

The Epiphany of the Lord † Jan. 5, 2020

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Jan. 6
8:30 a.m.	St. Andrew Bessette, Religious Vincenza & George Porpiglia Angelina Romanella
Tuesday	Jan. 7
8:30 a.m.	St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest Jerry Helmstadt by daughter, Harriet
Wednesday	Jan. 8
8:30 a.m.	Lola Calcagno
Thursday	Jan. 9
8:30 a.m.	Ferdinand Pabst by Camille Pabst
Friday	Jan. 10
8:30 a.m.	Eucharistic Service
Saturday	Jan. 11
4:00 p.m.	Lucy & Felicia DeMatta by Cathy & Paul Varacallo
Sunday	Jan. 12 The Baptism of the Lord
7:30 a.m.	Theresa De Francesco by Mary Ann and Hope
9:00 a.m.	Caroline Alo by Frank Picciolo
11:00 a.m.	Marie Mezzina by Louis Sciancalepore

PARISH CALENDAR

Jan. 5	SYG Mtg. 10:00 am
Jan. 6	K of C Mtg. – 6:30 pm - Hall
Jan. 8	Scripture Study – 9:00 am – Hall Room 5
	Religious Education Teaching Mass
	Grades 3-7 – 7:00 pm - Hall
Jan. 9	St. Vincent DePaul meeting - 9:00 am
	8 th Grade Interviews – 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
	Choir Practice – 7:30 pm
Jan. 13	Companions of Pauline – 1:00 – 3:00 pm
	8 th Grade Interviews – 5:00 -7:00 pm
	Room 5
	Men's Spiritual Group – 9:00 pm
Jan. 14	Prayer Shawl – 1:30 pm Hall
Jan. 15	Scripture Study – 9:00 am – Hall Room 5
	8 th Grade Interviews – 5:00 – 8:00 pm
	Room 5
	Parish Council – 7:30 pm
	Baptism Prep – 7:30 pm
Jan. 16	Choir Practice – 7:30 pm - Hall



Candle & Flower Offerings

The Sanctuary Candle is offered for the People of the Parish. The candle before St. Joseph is offered in loving memory of Joseph, Esther & Anna Falcinelli by Esther Wolff. The candle before St. Anthony is offered in loving memory of Gerard Helmstadt by wife Harriet.

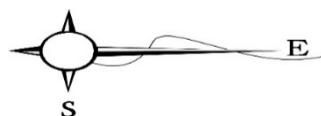
The Sanctuary Flowers are offered for the People of the Parish.



The collection amount for the weekend of December 22nd was \$11,408 and the Christmas collection was \$50,467. The collection amount for the weekend of December 29th will be printed in next week's bulletin. Thank you for your continued support of our parish!

OFFICE HOURS

The office is open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Book Club with Father Lance

Father Lance will be continuing his book club in Father Congdon Hall on Tuesday, January 7th at 9am and again at 7pm. The book is called **Faith Maps by Father Michael Paul Gallagher**.

A MESSAGE FROM DEACON JOHN S.

Dear Parish Family,

As we transition into a new year, the Feast of the Epiphany provides us with a perfect message and reminder that Jesus was born for all people and that he continues to reveal himself to us in different ways.

Epiphany is from Greek words meaning manifestation and the account of the Magi from the Gospel show us that Jesus became known not only to the Jews at the time of his birth but to the rest of the Gentile world soon after.

While all the details about the Magi aren't fully known, we do know that they were men of great knowledge that allowed them to become aware of Jesus and make their journey to him. But they lost their way on their journey to Jesus and needed help, much the same as we sometimes lose our way on that same path.

Having called and guided the Magi to search for Jesus, he provided them with a 'star' to follow to help them reach the place where Jesus was.

God calls each of us to follow him and provides us with our own 'stars' throughout our lives. Those stars may be other people, some we know and some we may never know, or perhaps events that test us, that challenge us or that teach us. For us as Christians, the simple gift of our faith is the greatest star we can have.

We don't always pay attention to these guides along the way nor do we always take advantage of the opportunities to be 'stars' for others but we have the constant presence of God within us and his grace throughout our journeys.

The message of the Epiphany is one that should accompany us each day as a reminder that just as Jesus gives us his light to follow toward him, he asks that we each be that same light to guide others to him.

In peace,
Deacon John

Stewardship Reflections **Epiphany of the Lord**

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."
(Matthew 2:11)

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Office Schedule 2019-2020

Saturdays: 10:30 am – 3:00pm
Mondays-Wednesdays: 9:00am – 2:00pm
Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday Evenings by appointment only
Religious Education Office is closed on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays

Reminders for January

January 8 th	Grades 3-7 - Teaching Mass – 7:00 pm
January 22 nd	Grade 8 – Skill Session – 6:00 - 7:30 pm
January 28 th	Grade 2 – Reconciliation Practice 6:00 – 7:30 pm
January 30	Grade 2 – 1 st Reconciliation – 6:30 pm Arrive at 6:15 pm

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

Themes for January

Dates

1/8

Sunday Readings

The Baptism of the Lord

Theme: The Spirit of God confirms the mission of Jesus

1/15

2nd Sun. in Ordinary Time

Theme: John testifies that Jesus is the Son of God

1/22

3rd Sun. in Ordinary Time

Theme: Jesus invites us to follow Him

1/29

Presentation of the Lord Jesus is

revealed as the Savior of the World

TOGETHER IN CHARITY COLLECTION

On the weekend of January 11th & 12th the annual "Together in Charity" collection will be taken up at all Masses. The proceeds of this collection helps to fund Catholic Charities' Parish Assistance Program, which provides 24 hour / seven-day-a-week assistance to parishes faced with individuals and families with serious and urgent financial, housing or medical needs. In 2019, over 65% of the parishes in the Diocese availed themselves of this program. Please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a blessed new year for a family or individual in crisis.

NAMING AND MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Updated as of January 5, 2020

During our Parish's renovation, we will be offering a few opportunities for our parishioners to purchase a liturgical item for memorial. A brochure has been sent to each family with all the details. We will be updating the sold list on our website and Facebook page. Please call the office with any questions. Thank you for all your continued support.

Naming Opportunity	Price		Price
NARTHEX		STATIONS OF THE CROSS	
Star of Bethlehem Stained Glass Window	\$100,000	1. Jesus is condemned to death	\$5,000
WINDOWS: above main entrance doors (3)		2. Jesus carries His cross	\$5,000
Left Etched Glass Pane- Angel	\$25,000	3. Jesus falls the first time	\$5,000
Center Etched Glass Pane- Welcoming Sign	\$25,000	4. Jesus meets His Mother Mary	SOLD
Right Etched Glass Pane- Angel	\$25,000	5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross	\$5,000
Etched Doors: main entrance (2)	\$15,000 each	6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus	SOLD
SANCTUARY		7. Jesus falls for the second time	\$5,000
Reredos	\$50,000	8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem	\$5,000
Altar	\$50,000	9. Jesus falls for the third time	\$5,000
Presider's Chair	\$10,000	10. Jesus is stripped of His clothes	\$5,000
Ambo	\$10,000	11. Jesus is Nailed to the cross	\$5,000
Baptismal Font	SOLD	12. Jesus dies on the cross	SOLD
Altar Candles (2)	2 SOLD	13. Jesus is taken down from the cross	\$5,000
Cantor's Lectern	\$5,000	14. Jesus is placed in the tomb	SOLD
SEATING AND PEWS		LITURGICAL ITEMS	
Choir Seating (25) \$1,000 each	16 SOLD	Ambry	SOLD
STAINED GLASS - JOYFUL MYSTERIES		Holy Water Fonts (2) \$3,000 each	2 SOLD
The Annunciation	SOLD		
The Visitation	\$10,000		
The Nativity of Our Lord	SOLD		
The Presentation	\$10,000		
Finding Jesus in the Temple	\$10,000		
STAINED GLASS—GLORIOUS MYSTERIES			
The Resurrection of Jesus	\$10,000		
The Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven	SOLD		
The Holy Spirit comes upon Mary and the Apostles	\$10,000		
The Assumption of Mary	SOLD		
Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth	SOLD		

MINISTRIES

St. Vincent De Paul Society: If you are experiencing financial hardship due to a temporary loss of employment, illness, or disability, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is available to provide assistance for your everyday needs such as food, utility assistance, or agency referrals. Please dial the parish number 609-371-0499, then press 8, and leave a message with your name and phone number. Someone will return your call. **All calls are handled in strict confidence.**

Food Pantry: After all you have given, just be your usual generous selves. We thank you. Please remember, due to the renovations of the Church, kindly drop off food donations directly at the Monroe Senior Center at the reception desk, Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:40pm. May we continue to serve our brothers and sisters for the sake of Christ.

Prayer Shawl: Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 14, 2020.** Join us as we create shawls for the sick and homebound members of the parish (and beyond!) New members are always welcome. Questions? Call Liz Coulston at 732-561-4139 or Dorothy Kopil at 609-655-8138.

Fair Trade: Fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate is available in Fr Congdon Hall during the week. Call Maryanne Sheerin at 609-937-4963 with any questions or requests. Thank you for your continued support of fair trade.

Caring Meals: The Caring Meals group delivers soup year-round to our homebound parishioners and provides short-term help to parishioners who are recuperating from an illness or hospital stay with deliveries of home-cooked meals. If you like to cook or know of someone who could benefit from either of these two services, please call Maryanne Sheerin at 609-937-4963.

Helping Hands: Do you need a helping hand with minor tasks around the house? There are parishioners who are willing to help in these situations. Please contact Esther Wolff by phone at 732-521-6019.

Rosary Group: Please join us every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:50 a.m. to recite the Holy Rosary **downstairs in the Hall.** Please respect this space since it will be our Chapel with the Eucharist present in the tabernacle.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

We are starting a New Year and our next trip to Atlantic City is Wednesday January 22, 2020 to the Tropicana Casino. Cost is \$23 per person. You will receive \$25 slot play money. A photo I.D. is required to obtain a player's card and play money. Make check payable to Nativity Church Activities. Arrive at church parking lot by 9:15 a.m., we leave promptly at 9:30 a.m. For reservations, call Rose Ferrari (609) 395-7185. There are a few seats left.

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY

MSG Geoffrey Marshall - US Army

John Pisapia – US Navy

Ryan Shelton, Capt.- US Army

Nicholas Palmer. US Army

Col. William Thomas Baden – Air Force

Lt. Christopher J. Freeland – US Navy

1st Lt. Steven Snyder – Air Force

Daniel Knowles – Coast Guard

Justin Joseph Laguna – Air Force Reserves

Michael Ernst – Air Force Reserves

Lt. Yvonne Zirrith – US Navy

Capt. Bradley James Tobasco – Air Force

We would like to pray for family members of those in our parish who are in the military. Please submit names to admin@nativitymonroe.org



The **Baptism of the Christ** (or the **Baptism of Christ**) is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, which commemorates the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ, and the wedding at Cana. Over time in the West, however, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be commemorated as a distinct feast from Epiphany.

It is celebrated in the Catholic Church as well as the Anglican and Lutheran Churches on the first Sunday following The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6).

Stress in Your Marriage!

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages. The program consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions.

UPCOMING WEEKEND: February 21-23, 2020

For Information and to Register:
Call Rich Colasuonno: 732-236-0671 or
Annette Colasuonno: 732-672-0748 or
Email 3024@retrouvaille.org

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 Each time you shop on Amazon and have Nativity selected as your chosen charity, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase directly to Nativity. Follow the link below and start shopping!!! A live link can also be found on our website.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3182570>

Bereavement Support Program

St. Thomas the Apostle, Old Bridge

A bereavement support program of five meetings will begin on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 P.M at St Thomas the Apostle in Old Bridge (parish room in the Parish Hall). The meetings will continue on Tuesdays, January 21, February 11 and 25, and March 10. The program is offered as a support for all persons who have recently lost a loved one and are struggling with the mourning process. Registration is required. No walk-ins. For more information, please call Deacon Pat at 732-251-4000 ext. 821.



Bus Trip to the Rally for Life in Trenton

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Human Life and Dignity will be running a bus trip to the Rally for Life in Trenton, NJ on Wednesday, January 22, 2020. The bus ride is free of charge, but since space is limited all passengers must reserve their seats. Passengers will board the bus at the Diocesan Center in Piscataway at 9:30 AM. The Rally at the State House begins at 11:00 AM and ends at 1:00 PM. Passengers will attend a small reception afterwards. The bus will bring everyone back to the Diocesan Center around 3:00 PM. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a seat, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.



**Entering the house
they found the child
with Mary, his mother.**

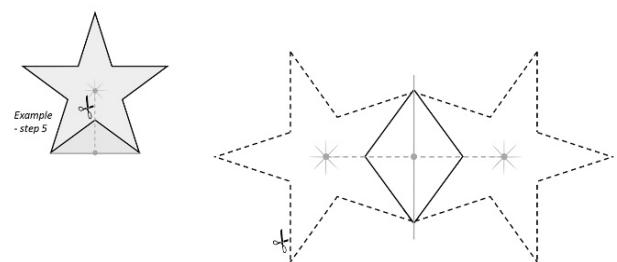
KID'S KORNER

Year A

Gospel Today
The Epiphany of the Lord / Matthew 2:1-2
Behold, Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage."
- Matthew 2:1-2

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At the time when Jesus was born it was a common belief that a new star appeared at the time of a ruler's birth. The Magi believed following the star would bring them to Jesus, the newborn King, and it did!



DIRECTIONS TO MAKE A STAR FOR THE TOP OF YOUR ADVENT "SHARE ME" TREE

- 1] Color twin stars yellow
- 2] Color diamond (the space between the stars) green to match your tree
- 3] Cut out the double star on dotted line
- 4] Fold on gray solid line and glue together to form double-sided star
- 5] Cut through both stars from dot-to-dot and slip over top of tree between weeks 1 & 3 or 2 & 4



If you don't have a paper tree, hang your finished star in a window as an Epiphany reminder.