

# Parish of St. Sylvester

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*January 5, 2020*



They opened their treasures  
and offered him gifts  
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

— Matthew 2:11b

### Liturgies and Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, Jan. 4 - Vigil Mass - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
4:00 p.m. = Ann R. Kancelaric

**Sunday, Jan. 5 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
7:30 a.m. = Joseph Gallagher  
10:00 a.m. = Carmela Rogan  
12:00 noon = Thomas McCoy, Jr. (14<sup>th</sup> ann.in heaven)

**Monday, Jan. 6 - Christmas Weekday**  
[St. André Bessette, Religious]  
8:30 a.m. = Tony Fortunato

**Tuesday, Jan. 7 - Christmas Weekday**  
[St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest]  
8:30 a.m. = in thanksgiving

**Wednesday, Jan. 8 - Christmas Weekday**  
8:30 a.m. = Dominic Batista  
7:00 p.m. = hour of Eucharistic prayer, music & adoration

**Thursday, Jan. 9 - Christmas Weekday**  
8:30 a.m. = Denis Kelleher

**Friday, Jan. 10 - Christmas Weekday**  
8:30 a.m. = James F. Donahue, Jr.

**Saturday, Jan. 11 - Christmas Weekday**  
9:00 a.m. = \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, Jan. 11 - Vigil Mass - The Baptism of the Lord**  
4:00 p.m. = Paul Maneggia and family

**Sunday, Jan. 12 - The Baptism of the Lord**  
7:30 a.m. = Joseph Gallagher  
10:00 a.m. = Faith McGowan  
12:00 noon = Nicholas Lettiere [9<sup>th</sup> ann. in heaven]



### Weekly Collections Our Parish Family's Support:

Dec. 22, 2019 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. Advent - \$3,521.00  
Retired Religious - \$ 512.00

*Dec. 23, 2018*—1st Collection - \$4,309.00  
Retired Religious - \$ 463.00

Due to the printer's season holidays our collections information will be delayed periodically. Please look for the Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> information to be published next week.

*Lord, hold our troops safe in your loving hands*



**Staff Sgt. Victor L. Andrea, Jr.** - U. S. Air Force  
**Seaman Daniel Brennan** - U. S. Navy  
**SR Francis S. Cummings** - U. S. Navy  
**SR Michael J. Cummings** - U. S. Navy  
**Col. Jeffrey N. Davila, MD** - U. S. Air Force  
**Ryan Foley** - U.S. M.C.  
**Alvin S. Joseph II** - U. S. Navy  
**Lt. Col. Jay Le Pore** - U. S. Air Force in Japan  
**Prescod Montgomery** - U. S. Army in Iraq  
**Ens. Il Steven Pasignajen-Trimble** - U.S. Navy/Persian Gulf  
**Samuel Rios** - U. S. Air Force  
**Joseph Somma** - U. S. Marine Corps  
**Lt. Col. Michael Volpe** - U. S. Army-South Korea  
*Has someone here been promoted, transferred, demobilized, discharged, retired? Please let us know.*

**PLEASE PRAY** ... for those anticipating a hospital stay, recuperating, and the home-bound in our parish and in our families. Keep this list near the place where you pray each day so that you remember them throughout the week.

Daniela Agucia, Robert Ballard, Sr., Joseph Bertolini, Nancy J. Bushman, Antonia Carlino, Lucille Chatznoff, Ed Cintula, Frances Cirincione, Conley family, Stephen Cucci, Maria Erlinger, Robert Forlenza, Doris Flory, Thomas Galvin, Rosemarie Garlisi, Robert Golden, John Andrew Hunton, Debra S. Iammatteo, Bridget Kehley, Nicholas Kinahan, Frank Labano, Dr. Nicolas C. Lansigan, Jr., Louis Matos, Travis Mayhew, John Miles, George Moresca, Delia Murguia, William Murphy, Amy O'Donnell, Sr. Carrie Portu, Lee Poyntz, Sharon Poyntz, Camille Quaglia, Irene Reilly, Eulah Ryan, Paul Sabella, Alice Santamays, John Savarese, Annette Scardigno, Louise Stanley, Tom Varisi, John Vincenzo, Joan Walter, Robert Williams

*Please let us know if anyone for whom we are praying has recovered from illness/surgery so that we may rejoice with you and then make room for others in need of prayer. Thank you.*

Join us...  ...this Sunday  
for Hospitality in the Parish Hall, after 10 AM Mass

Were you at the 4 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass? Fr. Jacob invited all the children attending to come up and share his homily thoughts! And then children from our School of Religion represented us in the Offertory Procession: Mary was **Jhoana Mendez**, Joseph was **Alexander Llivisaca**, the Shepherd was **Nicolas Mendez** and the Angel was **Julieanna Wagner**.





## Pastor's Corner

My Dear Parishioners,

Around a thousand years ago a stonemason in Autun, France, was working on decorations for the city's new cathedral. One of his carvings shows a charming scene. The three kings, all wearing crowns and sharing one cozy bed, are being awakened by an angel pointing to a star. The angel's finger is gently touching the hand of one of the kings on top of the patterned coverlet. This king's eyes have popped open in surprise, while the other two slumber on. The stonemason artistically combined two biblical stories into one. The star reminds us of the one that led the kings to Bethlehem, while the visiting angel refers to the warning they received in a dream not to return to Herod after visiting the Christ Child. For centuries tradition has held that the names of the kings were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, but nobody really knows for sure. Other traditions call them wise men from the East who studied the stars. They were the first non-Jews to recognize and worship the Son of God and give him kingly gifts. In the Middle Ages, houses were blessed on Epiphany, reflecting how the magi found Christ "on entering the house." Try reviving this ancient tradition today. It can work for any family or household group. One person incenses the house while another sprinkles holy water, and a third writes in chalk over every outside doorway "20 + C + M + B + 20" (or whatever the year may be), which stands for "The three Holy Kings, Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar, in the year of Our Lord 2020." The letters C, M, and B also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this home." Blessing the doorways symbolizes the family's commitment to welcome everyone as Christ into their home throughout the year.

Keep smiling,

*Fr. Jacob*

### FULFILL TODAY

If what you did yesterday still looks big to you, surely you have not done much today. —Anonymous

Although the Christmas gifting season usually ends with the feast of the Epiphany, are you still seeking a gift idea—perhaps for a Baptism or an anniversary? Or as a memorial commemoration?



Our parish has just purchased 4 new Altar Server albs/robes [cost: \$50 ea.] which may be personalized with donation or "in memory of" names affixed [just as is done with gifts of vestments]. If this fits your need, please stop in to the Parish Office to make arrangements.

### SPECIAL TO STATEN ISLAND. . .\*

**SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON** (1774-1821) January 4

Though her liturgical designation is "Religious," Elizabeth Seton, her feast-day prayer reminds us, was also wife, mother, educator, foundress. Born into a wealthy (Staten Island) Episcopalian family, Elizabeth married William Seton, whose untimely death in Italy where the young family sought healing for William's tuberculosis, left her, at twenty-nine, a widow with five children. Inspired by the faith and charity of the Italian family with whom they stayed, Elizabeth embraced Catholicism despite her family's disowning her and ceasing financial support. This woman of many firsts (and several vocations!) opened the first free Catholic school, beginning the American Catholic educational system, and founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. The tuberculosis that claimed her husband took also her oldest and youngest daughters and, finally, at just forty-seven, Elizabeth herself. Another first: in 1975 she was canonized the first native-born American saint. \*In St. Andrew's Cemetery, Richmondtown, Staten Island you will find the graves and memorial plaque of St. Elizabeth Bayley Seton's family.



As you know, our publisher's early holiday printing schedules during this season have caused delays in publishing some parish news. THIS picture, speaking so eloquently of the pleasures of our Christmas Dinner Dance, should have accompanied Fr. Jacob's 12/29 column but came in after deadline.

Thank you, Jim Tierney and daughter, Theresa for the picture—speaking a thousand words!