



JOY

Do not be afraid. I bring you
GOOD NEWS that will cause
great joy for all the people.

LUKE 2:10

*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 15, 2024 • Third Sunday of Advent

Daily Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 16, 2024

9:00AM Claire DePaul by June & Red Eipert

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

9:00AM Patrick J., Margaret & Jerome P. Erwin

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

9:00AM Robert Scott by Oney

Thursday, December 19, 2024

9:00AM Peter Villar by the Macerino family
Intentions in the Grey Book

Friday, December 20, 2024

9:00AM Gina & Joseph Taibi & family by Marina

Saturday, December 21, 2024

9:00AM George Sciorra by Jane & Jeff Fabach
4:00PM People of the Parish

Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:00AM John Infantolino by Coleen & Richard Jackson
10:30AM Jennifer Smith Chavez by Ginny Rimback

This Week at our Parish

Monday, December 16, 2024

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

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

9:45AM Come & See Bible Study – APR
1:00PM Small Faith Sharing - APR
5:30PM Family Faith Formation Class – All Facilities
7:00PM Liturgy Team Meeting - APR

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

3:00PM Adoration - WA

Thursday, December 19, 2024

7:00PM Adult Choir - WA

Friday, December 20, 2024

6:30PM Healing Mass - WA
8:00PM AA – APR

Saturday, December 21, 2024

9:30AM Jordan's Roses - APR
10:00AM Food Pantry – PH
6:00PM Knights of Columbus Living Nativity - WA

Sunday, December 22, 2024

2:00PM Walking with Purpose – 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: Micah 5:1-4a

Micah speaks of the ruler who will come from Bethlehem. He discusses how the people of Israel will be saved from corruption and live in peace.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

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.

Please pray for the sick

Jerry McCormack, Mary Buono, Barbara Ballestas, Bill Wilder, Simone McDill, 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, Mary Caddigan, Lisa Jones, Greg Piekarz, Dena Kleb, Ester Garcia, Gail Williams, Peggy Lane, Henry Gregory, Craig Percopo, Judy DiLeo, 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

To all Ushers, Mass Coordinators, Altar Servers, Lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers:

Sign-up sheets for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are available in the AV Room (Dan's office).

Please consider serving if you are available. Thank you for your continued help. Merry Christmas & God Bless!

VIGIL LIGHT PRAYER

Weekly Remembrance December 15th -22nd

The Tabernacle Lamp
will burn in the honor/memory of:
People of the Parish

The Blessed Mother Devotional Lamp
will burn in honor/memory of:
Couples struggling with Infertility

The Sacred Heart Devotional Lamp
will burn in honor/memory of:
Those living with mental illness

The St. Joseph Devotional Lamp
will burn in honor/memory of:
Our Priest & Deacons



*A warm welcome to our newly registered parishioners.
We are pleased to have you worshipping with us.*

*Michael & Margaret Candiano
Ariana & Zachary Vincent*

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".

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.**

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**

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.**

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.

STEWARDSHIP

Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

Our Current Collection

Your continued generosity is most appreciated!

December 8, 2024

Total weekly collection: \$5415.50 | Online: \$1,065.00

Retirement Fund: \$808.00

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 & Brown Rice
- *Pasta Sauce (Jars)
- *Cheese
- *Eggs
- *Tomato Sauce
- *Assorted Canned Beans

Needed

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

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.**

"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?

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.

College-Age Retreat January 3-5, 2025

Marianist Family Retreat Center – Cape May Point, NJ
This retreat is designed to bring young people together of college-age (17-22). So, whether you are in college or working, come join us to renew your spiritual life, deepen your relationship with God and to meet new friends. Our time will be filled with prayer experiences, peer group discussions, Eucharist and lots of fun!
Cost: \$150 per person/register at:
www.cape-may-marianists.org or call 609-884-3829

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 you 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.



Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist answers people who ask him what they should do, leading some to believe he was the Messiah. John clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap."

"On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love'... 'Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

The word of God focuses on reasons for joy, encouraging us to continue to make progress as we prepare for the coming of our Savior. Yes, Jesus has come and we recall His birth, but He comes again, daily, to hearts that are prepared to welcome Him. The need of our waiting world is so great that we can forget today, and only look back to the Bethlehem coming. By prayer and petition, we ask Him to fill us, our home, our family, our world with His redeeming presence. The Baptist's warning and invitation today 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'

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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.

Catholic Charities

Mental Health Crisis Services

Feeling Down or Anxious? Catholic Charities can help you. They Offer:

- Mental Health Crisis Services
- Psychiatric Urgent Care
- Substance Recovery Treatment
- Social Services and Support

Call 609-729-5468, you connection to Catholic Charities Mental health Crisis Services. Daily hours of operation are 8AM – 6PM.



St. Leo's in Lincroft is pleased to announce its continuing ministry for Separated and Divorced Catholics. It is called "Surviving the Holidays" Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family"

(www.catholicdivorce.com). St. Leo's will be hosting an Information Night on Thursday, January 16, 2025 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall located at 50 Hurleys Lane, Lincroft, NJ.

This Information Night will help you decide if you would like to attend our upcoming 12-week program starting in March of 2025 on Thursday nights. All the details will be provided to you at the Information Night. If you would like more information about our offerings, please check out our Ministry page at:

<https://www.mylifechangecoach.com/divorceministry>. All are welcome! To register or if you are interested and would like more information, please email Michele Coppola Wilson at healingheartsfromdivorce@gmail.com. Have any questions? Feel free to call or text anytime at 201-753-8485. We hope you can make it!

WORD FIND

W	R	E	A	T	H	E	G	H	R	R	D	H	W	M
T	H	O	R	N	S	S	E	O	D	A	C	G	J	G
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WREATH
 ADVENT
 PURPLE
 WHITE
 EVERGREEN
 CIRCLE
 EVERLASTING
 HOPE
 JOY



THORNS
 LOVE
 CHRISTMAS
 PURITY
 PREPARE
 ANTICIPATION
 STRENGTH
 HEALING

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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To Pray For*



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