

**FOLLOW THE LIGHT FAITHFULLY!**

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



*"For the Lord shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor He shall save."*

Today the Roman Church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany, from Greek, *epiphanein*, which means *appearance, showing or revelation*. It 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; thus, the feast is the original feast of Jesus' birth. Early Eastern Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus on January 6<sup>th</sup>, long before Christians in Rome began to celebrate it on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Because the feast of Epiphany was already well established as a major feast, the Western (Roman) Church could not ignore it. In light of this, the Roman Church started celebrating Epiphany as the three manifestations of the divinity of Christ – His birth, the adoration of the magi and His baptism. This "solemn adoption" thereby extended the Christmas celebration far beyond one day.

The historical context of today's first reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah is the conquest and enslavement of the Israelites by the Babylonians about 600 years before the birth of Christ. Fifty years after the Israelites were taken to Babylon and oppressed, the Persians conquered Babylon and freed the children of Israel, allowing them to return to their homeland. Thus, in today's reading Isaiah zealously proclaims this return, "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you." Isaiah was so enthused that he saw in the return of the Exiles something much more important and wonderful than their freedom from captivity. He saw Jerusalem becoming the center of spirituality and light for all the world - "Nations shall walk by your light." People will come from all over the world to visit Jerusalem and will be nourished by the spiritual light and life radiating from her - "and kings shall walk by your shining radiance."

In the same vein, in the feast of Epiphany we celebrate more than Christ's manifestation to the *magi*, "the three kings" - we celebrate His manifestation not just to the Jewish people but also to the Gentiles – not just to believers but also to unbelievers. By His birth, Christ has brought light to "those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death." God, in Christ, has revealed Himself to all nations - to anyone willing to accept Him. As Isaiah envisaged the return of the Israelites from exile and all nations joining them in a pilgrimage of joy to Jerusalem, the Holy and Eternal City; the event in the gospel where the magi faithfully and diligently followed the "star" that led them to Christ, encourages us to make a pilgrimage of faith to Christ every moment of our lives. He came so that all might be saved. Sadly, sometimes there are obstacles that often hinder us from coming to the Light. Herod sought to destroy the Light, because he preferred to be in the dark. Like the *Three Kings*, you and I must never waver in our commitment to follow Christ and give our lives to serving Him above all else, especially in this *Year of Faith*, 2013.

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**

# PARISH NEWS



We want to welcome all of you back from your holiday travels. We hope you had a good time with your families and friends. We wish you and yours a very happy and healthy New Year in 2013.

## WELCOMING OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

We especially want to welcome these individuals and families who joined or returned to our Parish family since last October:

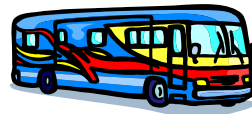
Yisela Bolanos  
Bertha & Leonel Campos  
Maribel & Jesus Guzman  
Ana Tovar & Linder Herrera  
Diana Sarria & Jairo Montes  
Linda & Raymond Nicolai  
Mercedes Aybar & Jose Patino  
Anthony Rivelli  
Jennifer & Phillip Seguin  
Kimberly & Frank Trolio

Please feel free to speak to our pastor or any of the pastoral staff if you need any assistance. Your presence in our parish family means a lot to all of us. Once again, welcome!

The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.



The women of the Rosary Altar Society thank the young people of our Parish who assisted in cleaning the church for Christmas. Their help was invaluable and much appreciated.



The Rosary Altar Society is running a trip to Atlantic City's Taj Mahal on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. The cost is \$40 with a slot credit return of \$30. For further information and reservations, call Carolyn (963-2622) or Dolly (969-6575).

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



Just a reminder, that Religious Education classes will resume this Tuesday, January 8, 2013.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Go and search diligently for the child ..." Get away from the busy-ness of everyday life and let God bring childlike freshness to your marriage/holy orders.

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 - FEBRUARY 10, 2013
Longest Married Couple Search

The search begins for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York! To enter couples must be sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years and reside in the Archdiocese of NY.

For further information or to make reservations contact Izabella Nagle on 646 794-3190 or at izabella.nagle@archny.org. Mail entries to: Family Life + Respect Life Office, 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Attention: Izabella Nagle. The deadline for entries is January 30, 2013.

Our Lady of Fatima Parent School Association in conjunction with New York Dinner Theater will be hosting "The Amazing 70s Prom." Step into a world of laughter and fun in this hilarious audience participation comedy prom.

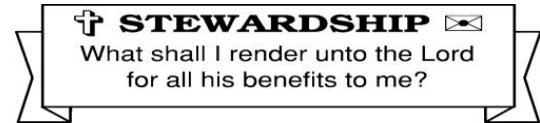
YOUTH MINISTRY The first Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

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

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Please join us when you are able.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. 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.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

December 25, 2011

Table with 2 columns: Contribution Type, Amount. Rows: Adults' Contribution (\$3797.25), Children's Contribution (\$101.00), Last Year's Total (\$3898.25)

December 23, 2012

Table with 2 columns: Contribution Type, Amount. Rows: Adults' Contribution (\$5879.00), Children's Contribution (\$117.00), This Year's Total (\$5996.00)

"The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you... for God."

Because of early holiday closings by our bulletin Company, information for the Christmas and Holy Family Sunday collections will be reported in the bulletin of January 13th.

"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL."

~ Albert Pike

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!


The Catholic University of America is the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, located in Washington, D.C. It provides an academically rigorous education guided by Catholic intellectual tradition to nearly 7,000 students every year.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowitz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Barbara Olivieri, Carol Swetz, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, and Neil Cawley.

JANUARY 6, 2013

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

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**Epiphany of the Lord**

**Saturday, January 5 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Ragusa & Orsini Families

**Sunday, January 6**

8:30 AM Frances Starkenberg +

10:00 AM Anthony Fontanello, Sr. +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

**Monday, January 7**

**Christmas Weekday**

7:00 AM Father Donald Eruaga (living)

9:00 AM Evelyn Smith +

**Tuesday, January 8**

**Christmas Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Dominick Carlucci +

**Wednesday, January 9**

**Christmas Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Aristide Scipioni +

**Thursday, January 10**

**Christmas Weekday**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Irene & Ernie Russo +

**Friday, January 11**

**Christmas Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Maria & Gerardo Marchetti +

**Saturday, January 12**

**Christmas Weekday**

9:00 AM No Intention

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**Baptism of the Lord**

**Saturday, January 12 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Christine Serricchio Bellino +

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**Sunday, January 13**

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Zucconi Family +

10:00 AM Arlene Tiplady +

11:30 AM Maddalena & Paul Coniglio +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

We Love To Serve You!



Our warmest welcome to our visitors! We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. We thank God for you! Do not hesitate to let us know how we may serve you.

Every family and single adult to be considered an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at 914-965-0566.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form and check (X) the appropriate box below or you may also use the complete Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church; and drop the completed form into the collection basket or drop off/mail it to the Rectory. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am a visitor.
- I am interested in parish membership.
- Change of Address / Telephone Number.
- I am moving out of the Parish.
- I am going to the hospital.
- I would like to be visited by a priest / minister.
- Please send me the *Catholic New York*.
- I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

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Heavenly Father,  
In this time of new beginnings,  
We recall how the heavens  
Celebrated the birth of Christ.  
We think back to the new kingdom  
He proclaimed,



And remember the new life we gained in our baptism.  
In this time of new beginnings,  
And at the beginning of this New Year,  
May we always act as good examples  
Of the new life in You that all Christians have  
And be the same for others.  
Give us the joy that is ours  
As adopted members of God's family. Amen.

