

Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday, January 4, 2015



**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK'S
DONATIONS**

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Upper Church for the week of January 4-10 in memory of:

FR. EDWARD J. FAGAN, OAR

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Lower Church for the week of January 4-10 in memory of:

ROBERT J. KENNY

The Altar Candles burning in the Lower Church for the week of January 4-10 in memory of:

BROTHER PETER STEWART, FSC

Sunday, January 4, Feast of the Epiphany

5:00 + Arthur and Annie Lennon

8:30 Parishioners of St. John's

10:00 (Sp) + Ramon Antonio Almanzar

11:30 + Robert McCarthy

1:00 (Sp) + Catalina & Candelaria Javier

Monday, January 5, St. John Neumann

9:00 + Robert Stanton

12:15 + Catherine & William McCarthy

Tuesday, January 6, Christmas Weekday

9:00 + Fr. Edward Fagan, OAR, Brother Peter Stewart, FSC and Brother Joseph Murphy, FSC

12:15 + Reynolds Family

7:00 (Sp.) + William Rosario

Wednesday, January 7, Christmas Weekday

9:00 + Brother Peter Stewart, FSC

12:15 + Robert Stanton

Thursday, January 8, Christmas Weekday

9:00 + Fr. Edward Fagan, OAR, Brother Peter Stewart, FSC & Brother Joseph Murphy, FSC

12:15 + Ralph Sanchez

Friday, January 9, Christmas Weekday

9:00 + Robert Stanton

12:15 + Jean Carlos Ocasio

7:00(Sp) Intentions of Criselda & Julio Carmenate & Henry Guzman

Saturday, January 10, Christmas Weekday

12:15 + Joe Sinclair

5:00 + Elisa Parisi

Sunday, January 11, Baptism of the Lord

8:30 + Parishioners of St. John

10:00 (Sp.) + Rafael Sanchez

11:30 + Mary Angela O'Connor

1:00(Sp.) + Isabel Garcia, Marina Medina, Maria Elena and Francisco Concepcion

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK.....



Fr. Peter J. McCrann, SMM, Lindsey Guzman, Alice Ann O'Donohue Mason, Noreen Liddane,, Timothy Mahoney.

Thank You Corner

A special word of thanks and gratitude is extended to:

- our parish maintenance staff and the volunteers who helped in decorating both our upper and lower church; once again, a beautiful job was done
- our lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, ushers, sacristan, music ministry with the fine Christmas liturgical celebrations along with their assistance throughout the year
- our parish staff for their dedicated and faithful work
- our catechists and volunteers in our Parish Religious Education Program who faithfully teach the young members of our parish community
- Williams Funeral Home for the 2015 religious calendars
- our advertisers on the back cover of the parish bulletin; please consider patronize their services in the new year ahead.

The Parish Staff of St. John's Church extend our prayerful best wishes to you and your families during this holy season. Your prayers, support, and generosity during this time and throughout the year are greatly appreciated.

May God's blessings be upon us as we continue our journey of faith into the New Year 2015.

Rev. Michael Kerrigan

Did You Know?

Since the early days of Christianity, Biblical scholars and theologians have offered varying interpretations about the meaning and significance of the gold, frankincense and myrrh that the magi presented to the child Jesus according to the Gospel of Matthew (2:11). In the ancient world, these valuable items were standard gifts to honor a king or deity: gold as a precious metal, frankincense as perfume or incense, and myrrh as anointing oil.

Christians have come to understand these gifts symbolically:

Gold as acknowledging Jesus as the King of the universe

Frankincense or incense recognizing Jesus' divinity as the Son of God (incense is used to lift up prayers before God and for blessing of sacred objects)

Myrrh as foreshadowing the oils to be used by the women to anoint Jesus' body following the crucifixion (Mark 16:1; Luke 23:55-56)

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah, when describing Jerusalem's glorious restoration, tells of nations and kings who will come and "bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6). Although Matthew's gospel does not include the names or number of the Magi, many believe that the number of the gifts is what led to the Epiphany tradition of the Three Wise Men or Three Kings.

Still Looking for a New Year's Resolution?

While we are still in the early part of the New Year, it is not too late to consider making a spiritual resolution for 2015. The notice posted at the entrance of our lower church offers these fine words for consideration:

*Be thoughtful. Be silent. Be reverent.
Before Mass, speak to God.
During Mass, let God speak to you.
After Mass, speak to one another.*

Recalling This Week's North American Saints

As a helpful way to consider this Year of Consecrated Life, the church calendar remembers and recalls the lives and examples of a religious sister, a religious priest, and a religious brother who greatly influenced and shaped Catholic life in North America

January 4th – St. Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton (1774-1821), the foundress of the first U.S. community of religious women, the Sisters of Charity who opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. A New Yorker whose vision, spirit and example continue to the present day, she was canonized by Blessed Paul VI on September 24, 1975.

January 5th – St. John Neumann (1811-1860), a Redemptorist missionary who worked among German immigrants in New York, Maryland, Virginia, and Ohio and became bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. He organized parochial schools into a diocesan system resulting in significant increase in students attending Catholic schools. Renowned for his holiness, learning, preaching, and spiritual writing, he was the first American bishop to be canonized by Blessed Paul VI on June 19, 1977.

January 6th – St. André Bessette (1845-1937), a Holy Cross religious brother whose faith was marked by a lifelong devotion to St. Joseph. His life was marked by dedicated care, compassion and concern for the sick and was regarded as a healer and became known as the "Miracle Man of Montreal" where he founded The Oratory of St. Joseph. He was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 17, 2010.

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

The Epiphany of the Lord January 4, 2015

"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you

appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant with what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow.”

We continue to bask in the Christmas season. The Nativity, Holy Family and Motherhood of Mary lead us to the great Epiphany. We become immersed with details of three gifts, magi from the east, the plotting of Herod. Our camel led journey brings us to the person of Christ.

As the astrologers returned to their place, changed by the Christ event, we too should reflect on the change which has taken place for us. Perhaps we travelled and visited, or others did us the favor. The light of Christ, perhaps has dimmed as we said goodbye and return to normal. Maybe there was some sadness too during the days of Christmas joy, the absence of a loved one, or family member, because of death or sickness.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us of the light, the radiance, ‘raise your eyes and look about.’ The darkness of world and personal problems cannot take away the brilliance of the light of Christ. The magi brought their treasures, and we have been given not gold, myrrh and frankincense, but we carry within us the treasure of Christ Himself. As they opened their coffers we continue to open our hearts to receive the Christ.

ver esto, estarás radiante, palpitará y se ensanchará tu corazón, porque se volcarán sobre ti los tesoros del mar y las riquezas de las naciones llegarán hasta ti.”

Continuamos disfrutando de la época Navideña. La Natividad, la Sagrada Familia y la Maternidad de María nos llevan a la gran Epifanía. Nos llenamos de los detalles de los tres regalos, los magos del este, las maquinaciones de Herodes. Nuestra caravana de camellos nos trae a la persona de Cristo.

Así como los astrólogos regresaron a su país, cambiados por el evento de Cristo, nosotros también deberíamos reflexionar en el cambio que ha causado en nosotros. Quizá hemos viajado y visitado, u otros nos hicieron el favor. La luz de Cristo se ha quizá apagado y hemos dicho adiós y regresado a lo normal. Tal vez hubo tristeza mezclada con la alegría de la Navidad, por la ausencia de un ser querido, de un miembro de la familia, o por muerte o enfermedad.

El profeta Isaías nos recuerda sobre la luz, la brillantez, “¡Mira a tu alrededor y observa! La oscuridad del mundo y problemas personales no pueden borrar el brillo de la luz de Cristo. Los magos trajeron sus tesoros, y a nosotros se nos ha dado no oro, ni incienso, ni mirra, sino que llevamos el tesoro mismo de Cristo. Así como ellos abrieron sus cofres, nosotros continuamos abriendo nuestros corazones para recibir a Cristo.

Prayer for the 2015 World Meeting of Families

*God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
you have made us your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.
May your grace and love help our families
in every part of the world to be united to one
another
in fidelity to the Gospel.
May the example of the Holy Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most troubled,
To be home of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live in you love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us.*

SU PALABRA HOY

por el Reverendo William J. Reilly

La Epifanía del Señor
4 de enero de 2015

“Las tinieblas cubren la tierra y una densa oscuridad, a las naciones, pero sobre ti brillará el Señor y su gloria aparecerá sobre ti. Las naciones caminarán a tu luz y los reyes, al esplendor de tu aurora. Mira a tu alrededor y observa: todos se han reunido y vienen hacia ti; tus hijos llegan desde lejos y tus hijas son llevadas en brazos. Al

