

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 3

4:30pm John T. McNulty

*Requested by family*

### Sunday, January 4

8:00am John Vieira

*Requested by family*

10:00am Virginia Tedino

*Requested by Dan and Jean Thompson*

12:00NN Rose Silva

*Requested by granddaughter*

### Monday, January 5

7:00am Alvin O'Donnell

*Requested by Karen & Peter O'Rourke*

### Tuesday, January 6

7:00am Fred Beauchaine

*Requested by family*

### Wednesday, January 7

7:00am Mass for the People

### Thursday, January 8

7:00am Rosemary Flaherty

*Requested by Social Outreach Committee*

### Friday, January 9

7:00am Rita and Tom O'Rourke and  
Warren Behie

*Requested by family*

### Saturday, January 10

4:30pm Kerri Bessette

*Requested by Mom, Dad and Scott*

### Sunday, January 11

8:00am Joseph and Mary Costanza

*Requested by family*

10:00am George Almeida, Jr.

*Third Anniversary Mass*

12:00nn Theresa H. Newton

*Third Anniversary Mass*



## St. Romuald Chapel

### Sunday, January 4

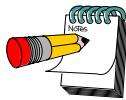
10:00am John and Grace Carpinelli

*Requested by family*

### Sunday, January 11

10:00am Joseph Cabral

*Requested by Corcoran family*



## For Your Information

### PARISH SUPPORT

Due to holiday printing deadlines, the figures for December 28th were not available at the time this weekend's bulletin was transmitted to the bulletin company. Parish support for December 21st—\$9,477; Ongoing Maintenance—\$2,855.50. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

### SANCTUARY LAMPS

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Anthony Ramieri. The sanctuary lamp at St. Romuald Chapel burns in memory of the Cooney family.

### BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Bible study resumes on Tuesday, January 6th at 7:00pm in Father Greenan Parish Center.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING

Due to January 1st being a holy day as well as New Year's Day, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, which typically meets on the first Thursday of the month, has decided to meet on Thursday, January 8th (weather permitting) at 6:30pm in the rectory.

### CEMETERY IN NEED OF GATEKEEPERS

St. Francis Cemetery is looking for volunteers to open and close the cemetery gate during the week. The gate opens at 8:00am and closes at 4:00pm during the winter and at 7:00pm during the summer months. If you or someone you know is interested, please call Laurie at 782-2711. Thank you.



**An Invitation to Pray for All Human Life:** The Office of Life and Family Ministry will sponsor the "Annual Respect Life Mass" on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at St. Paul Church in Cranston. Bishop Thomas J. Tobin will be the main celebrant and homilist at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. There will be a peaceful vigil at the Broad Street Women's Clinic at 8:00 a.m. The Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be present during Mass and will be available for veneration at the reception that will immediately follow the Mass at St. Paul's School. For more information, directions and to R.S.V.P. contact: Carol Owens, Office of Life Family Ministry at 421-7833 x 218.

**"PRAYER VIGIL IN OBSERVANCE OF LIFE":** You are invited to join the Office of Life and Family Ministry for a peaceful prayer vigil at 5pm on Friday, January 23, 2015. We will gather at the Diocese of Providence's Chancery Building, One Cathedral Square, Providence. We will be praying for all human life: the unborn, the homeless, the hungry, the imprisoned, the sick and elderly, and those living with addictions. For information call 421-7833 x 218.

## From the Pastor

The new year is off and running but the Christmas season continues in the liturgy of the Church. We have celebrated the birth of the Lord, the Holy Family, Mary, the Mother of God, and this weekend we celebrate the Epiphany, the revelation of Christ to the gentiles, represented by the wise men from the East. Next Sunday, the season is brought to a climax with the Baptism of the Lord. As if the Church doesn't want to let go of the Christmas spirit, the readings continue to focus on the theme of revelation for at least one more Sunday after that and then we begin the reading of the Gospel according to Mark, which sets the tone for the Sundays in Ordinary Time until the first Sunday of Advent at the end of November.

It might be helpful to note that "Ordinary Time," the Sundays when the priest and deacon wear green vestments, is called that not because nothing special happens but because, when the Sundays of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter have been accounted for, the rest of the weeks are simply numbered, or "ordained." Since the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the First Christian Pentecost, there are no "ordinary times" in the usual meaning of those words. We have just begun a new "Year of the Lord." What's ordinary about that?

Peace and blessings to all in this Year of Our Lord 2015!

*Fr. Bodah*



## BAKE SALE

### CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

In the spirit of giving this Christmas season, our seventh grade religious education classes sponsored a bake sale to donate to a fund to help pay for the medical costs of a local area businessman. Thank you for your generous spirit in donating to their cause. They were able to raise \$715.54!

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for January

**Universal:** Peace

That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

**Evangelization:** Consecrated life

That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.



## Religious Education

### Religious Education

#### CLASS SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

8:50-9:50am Grades 1 & 2 (FGC)

Grade 7 (FGC)

10:50-11:50am Grades 3-6 (FGC)

Grade 8 (FGC)

Classes will attend the **Christmas pageant** in FGC. Please note early dismissal for grades 3-6 at 11:30.

#### Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

7-8:30pm Confirmation II

#### Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

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

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



## This Week

#### Sunday, January 4

Classes—see schedule above

11:00am Christmas Pageant

followed by Reception (FGC)

1:00pm Baptisms by Deacon Iacono

7:00pm AA (HBH)

#### Monday, January 5

7-12nn Adoration (SF)

7-8:30pm Confirmation II Class (FGC)

#### Tuesday, January 6

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

7:00pm Bible Study (FGC)

7:00pm Social Outreach Mtg. (FGC)

#### Wednesday, January 7

4-5pm Classes Gr. 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm Grade 7/8 Class (FGC)

#### Thursday, January 8

6:30pm Prayer Shawl Mtg.

7:00pm Men of St. Joseph (FGC-1)

#### Friday, January 9

7:00pm Parenting Group (FGC)

## 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” (1 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 “epiphanic” 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



### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

All are invited to come to our annual St. Francis of Assisi’s Christmas Pageant this morning at 11:00AM in Fr. Greenan Parish Center. *Reception to follow at 11:30am.*

### *Family Liturgy: Mass of Listening to God’s Word*



Please join us next Sunday, January 11, at the 10AM Mass in Saint Francis for our monthly Family Liturgy. We will welcome in a special way our First

Communion students who will reflect during the homily on the importance of listening to God’s Word in Holy Scripture. The Church teaches that before Christ can be received in the Eucharist, he must be encountered in the Bible! God is always speaking to us, but sometimes we can’t hear him! All are welcome to this special liturgy as we hone our listening skills for God!

### **“2015 MARCH FOR LIFE & Diocesan Pilgrimage to DC”:**

The Office of Life and Family Ministry will be sponsoring a bus trip to Washington DC for the Annual March for Life on the 42nd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade on Thursday, January 22, 2015. The cost for the overnight ride is \$75.00 per person and will leave R.I. on Wednesday, January 21. This year’s trip will take us to the Verizon Center for the Youth Rally and Mass. There will be confession, Rosary, popular Catholic recording artists, presentations and a Mass for Life. For more information and to register, call Carol Owens at 421-7833 x 218.