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The Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2017

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Masses
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, 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

Monday, January 9, 2017

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Angela Giordano

12:00 noon Marie Holden

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

8:00 a.m. Pat Joe Murphy

12:00 noon Josephine and Salvatore Miceli

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

8:00 a.m. Florence Lawler

12:00 noon Frances DiPaola – 3rd Anniversary

Thursday, January 12, 2017

8:00 a.m. Elvira, Primo and Phyllis Vanadia

12:00 noon Marie Cummins

Friday, January 13, 2017

Feast of St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

**8:00 a.m. Attilio, Silio and Elvira Lonardo
and Family**

12:00 noon Anthony Marasciulo – 1st Anniversary

Saturday, January 14, 2017

**8:00 a.m. Theresa, Gabriel, Sr., Gabriel, Jr.
Kowgios and Irene Fahey**

Saturday, January 14, 2017

Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. Michael Coughlin – 1st Anniversary

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**8:00 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of
St. John the Baptist**

**9:30 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the
Acquafredda Family**

11:00 a.m. Patrick Joyce

12:30 p.m. Michael and Jonathan Burke

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 8th

Children's Mass – 9:30 a.m. – Church

Coffee and Craft Hour – following Mass -- Cafeteria

Wednesday, January 11th

Leisure Club – 10:15 a.m. – lower Church

R.E. Grades 1st through 5th -- 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. – School

R.E. Grades 6th through 8th -- 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – School

Friday, January 13th

5th Grade Girl Scouts – 2:30 p.m. – lower Church

ALTAR SERVERS

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

Saturday, January 14th

5:00 p.m. – M. Colaiacovo and D. Odume

Sunday, January 15th

8:00 a.m. – N. Crisp and M. Loughran

9:30 a.m. – E. McLaughlin and D. Vanadia

11:00 a.m. – N. Camacho and K. McGarvey

12:30 p.m. – F. Albano and J. Velasquez



Christmas Season: This wonderful season of hope and joy officially ends this Monday, January 9th, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. On Tuesday, January 10th, we return to what is called “Ordinary Time” in the Church Year. We hope that this special

season has brought you many graces and blessings. It has served to remind us that God loves us so much, He sent His only Son for our salvation. Every celebration and every tradition of this beautiful season draw their meaning from this wonderful and consoling truth that gives glory and peace to all people of good will.

Operation Care Package 2016: Many thanks to all who participated in our Care Package Drive. On November 27th, we packed boxes filled with many items for our service men and women. Thank you to all who donated money, items, or your help in packing the boxes. This shows how our parish community can pull together to do great things. Thanks to all of you, many soldiers had something special to open this Christmas. God Bless you all!



S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 8, 2017

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: Epiphany comes from a Greek word which means a manifestation or appearance. Christians celebrate the Incarnation in stages, remembering Jesus' birth in Judea on December 25th, His manifestation to the nations on the feast of the Epiphany, and His baptism celebrated this year next Sunday.

Symbols abound in today's readings: light, rich gifts, exotic visitors, a guiding star. Today's first reading (Isaiah 60:1-6) captures the wonder and joy of the Israelites who, upon their return from exile in Babylonia, are making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The words of Isaiah fairly trip over each other in his outburst of enthusiasm and encouragement to his people who have suffered so much.

Isaiah's description of gifts of gold and frankincense are echoed in the symbolic tokens of the wise men in Matthew's gospel (Mt. 2:1-12). Tellingly, Matthew adds myrrh, so that the mystery of Jesus' divinity, humanity, and passion are foreshadowed: gold for royalty, frankincense for divinity, myrrh for a suffering servant. Matthew's "wise men" are non-Jews, themselves symbols of the universality of Jesus' mission. Paul reminds the Ephesians of this in today's second reading (Eph. 3:2-6) when he observes that the Gentiles are "coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise."

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday, January 9th – Baptism of the Lord

The Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season concludes with one final manifestation of the relationship of Jesus to His Father. The story of the Baptism of the Lord carries with it the announcement by God acknowledging His Son, upon whom His favor rests. In the Opening Prayer, we ask that we may be kept faithful to our own baptism, making the connection between the presence of Christ in the world and our Baptismal response.

In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is. 42:1-7) we hear one of the famous "Servant Songs" describing God's "servant" as one upon whom God's Spirit has been bestowed so that he might be a light to the nations. After His anointing by God, Jesus went around doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the devil. In the same way, by our Baptism we are called to find out what good works need to be done and how we can heal those caught in the clutches of evil.

Friday, January 13th – St. Hilary

St. Hilary was born in the city of Poitiers (France) in 300 a.d. Because of his outstanding holiness and leadership he was chosen to be a bishop at a time when the Church was engaged in a great struggle against a heresy known as Arianism – which in effect denied the divine nature of Jesus. Hilary was a staunch defender of orthodoxy and suffered much for his fidelity to the truth of the gospel.



The Three Kings

*Three Kings came riding from far away,
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar;
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,
And they traveled by night and they slept by day,
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.
The star was so beautiful, large and clear,
That all the other stars of the sky
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,
And by this they knew that the coming was near
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.*



Sunday Report: Last weekend 1,040 parishioners attended Mass; our collection totaled \$6,399.00; average contribution: \$6.15. Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John's and its many needs. Your generosity is essential and greatly appreciated.

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.

Christmastime: The "Twelve Days of Christmas" – immortalized in a famous song -- are the days from December 25th to January 6th – the traditional date of the Epiphany. More recently, Epiphany is celebrated on the second Sunday after Christmas, so it has become a "moveable" feast. However, for a long time the 12 day period after Christmas was a time for special prayer, pageants, religious festivals and feasts. Part of the tradition included a formal ceremony of removing all Christmas decorations on "Twelfth Night". The popular song is often thought of as a children's song; however, some have suggested that it had its origins during the persecution of Catholics in England during the 16th century and that each day represented some aspect of the Catholic faith that it was important for all Catholics to remember – children and adults both. Thus, for example, the "10 Lords A-Leaping" referred to the 10 commandments; the "8 Maids A-Milking" recalled the Beatitudes; "the 4 Calling Birds" referenced the four gospels – and so on. Whether this is historical fact or "urban myth", the point is that this special season has a rich heritage – and many of its aspects can lead us to a fuller realization of the wonders of God's love!



Special Mass

Special Children's Mass: This Sunday at our 9:30 a.m. Mass, we once again welcome younger boys and girls to a 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.

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.

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Frances DeMaio who was buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to her family and friends.

Traditions of Christmas: All of the many customs and traditions of this wonderful season help to reinforce its message of love and joy and fellowship. We place wreaths on our front doors as a sign of victory – God's victory over sin and death. We hang mistletoe over our heads as a sign of love which triumphs over suspicion and hatred. We send cards and gifts to promote unity and charity. In some places it is customary to set the table at Christmas with an empty place setting and a chair to welcome strangers. Lights or candles are placed in windows to guide them to our home. We go from door to door singing carols to spread our joy and bring hospitality to all our neighbors.

At Christmas, the coming Christ turns winter into spring – so we banish darkness and cold with fragrant greens and brilliant flowers. Christ brings about a new creation – so we set a great tree of life in our midst and decorate it so that all creation can find rest in its branches.

Finally the coming of Christ is an invitation to a royal banquet so Christmas is our season to provide all our brothers and sisters with a harvest-rich bounty. Our eggnog toast reminds us of the Old Testament's Promised Land – a land flowing with milk and honey. The fact that Jesus has become our bread of life is celebrated at Christmas with special breads or cakes – stolen or panettone or fruitcake. Christmas is a celebration of all that is best in our humanity – a humanity which is clearly seen in Jesus as made in the likeness of God. So let us be joyful; let us celebrate; let us treasure the traditions of Christmas.



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.

Appreciation Luncheon for Catholic Public School Teachers (All Grades): The Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese invites Catholic public school teachers to attend the Appreciation Luncheon at the Maryknoll Society Center, 55 Ryder Rd., Ossining on Saturday, January 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The luncheon will be an opportunity to celebrate the good Catholic teachers do in our public schools. There will be a prayerful reflection by Fr. Brian McWeeney, Archdiocesan Director of Ecclesial Ministries and Ethnic Apostolates. For more information, call Sr. Zelide at (914)965-0490. A donation of \$25.00 (payable to: The Catechetical Office) to help defray costs is due on January 10th.

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(For private recitation on ordinary rosary beads)

*Our Father ..., Hail Mary ..., The
Apostles' Creed.*

*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
recite these words:*

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

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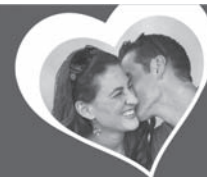
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