

# The Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2017



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## How Do We Know There Were Only Three Wise Men?

Some years ago, when I was helping out in another Parish at Christmas, I was invited to talk about the Christmas Season and all the celebrations to the kids in Religious Ed. Of course the Epiphany was included.

I arrived and started my talk. I read the Christmas Gospel about the birth of Jesus and spoke about that for a while. Then the Maternity of Mary, which we celebrate on New Year's Day. The kids were quite attentive, and they asked some good questions.

I then launched into the Epiphany, the event we are celebrating this weekend, and began with today's Gospel. Incidentally, Matthew's Gospel is the only Gospel that talks about the Epiphany. As I read the Gospel, I pointed to the beautiful crèche scene in the room. I started reading "After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of King Herod, astrologers from the east arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring, 'Where is the newborn King of the Jews?'"

As I read, I pointed over to the statuettes of the Three Kings, Wise Men, or Magi, as we sometimes call them. "Boys and girls," I said, "there they are – the three astrologers, the three kings, or the three wise men." I was ready to continue, but a little hand shot up in the air. I had invited the kids to stop me if they had a question. This little second or third grader calmly asked, "How do we know there were only three of them? – the Bible didn't give a number."

I suddenly realized why the pastor had asked me to take this class with this precocious little kid. He was right of course. Matthew's Gospel doesn't tell us there were three astrologers. Nor did he give us the names that were given to them at some point during the past two thousand years – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. I explained all of that to the class, and my very attentive and observant little friend seemed satisfied.

My memory of that experience reminds me that what we celebrate today is not the number of astrologers, or wise men or kings, whatever we prefer to call them. It's not even the astrologers themselves, however many there were. Today we celebrate the Star that led them to that manger in Bethlehem. The Star whose brilliant light announced the birth of the Light of our world, Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior! Today we celebrate that special quality of light – that shines on all men and women everywhere, no matter who they are, or where they come from, or what language they speak, or what politics or religion they practice. After all, starlight does not discriminate. Jesus, whom the astrologers found in Bethlehem, was born to save all men and women of all times and places. Happy Epiphany!

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

Pastor



### MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

**MONDAY, January 9**

*Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17*

7:00 AM Adam P. Sismour

12:00 PM Lillian Sturz

**TUESDAY, January 10**

*Mk 1:14-20 (305) and 1:21-28*

7:00 AM Amanda Beckenbach

12:00 PM Intentions of Mary Jo Calamai

**WEDNESDAY, January 11**

*Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39*

7:00 AM Mary Reilly

12:00 PM Carey Depuy

**THURSDAY, January 12**

*Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45*

7:00 AM Jean McGuire

12:00 PM Janet Phillips

**FRIDAY, January 13**

*Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12*

7:00 AM Catherine Vingo

12:00 PM Frank Rowella, Sr.

**SATURDAY, January 14**

*Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17*

8:00 AM Stephen Osso

4:30 PM Peggy Keane

**SUNDAY, January 15**

*Is 49:3, 5-6/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34*

**Church**

7:30 AM James Klinges

9:15 AM Eleanor Lucy

11:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

**Hall**

10:30 AM Peggy Keane

12:00 PM Bill Fitzgerald - 6th Anniversary

5:00 PM Dec. Members of the Zembron Family

### Contribution Tax Statements

Contribution Tax Statements will be mailed out in January 2017 to all Parishioners who contributed to our Parish Offertory last year. All contributions must have been received by December 31, 2016, in order to be acknowledged for 2016 tax status.

Our next Pre-Baptism Class (required for parents who have not had a class within five years and wish to have their child baptized) will be held this **Wed., January 11<sup>th</sup>** from 7:30-8:30pm in the Barn. Call our Parish Office to register.



### GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

January 1, 2017	\$19,331	\$19,331
January 3, 2016	\$25,260	\$25,260

**Solemnity of Mary**

January 2017	\$4,215	
January 2016	\$4,397	

December 25, 2016	\$55,122	\$1,278,560
December 25, 2015	\$52,744	\$1,246,683

**Facilities Repair and Maintenance**

December 2016	\$9,137	
December 2015	\$8,818	

*This week's second collection is for Facilities Repair. Next week's second collection is for Hospitality House. Thank you for your continued support.*

### Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Theresa Avento, Joseph Barone, Mary Jo Calamai, Megyn Caldwell, Patti Capilli, Dina Casavecchia, Bill Casey, Jeanne Masgandrea, and Luke Whitbeck.** (For the sake of privacy, only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless we are otherwise notified.)



### Candle Intentions

**Remember a friend or loved one with a candle lit in their name. Candle Intention options:**

- Adoration Chapel Tabernacle Candle - \$40 donation, for one week
- Church Sanctuary Candle - \$40 donation, for one week
- Church Altar Candles - \$20 donation each, for one week
- Hall Sanctuary Candle - \$20 donation, burns at Sunday Mass

**All intentions will be noted in our Bulletin during the week requested and each Candle Intention includes a card with envelope.**

**Please arrange donation at our Parish Office.**



**CATHOLIC ACTION**

**Volunteers Needed**



Elders in our community need YOUR help. We need the following at Congregate Housing, Prospect Ridge:

1. **BINGO CALLERS** - 1 (or 2) needed. Wednesdays 1-2:30pm, once a month.
2. **LUNCH SERVERS** - 3 or 4 needed. Weekdays 11:45am-1:00pm, 2x/month. You can choose the days to volunteer.

CONTACT: Suzanne MacAvoy for info and to volunteer, [sdmacavoy@hotmail.com](mailto:sdmacavoy@hotmail.com) H 203 438-7056

**DONATE: Midnight Run**

Midnight Run: Friday January 27. Items needed: heavy jackets, hooded sweatshirts, jeans, hats, gloves, scarves, new underwear (M-XXL), socks, lightly used sneakers, thermal underwear, blankets, sleeping bags, backpacks & travel sized toiletries & toothbrushes. Drop off items at the Barn between 7:30am and 3:30pm on Jan 20 to 26. Volunteers are needed to sort and fold clothing, pick up and return the van and to go on the run. Any questions or for more info call Elma or Jim Stoveken at 203-894-1341. Thank you for your help!!

**DONATE: Food Pantries**

During the month of January, all food collected goes to the Ridgefield Food Pantry. Suggested food items include cereal, pasta, canned food, vegetable oil and baby food. Also needed: full-size toiletries. Thank you!

**SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON**

*Calling all Senior Citizens! Please join us at our next luncheon this Tuesday, January 10th! The Rosary begins in the Hall at 11:30am, Mass will be at 12:00pm, with lunch to follow. Come enjoy good food and good company. Please RSVP to Saint Mary School's Office, 203-438-7288 by this Monday, January 9th. (In case of inclement weather, the luncheon will be cancelled, not rescheduled.) Suggested donation \$6.*

**PILGRIM VIRGIN**



To honor the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, consider inviting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima to your home to pray the Rosary daily, a wonderful Marian devotion. The message from heaven for us is more urgent than ever to pray for world peace and the conversion of sinners. To invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima to your home contact Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

O = permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed.  
X = 1 additional adorer needed.  
Empty boxes = there are 2 or more adorers.

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	O	O	X	O	X	X
2am-3am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
3am-4am	O	X	X	X	X	O	X
4am-5am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
5am-6am	X	X			X		X
6am-7am	X		X	X	X		X
7am-8am	X		X	X	X	X	X
8am-9am				X			X
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X			X		X	X
11am-12N	X						X
12N-1pm	X				X	X	X
1pm-2pm	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm		X	X	X	X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X		X	X	X		X
5pm-6pm	X		X	X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X			X	X	X	X
7pm-8pm	X						X
8pm-9pm						X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X			X	X	X
10pm-11pm			X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X		X		X	X	X

*Happy New Year 2017! A wonderful way to begin the new year – take a scheduled hour in our Parish Adoration Chapel as one of your New Year's resolutions, one of which, I'm sure, you would not cancel. Consider an hour where there is an "o" or an "x" in the chart. What better blessings from Jesus for 2017. Please sign up by calling Bill or Monica @ 914-533-2832. God bless us all.*

**EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9pm, in our Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary are sung and prayed. Please join us!**



**ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY**

Membership in the STMMM is a lifetime invitation to come whenever you can! Once a member always a member. Come join us any Saturday @ 6:30AM for bagels, coffee and fellowship. Perhaps your spiritual life needs a tune-up. Come and see how Jesus' teachings can enrich your life and the life of your loved ones. [stmmm.org](http://stmmm.org)

**MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



Don't you want to be the best role model for your child? The easiest way is to share the faith with your children by spending time with them and "walking the talk." Connect the words to action! Join the Knights of Columbus for the opportunity to serve our church and community together WITH your children. We are looking for Dads and their kids to help us throughout the year. Contact John McNicholas at [jmpmcnich@yahoo.com](mailto:jmpmcnich@yahoo.com) or visit [www.kofc245.org](http://www.kofc245.org) for more info.