

WHATS GOING ON AT SMA



EMBRACE GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Are you a business owner looking to make a difference in the world? Register for our upcoming Consecration Mass, where you can set your business apart for His purpose.

REGISTER TODAY!
Monday, January 27
 Consecration Mass
 St. Mary Magdalene



Kids Corner

Holy Hour/ Adoration
ALL DAY THURSDAYS, STARTING
AFTER 8:00 MASS

No 8:00 am Mass from
January 7th through
January 10th

No Habra Misa de 7:00 pm
Miercoles 8 de Enero y Viernes
10 de Enero

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT BY
WEDNESDAYS 12 NOON . THEY WOULD BE POST-
ED IN THAT SUNDAYS BULLETIN. THANK YOU!

Prayer
 Dear God, thank you for making the planets and stars so the wise men could find Jesus.

Mission for the Week
 Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.

Sharing the Gospel
 Isn't God amazing? He made all the stars and planets to move, so every night the sky looks a little different. When God created the world, he planned exactly when the wise men would see the star. He wanted them to find Jesus.

Now color the picture! →

Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

wise-men	king	Mary
child	star	gifts
born	worship	dream

wsie mne W i s e m e n

brno _ _ _ _

knig _ _ _ _

derma _ _ _ _ _

cildh _ _ _ _ _

wrsophi _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Mrya _ _ _ _

gfsti _ _ _ _ _

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ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5th – The Epiphany of the Lord



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

Al ver de nuevo la estrella, se llenaron de inmensa alegría. Entraron en la casa y vieron al niño con María, su madre, y postrándose, lo adoraron. Después, abriendo sus cofres, le ofrecieron regalos: oro, incienso y mirra. - Mt 2, 10-11

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Tuesday - Friday 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

1821 White St, Anderson, SC 29624

Mission Statement

St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, Anderson SC was founded in 1943 by the Franciscans of the Holy Name Province, New York. The intention then and today, was and is to, in the spirit of Jesus Christ and St. Francis, minister in and with the African American Catholic community and to reach out to the African Americans of Anderson County. Furthermore, all who come to St. Mary's from whatever background and ethnicity with a desire for Christian family will be regarded as brothers and sisters to us. We also see ourselves as called to live in Gospel relationship to the alienated and the poor of this community.

The Holy Father's prayer intention for the month of January 2025

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 9 A.M. (En) 12:30 P.M. (Esp)
Tuesday - Friday: 8 A.M. (English)
Wednesday & Friday: 7 P.M. (Esp)
Saturday: 4 P.M. (En)
Confessions: 1/2 hour before each Mass.
Holy Hour: Thursday 7pm-9pm

Food Pantry

Drop off any non-perishable food items in the church or parish hall bin. The following are food supplies we need to restock:

- Saltines **No longer need egg cartons**
- Cans of hearty soups
- Can of small soups like Chicken Noodle, Beef Barley
- Packets of Oatmeal
- Canned Tuna

THANK YOU

Parish Chorus Practice
Thursdays at 6:00 pm
HeatherJCHiley@gmail.com

Would you like to be an altar server?

Being an Altar Server, means serving God and God's people at Mass. This liturgical ministry is open to those to who have made their First Holy Communion.

Altar Servers assist the priest during Mass. There is no age limit

Homebound Ministry - Volunteers Needed

Provides a social connection to individuals who would benefit from a visit from a fellow parishioner.

This ministry, through volunteer effort, visits residences, nursing facilities and other home situations of parish members. Reasons for visits range from providing spiritual support to a friendly visit to someone who just wants to make a new friend.

The goal is to offer parishioners an encounter with other parishioners to experience God's goodness through the kindness of others. Any questions please contact:

officesma@charlestandiocese.org

Weekly Collections

DEC 24-25, 28-29

Operating: \$34,883.53

B&G: \$ 482

Food Pantry: \$75

Knights of Columbus

We are a Catholic men's organization serving our parish and community through donations of funds and time.

Anyone interested in finding out more can call Mike Massey at 864-314-3622.

Women's Council

3rd Monday of the month - 5:30 P.M. Parish Hall

The Women Council is a ministry of service to the parish and community. All women in the church are welcome.

Men's Club

1st Wednesday of the month - 5:30 P.M. Parish Hall

The Men's Club was organized as a fellowship for the men in the parish. All men in the church are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday from 10:00-11:00 am, beginning October 3 and continuing until November 21.

Will resume in the spring time

MESSAGE FROM SMA FINANCE COUNCIL

A copy of the Balance Sheet will be included in the bulletin four times a year. The Finance Council meets quarterly and parishioners are welcome to attend any of the meetings. The next meeting is February 15, 2025.

OCIA/RCIA

Sundays 10:30-11:45 am

In RE Building

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations
as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body,
and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the
gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The news of the Messiah unsettled Herod.
We see his anxiety clearly in today's
Gospel. This is what Christ has come to
do, after all. He has come to shake things
up. Are we ready to be unsettled?

Observances for the week of January 5, 2025

- Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Tuesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday:
Saturday:
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord



Devotions, *Explained!*

The Epiphany household blessing is an ancient practice in the Church. This tradition is a beautiful way to observe the coming of the magi while invoking God's blessing on your home and all who enter it. All that is needed is chalk and a prayerful heart!

Prayer of Rejoicing

Fill our hearts, Lord, with rejoicing as we seek and discover You. Your ways are full of wonder, glory, surprise, and joy.

Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of January 5, 2025

Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
(see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday:

1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday:

1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday:

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

Saturday:

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

Next Sunday:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25,
27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Have you ever wondered why the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew's Gospel tells us, **"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11)**. Why are these things their "treasures"? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn't that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi's gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with "gold" (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The journey of the magi would have been treacherous and uncomfortable. Imagine the peace in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was. It was an epiphany for them. It can be the same for us.

The Answer

Have you ever had an epiphany?

I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth. An answer.

It should be the same for us.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

Answer:

Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

Epiphany

OF THE LORD

