

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 7

4:30pm Joseph Boragine

*Requested by family*

### Sunday, January 8

8:00am Celeste Krul

*Requested by family*

10:00am Special Intention for Jeanne

*Requested by Mom*

12:00NN Roland and Anna Fiore

*Requested by family*

### Monday, January 9

7:00am Frances Gunning

*Requested by Soltysiak family*

### Tuesday, January 10

7:00am Kerri Bessette

*Requested by Mom, Dad, Scott*

### Wednesday, January 11

7:00am Joseph & Mary Costanza

*Requested by family*

### Thursday, January 12

7:00am Mass for the People

### Friday, January 13

7:00am Donald K. Reilly

*Requested by friends of  
the Reilly family*

### Saturday, January 14

4:30pm Joseph DeLuca

*Requested by family*

### Sunday, January 15

8:00am Thomas & Phoebe McNulty  
& Gar Whaley—by family

10:00am Anna Mrosek

*Requested by Sister Monika*

12:00NN Oscar & Theresa Newton

*Requested by family*



## St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

### Sunday, January 8

10:00am John, Frances, Charles and  
Nick Salerno

*Requested by Thayer family*

### Sunday, January 15

10:00am Henry H. Thayer, Jr.

*Requested by St. Romuald Choir*



## For Your Information

**PARISH SUPPORT** for January 1 was Budget-\$6,767; Mary, Mother of God—\$2,684. This weekend's second offering is the Monthly offering for January. Next weekend's second offering will be for the Catholic University of America. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### SANCTUARY LAMPS

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Theresa Newton. The sanctuary lamp at St. Romuald Chapel burns in memory of Roger Brown.

### BIBLE STUDY: BREAKING OPEN PAUL'S LETTERS

Our parish Bible Study resumed on Tuesday evening, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and will run through February 14<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 pm in Father Greenan Parish Center. It's not too late for you to jump in! The Ignatius Study Guide of St. Paul's Letters to the Philippians, Colossians and Philemon is \$10.00 and is available at the Bible Study. We will resume the same book in an 8-10 week segment this coming Spring.

### FOOD OF THE MONTH

January food & commodities needs are the following: juices, cereal, soup, tuna, peanut butter and jelly, tomato sauce and laundry detergent. Always, thank you for your generous contributions.

### ST. FRANCIS CEMETERY GATEKEEPERS NEEDED

We are in need of gatekeepers to open and close the cemetery. Gate opens at 8:00am and closes at 4:00pm during the winter and at 7:00pm during the summer months. If you're interested in volunteering, please call Laura Kelly at 782-4938. Thank you!

### GOD CHOSE TO BE KNOWN BY US

In choosing to be born for us, God chose to be known by us. He therefore reveals himself in this way, in order that this great sacrament of his love may not be an occasion for us of great misunderstanding.

Today the Magi find, crying in a manger, the one they have followed as he shone in the sky. Today the Magi see clearly, in swaddling clothes, the one they have long awaited as he lay hidden among the stars.

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die. ...

Today Christ enters the Jordan to wash away the sin of the world. John himself testifies that this is why he has come: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. ...

Today Christ works the first of his signs from heaven by turning water into wine. But water [mixed with wine] has still to be changed into the sacrament of his blood, so that Christ may offer spiritual drink from the chalice of his body.

JANUARY 8, 2012

## FROM THE PASTOR...

This weekend we celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany** -- Jesus is shown forth to the world through the three Kings who traveled from the east following a star. The star was a sign to them of the Savior's birth -- a moment significant enough for them to be willing to make a long, hard journey to pay Him homage and to honor Him with gifts. If we truly recognize the significance of the Lord's birth for each one of us, we too should be willing to actively seek him, even when it requires effort and sacrifice, to give him the gift of our reverence and service. While our Christmas season officially ends on Monday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the meaning of Christmas and its value in our lives continues throughout the year. Let us continue to seek him and to follow him faithfully every day.

I'm sure that anyone driving by our parish church recently has noticed our **beautiful new sign**. If you have a good memory, you recall that the sign used to be on the other side of the church, at the entrance to the parking lot on High Street. Since then it has been totally restored and given a new frame and a more prominent location. I am very grateful to Paul Perkins who led the effort and completed most of the work. He certainly did a great job and I was particularly happy that it was completed for Christmas. His artistry has resulted in a noble sign for our parish and I am sure that it will grace our property for many years to come. I hope that soon we can provide lighting to enhance it even more.

Speaking of lighting, one of the next projects that I am looking into is to provide better lighting for the parking lot behind the church and leading up to Fr. Greenan Hall. As some of you know, recently the one spotlight on the back of the church was broken and, for a couple of weeks, it was very dark. My hope is to install a few post-lanterns around the lot to provide more light where it is needed.



## YOU ARE INVITED!

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego over 470 years ago and left a miraculous image of her appearance on his cactus-fiber garment which can be viewed to this day in a basilica near Mexico City. The Office of Family and Life Ministry of the Diocese of Providence will be bringing their missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Francis Church on **Monday, January 16th from 12NN—8:00PM**. The day will include: Arrival at 12:00NN;

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (to continue all day), recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary; 3:00PM: Chaplet of Divine Mercy & Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary; 5:00PM: Recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary; 6:30PM: Presentation on the meaning of the image; 7:00PM: Holy Hour with recitation of the Glorious Mysteries, to conclude with Eucharistic Benediction. Please join us for all or any part of the day!



## Religious Ed. Notes

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

#### Sunday, January 8th

8:50-9:50am GRADES 1 & 2

9:15am First Communion Parent Mtg.  
(Lower Church)

**All students must be represented.**

9:50-10:50am KINDERGARTEN

10:50-11:50am GRADES 3-6

Children will attend Christmas pageant with their class.

All are invited!

#### Monday, January 9th

7-8:30pm Confirmation I and II

#### Wednesday, January 11th

4-5:00pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm GRADES 7 & 8 (FGC)



## This Week

### Sunday, January 8

Rel. Ed. Classes—see above schedule

7:00pm AA (HBH)

### Monday, January 9

NO Baptism Prep. Class

### Tuesday, January 10

6:30-8:00pm RCIA (HBH)\*

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

### Wednesday, January 11

4-5pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

CLASSES GRADES 7 & 8

### Thursday, January 12

7:00pm Couples in Recovery (HBH)

\*RCIA—Please note the RCIA Class is now being held in Helen Bouchard Hall located in the lower church. Thank you.



The St. Francis of Assisi Women's Club extends a huge thank you to the many generous parishioners who donated handmade items, beautiful decorations, unique gifts, much support and most importantly, their welcomed presence at our very successful 2011 Christmas Bazaar. Thank you.

## O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

Join us on the Feast of the Epiphany, **TONIGHT!!!**

**SUNDAY, January 8 at 7:00PM**



for a PRAISE Holy Hour in Saint Francis Church. What better way to celebrate the ongoing Christmas Season than by worshipping Christ in the Eucharist! The music at a PRAISE Holy Hour is led by our teen ensemble.

If you have never heard them, now is the time! Their ministry of song is truly inspiring! The Holy Hour also includes the reading of Sacred Scripture, time for quiet prayer, and Benediction. Join us!

*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

## THE EPIPHANY

The light that shone in the night at Christmas illuminating the Bethlehem Grotto, where Mary, Joseph and the shepherds remained in silent adoration, shines out today and is manifested to all. The Epiphany is a mystery of light, symbolically suggested by the star that guided the Magi on their journey. The true source of light, however, the “sun that rises from on high” (cf. Lk 1: 78), is Christ.

In the mystery of Christmas, Christ’s light shines on the earth, spreading, as it were, in concentric circles. First of all, it shines on the Holy Family of Nazareth: the Virgin Mary and Joseph are illuminated by the divine presence of the Infant Jesus. The light of the Redeemer is then manifested to the shepherds of Bethlehem, who, informed by an Angel, hasten immediately to the grotto and find there the “sign” that had been foretold to them: the Child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger (cf. Lk 2: 12). The shepherds, together with Mary and Joseph, represent that “remnant of Israel”, the poor, the *anawim*, to whom the Good News was proclaimed. Finally, Christ’s brightness shines out, reaching the Magi who are the first-fruits of the pagan peoples.

But what is this light? Is it merely an evocative metaphor or does this image correspond to reality? The Apostle John writes in his First Letter: “God is light; in him there is no darkness” (I Jn 1: 5); and further on he adds: “God is love”. These two affirmations, taken together, help us to understand better: the light that shone forth at Christmas, which is manifested to the peoples today, is God’s love revealed in the Person of the Incarnate Word. Attracted by this light, the Magi arrived from the East.

In the liturgy of the Christmas season this verse of Psalm 98 [97] frequently recurs as a refrain: “The Lord has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice” (v. 2). These are words that the Church uses to emphasize the “epiphany” dimension of the Incarnation: the Son of God becoming human, his entry into history, is the crowning point of God’s revelation of himself to Israel and to all the peoples. In the Child of Bethlehem, God revealed himself in the humility of the “human form”, in the “form of a slave”, indeed, of one who died on a cross (cf. Phil 2: 6-8). This is the Christian paradox.

From the Epiphany Homily of Pope Benedict XVI  
January 6, 2008

## VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

**January 9-14, 2012**

Many well-intentioned young Catholics spend a great deal of time discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life. They feel called to consider it, but they often ask God for some sign. Well here's a bit of advice: the very fact that some young people rather than others even *consider* the possibility of a vocation is a sign that they do indeed have one! The question of vocation needn't be a mysterious one. If you are willing to serve God as a priest or a religious brother or sister, and if you exhibit the necessary requisites, then you probably have a vocation! What sign more could you ask for? Jesus gave very little advice regarding vocations, but one thing he said was quite clear: "Whoever can accept this ought to accept it" (Matthew 19:12)." The Church desperately needs priests and religious brothers and sisters. If you're able and willing, then consider yourself called. Don't get bogged down in endless discernment. Speak to one of your parish priests if you're ready to take the plunge, like the apostles, who "*immediately* left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:20).



## March for Life 2012

In Washington, D.C.

**Sunday, January 22**

Catholics for Life bus leaves at 6:00a.m. from St. William Parish, 200 Pettaconsett Ave., Warwick (South County residents call 421-0836 for local pick-up location)

Staying overnight at Knights of Columbus Hall, Maryland.

## Monday, January 23

Mass, speaker & March for Life

Returning to Rhode Island by 12:00 midnight

\$75 per person

Call 421-0836 for reservations

In Rhode Island

## Motorcade for Life

## Monday, January 23

Pro-life speaker on Monday at 10:00am at the Hyatt Regency Hotel

10:00am at the Roger Williams Park, Broad Street entrance—Procession and prayers at abortion sites in Providence followed by Holy Mass at 12:00 at Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul

Buses and Motorcade sponsored by Catholics for Life, Inc.

*Catholics for Life, Inc., is a lay, pro-life organization, and is not affiliated with the Diocese of Providence.*