

Lord, Enter Into Our Homes And Be Our Guest

We celebrate today another moment in the beautiful Christmas Season, as we contemplate the three Magi finding their way to the crib of the baby Jesus. It must have been a moving sight—as these three kings—exalted in their own lands—acknowledge an even greater King. Let us bow down with them as they recognize God’s power and wisdom and love at work in this little baby.

They were called wise men because they sought out the Lord. May we follow their example and welcome the Lord into our lives. They offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh—symbols of their homage to Him. May we offer the gifts of repentant hearts and renewed spirits, eager to do the Lord’s Will.

As the Magi enter the house of the infant Jesus, we ask that the same Jesus enter into our homes. This Feast of the Three Kings (the Feast of the ‘Epiphany’ or ‘Manifestation’) is traditionally a time to bless our homes and ask the Lord to keep our families in love and peace.

Take some time today to gather as a family to bless your home. With chalk, write “**20 + C + M + B + 10**” over the door post. (The traditional names of the three kings are Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.) As you do so, have someone offer the following prayer:

Lord God of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless our home, and all who live here. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for each other, and for all, may reflect Your own love. May the wisdom of the Magi be found in us, that we may always seek You. Amen.

May the Lord keep our families in peace,
Father Wayne

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 3, 2010

St. James the Greater

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Kenneth A. Kohol at the
Request of Mike & Pat Soletro

TUESDAY, January 5

8:00AM – John Carroll
req. by Sister John Marie

SATURDAY, January 9

8:00AM – Mary Carroll
req. by Sister John Marie

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 10

8:00AM – Eugene Jankowski
req. by the Jankowski Family

11:30AM – Father James Gacquin

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

\$1,321.00 – Regular Collection – December 20, 2009
(December 27 will be reported next week)
\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$1,416.00 – Regular Collection – December 21, 2008

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

\$2,201.00 – Regular Collection – December 20, 2009
(December 27 will be reported next week)
\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need
\$2,864.00 – Regular Collection – December 21, 2008

TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:

Bree Andrews, Vickie Bennett, Joseph Bruno, Eric Cerra,
Gail Collis, Jerry Cooper, Jason DeLorenzo, Geri Fawyer,
Ronnie Ferriere, Nancy Green, Eric Harper, Horace Harper,
Sharon Hubbell, Sharon Johnson, Phil Lange, Patricia Lesner,
Chuck Lombaerde, Florence Majewski, Karen Morgan,
Richard Nowicki, Joseph Peraino, Flo Puccio, Evelyn
Schweer, Deena Slain, Ray Sorg, Bill Sousa, Sandy
Townsend, Catherine Vecharello, Lisa Vergona, Tarra
Wagner and Gabriel Wyzga

St. Thomas the Apostle

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in
Memory of Jim Mahon at the
Request of his wife, Gerry

MONDAY, January 4

9:00AM – Terry Naletko
req. by Mary & Fran
- Patricia Ann Barr
req. by her sister, Mary Flexer

TUESDAY, January 5

9:00AM – Terry Naletko
req. by Don & Dawn Hall

WEDNESDAY, January 6

9:00AM – Timothy Yarosz
req. by his wife, Josephine

THURSDAY, January 7

No Mass

FRIDAY, January 8

9:30AM – Sal Siracusano
req. by the Parish

SATURDAY, VIGIL, January 9

5:30PM – Father James Gacquin
req. by Mary Flexer

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 10

9:30AM – Terry Naletko
req. by Rita & Milan Straka

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Epiphany means “showing,” and this feast celebrates the first time Jesus was shown to the Gentiles – people who are not Jewish. This feast makes us realize that Jesus came not only to Jews but to all people of the earth. All non-Jewish people are represented by the Three Kings from the East, who followed the star and brought gifts to the infant Christ Child. Their names, according to tradition, were Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. To celebrate the feast of the Three Kings at the beginning of 2010, you can have a house blessing. With a piece of blessed chalk, you can inscribe the initials C M B above your door. The initials are then enclosed by the year and connected by crosses (20+C+M+B+10). In addition to representing the names of the three Magi, these letters also represent the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* (Christ bless this house).

Christmas Pageant

The children of our parishes will present a Christmas Pageant **today**, Sunday, January 3rd – the Feast of Epiphany at 2:00pm at the Msgr. James Gacquin Youth and Religious Education Center. Refreshments will follow. All parishioners are invited!

SAVE THIS DATE

On **Friday, January 22, 2010**, the annual Right to Life March will be held in Washington, D.C. There will be a bus leaving from St. Joseph’s Church in Newton at 6 AM for anyone who wants to attend the March. The cost per person is \$35 – if this is a hardship, please call Marion, 973-293-3850. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering space or call the parish office. All monies are due **No Later Than January 8, 2010**. Checks should be made payable to St. Thomas Church.

PILGRIM VIRGIN OF FATIMA STATUE

This beautifully adorned statue is a visible reminder of the love God has shown in the Blessed Mother. Placing such a beautiful image in your home turns hearts to prayer and brings grace to those who open their hearts to any image of God’s love. If you would like to have the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in your home, please contact Diana, Legion of Mary at 973-948-7601.

Pray the Family Rosary

Beyond the Parish

MCYA “Theology on Tap”: The Morristown Catholic Young Adults of Notre Dame (MCYA) invite you to our January series of Theology on Tap! This is a free event for married and single adults in their 20s and 30s. Each one will be at 7:30pm at Chevy’s Restaurant, 1900 State Route 10, Morris Plains, NJ.

January 12, 2010 “Suffering: Why Bad Things Happen to Good People” by Fr. Rocco Danzi, SJ

January 19, 2010 “God’s Work, Our Hands” by Greg & Therese Floyd

January 26, 2010 “Marriage and Sexuality” by Fr. Frank Agresti

Attention Men of our Parish: The 4th annual Our Lady of Mount Carmel Men’s Retreat is planned for January 29 through 31 at Sacred Heart Spirituality Center. Those who attended our three previous retreats found them to be a very special time that brought them closer to God. All men are welcome; you do not need to be a member of our parish, so please bring along a friend or relative and join us for a weekend of spirituality, prayer and fellowship. For more information or to register, please contact Deacon Tony at barile@ptd.net or 973-383-3430.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES

STC -- St. Thomas Ch. or Fr. Lewis Center

SJC -- St. James Ch. or Church Hall

REC -- Fr. Gacquin Religious Ed. Center

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Feast of the Epiphany

8:00 a.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

9:30 a.m. STC C.L.O.W.

9:30 a.m. STC & REC Gr. 6-7-8 Mass & Class

11:30 p.m. SJC Coffee Hour after Mass

2:00 p.m. REC Christmas Pageant

4:00 p.m. REC Confirmation Prep.

Monday, January 4

11:00 a.m. REC Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, January 5

10:00 a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Gr. 1 & 2

7:00 p.m. STC Right to Life Speaker

Wednesday, January 6

4:00 p.m. REC Gr. 3, 4 & 5

Thursday, January 7

9:30 a.m. STC Moms & Tots Group

Friday, January 8

All day: STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

3:00 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy

4:00 p.m. Evening Prayer & Benediction

Saturday, January 9

9:30 a.m. REC Legion of Mary Mtg.

10:00 a.m. STC *Why Catholic?* Facilitator's

Intro. (till 12 Noon)

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Baptism of the Lord

9:30 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

Future Events

Fri. Jan. 22 Right To Life March, Wash. D.C.

A New Year's Resolution: *Consciously make some time for the Lord.* An excellent way is to take part in our **Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.** Sign up for an hour if you are able, or just stop in for a quick visit. The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** is recited at 3 p.m. and **Evening Prayer** is prayed at 4 p.m. The Lord will appreciate your presence.

Right To Life. Our K. of C. is sponsoring a **Right to Life speaker** on **Tues., January 5th at 7 p.m. at the Fr. Lewis Center.** Learn about recent and pending legislation and how it affects our deepest beliefs about the sacredness of life. Here is an area where religion must influence government, as this is a serious question of morality. Join us to find out how we as Catholics can help restore a Culture of Life in America.

Why Catholic? Morning of Introduction for Facilitators on **Sat. Jan. 9th, at St. Thomas, from 10 a.m. till Noon.** It is entitled: "A *Celebration of Mystery,*" and will prepare us for the new season. **Facilitators** are asked to keep these hours free on your 2010 calendars for this Introduction. All who would like to join them are most welcome.

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Registration Form for B-Ball Free Throw

To be held at the Sandyston School on Sat. Jan. 16th at 3 p.m. Boys and girls, ages 10 – 14 can enter. Proof of age (birth or baptism certificate) is required. Best of 15 throws moves on to District Competition. Sponsored by the K. of C.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Age: _____

School: _____

Parent's Permission: _____

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Registration Form For Eighth Grade Spelling Bee

To be held at St. Thomas on Sun. Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. All 8th Grade students of our parishes and area are welcome to enter. Proof of Grade will be required. First Place winner will go on to K. of C. Competition in February. Good luck !

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Age: _____

School: _____

Parent's Permission: _____