

EPIPHANY



OF THE LORD



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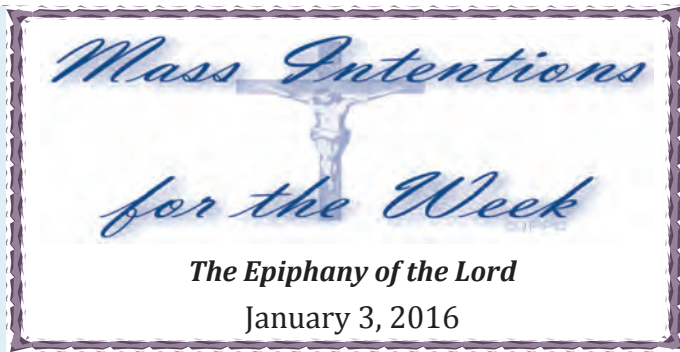
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

The Mass Anticipation for the Epiphany of the Lord

4:00PM Deceased Members of Manocchia & Cardillo Families-Mem

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

The Epiphany of the Lord

- 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
- 9:00AM George Brigido—Memorial
- 10:30AM Franciszek Majewski—Memorial
- 5:00PM Hope Votta—Memorial

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

- 7:30 AM Joe Zaino & 248th Co. B —Memorial

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

St. John Neumann, Bishop

- 7:30 AM John Murphy—7th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Christmas Weekday/St. Andre Bessette, Religious

- 7:30AM Thomas Cavanagh—Memorial

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

Christmas Weekday/St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

- 7:30AM Lillian E. Healey—Birthday Remembrance

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

Christmas Weekday

- 7:30AM Erica Claire Rose—Memorial

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Christmas Weekday

- 8:30AM Special Intention

The Mass of Anticipation for the Baptism of the Lord

- 4:00PM Ellen Simms—6th Anniversary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

The Baptism of the Lord

- 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
- 9:00 AM Charles & Eugina McGowan—Memorial
- 10:30AM Dolly Healey—Memorial
- 5:00PM Adolph Gruber, Jr.—Birthday Remembrance





Dear Parishioners:

A Happy New Year to all! 2016 has arrived and we begin a New Year full of new beginnings and new opportunities. We ask God, Our Merciful Father, to bestow His abundant blessings upon us, our families, our homes and our parish. May 2016 truly be year of Gospel Joy and Mercy for OLM!

Of course the new year brings with it a new legislative session for the RI General Assembly this week. On Tuesday the Assembly begins its new session and I resume my duties as the Director of the RI Catholic Conference and lobbyist for the Diocese of Providence.

Since 2016 is an election year I don't think that many controversial matters will arise during the session. However, there is still a well financed and organized nationwide campaign to legalize physician assisted-suicide. Last year several bills were introduced and committee hearings held on the issue. So we must be vigilant about this issue especially since California recently legalized physician assisted suicide this fall.

We also continue to fight for the defunding of Planned Parenthood, the nations largest provider of abortions. Nationally we've seen this fight in the US Congress and I expect similar efforts to begin once the RI State Budget makes its way through Smith Hill.

These issues along with issues that concern education for Catholic school students,

helping the poor and elderly, immigration reform, criminal justice reform and a host of other issues are undoubtedly to be raised at the RI Statehouse. However, introducing legislation and even getting a hearing are not necessarily indicators that something is likely to become law.

This means that for the next six months I am at the RI Statehouse most afternoons on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Those are the days the General Assembly is in session and the session generally begins around 4:00PM. So I ask for your understanding if I am not readily available some afternoons for the next few months.

I also ask for your prayers as I resume my lobbying duties at the RI Statehouse. The voice of the Catholic Church in the public square is truly needed to secure justice, protect human life and dignity and serve the common good of our state. I like to say that I lobby for the "virtues" while the highly paid lobbyists lobby for the many legal "vices" like gambling, alcohol and tobacco!

As the new legislative session begins, perhaps we and our elected officials might reflect upon the wisdom of Pope Francis once again. In his address to the Joint Session of the US Congress this past September, he said:

"Each son or daughter of a given country has a mission, a personal and social responsibility. Your own responsibility as members of Congress is to enable this country, by your legislative

activity, to grow as a nation. You are the face of its people, their representatives.

You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good, for this is the chief aim of all politics. A political society endures when it seeks, as a vocation, to satisfy common needs by stimulating the growth of all its members, especially those in situations of greater vulnerability or risk. Legislative activity is always based on care for the people. To this you have been invited, called and convened by those who elected you."

I ask you to please pray for all our elected officials, those you like and voted for, and even those you dislike and voted against! May all elected officials, especially the members of the RI General Assembly, our Governor, and our General Officers, and our Congressional delegation serve with honor, honesty and integrity and may they always serve the common good of our nation and state.

It's also back to class, back to studies and back to learning this week for school students! We wish them a great new year and a renewed effort to strive to be both saints and scholars. I hope there aren't as many snow days for them this year! Welcome back! Happy New Year! Be well. Do good. Go Pats! God Bless.

Father Healey



Dear Fr. Connors: What are the importance of the gold, frankincense, & myrrh?

The Gospel of St. Matthew explains: “[The Magi] saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Mt 2:11).

As recorded in St. Matthew’s Gospel, the three kings or wise men also known as the Magi came to worship the infant Christ. To be very precise the gifts are numbered in the Gospel even though the names of the Magi are not. Tradition calls them Melchior, Caspar, Balthazar. Traditionally they are believed to be buried in the famous cathedral in Cologne, Germany.

As early as the third century the important early church writer Origen explained: “gold, as to a king; myrrh, as to one who was mortal; and incense, as to a God.”

Thus, the three gifts signify three crucial aspects of who Christ is. First, gold is given to a king. The infant Christ comes as king of the universe. He is the promised Messiah for the Jewish people and king of all creation.

Frankincense is used in divine worship, thus signifying that Christ is really God come among us. Just like today when we use incense at Mass it is a sign of worship, that God really will come down from Heaven in the Eucharist.

Finally, myrrh is a burial spice. Myrrh thus indicates that Christ is human, he is mortal and in fact He has come precisely to die on the Cross.

His kingship, his mortality and his divinity are all signified by the gifts brought by the Magi. On the Epiphany we celebrate the manifestation of who Christ really is. God has come among us as a man—a mortal man and a king—who remains the God of Heaven. The very identity of Christ is revealed in the homage and



epiphany

Weekly Collection

December 20, 2015

Weekly.....	\$14,878.50
EFT.....	\$1,927.50
	Total=16,806.00
Outreach.....	\$152.50
Annual (to date).....	\$106,684.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

Thank you for your generous support!

Please note collection results for the week of December 27, 2015 were unavailable due to print deadline

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Week: Building & Grounds Collection



We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of Our Lady of Mercy Parishioner **John J. Leahy III** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated here last week.

May he rest in peace.



Confession Times at OLM

Mondays 6:00—6:45PM

Saturdays 3:00—3:45PM



**NO RE Classes this weekend
All RE Classes resume next weekend**



The OLM Food Pantry is always in need of non-perishable food items. Please leave all donated food items in the box in the vestibule of the Church. Thank you for your generous support. For more information contact Doug Green, OLM Outreach Director at outreach@olmparish.org



- Monday, January 4, 2016! Back to School!!
- Wednesday, January 6, 2016 School Mass at 8:15AM

Welcome back all our OLM school students, staff, faculty and families!

Discover the OLM Advantage
www.olmschool.org



**OLM YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP
Meets this Wednesday, January 6, 2016
5:30PM – 7:00PM**

OLM School Cafeteria

***“Love & Marriage: the Catholic Way”
A Discussion with Fr. Chris Murphy
Chaplain at Bishop Hendricken***

***Lively discussion, learning more about our faith,
and great fellowship for all young families!***

***No need to make supper,
Pizza & refreshments served!!!
Baby-sitting available for all ages
so bring the kids!***

***For more information or to RSVP,
kindly contact Kate Jelinek at
Kate_Jelinek@hotmail.com***



**Sunday
January 3, 2016**

**At 7:15PM in
the OLM School
Cafeteria**

All High School students (Grade 9-12) are most welcome to join us for our next OLM Youth Group meeting.

For more information, please contact OLM Youth Activities Coordinator, Michael LaChimia via email at mlachimia@olmschool.org

***Welcome
2016!***

Epiphany of the Lord

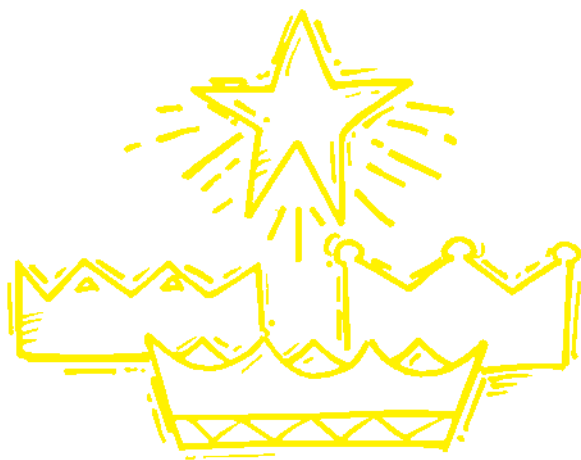


The solemnity of the Epiphany which celebrates the manifestation of God to humanity began in the Eastern Church in the third century.

Called *Theophany*, it was primarily a feast of the baptism of the Lord, but it also incorporated themes of his nativity, the visit of the magi, and the marriage feast at Cana.

The church of Rome adopted this celebration in the fourth century and focused it on the adoration of the magi since it already had a feast of the Lord's nativity in place.

In the United States, we observe the Epiphany on the Sunday between January 2 and 8, but there are places where it is celebrated as a holy day of obligation on the traditional date of January 6.



This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290. San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

Parish Giving

We have partnered with Parish Giving to offer this program to all of our parishioners. **It's simple**, just log on to the Our Lady of Mercy website (www.olmparish.org) and click on the Parish Giving Logo and follow the easy registration instructions. **It's secure**: Parish Giving is Payment Card Industry compliant and uses the strongest Secure Sockets Layering encryption technology available. **It's Convenient**: No more searching for the checkbook or Sunday morning stops at the ATM machine. You can pick the day of the month for the recurring contributions to be processed. **Tax benefits**: You will be able to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year.

- **Parish benefits**: Stable monthly contributions and significant reduction of parish administrative costs. To get started log on to: <http://www.olmparish.org> and click on the Parish Giving Logo and follow the easy registration steps.

ENSURE YOUR WEEKLY SUPPORT OF OLM PARISH WHILE AWAY ON VACATION or WHILE IN FLORIDA!

WE HAVE COME
TO WORSHIP HIM.

Matthew 2:2





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