

# POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

1927 - 2022



*Well done, good and faithful servant.*

MATTHEW 25:21



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
WAKEFIELD, RHODE ISLAND

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## St. Francis Mass Intentions



### Saturday, January 7

4:30pm †Fred & Arlene Robinson  
*Requested by Family*

### Sunday, January 8

9:00am †Harold Curry  
*Requested by John & Patty Grimes*  
11:00am †Raymond Selwyn  
(5<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Remembrance)  
*Requested by Family*

### Monday, January 9

7:00am For the People

### Tuesday, January 10

7:00am †Kerri Bessette  
*Requested by Mom, Dad & Scott*

### Thursday, January 12

7:00am †Thomas Pullano  
*Requested by Family*

### Friday, January 13

7:00am †Donald K. Perkins  
*Requested by Wilfred Cayer*

### Saturday, January 14

4:30pm †Anne Cottle  
*Requested by Family*

### Sunday, January 15

9:00am †Richard Jaquish  
*Requested by Family*  
11:00am †Dennis Mittendorf  
*Requested by Vicky & Bill Apicerno*

## St. Romuald Mass Intentions

### Sunday, January 8

10:00am †Martha & Blanche McElkenny  
*Requested by Family*

### Sunday, January 15

10:00am †Barney Fenaughty  
(Birthday Remembrance)  
*Requested by Family*

*Even at his birth, Jesus shows that he is a completely different type of king.*



The familiar biblical Christmas stories that we hear during this holy season contain many unexpected events and characters. They hardly seem fit for a king. It all begins with a young virgin who cannot possibly be with child, yet she indeed conceives and bears the Son of God within her. This child is then born after a difficult journey by his parents to Bethlehem. The birth is subsequently announced – by angels – to the most ordinary of people, doing some of the most labor-intensive and dirty work around: shepherds. Finally, the only “important” people who recognize the newborn as a king are non-Jewish foreigners.

How is it that there are no priests or scribes present to greet the promised king? Surely, they must have been prepared for his arrival. Why isn't he born in a castle surrounded by servants and other royalty? How can anyone believe that this is the birth of a king? If this child is truly the King of the Jews, his beginnings demonstrate that he is not going to be like any other king.

He is called the King of the Jews, but his importance seems to be much larger than simply the nation of Israel. This king is overlooked by the Jewish leaders but proclaimed by the simple shepherds and the Magi. The king is born to a simple virgin but called the Son of God. The king is born in a cave/barn, but the visitors bring lavish gifts. The king is praised by angels but hunted by Herod. This Jesus is going to turn the whole world upside down and it begins even as he is a newborn.

As we examine the characters in this chapter of Jesus' life, it seems that all the wrong people are involved. None of these people would be considered important or worthy to the outside observer. It seems that this king has invited the poor and the outcast to his birthday. How can King Herod be so afraid of a weak baby born into poverty and obscurity?

Do we understand now the message for us? When we come into the presence of the Lord, we can also feel unworthy. It is good for us to remember that even from the beginning Jesus has welcomed the outcast and the overlooked. If we doubt that Jesus loves or invites us, it is encouraging to recall the humble shepherds and the “unclean” Magi who were the first to be summoned. This king is not judging by appearance or status. In Jesus we celebrate a king who is longing to save those who need his mercy. The gifts that he asks us to offer are our love and devotion to him. This king is such a joyful surprise!



<u>Weekly Support</u>		<u>January 1</u>
Budget envelopes used (101)	-	\$2,948.50
Loose Donations	-	\$1,793.00
Online Giving (# of donors-88)	-	\$4,281.00
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$9,022.50</b>

<u>Second Collection (Solemnity of Mary)</u>		
Budget envelopes used (73)	-	\$1,206.50
Loose Donations	-	\$ 311.00
Online Giving (# of donors-5)	-	\$ 40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,557.50</b>

This week's second collection is for Ongoing Maintenance. Next week's second is for the Catholic University.  
**As always, thank you for your continued generosity.**

JANUARY 8, 2023

### SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Salvatore Celeberto.



The work of our St. Francis of Assisi Conference of St. Vincent de Paul is supported by parish donations. Donation boxes are in the Church and Chapel; the parish online giving site has a SVDP option. Grocery store gift cards are welcome. Our Conference assists neighbors in need in our area and supports the Dinner Table Program providing free meals for pick up or delivery. Call 401-588-4192 if you or a neighbor could use cooked meals, available Wednesdays & Fridays, or if you would like to volunteer with the Dinner Table. To request financial aid, leave information on the Conference phone, 401-871-8936. New SVDP members are most welcome! There are several levels of participation and time commitments.

### FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE JONNYCAKE CENTER: JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Please remember we are always in need of nonperishable food items (no glass or outdated items). Your donations may be placed in the baskets located at St. Francis or St. Romuald. These items will be donated to the Jonnycake Food Pantry in Peace Dale. Thank you for your generosity.



### PRAYER SHAWLS



The St. Francis of Assisi Prayer Shawl Group has many beautiful prayer shawls available. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving a prayer shawl please contact Jean McGair at 401-783-1633.



*We would like to thank all those that gave donations to the church and chapel for the Christmas flowers that beautified the church and chapel in the name of their loved ones.*

*We would also like to thank the families that donated statues for our outside nativity in honor of family members.*

*God bless you all!*



FAITH  
FORMATION  
(401) 792-8684

**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:55-10:50am** Grades 1-6  
classes will meet in Fr. Greenan  
Center

**Pray: God, thank you for inviting me to join your family. Help my family live holy lives, spread your love, and be kind to one another. Amen.**



**Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30-8:15pm** Confirmation I &  
II classes in Fr. Greenan Center

## This Week

### Monday, January 9

7:30-11:00am Adoration (Church)

6:30pm Men of St. Joseph (FGC)

### Thursday, January 12

6-7:00pm Bible Study-Gospel of Mark (HBH)

*The parish office is open 9am to 4pm Monday through Thursday and 9am to 12:30 on Friday.*



### 2023 Steubenville Youth Conferences

Calling all high schoolers! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join hundreds of Catholic teens at *Steubenville East Youth Conference in Springfield, MA on July 21-23, 2023* to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is our refuge and never wears of loving us.

All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college are invited to attend this retreat with our group.

Learn more at:

<https://steubenvilleconferences.com/events/conf-east/>,

or contact **Diane Castro** at:

[diane.castro@stfranciswakefield.com](mailto:diane.castro@stfranciswakefield.com) for more information.

## SAVE THE DATE

Month of January: Baby Shower



The St. Francis of Assisi Social Outreach Committee (SOC) is sponsoring a Baby Shower during the month of January 2023 to assist St. Gabriel's Call. St. Gabriel's Call provides supportive services to women and families facing unexpected pregnancies. If you, or someone you know, is in need of baby items, please contact Melanie at the St. Francis Diocesan Office at 401-783-3149.



### Items needed:

- Diapers (All sizes up to 6/XL)
- Warm Sleepers (0-24 months)
- Warm Children's Clothing (2T-4T, 5-6)
- Baby Wipes
- Bibs
- Infant Onesies
- Pacifiers
- Baby Blankets

Baby Bottles & Bottle Brushes  
(Cash donations are gratefully accepted: Checks to be made out to **Retreat House**)

Place donations in the collection baskets located in St. Francis Church and St. Romuald Chapel during the weekend of January 2023.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



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K.J. Alexander

To her, she's just another foster kid.  
To them, she's the queen  
who will save them all.

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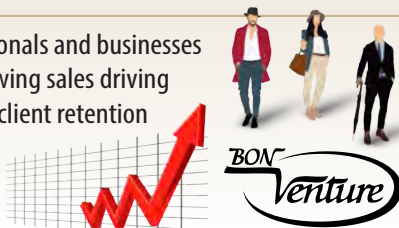
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