JANUARY 4, 2026

The Epiphany of the Lord

ST. RITA CHURCH



Joyfully living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus, we welcome, worship, inspire, and serve with love.



Pastor's Perspective (THROWBACK

"Your Light Has Come" (Isaiah)

There are many signs of wonder that mark the Feast of Epiphany...

the star

the wise men

the mystery

What part, then, do we play? Pious shepherds, on bended knee? Kings who come bearing gifts?

What sort of play is this where Mary becomes the mother of God?

Where God enters the world in the lowliness of the manger?

The judgement of the world and its redemption that is taking place here.

And the Christ child in the manger is himself the one who pronounces judgement and the redemption of the world.

He repels the great and the powerful.

He puts down the mighty from their thrones.

He humbles the arrogant.

His arm overpowers all the proud and the strong. He raises what is lowly and makes it great and splendid in his compassion.

Therefore, we cannot approach his manger as if it were the cradle of any other child.

Those who wish to come to his manger find that something is happening within them.

At the beginning of this New Year we do well to stand humbly before our God ~ who comes with love and compassion for all the world.

Peace.

FR. CHUCK 1-6-2002

Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

In Advent, Fr. Tim taught us about the Call to Family, Community, and Participation, one of the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching. In this New Year, we'll learn soon about the Church's Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.

We saw God show this preference for the poor on Christmas, sending His son to us in the humblest setting. Now we look to serve Christ in all we meet, especially "these least brothers of mine" (Matthew 25:40).





Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday at 5:00pm Sunday at 8:00am & 10:30am

Daily Mass Schedule: Mon., Tues., Fri. at 8:15am & Thurs. at 6:00pm Communion Service on Wednesdays at 8:15am Our 8:00am Sunday Mass is live-streamed on Facebook

MASS INTENTIONS / WEEKLY CALENDAR

INTENTIONS FOR WEEKEND MASSES JANUARY 3/4

ANNE MELI - By Granddaughter, Lisa Celestino RICHIE DINARDO - By Family GABRIELE SFAVILLANTE - By Eileen Zegarelli JOHN GALLAGHER - By Family

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026

4:00PM - 4:30PM Confessions - Church 5:00PM Mass

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

8:00AM Mass 8:30AM - 10:00AM Breakfast @ St. Rita - Parish Center 10:30AM **CL** Mass 11:30AM Catholic Social Teaching Discussion Group - Rm 1

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

8:15AM ALFREDO SCIARRONE - By Family Mass 8:45AM - 9:15AM Confessions - Church 4:30PM & 6:00PM Faith Formation Family Night 6:45PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - Rm 1

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026

ANNAMARIE MCGRATH - By The McGrath Family Mass Eucharistic Adoration - Church 9:00AM 9:00AM WFROC - Rm 3 10:30AM Prayer Shawl Ministry - Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

8:15AM Communion Service 2:30PM Angel Choir Rehearsal - Rm 1 6:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal - Rm 3 4:30PM & 6:00PM Sacramental Preparation 7:00PM Catholic Social Teaching Discussion Group - Online

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

5:30PM - 6:00PM **Eucharistic Adoration - Church** 6:00PM FOR THE HEALING OF TB - By Janine Mass 6:45PM Holy Beginnings - Rm 1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

8:15AM JOHN BACCOLI - By Jim McGrath Mass 9:00AM Buildings & Grounds - Rm 1

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

Confessions - Church 4:00PM - 4:30PM 5:00PM Mass 6:00PM Blood Pressure Screenings - Rm 1

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

8:00AM Mass 9:00AM & 11:30AM Blood Pressure Screenings - Rm 1 10:30AM **CL** Mass 11:30AM Catholic Social Teaching Discussion Group - Parish Center 11:45AM Confirmation Session 4:00PM Youth Group - Rm 1

INTENTIONS FOR WEEKEND MASSES JANUARY 10/11

VIOLET DAVIS CLARKSON - By Albertha & Family ROBERT BEIKIRCH - By Kim, Nick, & Ian Avery ANNAMARIE MCGRATH - By Debbie & Rick Sanza MARGARET FARNUNG - By The Farnung Family







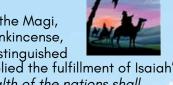




Reflections on Readings for the The Epiphany Of The Lord

"Dromedaries From Midian And Ephah, All From Sheba Shall Come"

Today is the Feast of the Epiphany; the manifestation of Jesus as the newborn King of Israel. It memorializes the visit of the Magi, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Thus, these distinguished



visitors from the east implied the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesies that the "wealth of the nations shall come" to Israel and that the Gentiles are indeed part of God's salvation plan.

In our first reading (Isaiah 60:1-6), Isaiah offered encouragement to the people of Jerusalem as they returned from exile, only to find their temple destroyed and their city in ruins. There could not have been a more disheartening time for the people of God. Isaiah's words of future encouragement were to "rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come. . . . nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance." Even their lost sons and daughters would return from afar.

In our Epistle reading (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6), Paul wrote to a Gentile Christian audience in Ephesus, telling them of the earth-shattering revelation not known to them or to the Jews of earlier generations — "that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise of Christ." These same Gentiles are today represented by the Magi's visit to the Christ Child.

In our Gospel reading (Matthew 2:1-12), we hear the account of the Magi's visit to the child Jesus, found only in Matthew's Gospel. The gifts they brought were significant in what they symbolized. It is said that the gold symbolized Jesus' royal kingship on earth, frankincense signified His divinity, and myrrh, a burial spice, symbolized His suffering and death. The Magi then thwarted the intentions of Herod to kill the child and they returned to their country by a different route.

Most of us can remember a time in our life that seemed totally bleak and disheartening, much like the Jews returning from exile in Babylon. Some people feel this way during the holidays. The words of Isaiah, "Rise up in splendor!", can be a comfort to us to trust in the Lord - our future is bright indeed. Others will walk by our radiance. God, our king has come to live with us and He will come again.

He will show us the way.

https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010426.cfm



Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

GOAL \$155,000 PLEDGES \$148,718

We are at 96% of our goal from 357 households.*

DATED AS OF



Holy Beginnings Outreach

Cordially invites you to join us in prayer and conversation, for monthly gatherings of our LGBTQ+ community (family, friends, and allies welcome as well).

First Thursdays of the Month

Thursday, January 8th

Mass at 6pm (adoration at 5:30pm)

Gathering 6:45-7:45 pm

in Room 1

Holy Beginnings is a collaboration of Catholic faith communities fostering inclusion and dialogue to those on the margins of the church and society, allowing us, as children of God, to live our call authentically.

Learn more: holybeginnings.org
Contact: Deacon Jim Fien at
James.Fienedor.org







In the early 1950s, St. Rita's annual Fiesta received national attention.

Do you know why?

Answer:

"Tippy" the dog won the raffle for the new car.



Our Tabernacle Light will burn from January 5 – January 11 in loving memory of Anne Meli by Granddaughter, Lisa Celestino.

LINEN CLEANING: JANUARY 4
MAUREEN MOREHOUSE

Thank You! 2025 Coats for Kids



Once again, Trinity Council #4618 of Webster, with your donations and that of area businesses and residents, raised enough funds to purchase 552 (46 dozen) NEW children's winter coats for distribution to children of need in Monroe and Wayne Counties.

With funds left after purchasing coats, we will purchase and distribute new sneakers for children in spring '26 to many of the same groups that received coats.

The new coats were distributed over the first two weeks of December to 32 charitable organizations, school districts, and churches, which helped identify children as having need for a warm coat.



THANK YOU from the Webster Knights of Columbus to all who made a donation to this charitable program.

God Bless,

J. Stewart Coon, Chairman of Coats for Kids

2026 Catholic Calendars

Available for pick up in the Church Greeting Area before and after Masses

Thank you to
Falvo Funeral Home
for sponsoring our annual
Catholic Calendars!

We have Low Gluten Hosts available at all Masses.

When you arrive for Mass, let the greeter know you would like a low gluten host.

Please come up the center right hand aisle any time during Communion.



We have a hearing loop available for hearing aid users. It works best near the outside of the sanctuary, closest to the system wiring.









Please Remember in Prayer our parishioners and those connected with our parish who have recently died, especially:

Robert Clark

Our Parish Health Ministry will be offering Free Blood Pressure Checks after all Masses NEXT WEEKEND, January 10 & 11 in Room 1.

Do You Like To Knit or Crochet? Come and join us! Tuesday, January 6th

10:30am - 12:00pm in the Parish Office

Prayer Shawls and Lap Blankets are given to anyone facing serious illness or hard times in their life. Blankets are blessed by Father Tim and a prayer card is included with our love and support.



If you know anyone that could use a prayer shawl, please contact Julie Cohn at: julie.cohn@dor.org 671-1100 ext. 103.

hurches Offering Meals To veryone

The next C.O.M.E. Webster Community Dinner at St. Rita is on Wednesday, January 21, 2026

We are again seeking your help with donations. To sign up, go to the following link:

https://tinyurl.com/Jan26COME or scan the QR Code:



Items may be dropped off at church the weekend of January 17 and 18 in the totes labeled "C.O.M.E. Dinner" in the greeting area. Thank you so much for your generosity.







RECOGNITION EXPERTS has a variety of printed and embroidered items to choose.

> The online store is available here or through the link our website: www.saintritawebster.org/75thapparel/

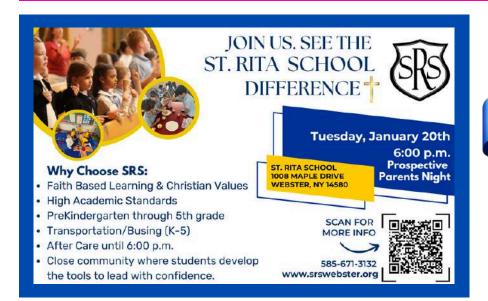


Orders take about 3 weeks to be delivered. Select 'Pickup In Store' as your shipping method and you can pick up items right from St. Rita.

All major credit cards accepted.









Monday, January 5 Epiphany Party

Celebrate the visit of the three Kings

4:30PM or 6:00PM

All families with children in grades K-7 are welcome! We will pray and party together!

If you have any questions contact Anne Thomas at 671–1100 x: 110 anne.thomas@dor.org



Contact Fr. Tim or Elizabeth Kwiatkowski to sign up!



Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered each Sunday at 10:30am Mass!

This special opportunity is offered every Sunday except on the 3rd Sunday of each month when Father Tim will preside over a Family Mass in Church.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is designed to give children in Pre-K thru Grade 2 an opportunity to hear and share about the Sunday readings at a level of their understanding. Children will be dismissed from church to Room 1 before the first reading and will return approximately at the Offertory Prayers.



Have you recently started attending St. Rita?
Have you moved or changed your contact information?

Please let us know through our Website Link "Join the Parish" if you have a change in name, address, or phone number so we can keep our records up to date and you up to date on all that is going on in our parish.







WALK IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday 9:00am - Noon

Please reach out to us with any of your needs.

Fr. Tim Niven, Pastor - <u>Niven@dor.org</u> 671-1100 ext. 106

Deacon Jim Fien - <u>James.Fien@dor.org</u> 233-0334

Deacon Rick Rall - <u>bernrick@frontiernet.net</u> 545-8467

Dawn Clark - <u>Dawn.Clark2edor.org</u> Parish Administrative Assistant General Inquiries, Bulletin, Weddings, Mass Cards 671-1100 ext. 101

Julie Cohn - <u>Julie.Cohn@dor.org</u> Pastoral Minister Funerals, Baptisms, Prayer Line, Visitation 671 -1100 ext. 103

Elizabeth Kwiatkowski - Elizabeth Kwiatkowski@dor.org Parish Life and Liturgy Coordinator 671-1100 ext. 104

Anne Thomas - Anne.Thomas@dor.org Children's Faith Formation and Sacraments 671-1100 ext. 110 or call/text 585-402-9254

Finance Office

WeblronFinance@dor.org

June Frosino - <u>June.Frosino@dor.org</u> Music Director 671-1100 ext. 105 or call/text 585-362-0708

Jennifer LeFrois - <u>Jennifer.LeFrois@dor.org</u> St. Rita School Principal St. Rita School Office 671-3132

UNITED IN FAITH + COMMUNITY

Ма	Total			
	5pm	8am	10:30 am	
Nov 30	185	182	310	677
Dec 7	215	226	345	786
Dec 14	155	165	305	625



If Webster Central Schools are closed due to weather, then our daily Mass will also be cancelled. If Webster Central School PM activities are cancelled, our parish PM activities, including Faith Formation, will also be cancelled. You may also call the Parish Office at 671-1100 or visit our website at www.saintritawebster.org for the most up to date closing information.

THANK YOU to all the Saint Rita parishioners who provide items and support to the outreach ministries serving those most in need in the Webster area and near downtown Rochester. These ministries are most grateful for our continued help!

Please bring donations of non-perishable items to St. Rita and place them in or near the shopping cart in our church Greeting Area whenever the church is open for Mass.



No opened or expired items please.

Webster HOPE Winter Wish List:

Macaroni & Cheese (boxed)
Pasta (all types except spaghetti)
Canned Beets & Canned Pineapple
Shampoo & Conditioner

Coffee & Tea Crackers ner Applesauce Canned Chicken Tuna (albacore preferred) Oatmeal (instant or regular) Baby Wipes **high need** Deodorant & Toothpaste Dish Soap & Hand Soap

Thank you COLLECTIONS

DUE TO THE EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE, COLLECTION NUMBERS ARE BEHIND

	<u>Collected</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Variance</u>	Weekly Average	Collected in 2024
month of Nov	\$ 80,935	\$ 70,675	+\$10,260	\$ 16,187	\$68,111
week of Nov 30	\$11,832	\$14,135	-\$2,303		\$14,544
week of Dec 7	\$17,527	\$14,135	+\$3,392		\$16,325

To set up recurring online payments or make changes to your current giving, please visit our Giving page at www.stritawebster.org/give-online.

Thank you for your generosity in your presence and contributions!







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Must Present Coupon in Person (limit 1 coupon per party) 2171 West Henrietta Rd., Brighton, NY SUNNYSFAMILYDINER.COM







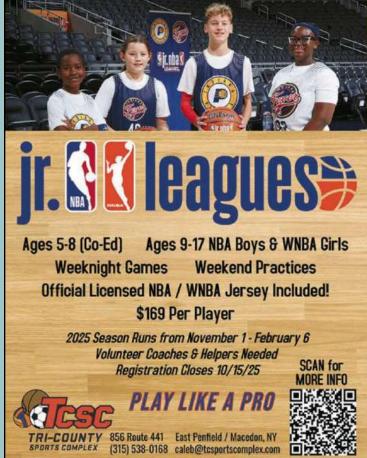


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