

LED BY THE STAR OF CHRIST!

(Is. 60:1-6; Ps. 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph. 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matt. 2:1-12)

“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.” This is the opening exhortation from today’s first reading where prophet Isaiah envisages the return of the exiles and how all nations will join them in a pilgrimage of celebration to Jerusalem. This will be a pilgrimage to see the Light. Thus, *Rise up in splendor because your light has come.*

The feast which we celebrate today, *Epiphany*, has its etymology from the Greek word, *epiphanein*, meaning “appearance, showing or revelation.” The term was used to describe the appearance of a god among the people – a *theophany*. The Eastern Greek-speaking Church found it natural to use the word to describe the appearance of the true God in flesh. Originally, in the Western Church, Epiphany celebrated the three manifestations of the divinity of Christ – His birth, the adoration of the magi and His Baptism. In our day, Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the magi, traditionally called “the three wise men” or “Three kings”. It celebrates the manifestation of Christ not just to the Jewish people but also to the Gentiles – to believers and to unbelievers. He made Himself known to all – Christians, Moslems, pagans, Buddhists, Hindus, etcetera.

Indeed, God has manifested Himself to you and to me. *Epiphany* invites every Christian to examine his/her concept of God. God has given Himself to us and we must come to understand the image He has given to us, because how we model our lives depends on the impression we have of Him. By this Feast God reveals to us that every person, even “the Gentiles (pagans/sinners) are coheirs, members of the same body.” The unbelievers also are copartners in the promise of eternal life Christ has made to us; thus, you and I must be the agents of His Gospel of salvation to everyone. When others know we are Christians, and particularly Catholics, they will look to see whether we have the image of God in us.

The *star* which led the magi to discover Christ should also lead you to discover Him, so that those Who see you will always see the image of Christ in you. Christ is the image of the invisible God Who is caring, forgiving, compassionate and loving. You also must be the image of Christ Who cares for His neighbor, forgives those who offend Him, shows love to all including His enemies, and is compassionate to those in need. As a Christian, the Lord exhorts you to “rise up in splendor, because your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines upon you.” The Lord shines the Light of His glory upon you through the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Like the magi you must allow His Light to shine upon you and to lead you so that you may truly come to rediscover Christ in every event of your life throughout this New Year. Do not let yourself be distracted or be deceived by those around you who, like Herod, may want to destroy the faith that you have. Do not be deceived by the tricks of the Devil through those things that might pull you away from the Light of Christ into the realm of darkness. In all your endeavors, you must always strive to discover Christ and pay homage to Him in every event of your life. In everything, you must only be led by the radiance of the true Star, Jesus Christ, our Lord and God!

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


PARISH NEWS


MEETING: This Monday, January 9th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM


If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office listed on the cover for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.

ALTAR SERVERS: Children who are in at least the 4th Grade and who have received their First Communion may begin training to become Altar Servers. It is open to both boys and girls. All interested children should have a parent contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676). Training classes will begin next week.

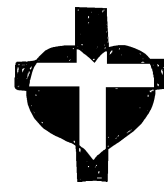


FIRST RECONCILIATION: Please remember to keep our children in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate their First Reconciliation on Saturday, January 14th. Please pray that this will be the beginning of a lifetime of celebrating God’s love and mercy in this special sacrament.



CHILDREN’S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children’s Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in January. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children’s Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Our Food Pantry needs some restocking, **especially with rice, soup/broth, tuna fish, pasta sauces, cereals, canned fruit & juices.** Please keep this in mind when you see sales on your trips to the supermarket. Thank you for your continuing support!


ATLANTIC CITY TRIP


The Rosary Altar Society is sponsoring an Atlantic City trip on Saturday, January 28th, at 9 a.m. For information or reservations call Carolyn on 963-2622 or Dolly on 969-6575.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

HOLD THE DATE

Carrie D'Angelo who has worked in the Rectory Office for over 26 years has retired. The Parish Pastoral Council is planning a **Parish-Wide Retirement Dinner** for **Saturday, February 18th**, immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass. Please see next week's bulletin for more information and plan on joining us as we thank Carrie for her many years of service.

Until other arrangements are made, the Rectory Office will be open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



"Nations shall walk by your light..." We as Catholics must be a light to the world. Spend a weekend growing closer to your spouse and to God and make your marriage/holy orders to be a "light" shining brighter than ever. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is February 11/12. For more information, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wmearchny.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

Sunday, February 12, 2012

10:15 a.m. Mass

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Reception immediately following: St. Patrick's Cathedral

Meeting Rooms, 51st Street & Madison Avenue

Celebration to honor the vocation of marriage and family. Reception to follow. Seating is limited. For further information or reservations call (646) 794-3190.

The first Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.



MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 AM Mass on Mondays.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 PM. Please join us for this most efficacious prayer.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 PM. All are encouraged to participate.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$7550.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$5403.90.
- **Collection in support of our parish buildings and grounds totaled \$1589.35.**
- **The New Year's Day Collection in honor of the Solemnity of Mary totaled \$1955.00.**

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church at this special time of year. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH

Remember, "We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share." Please remember our Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, Christine Bellino, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Angelo Capobianco, and Jimmy Maimone.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

Consider giving a loved one or someone who has a special place in your life the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved ones or for yourself on such occasions as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

Public School Teachers' Appreciation Breakfast

The Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of New York invites all Catholic teachers in public schools to the Sixth Annual Communion Breakfast for Catholic Teachers in Public Schools. It will take place on Saturday, January 28th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Riverview Caters, Hastings-on-Hudson. Join Catholic teachers from across the Archdiocese for Eucharist, sharing, and breakfast. A donation of \$20 is suggested.

For more information, contact Helen Doon at (646) 794-2822 / Helen.doon@archny.org or Sr. Zelide Ceccagno at (914) 965-0490 / cswestchester@nyfaithformation.org.



JANUARY 8, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 7 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Reverend Donald Eruaga (living)

Sunday, January 8

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Zucconi Family +
10:00 AM Albert DeVito +
11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish
5:00 PM Maria de Carmen Vazquez & Julio Blanco +

Monday, January 9

Baptism of the Lord

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Elizabeth (Betty) Knudsen +

Tuesday, January 10

Weekday

7:00 AM Maria Amorim +
9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Wednesday, January 11

Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families
9:00 AM Gerardo & Maria Marchetti +

Thursday, January 12

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Romeo Milio +

Friday, January 13

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Maria Scipione +

Saturday, January 14

Weekday

9:00 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

Saturday, January 14 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Rita Hoos Hoffmeister +

Sunday, January 15

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Frances Starkenberg +
10:00 AM Arlene Tiplady +
11:30 AM Ernie & Irene Russo +
5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER JANUARY 1ST



The feast of the Epiphany is one of the oldest in the Church and one of the greatest in the ecclesiastic year. The word *Epiphany* is a Greek word which signifies a manifestation or revelation. During the first three centuries the manifestation of Christ to the chosen people, and His manifestation as the Savior of all races and nations, were celebrated on the same day, but since the 4th century, December 25th, has been the feast of the Nativity, or Christmas, and first January 6th and now the first Sunday after January 1st the feast of the Epiphany, or the feast of the Three Wise Men. It is so called because the Gospel of the day tells us that *Magi* (now considered to be astrologers) came from the East to Jerusalem saying: "Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and have come to pay Him homage."

They may have come from Arabia, Chaldea or Persia. Tradition says that there were three, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The prophecy that "a star shall rise out of Jacob," and the teaching of the prophet Daniel at Babylon had spread throughout the East. When the



mysterious star appeared, learned men recognized it as a sign that the coming of the Messiah was at hand and that He would be born in Judea. Following the star they reached Bethlehem. On entering the house, they found the Child with Mary, His Mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

PRAYER: *God, this day You revealed Your only Son to the Gentiles. Grant that we who already know You by faith may one day contemplate Your sublime beauty. Amen.*

From *Lives of the Saints for Every Day of the Year*, revised by Rev. Hugo Hoever, S.O.Cist., Ph.D.

