



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
January 2—January 8
EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

- 4:00 p.m. Ree Alario; Cammarata Guizardi Family; Marlene Morris; Oliver Pivert, Jr.; Barbara Rush
- 5:30 p.m. Isaura B. Bienvenu; Judith B. Casey; Leona O'Dwyer

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

- 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)
- 9:30 a.m. Jerry Bagwell; Judith B. Casey; Jane O. Chatelain; Claudia Darden; Norma McClellan; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Reverend Monsignor Carl J. Shutten; Alice Stumpf; Louis Toups, Sr.
- 11:00 a.m. Henry L. Eiserloh, Jr.; Lindsey Jordan; Oliver Pivert, Jr.; Barbara Rush; Captain Houston E. Walker
- 5:30 p.m. Harold & Patricia Berrigan; Leona O'Dwyer; Frances N. Pilet

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Elliott M. Harold, Sr.; Dr. & Nancy Minyard; Oliver Pivert, Jr.; Father Carl Lezak

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

- 11:30 a.m. Edward O'Dwyer; Seminarians of Notre Dame Seminary
- 12:00 p.m. Oliver Pivert, Jr.; Elisabeth Robert; John Sparck

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Lt. Peter A. Hand; Stephen Losee; Dr. & Nancy Minyard; Oliver Pivert, Jr

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

- 11:30 a.m. Edward O'Dwyer
- 12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Lt. Peter A. Hand; Oliver Pivert, Jr.; Elisabeth Robert

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Stephen Losee; Oliver Pivert, Jr.

GREGORIAN LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Most Holy Name of Jesus

Solemn High Mass—First Sunday of the month.
Benediction—Third Sunday after the 9:30 A.M. Mass.

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

After the Sunday morning Masses, the Claddaugh Group hosts coffee and pastries in the Monsignor Reynolds Hall, directly behind the rectory. Everyone is invited.

ACOLYTES FOR ST. PATRICK'S

Service in the liturgy can be a path to holiness for men sensing a call to support the Parish in a practical, active way. There is a continuing need for men of any age (or responsible older boys if accompanied by their fathers), especially at the 11.00 Sunday Mass. Instruction and training are provided. Please contact Robert Ramirez at (504) 899-3048; e-mail: bramirez@bellsouth.net.

SUNDAY OFFERING—December 27, 2009

First Collection \$ 7,661
Second Collection* \$ 1,730

* Maintenance and restoration

SATURDAY PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The City has notified the public that beginning January 1, 2010 parking meter hours have been extended and will also include Saturdays. Those parking on the street, near St. Patrick's Church, are advised to use meters in order to avoid parking tickets.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY—MOZART'S MASS IN D MINOR

Sunday, January 3, 2010—9:30 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick's Concert Choir will perform Mozart's *Mass in D Minor*—KV65. The soloists will be Sarah Jane McMahon, soprano; Jane Wilson—alto; Rene Toups—tenor; and Nick Missions—Bass. Accompaniment will be provided by organ and a small string ensemble.

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD WITH ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Sunday, January 3, 2010
After the 9:30a.m. and 11:00a.m. Masses
Louisiana Children's Museum
420 Julia Street (around the corner from St. Patrick's Church)

Father Stanley Klores, is sponsoring an event for home school students and their families at the Louisiana Children's Museum, *New Orleans' most playful place to explore, experience and learn!*

After the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses, students and their families are invited to visit the museum; refreshments, provided by St. Patrick's, will be served from 11:00a.m.—1:00p.m. in the theater of the museum.

St. Patrick's guests will receive a special reduced rate of admittance of only \$3.50 per child or adult.

EPIPHANY CHALK—TO BLESS OUR HOMES

The blessing of Epiphany chalk, to be used in the blessing of our homes, will take place after all Masses this weekend. Everyone is invited to take a packet of blessed chalk, with instructions and special prayers.



IN MEMORY OF—LAST WEEK!!!

The closing date for submitting names to the *In Memory Of* listing on the back of the Sunday Bulletin is this **Friday, January 8, 2010**. To ensure proper spelling, recording, etc., all requests are to be made by completing the designated envelope form, found in the vestibule of the church, and hand delivering it to the rectory office or placed it in any collection basket. The office staff appreciates your prompt attention and cooperation in assisting with this annual project.



The Living Flame of the Sanctuary Light
In Memory of Joseph Maselli

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Randall Cashio; Mary Ann Ciravolo; Tony Clesi; Colleen Collet; L Darcy; R.J. DeBlanc; R.F. DeBlanc; Al Duroncelet; Bryan Evans; Mimi Finley; John Fulcher; Marie Gattuso; A.P. Gaudet, Jr.; Bob Held; Howard Henriques; Milton J. Hock, Jr.; Karen Ibraheim; Roquey Jobes; Joan Kimball; Belinda Lazaro; Stephen Losee; Mary A. McKay; Sally Ann Main; Maudie Megeson; Lucille Ogden; Beverly Orillion; Karen Paprocki; J.Van Provosty; Tom Roach; Elisabeth Robert; M. Schuss; Joseph M. Sonne; Pierre Stouse; Stephanie Summers

SECURITY PROVIDED AT ALL EVENING SERVICES

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

NATIONS WILL COME TO YOUR LIGHT

What "stirring" readings we hear in the Epiphany liturgy! Consider the scene from Isaiah's prophecy (60:1-6). Gentiles come from distant places, attracted by the splendor of Jerusalem, bringing gifts and tenderly carrying the sons and daughters of the Holy City! Though darkness may have surrounded the people, the glory of the Lord allows the light to burst forth and shine like a bright new dawn. What a fitting way to describe what we have just celebrated at Christmas!

Matthew's Gospel story of the magi [2:1-12] reveals to us the inevitable struggle that God's manifestation in Christ implies for the world. If we read the story carefully, we realize that far from being a children's tale, it is a tragic adult story. The battle lines are drawn and the forces are being marshaled. A child is born at the same time as a death-dealing power rules. Jesus was a threat to Herod and to them: to the throne of one, to the religious empire of the others.

At home in their distant, foreign lands, the magi had all the comfort of princely living, but something was missing -- they were restless and unsatisfied. They were willing to risk everything to find the reality their vision promised. Unlike the poor shepherds, the magi had to travel a long road; they had to face adversity to reach their goal. The shepherds also knew adversity, and it had prepared them to accept the angels' message. But once they overcame their fright, they simply "crossed over to Bethlehem" to meet the Christ Child.

The magi, on the other hand, had a much more difficult journey to Bethlehem. It was anything but a romantic, sentimental pilgrimage that we often see in our manger scenes! The magi were not just holy visionaries or whimsical religious figures; they were willing to wager their money, their time and their energy, and perhaps even their lives to seek out someone who would bring true peace.

The magi were not completely lost upon their arrival in Jerusalem -- the city did not stop their pilgrimage. In fact, in Jerusalem, they were redirected to Bethlehem. These men of the East, foreigners in every sense of the word, were guided not only by their own wisdom and knowledge of the stars, but were aided by the Hebrew Scriptures that now form the Old Testament. The meaning of this is important -- Christ calls all peoples of all nations, Gentiles as well as Jews, to follow him. We could say that Jerusalem and the Old Testament serve as a new starting point for these Gentile pilgrims on their road to faith in Jesus. The people of the big city, indeed even Herod himself, were instrumental in leading the magi to Christ.

What could this mean for our own pilgrimages to the truth today? More than the obvious fact that the Old Testament must be a central part of our path to Christ, might it not also mean that our own cities, with all of their confusion and ambiguity, might also serve as a starting point for our journey of faith?

At the center of this whole Gospel story of striking contrasts lies a Baby, Jesus of Bethlehem, who is joy. Herod is afraid of this "great joy for all the people." From Matthew's Gospel, we do

not know what happened to the magi when they returned to their native lands, but we can be sure that they were changed men. They discovered in Jerusalem and in Bethlehem that there is no longer a God of this or that country, nor an oracle uttered in some distant place, but a God and Savior who has become flesh and blood for of all humanity. And the Savior is joy.

In the end, the magi went their own way, and because they refused to be seduced by cynicism, because they allowed themselves to be surprised by this great joy, the star to which they had committed themselves appeared again. This is not only the description of the times into which Jesus was born, but also our times. When we have found our lasting joy in the midst of the encircling gloom, cynicism, despair, indifference and meaninglessness, the only thing to do is to kneel and adore.

Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar, bless our hearts and our homes with your peace and humility! When we hear the voices of old kings of death and fear and cynicism, may we have the courage to go our own way ... rejoicing, because we, too, have seen and experienced the glory of the coming of the Lord.

Father Thomas Rosica, CSB

PRAYER FOR THE POPE

O Lord, we are the millions of believers, humbly kneeling at Thy feet and begging Thee to preserve, defend and save the Sovereign Pontiff for many years. He is the Father of the great fellowship of souls and our Father as well. On this day, as on every other day, he is praying for us also, and is offering unto Thee with holy fervor the sacred Victim of love and peace.

Wherefore, O Lord, turn Thyself toward us with eyes of pity; for we are now, as it were, forgetful of ourselves, and are praying above all for him. Do Thou unite our prayers with his and receive them into the bosom of Thine infinite mercy, as a sweet savor of active and fruitful charity, whereby the children are united in the Church to their Father. All that he asks of Thee this day, we too ask it of Thee in union with him.

Whether he weeps or rejoices, whether he hopes or offers himself as a victim of charity for his people, we desire to be united with him; nay more, we desire that the cry of our hearts should be made one with his. Of Thy great mercy grant, O Lord, that not one of us may be far from his mind and his heart in the hour that he prays and offers unto Thee the Sacrifice of Thy blessed Son. At the moment when our venerable High Priest, holding in His hands the very Body of Jesus Christ, shall say to the people over the Chalice of benediction these words: "The peace of the Lord be with you always," grant, O Lord, that Thy sweet peace may come down upon our hearts and upon all the nations with new and manifest power.

Amen