

# Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Come and experience the beauty love and peace of the Christmas season

## SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

**Thursday, December 24**  
 Christmas Eve Mass, 4 p.m.  
 Very Rev. Mark-David Janus, CSP, PhD., Presiding

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass  
 Prelude of Carols with Brass, Strings and Choirs,  
 11:15 p.m.  
 Mass, Midnight (televised)  
 Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley, Presiding

**Friday, December 25**  
 Christmas Day Mass, 10a.m.  
 Rev. Thomas Tavella, CSP, Presiding

Christmas Day Mass, Noon (Español)  
 Rev. Joachim Lally, CSP, Presiding

**Thursday, December 31**  
 Feast of Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass, 7 p.m.

**Friday, January 1**  
 Feast of Mary, Mother of God Mass, 10 a.m.

## DAILY MASS

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. (Chapel)  
 Friday 7 p.m. (Español)

## WEEKEND LITURGIES

Saturday 12:05 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
 Sunday 10 a.m. (Televised), Noon (Español), 6 p.m.  
 Contemplative Mass 7:30 p.m.

[cathedralofsaintandrew.org](http://cathedralofsaintandrew.org)  
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 616.456.1454



# That star again

>> Msgr. Gaspar F. Ancona is a senior priest of the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids.

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any people don't bother with maps anymore when driving to their destination. They like to travel under the guidance of their onboard global positioning systems (GPS). Such blind faith in the disembodied voice coming from their dashboard, "recalculating" after their every wrong turn along the way! The ancient Magi never had it so good.

Well, maybe they had it better. They knew the starry sky and did their own calculating. According to Saint Matthew's unforgettable account, the Magi arrived in Jerusalem coming from the mysterious east and inquiring as to the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews." In as much as the reigning King Herod and all his cohorts hadn't heard about a newborn heir, there was a great deal of commotion. The Gospel telling has been the subject of much art, poetry and music. The charming little opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, often performed at this time of year, beautifully captures the mystery surrounding Christ's birth.

Part of the mystery is how Jesus, already as an infant, is portrayed as drawing to himself the most diverse kinds of people. Rich and poor, shepherds of the fields and wise men from afar, those faithful to the great covenant and those who had never even heard of it ... all find their way to the newborn to do him homage and offer him gifts.

Already, Jesus demonstrates, just by being born, how everybody is welcome at his side. His power to draw the best from people is given eloquent testimony by their presence and their lavish gifts. But then, too, there is paranoia and vengefulness hovering over the Gospel account. That title of "King of the Jews" would never sit well with nervous reigning powers and potentates (or for that matter, with Jesus himself), no matter how dramatically different his way of royalty demonstrated itself to be. Even at the end of his life, the title would be nailed on the cross as a charge over his head, deserving of the ultimate punishment: death by crucifixion.

What will make people ready for this gift from God, which draws all segments of humanity to itself? The same kind of universal welcoming spirit that the Magi sensed in the newborn Jesus.

last word