

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Saturday, January 7th, @ 5:00PM, 60th Wedding Anniversary Mass for **Rose & Dom Marandino**.
- Sunday, January 8th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Thomas West, Sr.**, requested by Carolyn & Steve Gorecki.
- Sunday, January 8th, @ 11:00AM, Month's Mind Mass for **Joseph McManus**.
- Sunday, January 8th, 5:00PM, Mass for **Esther & John McGuire**, requested by Jack & Teddi McGuire.
- Monday, January 9th, @ 8:30AM, Anniversary Mass for **Margaret Geraci**, requested by Bob & Theresa Bellacosa.
- Tuesday, January 10th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Thomas West, Sr.**, requested by Mike & Kathy Reilley.
- Wednesday, January 11th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Colette Ostapko**, requested by Phil Ostapko.
- Friday, January 13th, @ 8:30AM, Mass in Memory of **Don Paine**.
- Saturday, January 14th, @ 5:00PM, 3rd Anniversary Mass for **Becky Bowley**, requested by the Wiacek Family.
- Sunday, January 15th, @ 8:00AM, Anniversary Mass for **Alonzo (Lonnie) Lester**, requested by Dee Lester.
- Sunday, January 15th, @ 11:00AM, Mass for **Jeanne Suminski**, requested by the Jahne Family.
- Sunday, January 15th, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Russell Webber**, requested by the McAlindin & Flaherty Families.
- Friday, January 20th, @ 8:30AM, 6th Anniversary Mass for **Brendan Donahue**, requested by Julia Donahue.
- Saturday, January 21st, @ 5:00PM, 1st Anniversary Mass for **Dick Hammond**, requested by Donna Hammond.
- Sunday, January 22nd, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Greg Thomas**, requested by Carolyn & Steve Gorecki.
- Sunday, January 22nd, @ 11:00AM, Mass for **Rita Cross**, requested by Tina & Jim Yablonski.
- Sunday, January 22nd, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Joseph McManus**, requested by Barb & Dick Hopkins.
- Tuesday, January 24th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Tommy Tanski**, requested by Fay Shea.



PANTRY PARTNERS OF ST. CATHERINE
The next distribution date will be on Saturday, January 21st, from 10-11:30AM.

Offerory Collection for 1/12

Weekly Collection:	\$ 8,460.65
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 1,560.65
Envelopes	\$ 6,900.00
Budgeted for Week:	\$ 9,000.00
Shortage:	- \$ 539.35
Cathradicum*	- \$ 465.33
School Tax*	- \$ 465.33



* Parish Taxes (5.5%) paid to the Archdiocese for services to the parish.

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS
Refurbishment & Repair - 1/8
Catholic High School—1/22

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

CLASS INFORMATION - classes resume today, Sunday, January 8th.

CONFIRMATION II - Saints Project is assigned today and is due on Sunday, February 12th. Parent Meeting for Confirmation II Candidates is Sunday, January 29th, following the 5PM Mass in the back of the Church. It is mandatory that one parent attend, but both are welcome!

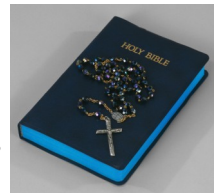
NO CLASS - Sunday, January 15th, due to the Martin Luther King holiday. Classes resume on Sunday, January 22nd.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, Jan. 9th, @ 7:00PM - **Liturgy Comm.** - Rectory
- Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 6PM - **Community Life** - Library
- Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 7PM - **Finance Council** - Rectory
- Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 7PM - **Communications** - Music Room
- Wednesday, Jan. 11th, 7PM - **RCIA** - Library
- Tuesday, Jan. 17th, 6:45PM - **Parish Council** - Russell Hall
- Thursday, Jan. 19th, 7PM - **Women's Club** - Russell Hall
- Tuesday, Jan. 24th, 7:00PM - **Men's Club** - Russell Hall

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA ANNUAL MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT

This is an invitation to all men of Saint Catherine of Siena parish to participate in our Annual Weekend Retreat at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT. **The retreat begins with dinner on Friday evening, February 10th, and continues through noon on Sunday, February 12, 2012.** This year's retreat theme is *The Courage to Hope*. The retreat includes conference, workshops, prayer services, beautiful music, and delicious food (for the body and the soul). This is also a great opportunity to get to know other men of the parish in a relaxing setting.



Volunteers will be available after all the weekend Masses in January to provide additional information, registration details and to answer any questions you may have.

Holy Family has an excellent website: www.holyfamilyretreat.org The website contains a wealth of information about their retreat programs, special events and facilities. You can also register for the weekend retreat online. Check out the section for Weekend Retreats and make sure you sign up for Saint Catherine of Siena's weekend: February 10-12, 2012. Financial support is available to those who would like to attend but may need financial assistance. Please contact **Jim Peters** at 860/651-3143 or **Lou Daniels** at 860/693-4017 for more information.



EPIPHANY

The New Year enters its second week with Holy Mother Church celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord—with “epiphany” meaning—in general—“an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity;” and its particular meaning as it relates to our faith as “a Christian festival, commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi; Twelfth day.”

Our first reading this weekend comes to us from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, written around the 8th Century BC, and foretelling, among other prophesies, the coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords and how all the world will react to His arrival and what will come of it. Notice the detail in the prophesy informing us that people will come from all ends of the earth bearing particular gifts—gold and frankincense—to this “Light of the World.” The responsorial psalm which follows the reading, number 72, reiterates that “all the world will adore you, Lord,” and that those who come to praise this new King will sing of His glory while “The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.” (Ps 72:10-11)

In our second reading of the day from Ephesians (3:2-3a; 5-6), we hear that as part of the great revelation given to us—God made man in Jesus Christ—we also have a second part of God’s plan of salvation—first is the gift born to us in Bethlehem, in the infant babe, and second is the gift of God’s grace—the sacraments which effect the life of God in our souls. It is this sacramental grace that effects God’s power in us not because of the worthiness of the priest (the one who imparts the sacrament) but rather because of Jesus Christ who *is working in the sacrament* that effects God’s grace in our lives, in our very souls. With this revelation—God acting in our lives—we are now co-heirs to the divine life.

Today’s Gospel, Matthew, tells the story of the Magi following the Star leading them to the place where Jesus lay. Upon arrival at the new King’s side, the Magi were overjoyed and prostrated themselves—laying their earthly kingdoms at the foot of the New King, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh represent:

Gold. The gift of gold was considered worthy of a king...Both secular and biblical kings valued gold, men such as King Solomon and King Nebuchadnezzar treasured gold. While gold can be a gift for anyone, gold was a gift especially for kings.

Frankincense. Frankincense and myrrh come from tree resins. Frankincense was once greatly valued throughout the Middle East, from Rome to India. It was very expensive and a gift having a wonderful fragrance. It was used for a variety of purposes such as incense (Ex. 30:34), medical treatment, and perfume (Song of Solomon 3:6; 4:14). We discover from the Bible that frankincense was used in worship. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each. Ex. 30:34 Frankincense speaks of the worship of God.

Myrrh. Myrrh was less expensive than frankincense, but was still highly valued. It is first mentioned in the Bible in Gen. 37:25, where it was being carried by camels on a caravan. Myrrh was used for a variety of purposes, such as: a perfume (Song of

Solomon 3:6; 4:14), an anesthetic, burial embalming (John 19:39), as an ingredient in anointing oil, and to deodorize clothes. According to Esther (2:12), it was also a cosmetic used by women. John (19:39) records that myrrh was used in Jesus’ burial. Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight. (John 19:39) In the New Testament, myrrh is primarily associated with death.

Since gold, frankincense and myrrh were highly prized by kings and emperors, these magi gave Jesus three very expensive gifts. The gift of gold would have had great value to a young married couple whom God would soon send to Egypt. Besides their monetary values, frankincense and myrrh would have had medical and deodorizing benefits - great gifts for a couple with an infant. The gifts also speak of Jesus Christ. Gold speaks of His birth. He is born a King. Frankincense speaks of the fragrance of His life. Myrrh speaks of His death. All of this is indicated in the gifts that were brought to Him at His first coming. (Source: Dr. J. Vernon McGee. Thru The Bible. Neslon Publishing. 1983. vol. IV, p. 16.)

In our readings today we hear of the epiphany of Christ made known in the Magi: in their searching for Him, in their following the Star—their travels, and in their gifts given to the newborn King for His use. However, God’s epiphany is not meant as a one-time, singular event. “His Epiphany” is meant to be heard and recognized and re-told throughout the ages, in all generations and by all peoples. That begs the question, “What is our role in this ‘ongoing epiphany?’” All of us are called to be “magi,” if you will. We are called to follow the “star” of Christ in learning our faith and studying the signs that God places in our lives and answering His call to us; we are all called to seek His Truths. We are also called to be “magi” in that we each have gifts—perhaps not gold, frankincense and myrrh—on loan to us from God so that we may use them rightly in the service of Christ and His Kingdom. Are we presenting our gifts worthily to our Lord? How many of us are “re-gifting” these treasures? And as modern-day “magi” we are all called to lead others to Christ. The New Evangelization of which Pope Benedict speaks is meant for us to comprehend and to take part in. Some will preach it. Some will proselytize. Some, like St. Francis of Assisi will preach without words—by their actions. No matter what the methodology, we are all called to be “magi” in proclaiming the Epiphany of the Lord. The gift of being a “co-heir” to Christ and to live in perfect freedom and joy in the eternal Kingdom does not come without some obligation. The gift of God’s love, though truly a gift, is wrapped in obligation—to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world so to be with Him forever in the world to come. His Star shines bright and eternally, may we recognize Him and follow His Star...right into the Kingdom.

**PEACE,
FR. MICHAEL**

End of Bulletin
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