

January 7, 2018

Epiphany of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 6

5:00 p.m. **Blessings of Health for Keira Hedges**
By Charlie and Nancy Guerriere

Sunday, January 7

8:00 a.m. **+Edward and Anna Durnin**
By Mary Rupell

10:30 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Barbara Kovacs**
By Family

Monday, January 8

8:45 a.m.

Tuesday, January 9

8:45 a.m. **In Thanksgiving of Saint Anthony**
By Angela Gross

Wednesday, January 10

8:45 a.m.

Thursday, January 11 NO MASS

Friday, January 12

8:45 a.m.

Saturday, January 13

5:00 p.m. **+Jeffrey Vroom**
By Mr. and Mrs. George Merlo

Sunday, January 14

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

10:30 a.m. **+Vincie Vallo**
By Robert and Victoria Dicheck

January 7, 2018

Solemnity of the Epiphany

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The visit of the magi to the Christ Child has always had a strong hold on the Christian imagination. We like stories that turn conventional expectations on their head. The Old and New Testaments are filled with accounts of God's goodness to human beings, but here, in the magi's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, we have the reverse: the goodness of human beings towards God. There is something not only very appropriate, but very appealing, about that.

But how can we ever begin to repay the LORD for the many ways he has blessed us? Actually, Jesus answered that question in one of his parables:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a

stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me [...] Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one the least brothers of mine, you did for me (Mt 25:35-36, 40).

Next weekend you will have the opportunity to give something back to God by contributing to the annual Together in Charity Collection. This collection funds our Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Program, which aids parishes when individuals and families are faced with urgent financial, housing, or medical needs beyond a parish's capacity to meet. Your parish may have been one of those helped by the program, since in the last year 59 (or 66%) of our parishes turned to Catholic Charities for emergency assistance. In total, 437 households, consisting of 693 adults and 578 children, were helped by those who gave to the Together in Charity Collection.

Please consider giving a gift to the Jesus who is present in the senior citizen who cannot afford a needed prescription or the family facing eviction or the loss of utilities—not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but a monetary donation as your means allow.

I thank you in advance for your generosity and assure you of my prayerful good wishes for the year ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen

Mass Intentions Openings

There are openings for Mass Intentions for January and February (also other future months). To reserve a Mass, please call the Parish Office- 908-689-8318, ext 1 or email: sttheodorenj@gmail.com Also, a list of these openings has been posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. All of the January and February Mass openings are for daily Masses.



Many Thanks are given to you, dear Parishioners, for your thoughtfulness and generosity to me. Thank you for your Christmas gifts and prayers. May the New Year bring you joy and God's blessings.

--Father Damian



Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney,

Kerry Kraft, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars



On January 8, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany

which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred

upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world." Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

Our Weekly Offering

Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: \$3,637.

Christmas: \$7,128.27

12/24 (Saturday & Sunday) \$3,053 (-\$584.)

12/31: (Saturday & Sunday) \$1,739.51

(-\$1,898.49)

January Calendar

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm: Bible Study

1/15: No Rel. Ed. & Parish & Rel. Ed. Offices closed for Martin Luther King Holiday

1/17 and every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm:

Confirmation prep for adults

1/20 @ 9am: Floor Cleaning: Parish Center:

Help Needed

1/27 @ 10 am: 8th Grade Retreat at St. Mary's Hackettstown

1/29 @ 6:15pm: 7th Grade at church for confessions

The Knights of Columbus will be cleaning our Parish Center floor and needs help. If you are able to give them a hand in helping our church, please mark your calendar: **Saturday, January 20 at 9 a.m.**

I thank you in advance for your continued willingness to help.

--Father Damian