

ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH
HYMNS For JANUARY 4, 2026
THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
(THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY)

HYMN FOR THE INTROIT: 99

1. Earth has many a noble city;
Bethl'em, thou dost all excel:
out of thee the Lord from heaven
came to rule his Israel.
2. Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing
seen in fleshly form on earth.
3. Eastern sages at his cradle
make oblations rich and rare;
see them give in deep devotion,
gold and frankincense and myrrh.
4. Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
incense doth their God disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.
5. Jesu, whom the Gentiles worshipped
at thy glad Epiphany,
unto thee with God the Father
and the Spirit, glory be.

HYMN FOR THE GRADUAL: 101

1. How vain the cruel Herod's fear,
when told that Christ the King is near!
He takes not earthly realms away,
who gives the realms that ne'er decay.
2. The Eastern sages saw from far
and followed on His guiding star;
by light their way to Light they trod,
and by their gifts confessed their God.
3. Within the Jordan's sacred flood
the heavenly Lamb in meekness stood,
that He who knew no sin that day
his people's sin might wash away.
4. And oh, what miracle divine,
when water reddened into wine!
He spake the word, and forth it flowed
in streams that nature ne'er bestowed.
5. All glory, Jesu, be to Thee
for this Thy glad Epiphany:
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

HYMN FOR THE OFFERTORY: 97

1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.
4. Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way,
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.
5. In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

HYMN FOR THE COMMUNION: 626

1. We hail thy presence glorious,
O Christ our great High Priest,
o'er sin and death victorious,
at thy thanksgiving feast:
as thou art interceding

for us in heaven above,
thy church on earth is pleading
thy perfect work of love.

2. Through thee in every nation
thine own their hearts upraise,
offering one pure oblation,
one sacrifice of praise:
with thee in blest communion
the living and the dead
are joined in closest union,
one body with one Head.

3. *O living bread from heaven,
Jesu, our Saviour good,
who thine own self hast given
to be our souls' true food;
for us thy body broken
hung on the cross of shame:
this bread its hallowed token
we break in thy dear name.

4. *O stream of love unending,
poured from the one true vine,
with our weak nature blending
the strength of life divine;
our thankful faith confessing
in thy life-blood outpoured,
we drink this cup of blessing
and praise thy name, O Lord.

5. May we thy word believing
thee through thy gifts receive,
that, thou within us living,
we all to God may live;
draw us from earth to heaven
till sin and sorrow cease,
forgiving and forgiven,
in love and joy and peace.

HYMN FOR THE BLESSING: 653

1. In our work and in our play,
Jesus, be thou ever near,
guarding, guiding, all the day
keeping in thy holy fear.
2. Thou didst toil, O royal Child,
in the far-off Holy Land,
blessing labour undefiled,
pure and honest, of the hand.
3. Thou wilt bless our play-hour too,
if we ask thy succor strong;
watch o'er all we say and do,
hold us back from guilt and wrong.
4. O, how happy thus to spend
work and play-time in his sight,
till the rest which shall not end,
till the day which knows not night!

HYMN FOR THE RECESSION: 103

1. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him: the Lord is His Name!
2. Low at His feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on His heart He will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
3. Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,

These are the offerings to lay on His shrine.

4. These, though we bring them in trembling and
fearfulness,
He will accept for the Name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear
5. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him: the Lord is His Name!