

Church of St. Joseph

Wurtsboro, NY

180 Sullivan St., Wurtsboro, NY 12790

P. O. Box 277

(845) 888-4522 (845) 888-5072 FAX

SOLEMN FEAST

of the

EPIPHANY

of the

LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021

Where is the Newborn King of the Jews?



We saw His star at its rising!

THEY GAVE HIM GIFTS



Currier; Irene Czerwinski; Donna Dalton; Jeannine Davis; Reilly Davis; Rosemarie Delia; Joan DeLizza; Carol Diamond; Christine Dobbs; Nancy Donohue; Fr. Jack Duffell; Thomas Dunn; Connie Durante; Jerry Earl; Larry Eisen; Josephine Emanuele; Buddy Fahey; Nellie Fahy; Rev. John Fanning; Roger Fiat; Shawn Finneran; Jennifer Florio; Joe Franklin; Jake Gabriel; Lawrence Gallott; Jim & Pat Gatens; Kevin Garvey; Peggy Gawley; Matthew Germann; Tyler Germann; Amy Giuseffi; John Giustiniani; Sue Giza; Dillon Gleason; Erik Godfrey; Alex Goodman; Jenna Graham; Robert Green; Karen Hackett; Mark Hairie; Jack Haley; Josh Harrison; Jill Hey; Steven Higgins; Theresa Higgins; Ola Hillar; Denis Holohan; James Holden; Charles & Mary-lou Hopper; Maggie Horne; Brenda Jan-sons; Conchita Javier; Cliff Jessup; Beatrice Johnson; Carolyn Johnson; Colin Johnston; Fred & Margaret Kinsella; Russell Kinsella; Patricia Kirby; Aidan Kokakis; Alfred Kramer; Ron Kramer; Patricia & Ed Krekorian; Julia Kurthy; Kate Labuda; Pat Lawler; Verdanna Lawrence; Micah Lechner; Rick Lewis; Robert Linzer; John Longo; Mr. Lynn; William Maher; John Maloney; Diana Martinez; Eileen Mary-Rose; Fr. Jeff Maurer; Tracy Motley; Tandy McClung; Rosemary McCormick; Eddie & Patricia (Ryan) McKay; Maree McKinney; Terry Mills; Mickey Mirra; Dawn Montforte; Liz Moore; Kenneth Moore; Robert Morris; Brian Mortonson; Jennifer Motillo; Eileen Murphy; Sr. Mary Murray, OP; Sharon Nelson; Margaret Nichols; Carol Niedermeyer; Carole O'Neill; Richard Ortiz; Piper Paddock; Patricia Parish; Meredith Parks; Bobby Patchuoli; Florence Penzo; Susan & Janet Peters; Eileen & John Pinski; Larry Polsky; Gerry Ragusa; Regina Rahilly; Carolyn Ramsay; Thomas Reinholz; John Rivera; Linda Roosa; Vivian Rutherford; Ed Ryan; Marie Sabastiano; Al Sciorca; Susan Sheridan; Blanche Shimer; Fran Spielhagen; Loreta Spordone; Joan Springwalt; Stephen Suida; Robert Sweeney; Aimee Swift; William Tappan; Gloria Taylor; Therese Van DeBogart; Louis Vega; Laura Veros; Christian Vidale; Rita Volpe; Mary Wardell; Joel & Joan Welsh; William Wetzel; Linda Williams; John Williamson; Franz Wingenter; Evelyn Young.

Weekend Masses, SOLEMN FEAST of the **EPIPHANY**

Saturday, January 2:

5:00 PM Dorothy Shannon

Sunday, January 3:

9:00 AM For the People

11:00 AM George Galgano

Mon., Jan. 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:00 Evelyn Smithem

Tues., Jan. 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop

8:00 Peter P. Madori

Christmas Wednesday, January 6

8:00 John Carney

Christmas Thursday, January 7

8:00 Evelyn Smithem

Christmas Friday, January 8

8:00 Elvis Presley

No Mass celebrated Saturday morning

Weekend Masses, SOLEMN FEAST of the **BAPTISM of the LORD**

Saturday, January 9:

5:00 PM Ann Marie Radlein

Sunday, January 10:

9:00 AM For the People

11:00 AM Emilio Prado

Please pray for all our deceased parishioners, benefactors, relatives and friends.

Please pray for those who are ill, especially: Miskit Airth; Brian Amrhein; Anita Auer; Robert Banks; the Berchtold Family; Sue Berry; Sharon Bierman; Ed Boyle; Michele Brow; Doris Buesing; Frank Caramico; Albert Caravello; Adeline Carbone; Tucker Carr; James Carney; Lottie Carney; Ronald Carr; Thomas Cashman; Nicholas Cetera; Adelina Rose Ciarelli; Nickolas Civitano; Rocky Collins; Mikie Congemi; Carl Consolo; Donna Consolo; Paula Cornine; Thomas Coughlin; Anna Courneya; William Cronin; Sue

"150 CLUB" WINNERS

The winner for December 27 was # 102, Kathy Miscioscio. On New Year's Day, the \$ 50 winner was # 145, Fr. Madori. Prizes through December 6 were mailed before December 10. Apologies to anyone whose check did not arrive in a timely manner. The continuing cautions against gathering prevents us from having our usual end-of-club luncheon. For informaton, call Kate, 888-2652.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESTART

On the Sunday before Christmas, Religious Education left off with a session for our children in Grades K through 3. The program begins again this Sunday, January 3, with students in the intermediate classes -- Grades 4, 5 and 6. Parents who have chosen remote learning should be in regular contact with your child's teacher. The ideal arrangement is to meet face-to-face on the Sunday the child's teacher is not in class. But any plan that works for everyone is acceptable. Let's all pray and hope for the day when every class can meet at the same time, all "present and accounted for"!!

A QUIET JANUARY

Customarily, neither the Holy Name Society nor the Ave Maria Guild meet in January or February. With the rapid spread of Covid-19, and fears of its even more deadly explosion because of people's ignoring the cautions against holiday gatherings, it's probably just as well they don't. We'll look forward to a genuine "resurrection" come spring.

COLLECTION REPORT: DECEMBER 19 & 20

MASS	ATTENDANCE	COLLECTION
Mail-in donations		\$ 335.00
5 PM	35	\$ 625.00
9 AM	58	\$ 838.00
11 AM	47	\$ 721.00
Totals	140	\$ 2,519.00

In recent weeks, the toll taken by Covid-19 on our regular sources of income is becoming a little more evident. Many parishioners still are donating “remotely” through the mail, a thoughtfulness for which we are especially grateful. The Archdiocese has been urging parishes to join an electronic giving app. But it costs a small percentage of the collection to do so and there’s a lag time between donations and receipt of funds that leaves the check book in limbo. So we have been resistant to going that route and, for now, are secure. The sparser-than-usual congregation was due to the bitter cold on the weekend.

A report of the Christmas, December 27, New Year’s and this weekend’s (1/3/21) collections will appear in the “Bulletin” of January 10. The “Bulletin” you’re reading went to press on December 23.

EXPENDITURES DECEMBER 15 TO 21

Answering service	\$ 122.37
Missalettes (several months)	\$ 262.85
Snow removal	\$ 700.00
Cathedraticum (monthly)	\$ 1,350.00
School support (monthly)	\$ 450.00
Clergy medical ins. (monthly)	\$ 700.00
Liability ins. (monthly)	\$ 1,350.00
Religious education	\$ 1,549.00
Total	\$ 6,484.22

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The amounts we pay monthly for *Cathedraticum* (a fee for services provided by the Archdiocese), pension, liability and medical insurance do not reflect their actual cost. We make “catch-up” payments from the Christmas collection. The parish still owes a debt of several thousand dollars to the architectural firm that supplied all the plans for the renovation of the hall. The surplus in the Christmas collection will go also toward paying down that debt. Santa Claus has come and gone but there’s still room “under the tree” for parishioners’ Christmas donations.



FLOWERS

This Christmas brought the challenge of decorating two worship spaces simultaneously. Usually, after Christmas, we move all the flowers and the crèche from the Hall to the Church. This year, we are using one for Sundays and the other for weekday Masses. We welcome donations for the decorations we use each Christmas and encourage “memorializ-



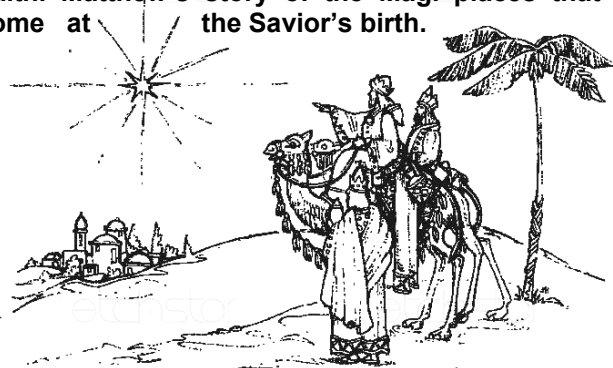
ing” them. Early in the new year, a list of donors and / or memorials is enclosed in the “Bulletin.”

No offering is required and any offering will be received gratefully. We hope that you found the decorations pleasing and conducive to prayer and worship. Thanks to Flowers by Lynn for their usual beautiful arrangements.

WAS THIS DECEMBER’S STAR “THE” STAR ?

The NASA website had a reflection on the Christmas Star visible this year [edited for length]:

“On December 21, Jupiter and Saturn engaged in their ‘great conjunction.’ To ancient skywatchers, these were the two slowest moving planets in the sky. Jupiter takes nearly 12 years to describe a full circle in the heavens, while Saturn takes 29.5 years to make one full trip around the sun. Because of their respective slow movement, a conjunction was rather unusual. These two planets come exceedingly close to each other on an average of once every 300 years. One of the more popular theories for the “Christmas Star” was a series of conjunctions between Jupiter and Saturn in 7 BC. For in that year Jupiter and Saturn met not once but three times, in May, September and De-cember. The first conjunction, visible “in the east” before sunrise, presumably started the Magi on their way to Bethlehem from the Far East. The third and final conjunction occurred just as they arrived in Judea to meet with King Herod, who sent them on to Bethlehem to ‘go and search diligently for the young child.’” [Editor’s comments follow] Although the timing fits -- Jesus was born in about 7 or 6 BC -- the May / December framework fails to take into account that the date of Christ’s birth was chosen arbitrarily by the early Church to coincide with the *Saturnalia*, a time of wild revelry in Rome, tied to the feast of the winter solstice and the rebirth of the sun-god *Saturn*. Christians were encouraged to honor instead the Incarnation of Jesus, the Son of God. Saint Matthew, in creating the story of the magi, may have relied on popular accounts of the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn because the event allowed him to use the story of Balaam’s prophecy [see the *Book of Numbers*, 24:14 to 17, where a “star” is featured]. Balaam’s unwitting of the evil Balak and blessing of Abraham prefigures the welcoming of Gentiles into the Christian Faith. Matthew’s story of the Magi places that welcome at the Savior’s birth.



COVER SHEET

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