

Epiphany

“The *Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation.” CCC 528

Although the magi have been given names, Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior, the Gospel doesn't actually include their names or even that they are kings. Other than the fact that they are from the East, even their countries of origin aren't known.

Origins of the Church's Celebration

The celebration of the Epiphany dates back to the early centuries of the Church. Originally, it included the celebration of Christ's birth. It wasn't until 336, under the reign of Emperor Constantine, that the Church began celebrating Christmas separately, on December 25, creating the 12 Days of Christmas which continued through the Feast of the Epiphany. While the actual date of the Feast of the Epiphany is January 6, in the United States, the celebration of the feast is transferred to the weekend closest to that date. This Christmas season, it will be on January 4, 2026.

The Gifts of the Magi

In many European cultures, the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated as richly as Christmas, with gifts exchanged, since it is the day when the Magi presented their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. “These gifts can be seen as representing this threefold mission of Christ and the Christian,” explains Father Mark Nolette in his blog, [The Anchorite](#).

Frankincense

"Frankincense was often used in divine worship. It becomes, then, an apt symbol of Christ as priest. It is also a symbol of Christ's divinity. Note that the magi prostrate themselves before the child Jesus and do him homage. In Matthew's Gospel, such words are only used for God or Jesus. No one else. This is divine worship.

Myrrh

“Myrrh was often used in burials, especially of prominent people who could afford it. Because of this, Christians often interpreted this gift as referring to the coming suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In this sense, myrrh can be seen as representing Christ as prophet. We think of the Suffering Servant prophecies of Isaiah that pointed to this. We also recall the words of Simeon to Mary at the circumcision of Jesus in the Temple.

Gold

“Gold has long been seen, in many cultures, as a gift for kings, or denoting kingship. It is easy to see how this gift points to the kingship of Christ. In many places in Scripture, from Old Testament references like Psalm 72 to descriptions of the New Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation, we see references to gold and other precious materials being offered to God or to the Messiah. It's interesting to see how Psalm 72 connects the offering of gold to the king's mission to bring about justice for his people. The gift of mercy and justice is inseparable from Christ's role as king and from our role as kings in service to the kingship of Christ.”

**** If anyone would like to advertise in the church bulletin please contact the office. ****



St. Ann Catholic Church

Shinnston WV 26431

Physical Address; 610 Pike Street *** Mailing Address; 43 Mahlon Street



JANUARY 4TH, 2026 (The Epiphany of the Lord)



St. Ann Catholic Church is to glorify God through vibrant worship, compassionate service, and unwavering commitment to teachings of Jesus Christ. Rooted in Catholic tradition and guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to foster a welcoming community that nurtures faith, fosters spiritual growth, and promotes unity among all God's children. With love as our cornerstone, we seek to embody Christ's message of hope, forgiveness, and redemption, spreading His light to all corners of the world. Together, as disciples of Christ, we are called to share God's love, serve those in need, and build a Kingdom of mercy, justice, and peace.

Administrator Rev. D. Joseph MCBS Email; djoseph@dwc.org Phone; 304-780-8003	President-Parish Council Jimmy Gemondo II Email; jgemondo1@gmail.com	President-Finance Council Mary K Romeo Email; romm471@aol.com
Office Manager Mary K Romeo Email; romm471@aol.com Office; 304 5200 559- Personal; 304 203 4429	President-Men's Group Sam DeMarco Email; zmd21@aol.com	President-Altar & Rosary Society Renee Book Email; Rbook0102@hotmail.com
Administrative Assistant Mandy Bowen Email; marandarose@msn.com Office; 304 520 0559- Personal; 304 672 3853	Safe Environment Coordinator Anita Ballard Email; akballard52@outlook.com	Director-Religious Education Mandy Bowen Email; marandarose@msn.com
	Music- Coordinator Colleen Driscoll Email; cdriscollauthor@yahoo.com	

Office Hours

Tuesday -Friday
09 Am- 02 Pm

Closed on Monday

Adoration Chapel

St. Margaret of Castello
Adoration Chapel is open on;
Sunday, Wednesday, & Friday
6am to midnight.

For information call
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Cindy Bee at (304) 592-5106



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