

*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

Today's Solemnity of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, an event that Saint Matthew emphasizes greatly. His Gospel narrates that some "Magi" - probably Persian religious leaders - reached Jerusalem guided by a "star", a luminous, heavenly phenomenon which they interpreted as a sign of the birth of a new king of the Jews.

No one in the city knew anything; rather, the king in charge, Herod, remained very disturbed by the news and conceived the tragic design of the "slaughter of the innocents" to eliminate the newborn rival.

The Magi, instead, placed their trust in the Sacred Scriptures, in particular in the prophecy of Micah, according to which the Messiah would be born at Bethlehem, the city of David, situated about 15 miles south of Jerusalem.

They departed in that direction and saw the star anew and, full of joy, followed it until it stopped over a poor dwelling. They entered and found the Baby with Mary; they prostrated before him and, in homage of his royal dignity, they offered him gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Why is this happening so important? Because in it the adhesion of the pagan people to faith in Christ has begun to be fulfilled according to the promise made by God to Abraham, about which the Book of Genesis refers: "By you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves".

If Mary, Joseph and the shepherds of Bethlehem therefore represent the people of Israel who have welcomed the Lord, the Magi instead are the first of the peoples, also called to be part of the Church, the new People of God established, no longer on ethnic, linguistic or cultural homogeneity, but uniquely on the common faith in Jesus, Son of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

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*Religious Education classes resume today, Sunday, January 3rd. We understand if you don't feel comfortable having your children come to Religious Ed at this present time but we need to know that. Also be sure that you are doing your screening before arriving and turning in your forms.*

*Holy Hour will resume on January 11th in the Chapel.*

*Confessions will be heard from 5:30pm until 6:15pm.*

*Adoration will be from 5:30 pm until 6:30pm*



*There will be a 2nd collection next weekend January 9th/10th for Catholic Communications/Catholic University.*

*Please give it your prayerful consideration.*

*St. Mary's Food Pantry* is still available to all in our local and area communities. The next date will be Friday, January 8th from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know is in need of food, please have them come during those times.

Little Lambs will be taking Little Caesar Pizza orders in the narthex the weekend of January 23rd/24th.

We now have a section of St. Mary's Cemetery with new graves available. The following is the fee schedule to obtain the *Right to Burial*:

Single Depth \$1000

Double Depth \$1300

For more information, call Gina at the parish Office (845) 856-8212.

Monday– Friday 9:30am until 3pm.

(845) 856-8212

Payment plans are available.

With the bad weather approaching we ask that if you plan on visiting the cemetery, do so after it is cleared. We have had instances of people getting stuck in our cemetery and making it difficult for us to clear the roads within the cemetery.

Also, as a reminder, personal effects including but not limited to solar lights, figurines, etc., are not allowed. Anyone who would like a copy of the by-laws is welcome to stop by the parish office or call and we will gladly email you a copy.

The Knights of Columbus, Council #471 will have a Tic-Toc fundraiser on Saturday, February 13th from 1pm-4pm. Raffle tickets are \$20 with \$2,000 in cash prizes. For more information or to purchase a ticket call Warren Ponds 914-443-3475 or the hall at 845-856-4084.

Court Madonna's 21 Club tickets are now available. They are \$20/ea and benefit local scholarships. Drawing is on April 13th. There will be 20 \$50 winners and 1 \$1,000 winner. Tickets available at the parish office or contact Debbie 239-3560, Helen 856-0987, or Sue 858-5991.

*The Cardinal's Appeal* is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$19,080 from 97 donors. You can visit [Cardinalsappeal.org](http://Cardinalsappeal.org). All donations can be mailed directly to :The Cardinal's Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261. Our Parish # is 518.

## Announced Masses

Monday,	January 4 (Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious)
9:00am	Theresa Fuller, by Dolores Gore & family Nicholas Andersen, by Deacon Rich & Joanne Marino
Tuesday,	January 5 (John Neumann, bishop)
9:00am	Edward Chuckran, by Dolores Gore & family
Wednesday,	January 6 (Andre Bessssette,religious)
9:00am	Kathleen Wilson, by Eleanor Brady Jack Spiezio, by Deacon Rich & Joanne Marino
Thursday,	January 7 (Raymond of Penafort, priest)
9:00am	Roberta Caldropoli, by Richard & Betty Klos
Saturday,	January 9
4:00pm	John Oliver, by the family
Sunday,	January 10 (Baptism of the Lord)
8:30am	The parishioners of St. Mary's
11:30am	Gaspar & Cesarea Cruz, by Maria Esling



*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of Thomas McCreery, by Excelsior Engine Firehouse No. 5.*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, John F Flynn, Jr., Catherine Simons, Michael Medaglia, Robert Witherow, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Allan Garcia, Eric Hildebrandt, Stephen A. Odrechowski, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Leticia Nuestro, Christina Nuestro, Catherine Scopino, Amelia Quinn, Tonya Addy, Jackie Hamilton, Brandon Ulrichs, Helen Eckes, Gloria Hicks, Stephanie Gaide, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Donald Wolff, Carmen Ramos, Jose Brito, Wayne DeMarco, Carmella Balsamello, Emogene Bloomer, Michael D'Alto, Gloria Hinkley, and Cheryl Lovelace.

Due to early printing deadlines, the Christmas collection and the collection for the weekend of December 26th//27th will be reported in a future bulletin.

Thank you for your continued generosity.