

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 5

8:00am First Saturday Mass

4:30pm Angelina Vieira

*Requested by Irving P. Mason, Jr.*

### Sunday, January 6

8:00am Albert Dumas

*Req. by George & Denise Dumas*

10:00am Hannelore Laroche

*Requested by Albert Laroche*

12:00NN Mass for the People

### Monday, January 7

7:00am Raymond A. Wright, Jr.

*Requested by Cathy Hawkins*

### Tuesday, January 8

7:00am Frederick Falcone

*Requested by family*

### Wednesday, January 9

7:00am Joseph & Mary Costanza

*Requested by family*

### Thursday, January 10

7:00am Kerri Bessette

### Friday, January 11

7:00am Peter Yang

*Requested by Sr. Martha Yang, CDP*

### Saturday, January 12

4:30pm Joseph Boragine

*Requested by family*

### Sunday, January 13

8:00am Mary Asher

*Requested by St. Francis Women's Club*

10:00am Angelina Vieira

*Requested by Linda Taggart & family*

12:00NN Susan Perella

*Requested by family*



## St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

### Sunday, January 6

10:00am Robert F. Cooney, M.D.

*Requested by family*

### Sunday, January 13

10:00am Francis Pilch

*Req. by Karen and Jerry Shepherd*



## For Your Information

### SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's sanctuary lamp at St. Francis Church burns in memory of Theresa and Oscar Newton. The sanctuary lamp at St. Romuald Chapel burns in memory of Robert F. Cooney, M.D.

### THANKS, AND MORE THANKS

Monsignor Theroux, Father Upton, Deacon Iacono and the entire staff wish to thank all who sent cards and gifts during the Christmas Season.

These and many other expressions of good will were deeply appreciated. We thank also those who helped make the Holy Season so memorably beautiful - the choirs at both church and chapel, the cantors and musicians, and all those wonderful people who gave of their busy time to make both places of worship so fitting for the great feast.

### SOCIAL OUTREACH MEETING

This Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00pm in Father Greenan Parish Center. Newcomers are most welcome.

### "MARCH FOR LIFE"

The Office of Life and Family Ministry will be sponsoring a bus trip to Washington DC for the Annual March for Life on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 25, 2013. The cost for the overnight ride is \$75.00 per person and will leave R.I. on Thursday, January 24. 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.

### PARISH SUPPORT— December 23

<u>Weekly Support</u>	<u>December 23</u>
Budget envelopes (383 used)-	\$6,760.00
Loose Donations -	\$ 1,277.00
Online Giving (19 donors) -	\$ 365.00
<b>Total Budget</b> -	<b>\$8,402.00</b>

### Christmas Offering

Envelopes used (425) -	\$ 17,424.00
Other Donations (Mail/Loose)-	\$ 8,519.00
<b>Total Christmas</b> -	<b>\$25,943.00</b>

This weekend's second offering is the Monthly Offering. Next weekend's second offering is the Ongoing Maintenance Fund offering. As always, thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

JANUARY 6, 2013

## Stay With Us, Lord

For a fleeting moment, earth was joined to heaven. But starting now everything is back to normal! We'll have to wait for a whole year for the magic to sparkle again. At the very least, we are left with a feeling of anti-climax.

It reminds me of a story.

A young student came to his rabbi with a problem. He said: "When I study, and particularly when I join others to celebrate the great feasts of our faith, I feel surrounded by light. I feel alive and joyful. But the minute it's over, it all disappears. Everything dies inside me."

The old rabbi thought for a while, then replied: "It's exactly the same feeling a person gets who walks through the woods at night, when the breeze is cool and the scent of the air is intoxicating. If another joins the traveler with a lantern, they can walk safely and joyfully together. But if they come to a crossroads, and the one with the lantern departs, then the first must grope his way alone."

*"A sense of something missing is God's way of calling us into greater intimacy with himself."*

That is, unless he carries a light within him."

Now that we have come to the end of Christmas, and all the externals have been removed, have we anything left within us? What if, as in the case of the young student, it all disappears, and everything dies inside us?

If that should happen, let us not be alarmed. The emptiness can be a grace. It can serve as a potent reminder that human things can never satisfy our hearts. A sense of something missing is God's way of calling us into greater intimacy with himself.

And we should remember this! Just as the star and the heavenly music were not what the first Christmas was about, but were merely pointers to the Christ-child, so the externals which surround our Christmas is not what Christmas is about. They are merely the wrapping of the gift. Only a fool would mistake the wrappings for the gifts.

Even though the wrappings have been disposed of, Jesus, the gift of God, remains with us. "Know that I am with you always; yes, until the end of time." (Matthew 28:20)

*Stay with us, Lord, and let your presence inflame our hearts and raise our spirits, so that we may journey toward your kingdom with undimmed hope.*



## Religious Ed. Notes

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

#### Sunday, January 6th

8:50-9:50am GRADES 1 & 2 (FGC)  
GRADE 7 (FGC)

9:50-10:50am GRADE K (HBH)

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

Attend Christmas Pageant at 11am  
GRADE 8 (HBH)

#### Monday, January 7th

7-8:30PM Confirmation I with  
Confirmation Sponsor—Catholic students  
must attend (FGC)

#### Wednesday, January 9th

4-5pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

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



## This Week

#### Sunday, January 6

(See Religious Ed. Class schedule above)

11:00am Christmas Pageant (FGC)

1:30pm Baptisms

7:00pm Holy Hour w/PRAISE!

7:00pm AA (HBH)

#### Monday, January 7

7:00pm Confirmation I Class (FGC)

#### Tuesday, January 8

6:30pm RCIA (HBH)

7:00pm Social Outreach Committee Mtg  
(FGC)

7:00pm Bible Study (FGC)

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (loft)

#### Wednesday, January 9

4-5pm GRADES 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm CLASSES GRADES 7 & 8

#### Friday, January 11

7:00pm Parent Meeting: Chapter 6

Discipline: Affectionate Assertiveness

### We now offer a secure & convenient way to contribute to St. Francis Parish!

Online donations may be made at any time from the privacy and comfort of your own home or any place with internet access. Online donations are credited to your tax statement for the end of the year (except when made anonymously), and each user can change his or her preferences or desired donation amounts at any time!

Visit our website for more information on how to get started: [www.stfranciswakefield.com](http://www.stfranciswakefield.com).

## 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 “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

## O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!



Join us on TONIGHT, the Feast of the Epiphany, **January 6 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!*

## 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.