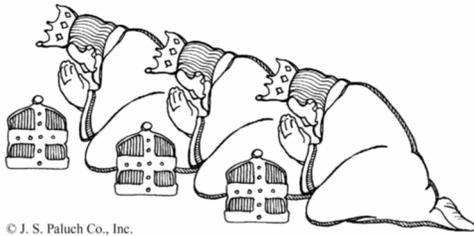


# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 2015



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All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

-Psalm 72:11

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>MON.,</b> 7:00	<b>Jan. 5<sup>th</sup></b> A.M.	<b>Saint John Neumann, Bishop</b> Douglas Raiser r/o Alison & Rachel Maggio
<b>TUES.,</b> 12:00	<b>Jan. 6<sup>th</sup></b> P.M.	<b>Saint Andre Bessette</b> Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Zabczyk r/o Daughter, Ann Sowa & Family
<b>WED.,</b> 7:00	<b>Jan. 7<sup>th</sup></b> A.M.	<b>Saint Raymond of Penyafort</b> Reynaldo Goco r/o The Goco Family
<b>THURS.,</b> 12:00	<b>Jan. 8<sup>th</sup></b> P.M.	<b>Christmas Weekday</b> Anna & Thomas Foro r/o Healey & Hollaran Family
<b>FRI.,</b> 7:00	<b>Jan. 9<sup>th</sup></b> A.M.	<b>Christmas Weekday</b> Margaret Sebastian r/o Lisa Hanson & Family
<b>SAT.,</b> 8:00	<b>Jan. 10<sup>th</sup></b> A.M.	<b>Christmas Weekday</b> John Paul Felix r/o James Easthope
5:00	P.M.	Joseph P. Zuccarelli r/o Emily & Joe
<b>SUN.,</b> 8:00	<b>Jan. 11<sup>th</sup></b> A.M.	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b> Tom Gallo r/o Rich & Linda Miller
10:00	A.M.	Carlos J. Carmona r/o Juliam A. Carmona
11:30	A.M.	Henry Marker r/o Janet Marker
1:30	P.M.	Niños de la Comunidad

## Week of January 4—11

### *Altar Candles*

Antonietta Natale r/o Enrica & Ignazio Tripoli & Family

### *Sanctuary Candles*

Antonietta Natale r/o Enrica & Ignazio Tripoli & Family

### *Tabernacle Candles*

Antonietta Natale r/o Enrica & Ignazio Tripoli & Family

### *Altar Flowers*

Antonietta Natale r/o Enrica & Ignazio Tripoli & Family

### *Altar Bread & Wine*

Antonietta Natale r/o Enrica & Ignazio Tripoli & Family

**PRAY FOR THE SICK...**In your charity please pray for the sick of our parish, the sick who remain in our intentions and those whose names are kept on our prayer list in the sacristy.



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## TODAY'S READING'S:

**First Reading** — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

**Psalms** — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

**Second Reading** — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6).

**Gospel** — Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).



The following couple was married on Sat. Dec. 31, 2014  
Michael Polifonte & Tara Anello  
We pray that our Lord bless them with every grace as they begin their married life.

On behalf of Father Mark and myself, I want to thank our parishioners for their generosity in remembering your priests at Christmas. Such beautiful Christmas Cards, such wonderful homemade food and cookies, such beautiful presents and gifts! May God shower his blessings on you in thanksgiving for your generosity. Thank you & God bless!

**FISH, Inc. Food Collection.** Our monthly collection of non-perishable food is the weekend of **Jan. 17 - 18**. We are grateful to all who contribute hearty foods during the winter months.

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 10—11

5:00 pm—	Erin Rooney Taylor Vincent Vincent Miller
8:00 am—	Richie McNulty Jonathon Massarelli Tommy McNulty
10:00 am—	Eliza DeGuzman Jackie Mai Christina Mai
11:30 am—	Jordan McEvoy Mikaehla Pineda Rhiana Pineda



### *Weekly Financial information:*

During the weeks surrounding Christmas and New Year's Day, our bulletins have to be processed a week or two early. As a result, weekly financial information is often not ready until after a bulletin has been sent to the printer. Our parish will publish the financial information for the weekends of December 14, 21, 28 and January 4 as well as our Christmas and New Year's Day collection in the January 11, 2015 bulletin. The Christmas 50/50 raffle results will also be published in the January 11 bulletin. Thank you for your patience.

## THE WISE MEN COME TO BETHLEHEM

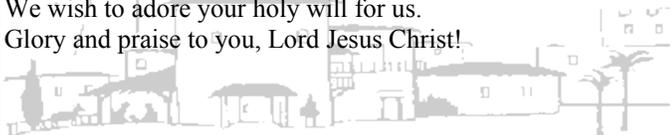
Today the Wise Men see the little child and Mary his mother.

With them, Lord,  
we wish to discover you in the midst  
of our brothers and sisters.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Today they prostrate themselves before you

With them, Lord,  
We wish to adore your holy will for us.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



**Religious  
Education**

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### **IMMEDIATE OPENING - CATECHIST NEEDED!**

**Communion Preparation Catechist Needed on Tuesdays  
(during March/April ONLY) from 6:15-7PM for one  
student. Please contact Mrs. Zmigrodski in the Religious  
Education Office to volunteer or request more information.**

**Classes resume Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup>**

**FIRST PENANCE**

**January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (7:00 P.M.)**

### **LAZARUS MINISTRY:**

***General Meeting on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM***

in Petra House. COME AND LEARN how just a little of your time can mean a great deal to those who have lost a loved one. With so many aspects to the ministry you are sure to find one that will enable your gifts to be used for the good of others at their time of grief! We specially invite members of the MARTHA'S TABLE MINISTRY to join us for this annual meeting. Please call Sr. James (732-609-1091) if you have any questions or speak to a member of our Ministry.

### **OLMV SPORTS:**

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Sports Program sponsors 5 basketball teams that participate in our Diocesan Basketball League. We have a group of high Schools boys, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6 grade boys and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls who represent our parish. We thank the adults members of our parish who have volunteered as coaches, and in particular, we recognize Pat Cullinan who has volunteered to organize and administer this program which allows so many of our younger parishioners to participate in athletics. Good Luck, athletes!!!



**Thank you** to Hoski Florists and to Harmony Greenhouse for the magnificent wreaths that graced our church this Christmas; thanks also for the beautiful plants and arrangements which enhanced our liturgical celebrations during the Christmas Season. Special thanks to the youngsters in our Religious Education program, our Knights of Columbus, members of the Altar Rosary Society and our volunteer who spent so much time arranging our Crèche and placing the different plants on the altar and in the chapels of our church. Many parishioners worked diligently to ensure that OLMV was a place of worship truly fit to welcome the Christ-child! Special recognition and thanks to Dianne Mendelson for organizing our Christmas decoration program this year.

## **A NOTE FROM FATHER PAT** My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How quickly the Christmas season has come and gone! Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany and we consider the visit of the Magi.

This feast, Epiphany, celebrates "the manifestation of the presence of Christ to the gentiles as represented by the Magi." During the time in which Jesus was physically present among the people of Israel, it was generally understood by the people that the Messiah would come to bring salvation only to the house of Israel, those who were "God's Chosen People."

The author of the Gospel of Matthew was careful to teach the members of his community, who were mostly Jews, that Jesus was the Messiah who, in fact, came for the redemption of all--- Jews and Gentiles alike. Because the Magi were not among the "Chosen People," a star appeared to guide them on their journey to find Christ. We understand that the "star" was a sign from God, and the Magi were journeying to seek out the truth. Could there be any greater truth than the truth of Jesus--- the Christ-child---born into the human condition!

The story of the Epiphany is a story of faith. The wise men had faith that their search was leading them to a great truth. They were willing to embark on what must have been a dangerous journey---but a journey of faith, one which would lead then to a true and eternal king!

The gifts brought by the Magi symbolized the truth of Jesus as our Savior. Gold is given as a sign of Christ's kingship. Jesus is truly the servant-king. Jesus leads even as he serves the family of God. Frankincense is that expensive perfumed incense that proclaims the divine nature of the Christ-child. As the sweet smelling smoke rises up to heaven, we are reminded that Jesus is the child of God as well as the child of Mary. The gift of myrrh is a symbol of death. This gift is a reminder that the Christ-child, as the earthly king and divine son, must enter into his destiny---he will be crucified, and the myrrh is among the spices and ointments used to dress the body after death.

The Magi worship before the Christ-child. They kneel and present special gifts---gifts fit for the divine king who comes to bring salvation to the House of Israel---and also to the world!

We have spent time during this special season of Christmas sharing in the glory of the Christ-child. As we consider the gifts of the Magi today, we are invited to think about Jesus as our savior---the diving child who is our king and who, in service to the human family, brings us the "Good News" of the Father's love and of our salvation.

We must continue to share the spirit of Christmas as we enter into a new season. We need to make it our daily practice to recognize that Jesus is present in our lives. We are called to begin each day in praise of God: "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! May my life today reflect your presence in me."

May our New Year, 2015, be a year of blessing, goodness, prayer and hope. May we honor the "Christmas spirit" that is in our hearts as we endeavor to share the Christ-child with all whom we meet!

In peace and prayer,

**Father Pat**



**THE DEANERY SCHOOL:**  
**HOLY SAVIOR ACADEMY**

Holy Savior Academy is the Catholic School for the Middlebrook Deanery. Located at 149 South Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, it serves children in Pre-K through grade 8. After school programs are available as well as a year-round pre-kindergarten program. Please review the school web-site: [holysavioracademy.com](http://holysavioracademy.com), or contact the principal, Mrs. Kristen Kiernan, at 908-822-5890 to find out additional information or to request a tour of the school.

**OLMV PARISH CALENDAR...**

***Altar Rosary Society:***

**Please plan ahead...Super Bowl Bake Sale, weekend of January 31–February 1.**

**Baptismal Class: Thursday, January 8, 2015.** Families must be registered in the Parish and sign up for the class in advance. For more information please call the Parish Office.

**Winter Blood Drive – January 11, 2015. 8:00am – 1:00pm.** Please mark your calendars for the date. As always, blood is in serious demand. New Jersey Blood Services is very grateful to our generous and caring donors. They have stated in previous letters of gratitude that “There is no substitute for caring people who take time to donate blood so that others may live.” For more information regarding Medical Eligibility for blood donation please call 1-800-688-0900 or visit their website at [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org).

***Evangelization Meeting... Monday, January 5 at 7 PM in Petra House...join us to plan our upcoming events for 2015! New Members WELCOME!***

***Winter Bible Study Beginning Soon!***

Join us for a 6 session program (plus celebration) as we deepen our discipleship and more fully learn to speak and live **Heart to Heart with God!** Both morning and evening sessions are offered for your convenience: Wednesdays at 10 AM or 7:00 PM in Petra House. Come to **either** session-we **begin on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>** (schedules are on bulletin boards around the church). All are welcome, but **you must pre-register** for books to be ordered. Please come to parish office to register on/before Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>.

**ADULT CONFIRMATION SESSIONS are about to begin! Join this interested group who gather to deepen their understanding and commitment to Jesus and to learn more about the Catholic faith. If you are over 18 years of age and have celebrated Baptism and Communion, but not Confirmation, you are welcome to our FIRST MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 PM in Petra House. Please call Sister James to register or for further information (732-609-1091).**

**2014 Bishop’s Annual Appeal**  
***Life-Changing Faith***

The 2014 Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues until the end of the fiscal year, June 2015, so it’s not too late to make a gift. Our goal is to have 100% participation. Please prayerfully consider supporting the appeal with a pledge or one-time gift as your means allow. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Thank you** to our parishioners who have already made a gift the Diocese of Metuchen Annual Bishop’s Appeal. To date, 274 parish families have pledged almost \$49,900.00 toward our parish goal of \$85,200.00. Bishop Paul thanks all who have already made their yearly gift and encourages all of our families to generously support this appeal which supports so many of our diocesan ministries.

**Thank you** to Kelly Rooney and the adult and young members of our Children’s Liturgy Ministry for our December 21<sup>st</sup> Children’s Liturgy program. The vestibule Christmas tree is still shining brightly, displaying the beautiful ornaments that

As always, a special and heartfelt “**Thank You!!!**” to **Rives Cassel**, our Adult and Children’s Choir, our Altar Servers, our parish youngsters who participated in so many liturgical celebrations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Rives spends weeks preparing the liturgical program for our Christmas Season, and our parish is very fortunate to benefit from his talent and generous heart!

**Thank you** to Gabriella Rosales and the members of the OLMV Hispanic Ministry for the wonderful “*Posada*” that was staged by the children after the 1:30pm Hispanic Mass on December 21. This beautiful and prayerful celebration of the Holy Family’s entrance into Bethlehem prepared all who were present to welcome Jesus into their own hearts and Christmas. Thanks to the children who performed and to the many parishioners in our Hispanic Community who made the “*Posada*” such a memorable event.



***Special thank you to:***

Rives Cassel, Ed Kura, Cristian Campos & Company, Yans Vela, The Carmona Family, The Zegarra, The Castillo and Lovato Families for their contribution and their help.

***TOGETHER IN CHARITY COLLECTION***

The Bishop has designated January 10/11 for the annual “Together in Charity Collection”. The proceeds of this collection fund the Parish Emergency Assistance Program, a program of Catholic Charities that provides 24 hour/seven days a week assistance to parishes faced with individuals and families with serious and urgent financial, housing or medical needs.

Last year, more than half the parishes in the Diocese availed themselves of this program, obtaining almost \$170,000 in aid. Catholic Charities’ ability to help each parish meet the growing need for financial assistance in *their* community depends on the success of this collection.

Please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a grace-filled new year for a family or individual in crisis.