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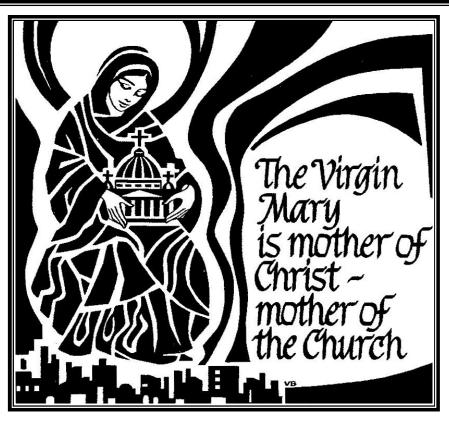
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Saturday Vigil:
5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Monday thru Friday: 8:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon

Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Sacrament of
Marriage
Make arrangements six months
prior to wedding

Sacrament of Baptism Every Sunday after the 12:30 Mass



Saturday, December 31, 2016

Vigil: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mass for the Parishioners of 5:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptist

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Rosaria Santorelli 9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Fiorino, Maria and Antoinio

Guglielmi

12:30 p.m. **Salvatore Spataro**

Monday, January 2, 2017

Feast of Sts. Basil the Great; Gregory Nazianzen,

Bishops and Doctors of the Church 8:00 a.m. John O'Connor

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

John and Julia Soracco 8:00 a.m.

12:00 noon William Holland

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:00 a.m. Sophie and Walter Naryniecki

12:00 noon Rocco Ricciardi

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Feast of St. John Neumann, Bishop

8:00 a.m. Michelina Cappuccilli

12:00 noon Vita and Angelo Furgiuele

Friday, January 6, 2017

Feast of St. Andre Bessette, Religious

8:00 a.m. Debbie O'Shea

12:00 noon **Vincent Neely**

Saturday, January 7, 2017

Feast of St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

Consuelo Rosario 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 7, 2017

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 p.m. Virginia DeLucci

Sunday, January 8, 2017

The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of

St. John the Baptist

9:30 a.m. Michael Antonow and

Anna Baumeister

11:00 a.m. John Ricciardi

12:30 p.m. Joseph and Maria Carmela Federico

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, January 2nd Rectory Office Closed

Wednesday, January 4th

Leisure Club – 10:15 a.m. – lower Church R.E. Grades 1^{st} through 5^{th} -- 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. - School R.E. Grades 6^{th} through 8^{th} -- 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. - School

Friday, January 6th

1st Friday Leisure Club – 10:15 a.m.—lower Church Holy Hour – 3:00 p.m. – lower Church

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 31st

5:00 p.m. – E. Barrett, M. Barrett and P. Tozzi

Sunday, January 1st

9:00 a.m. – D. Odume and R. Tuffy 11:00 a.m. - A. Burke and K. Burke 12:30 p.m. – R. Peter and R. Peter

Saturday, January 7th

5:00 p.m. – M. McCarthy and T. McCarthy

Sunday, January 8th

8:00 a.m. – D. Browne and T. Browne 9:30 a.m. – J. Corcoran and R. Corcoran 11:00 a.m. – S. Joyce and N. Leo 12:30 p.m. – D. Liberatore and S. Osso



New Year's Resolution: One resolution we can all make is to try to participate more fully and more prayerfully in the Mass. Coming to Mass on Sunday is truly

THE most important thing we do in the whole week. We should try to arrive early, spend some time in prayer before Mass then actively respond to the prayers (and in sung Mass, the hymns) of the Mass. Whenever possible there should be some time after Mass for a brief Thanksgiving. At the very least let us resolve never to arrive late for Mass or leave Mass early during 2017.

Holiday Schedule: On Monday, January 2nd the rectory office will be closed! We will have only one Mass that day at 8:00 a.m. After that Mass, the church will be closed until Tuesday morning. There is no noon Mass on Monday, January 2nd.



First Friday: Next Friday, January 6th at 3:00 p.m. we will have a Eucharistic Holy Hour in the lower church. Please try to spend some time with our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist next Friday.



AND THER OF GOS

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: Following the ancient tradition of celebrating the octave (eighth day) of an event, we celebrate again the mystery of Jesus' birth, but this time with our eyes on Mary. This is actually the oldest feast of Mary in our Calendar. When we celebrate her as the Mother of God we are, at the same time, celebrating the divinity of Jesus, who was truly Man and truly God.

Today is the first day of the new calendar year – and it is appropriate that we begin the year by honoring Mary who was instrumental in bringing God's Son into the world. Indeed, the celebration of Christ at Christmas is still very much the context of this special feast. The Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is used at all

Masses today speaks of the motherhood of Mary and refers to her son as the "light of the world" – a significant Christmas theme. When the Church's Council of Ephesus in 431 formally conferred the title of "Mother of God" on Mary, it was also clarifying the true nature of Jesus as truly God and truly man. In celebrating today's solemnity, we honor Mary and we acknowledge the true identity of her child.

Our first reading today (Num. 6:22-27) is an ancient Jewish blessing traced back to Moses and Aaron – a threefold divine affirmation of highest regard. In our second reading, (Gal.4:4-7) St. Paul celebrates the relationship we enjoy with God by adoption. Thanks to the incarnation of God's Son "born of a woman", we are no longer slaves – we are God's heirs and we are able to call God "Abba" – Father! Finally in the gospel (Luke 2:16-21) the shepherds came to see the Christ Child and go away rejoicing and witnessing to others. In the center of this reading is the figure of Mary, thoughtful and prayerful. Throughout Luke's gospel Mary is a figure of hope – the one who brings about in her Son fulfillment of all the ancient prophecies, the true disciple who lives the good news that her son proclaims.

SPECIAL LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, January 2nd – St. Basil and St. Gregory Nazianzen

These two men – leaders of the so-called "Eastern" Church (an area whose center in the early church was Constantinople, instead of Rome) lived in the fourth century. They were bishops, theologians and outstanding leaders. Later they were named "doctors of the church" because of their contributions to Christology and the understanding of the Mystery of the Trinity.

Tuesday, January 3rd - The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus was central to the preaching and teaching of St. Bernardine of Sienna (in the mid-15th century). A feast in honor of the Holy Name was first declared in the 18th century; in our own time, Pope John Paul II made it a part of the Church's universal calendar. May we honor the Lord's name in both word and deed.

Wednesday, January 4th - St. Elizabeth Seton

Born in New York City in 1774, Elizabeth Ann Seton married and began a family. She also founded a welfare society for widows with young children. At age 30, she became a widow herself. To support her children, she began the first Catholic school in the United States (near Baltimore) and founded the Sisters of Charity. She died in her late forties, having met every adversity with courage and every challenge with enthusiasm.

Thursday, January 5th – St. John Neumann

Bohemian-born John Neumann (1811) was ordained a priest in 1836 in New York. After ministering to German speaking Catholics in upstate New York, he joined the Redemptorist community in 1840 and did missionary work in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. When he became bishop of Philadelphia, he built many new churches and schools. He even wrote 2 catechisms that were used for some 35 years in Catholic schools. He died today in 1860 and in 1977 was made the first U.S. male saint.

Friday, January 6th – Blessed André Bessett

Born near Quebec, Canada in 1845, André entered the congregation of the Holy Cross and spent his life devoted to prayer and the care of the poor. He was known as the "Miracle Worker of Montreal" because of the many cures attributed to him.

Saturday, January 7th - St. Raymond of Peñyafort

Born in Barcelona, Spain in 1175, Raymond became the third superior general of the young Dominican Order. He became a confessor to the Pope who looked to Raymond's wisdom and organizational genius to help guide the Church during a challenging time.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER



May God make your year a happy one! Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes; Not by making your path easy, But by making you sturdy to travel any path; Not by taking hardships from you, But by taking fear from your heart; Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows; Not by making your life always pleasant; But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help. God's love, peace and joy to you for the year ahead.

Amen



Sunday Report: Our attendance at all our Christmas Masses this year was nearly 2,400. We express our sincere thanks to all who helped make this such a special Christmas: Maryalice, the children who were part of the

pageant at the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass, our children and adult choirs, our cantors; our Music Director, John Stufano - in addition to our lectors, Deacons Olivieri and Ramoni and our wonderful priests: Fr. Ulloa, Fr. Cleary and Msgr. O'Donnell. A word of thanks to Bob Yedowitz who provided the wreaths and magnificent poinsettias that makes our church so festive. Finally, we are grateful to all who sacrificed so generously for St. John's this Christmas. To date, contributions to our Christmas collection total over \$35,000. Thank you; and God bless you for your generosity.



Christmas Envelopes: For anyone who did not receive a Christmas envelope in the mail, they are available at the exits of the Church and in the sacristy.

Christmas is traditionally a time for giving - because we are especially aware at this holy season of everything that God has given us through His Son. Your special sacrifice at this time of year does so much to insure that St. John's will be able to meet the many needs of our people and continue to be such a special church in which to pray, to hear God's word, and to receive the sacraments. God bless you for your goodness.



Senior News: St. John the Baptist Senior Club is about to revert to its original name "St. John the Baptist Leisure Club." The club is open to women and men fifty and over. Even though the

bulletin says the club meets after the 12:00 noon Mass, we actually open at 10:15 a.m. for social time. Come for coffee, tea, cake or rolls. Bring friends and play cards, do crafts or board games. We also have luncheons in the lower Church and sometimes at various restaurants. We go to shows at the Westchester Broadway Theatre, the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in New Jersey and other interesting venues. The Geraldine Purdy Award is given to deserving graduating 8th grade students each year and we adopt a needy family at Christmas time.



Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Theresa Currado and Carole Concetta Miraglia who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.



Monthly Maintenance: Since this Sunday is the first Sunday of the month of January, we will take up COLLECTION our regular "First Sunday of the Month" second collection after Communion this week. This collection helps

with the upkeep, maintenance, and cleaning of our beautiful church. Please be generous.



Special Children's Mass: Next Sunday at our 9:30 a.m. Mass, we once again welcome vounger boys and Special Mass where they will be excused

after the Opening Prayer and go to the Church Hall for a special Liturgy of the Word. After this Mass please join us for a Family Coffee and Craft Hour in the school cafeteria at which we will have refreshments and make crafts for the family. We are very grateful to the parent-leaders (as well as some older children) who are assisting with this program.

The Christmas Octave: The English word octave is derived from the Latin work Octave (dies), meaning the eighth day of a festival. In music, an Octave is an interval of eight degrees between two tones, one of which has twice as many vibrations per second as the other. In poetry in verse, an octava is a stanza of eight lines. In fencing, an octave is a rotating parry. And in liturgy, which gave English the word to begin with, an octave is the eight day period beginning with a feast and ending eight days later.

In the liturgical calendar, there are only two feasts important enough that the Church sets aside eight days to celebrate them fully. Those two feasts are Easter and Christmas. The octave of Christmas is therefore a time heightened festivity. It starts with Jesus (Christmas), ends with Mary (Mary, the Mother of God), and is packed with feasts of saints – some of whom are mentioned in the New Testament. Eight is not an arbitrary number. It suggests the mystery of redemption and the fullness of time. At Christmas, one day is not enough. Take time off to celebrate!



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Jubilee Year of Mercu

THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY (For private recitation on ordinary rosary beads,

Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., The

Then, on the OUR FATHER BEADS you will say the following words:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the HAIL MARY BEADS you will say the following words:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world. In conclusion THREE TIMES you will

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

From the Diary of the Servant of God Sr. Faustina Note Book I, p 197

IMPRIMATUR: November 17, 1979 + Joseph F. Maguire Bishop of Springfield, Mass

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