December 8, 2024 • Second Sunday of Advent

Daily Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 7, 2024

9:00AM F. Merritt Lorentzen by the Lorentzen family
4:00PM Lee Dreker

Sunday, December 8, 2024

8:00AM People of the Parish
10:30AM Norman Hughes by Family

Monday, December 9, 2024

9:00AM Deacon Peter Reynolds by Kim Lorentzen

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

9:00AM Iacocca & Zuppa families by Gloria & Gino

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

9:00AM Rita Cioffi Pezza
by Deacon Ron & Kathy Nowak
Intentions in the Grey Book

Thursday, December 12, 2024

9:00AM Alice Ogradowski by Jonn & Mary Ogradowski

Friday, December 13, 2024

9:00AM Joseph Mayer by Mary Ann Ceres

Saturday, December 14, 2024

9:00AM Anna Lewis by the Flood family
4:00PM Barbara Tobiassen by Bruce & Anita Thompson

Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:00AM John Infantolino by Laura & Keith Dryburgh
10:30AM People of the Parish

This Week at our Parish

Monday, December 9, 2024

10:00AM Food Pantry – PH
1:00PM Small Faith Sharing - APR
7:00PM Lets get together and pray group – APR

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

9:45AM Come & See Bible Study – APR
1:00PM Small Faith Sharing - APR
7:00PM Lessons & Carols - WA

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

3:00PM Adoration - WA
7:30PM Knights of Columbus – APR

Thursday, December 12, 2024

7:00PM Adult Choir - WA

Friday, December 13, 2024

7:00PM Cursillo Mass - WA
8:00PM AA – APR

Saturday, December 14, 2024

9:30AM Advent Retreat - APR
10:00AM Food Pantry – PH

Sunday, December 15, 2024

2:00PM Walking with Purpose – APR
6:00PM K of C Living Nativity Rehearsal – WA/APR

Legend: APR – All Purpose Room PH – Parish Hall
CA – Commons Area WA – Worship Area
RE – Religious Education Room OS – Outside

Sunday Scriptures

Here are next Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Please remember those who have died

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the deceased spouses, relatives, friends, and benefactors of the parish and for the comfort and consolation of their families including; Peter Kiraly.

Please pray for the sick

Patrick McHugh, Maureen Kelly, Stella LoBianco, Linda Wingler, Theresa Rosas, Billy Rutledge, Doris McCabe, Adele Byrne, Jill Rudville, Joanne Greenburg, Carol Nobile, Rosemarie Dooley, Dee Rebecky, Beth Kelly, Thea Clark, Anthony Cafaro, Madelyn Brunas, Steve Santangelo, Jim Alexander, Mary Caddigan, Lisa Jones, Greg Piekarz, Dena Kleb, Ester Garcia, Maureen Kelly, Gail Williams, Peggy Lane, Henry Gregory, Craig Percopo, Judy DiLeo, Sandy Netkie, Ciara King, Eleanor Bennett, Frank Quigley, Mike Paxton, John Cedenio, Carol Fitzpatrick, Madeline Oberting, Mary Buono, Patricia Macerino, Erin MacIntoch, Anthony Bonelli, Edna Duffy, Francis Bobick, Wilson Cruz, Timothy Feeney, Thomas Hallahan, Ginny Balahua, and those in the sick call book.

"Please Pray for the Sick" list is for those parishioners who are in need of further prayers from our "Prayers of the Faithful". They will remain on the list for 2 months, after which time their names will be moved to the Gray Book. To add someone to the prayer list, call Donna at 732-458-0220 or email

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve

4pm

8pm

12:00am Midnight

Christmas Day

8am & 10:30am

VIGIL LIGHT PRAYER

Weekly Remembrance December 8th – 15th

The Tabernacle Lamp
will burn in the honor/memory of:
Those in the Parish who are sick



The Blessed Mother Devotional Lamp
will burn in honor/memory of:
Those battling depression



The Sacred Heart Devotional Lamp
will burn in honor/memory of:
Priests in our Diocese



The St. Joseph Devotional Lamp
will burn in honor/memory of:
Jim Logan



Eucharistic Adoration: Every Wed. 3-6PM What is Eucharistic Adoration?

It is where you can be in the Presence of God in a real way. Jesus Christ Himself is present, on the altar, in a consecrated Host that is in the monstrance. "To visit the Blessed Sacrament is...proof of gratitude, an expression of love toward Christ our Lord" (CCC1418). It's where Jesus is waiting...for you to come to Him...

It takes some time to adjust to the silence & can even seem boring if you've never gone before. That's normal but if you can just breathe & relax, Jesus can teach you how to come to Him as a little child. Children find a sense of awe & wonder at things the rest of the world takes for granted or doesn't slow down to enjoy.

Re-discover Jesus! He's right here. In Adoration, God is present! Come talk to Him. He's waiting to listen to you, to help you & to pour out His graces upon you. He knows you. He loves you & He wants to bless you!
"Behold the Lamb of God".

Altar Rosary Society

The Society's Mission is "to sustain the beauty and sanctity of our Church and to increase devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary by promoting true Christian Charity, love of God, Neighbor, and Catholic Family Life" and recitation of the Rosary. Meetings last about one hour in the All Purpose Room. Our membership is open to all Catholic Women and Men of our Parish. Please come to any of our monthly meetings to meet us. **Our next meeting will take place on January 4, 2025.** Remember to keep praying your Rosary!

Healing Mass

All are welcome to join us from September to May for a Healing Mass. We will begin at 6:30PM in the worship area with prayer and reflection. Mass will commence at 7PM followed by Prayers of Healing and Adoration. Our next Healing Mass will be on **December 20th**

Epiphany Parish Advent Retreat

Join us on Saturday, December 14th from 9AM – 1PM for an Advent Retreat "God is With Us "Emmanuel". A light breakfast will be provided. Registration deadline is Monday, December 9th. A sign-up sheet can be found in the commons area.

Wellness for Maturing Adults

The HOPE – Wellness Ministry invites you to join them every first Wednesday of the month where they will discuss wellness for maturing adults. This program goes far beyond simple "health practices" (diet, exercise, etc.) for better health; it teaches how to harness psychological power, and spiritual strength to achieve optimal health in body, mind and spirit. **We are taking a short hiatus and will resume on March 5, 2025.**

HOPE For the Homebound Ministry

We are reaching out to parishioners who may be alone, homebound, and unable to participate in our Church Community. If you are homebound, or know of someone who is homebound, and would like to receive the Eucharist or just a friendly visit or call from one of our parishioners, please call the parish office to make arrangements.

Celiac Sprue Parishioners

The parish provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host for those who are gluten-intolerant. Parishioners should see the Deacon or Priest prior to the beginning of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

Let's Get Together and Pray

Meetings take place on **Mondays at 7:00PM.**

Our prayer group is open to anyone who is searching for answers and looking to pray as a community. Please contact Kim at kim@churchofepiphany.org for more information.

Bethany Bereavement

The Church of Epiphany Bethany Bereavement Support Group offers peer support for those grieving the death of a loved one. If you have lost a loved one, join others who have also experienced a loss for a series of 6 sessions of information, mutual sharing and peer support in a spiritual, caring, and confidential setting. If you are interested in joining, please call 732-458-0220.

Jordan's Roses

Jordan's Roses cordially invites all women to join us for a morning of spirituality and fellowship. The day will begin with Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by fellowship at 10:00 a.m. in the APR. Journey with us this month as we explore "Jesus, The Light of the World". Presented by Maureen McMahon. Please contact jordan'sroses@churchofepiphany.org or contact the Parish office with any questions. Our next meeting will be on **December 21, 2024.**

STEWARDSHIP

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*****Our Current Collection*****

Your continued generosity is most appreciated!

December 1, 2024

Total weekly collection: \$5349.50.00 | Online:1282.00

Parish Maintenance: 1,065.00

Needed to meet the budget: \$8363.00

Our 2024 Annual Appeal – Goal \$30,000
Pledges - \$33,490.00 (112% of goal)
Payments – \$32,742.00 (109% of goal)

Congratulations on making goal!!!
Thank you for your support!



Annual Appeal Explanation

The Annual Catholic Appeal mission remains the same as it was when it began; to financially empower the Church to serve all the people of God, regardless of belief. What's different today: the needs are greater than ever before. For more information visit the Diocese website: <http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/catholicappeal/>

Online Giving

If you prefer to pay bills and manage your finances online, you can set up an account and make your parish offering online via our website. You will be able to specify exactly how much you are giving, how you are giving it (credit card or bank withdrawal), to what fund you are giving, and when/how often you would like to contribute. It's safe and secure, and you can even track your giving history and pledge progress at any time. Just click the Online Giving button (on the home page or the Online Giving page) to get started or access your existing account. *Please note: Special Holidays/days of Holy Obligation Donations may be set up separately.*

If you have questions about the security of online giving or the processes involved, check out the Online Giving FAQ page on our website: churchofepiphany.org

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Please call 800-883-4343 for your advertisement.

Why Should I use weekly envelopes? The use of envelopes is important, they document your active participation in the faith life of our parish. This information is needed in order to obtain a Letter of Eligibility to be issued when you are asked to be a baptism or confirmation sponsor. This also facilitates the preparation of a statement of contributions for income tax purpose.

If you do not currently participate in our envelope system and would like to start using them, please contact the Parish Office at 732-458-0220.

Ways to Perpetuate a Memory or Commemorate an Event

The Tree of Life: This is a way to perpetuate the memory of a loved one or to memorialize someone. To make a donation of \$500 for an engraved leaf or \$2500 for a stone, please contact the parish office staff at 732-458-0220 or email carol@churchofepiphany.org

Commemorative Bricks: This is an ideal way to commemorate a graduation, wedding, special family celebration, or acknowledge a love one. To order one of the two bricks (4X8" or 8X8) and make a donation of \$150 or \$200, please contact the parish office staff at 732-458-0220 or email carol@churchofepiphany.org

Bequests

We are a tax-exempt non-profit Organization and gratefully accept donations from last will and testament and/or stock to assist in carrying out our mission. For more information on how to have your wishes known, please talk to your personal banking representative. May God Bless you for your generosity!

Vigil Candles

Candles will be in honor or memory of the named individual for one week (Sunday to Saturday) and announced in our bulletin and displayed at candle. Donation is \$10. Please come to the parish office to see dates available dates.

Spiritual Bouquet

A Spiritual Bouquet is a spiritual blessing that is made for a loved one during the First Friday Mass of the month. In addition, their name will be printed in the bulletin. You can also request a card. Donation is \$10



<https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Church-of-Epiphany>



https://www.instagram.com/Church_of_epiphany

Helping Hands

Our Food Pantry is located in the Parish Hall, the small white church, on the corner of Herbertsville Road and Thiele Road in Brick. Food Pantry hours are Saturday from 10AM – 1PM and Monday from 10AM – Noon.

Below is the list of items needed for the Helping Hands food pantry:

Most Needed

- *Meat/Chicken/Pork/Hamburgers
- *Pancake Mix & Syrup
- *Canned Pasta
- *Butter
- *Jelly
- *Fish
- *White Rice
- *Pasta Sauce (Jars)
- *Canned Tuna/Chicken/Salmon
- *Cheese
- *Eggs
- *Pasta
- *Tomato Sauce

Needed

- Coffee
- Frozen Vegetables
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- Snacks
- Cooking Oil
- Applesauce

In October, Helping Hands helped 348 families / 1716 people with Food.

OCIA

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process by which adults who would like to become Catholic, or Catholic adults who would like to receive all of their Sacraments are able to do so. If you would like more information about the process, feel free to reach out to Kim at Kim@churchofepiphany.org or contact the parish office.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our youngest parishioners are invited to join us every Sunday, at the 10:30 Mass in the APR for the Children's Liturgy of the Word. It's open to ages 4 through Second Grade. No need to pre-register or sign up. If you have any questions, please leave a message with the Church office.

RE Students: Homily Reflection Books

Homily Reflections: Each student must write 14 Homily Reflections as follows: A minimum of 9 Masses throughout the year as well as 3 Mandatory Masses together with Christmas and Easter Masses. (*Minimum Total of 14 Homily Reflections.*) This is not saying you only have to attend Mass 14 times a year. Sundays are a Holy Day of Obligation and Practicing Catholics are required to attend weekly Mass and all Holy Days.

Donations for Christmas Flowers

Throughout the weeks of Advent we will accept donations for Christmas Flowers and other seasonal liturgical enhancements to be used to enhance the beauty of our parish Worship Area during the Christmas Season. Donations will be a free will offering.

The *SPECIAL FLOWER ENVELOPE* is found in our box of donation envelopes. Please return as soon as possible. If you do not use box envelopes, there are extra envelopes available on the table in the Commons area. You may bring the special envelope to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket.

A Mass will be offered for Christmas Flower intentions on: **Saturday, January 4, 2024 at the 9:00AM Mass.**



Religious Articles & Gifts

The Altar Rosary Society will be selling Religious Articles and Gifts after all Masses the second weekend of every month. If you are looking for something in particular, please contact the parish office and someone from the Rosary Society will get back to you. Our next sale will be on December 14th & 15th.

Keep Christ in Christmas & Books Available

This weekend (12/7 & 8) the Knights of Columbus #8160 will be distributing "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets after all Masses.

Also, two books are available that Deacon Mike and Sandy have secured for our parish. The Three Ordinary Voices of God, by Matthew Kelly. In this simple and powerful guide, Matthew Kelly demonstrates that God speaks to everyone—whether we are aware of it or not—through three ordinary voices: OUR NEEDS, OUR TALENTS, and OUR DESIRES. 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory is the first ever Eucharistic Consecration. This unprecedented spiritual resource presents profound truths, astonishing historical facts, powerful practical examples, a daily virtue to adopt, extraordinary prayers, and inspiring stories—all in an easy-to-follow daily format.

All items are free of charge, while supplies last.

"Did you ever wonder...?"

On the 1st Tuesday of the month we will gather in the APR for a casual gathering to answer your questions about the Faith. Questions can be submitted ahead of time or will be collected as we gather.

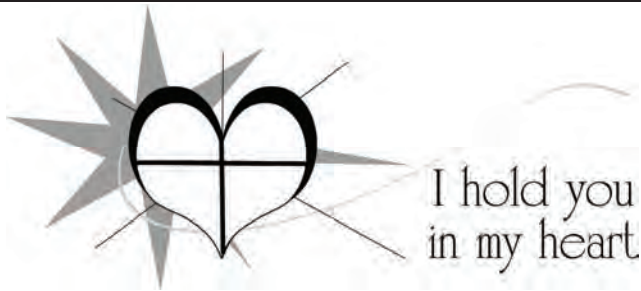
Who: Anyone interested in learning more about the faith

What time: 7:00PM – 8:30PM

Where: The All Purpose Room

When: Tuesday, January 7th

Why: Why not?



Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Luke describes the work John the Baptist carried out to help people prepare for the birth of Jesus. Luke also discusses who was in power at the time, which helped historians to figure out the exact dates of certain events, including Jesus' birth.

"My prayer is that your love may more and more abound, both in understanding and wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ. It is my wish that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God."

As I take the prayer of Paul, and apply it to my life today, may I learn to live what really matters. Try to ignore the commercials telling me what I need to buy for someone else, pray this prayer for them. Try to look deep into your heart and discover what really matters for you. What is my wish for my family, how grateful am I for the gift of health, faith, family and friends? How concerned am I for someone who is ill, who has real material or physical needs, who needs my welcoming hand? This is the real Christmas list.

Paul sent this greeting card to help and encourage. May you too be found richly endowed with real gifts that matter for others in your greetings for others.

Cookies for the Homebound

The Church of Epiphany would like to share the joy of Christmas with people who are homebound. We are looking for volunteers to help us spread joy this Christmas. We need volunteers to bake or purchase cookies or make deliveries to the homebound.

Cookies should be brought to the church office on Friday, 12/20 from 9am-2pm or Saturday, 12/21 from 8:30am-10am.

If you are available to help with deliveries, cookies are being delivered on Saturday, 12/21 from 12:30-2:30PM or Sunday, December 22nd from 10am-12pm. If you have any questions or would like to sign up please email Seasonal615@gmail.com or scan QR code on attached flyer.

Thank you!!

Thank you to everyone who assisted in our Thanksgiving meal delivery this year. Your efforts to support this act of kindness are greatly appreciated by everyone that receives a meal. It's the small things we each do that make this big impact on our community and certainly a big impact for the individuals receiving the meals. Your hour making mashed potatoes or deserts, your 2 hours delivering meals, your 2 hours cutting vegetables or carving turkeys, your hour helping clean tables, your time making phone calls or organizing the lists for delivery, your donation to purchase food all add up to a blessed experience for those homebound and alone for the holiday. We delivered over 500 meals to the community and over 50 meals went to those unable to make dinner because they were with family in the hospital. The remaining trays of sides, turkey, soup and dessert were delivered to the Asbury Food Pantry to be served this weekend. Epiphany truly is People and we are all blessed to be able to be part of this impactful event.



Looking for new PPC Members

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is an advisory council, working to help foster pastoral activity. We assist our Pastor, Father Mike, in working to enliven the future of The Church of Epiphany.

The PPC meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Further information can be found in the commons area, along with ballots for nominations.

Calendar Raffle

The Church of Epiphany is once again having a Calendar Raffle fundraiser. Drawings will begin on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 10AM, and will continue to be drawn every Tuesday for 12 weeks (until March 25th). There are 12 chances to win! Every drawing will have a \$250 prize and your ticket will be entered in all drawings! Ticket's cost \$20 each. You can pick up your raffles in the commons area or the office any time. Makes a great stocking stuffer, teacher gift, etc.. All proceeds from the raffle will go towards our parish.



Promise to Protect Pledge to Heal

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the US Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church or if know of someone who was, you can report the abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at abuseline@diocesoftrenton.org. The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to the local enforcement authorities.



Lessons & **CAROLS**

*Come celebrate with our parish family the peace,
joy, and love of Christmas!*

The festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus. The story of the birth of Jesus is interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

Come join us on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00PM for this joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus.

"Child Friendly" fellowship will follow the service.

The Church of Epiphany would like to share the joy of Christmas with people who are homebound.

We are looking for volunteers to help us spread joy this Christmas. We need the following volunteers:

- **To bake or purchase cookies**
 - **To make deliveries to the homebound after 12PM on Saturday 12/21/24 or Sunday 12/22/24**
- *If you would like to sign up, please scan the QR code below.***

Please bring cookie donations to the church on Friday, 12/20/24 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM or Saturday, 12/21/24 from 8:30AM - 10:00 AM.

Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Questions? Please email seasonal615@gmail.com and write "Christmas cookies" in the subject line.

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**ATTORNEY
AT LAW**

Parishioner

732-840-7502 (OFFICE)

E-mail: cptesq@aol.com

1800 Lanes Mill Road • Brick