



## **PARISH DIRECTORY**

### **PARISH OFFICE**

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pastor@olmparish.org	
Father Shemek Lepak, <i>Associate Pastor</i> .....	884-4968
associatepastor@olmparish.org	
Mrs. Lucy Forloney, <i>Secretary</i> .....	884-4968
parish@olmparish.org	
Mrs. Carolyn MacCrae, <i>Bookkeeper</i> .....	884-4968
bookkeeper@olmparish.org	
Mr. David Cote, <i>Accountant</i> .....	884-4968
bookkeeper@olmparish.org	
Mr. Paul Anderson, <i>Facilities Director</i> .....	884-4968
maintenance@olmparish.org	
St. Patrick's Cemetery Office.....	886-5296
maintenance@olmparish.org	

### **PARISH CONVENTS**

Mercy Sisters Convent.....	884-9292
Filippini Sisters Convent.....	886-4753

### **OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Mrs. Michele St. Jean ( <i>Grades 7-9</i> ).....	884-1061
confirmation@olmparish.org	
Sr. Rose Iapaola, M.P.F. ( <i>Grades 1-6</i> ).....	884-2578
reled@olmparish.org	

### **OFFICE OF OUTREACH**

Mr. Douglas Green.....	884-4410
outreach@olmparish.org	

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Bro. Roger Chingas, F.S.C.....	884-4968
music@olmparish.org	

### **OLM SCHOOL**

Main Office.....	884-1618
secretary@olmschool.org	
Extended Day Program.....	886-0742
New Discoveries Pre-School.....	885-0776



### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 5**

*Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord*  
4:00 PM Barbara Daniels—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 6**

*The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord*  
7:30 AM For All Parishioners  
9:00 AM Thomas Cavanagh—Memorial  
10:30 AM William Auld—Memorial

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 7**

*Christmas Weekday/St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest*  
7:30 AM Anne Schwer—Memorial

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 8**

*Christmas Weekday*  
7:30 AM Lillian E. Healey—Birthday Remembrance

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9**

*Christmas Weekday*  
7:30 AM Florence Burns—Memorial

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 10**

*Christmas Weekday*  
7:30 AM John Healey Duffy, Jr.—Memorial

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 11**

*Christmas Weekday*  
7:30 AM James V. Lentino—Birthday Remembrance

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 12**

*Christmas Weekday*  
8:30 AM Gladys Fogg—2nd Anniversary  
*Vigil of the Baptism of the Lord*  
4:00PM Ellen Simms—Memorial Mass

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 13**

*The Baptism of the Lord*  
7:30AM Pat Franzone—10th Anniversary  
9:00AM John, Louise & David Kiernan—Memorial  
10:30AM Thomas Asprinio—18th Anniversary





Dear Parishioners:

Happy Feast of the Epiphany! It is hard to believe that the Christmas Season is drawing to an end already. It always seems to pass too quickly and end too swiftly.

For many in our society Christmas seems to end on December 26th when people take down their trees and decorations. The stores put up the Valentine's Day merchandise before the New Year even arrives! For others the Christmas Season ends with the celebration of New Year's Day.

However, in the life of the Church the great and holy Season of Christmas doesn't officially end until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Many think it ends with the Epiphany but we return to the Season of Ordinary Time next week after we celebrate the Lord's Baptism.

We will still be celebrating Christmas at Our Lady of Mercy until Monday, January 14th! So keep those trees and crèches up in your homes as they will remain up in our Church. Keep the lights on the trees outside and continue to wish everyone a "Merry Christmas." For as Yogi Berra once said: "It ain't over til it's over!"

In fact in much of the world, Christmas gifts are not exchanged until the Epiphany. It is a celebration in imitation of the Three Kings bringing their gifts to the Christ Child.

In Spain, the Three Kings stop by the house and fill shoes with candy and goodies to cele-

brate the birth of Christ. So be sure to put your shoes outside the door on Sunday night and maybe the Wise Men will stop by and fill them.

In Germany, they have the wonderful custom of blessing homes on the Epiphany. The head of the household writes above the front door with chalk the following: 20 + C + M + B + 13. This represents the year, 2013, plus the first initial of the Three Kings: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. It also can be read as the first letters of the Latin phrase: *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means "May Christ Bless this House."

If you write this above the door, the Three Kings stop and Christ blesses your home! The following prayer is said by all the families who wish their home to be blessed on the Epiphany:

*God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this home and all who live in it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ who dwells among us. Amen.*

*Loving God, may all who come to our home this year rejoice to find the love of Christ here; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.*

In Rome it is the tradition for the Pope to ordain new bishops on the Epiphany because it is a feast that emphasizes the Church's universality. The

Epiphany marks the day when the infant Christ was recognized by the Magi who were really representatives of the world at large. Usually these new bishops are from around the world and serve in many different countries. Let us pray for these new bishops that as successors of the Apostles they might proclaim the Gospel with zeal, holiness, faith and integrity.

On behalf of Father Shemek and myself, we wish to thank the many parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy who were so thoughtful and generous during this Christmas Season. Your support of our priestly ministry at OLM with so many warm wishes, thoughtful and generous Christmas gifts are truly appreciated.

We are both very grateful to be able to serve such a supportive and welcoming parish as Our Lady of Mercy. The celebration of Christmas at OLM was truly a joyful and joy-filled event for us. Be assured of our continued prayers for you.

As we begin this new year, I pray it may be a new year full of health and happiness but also a year to renew our faith in Christ, deepen our union with His Church, and strengthen our love of God and neighbor. May the generosity and faith of the Three Wise Men lead each of us to wisely follow the light of Christ in all our words and deeds. Happy Epiphany! God Bless.

*Father Healey*

## The Catechism Corner

For many years in the English speaking world the feast of Epiphany has been overshadowed by that of Christmas. But unless we realize the significance of this great day, we see only one side of the mystery of the Incarnation. Now after contemplating the staggering fact that God has become a human child, we turn to look at this mystery from the opposite angle and realize that this seemingly helpless Child is, in fact, the omnipotent God, the King and Ruler of the universe. The feast of Christ's divinity completes the feast of His humanity. We see that whereas Christmas is the family feast of Christianity, Epiphany is the great "world feast of the Catholic Church." Epiphany is a complex feast. Originating in the Eastern Church and formed by the mentality of a people whose thought processes differ sharply from our own, the Epiphany is like a rich Oriental tapestry in which the various themes are woven and interwoven-- now to be seen in their historical setting, again to be viewed from a different vantage point in their deep mystical significance. The Epiphany takes its name from the Greek "epiphania," which denotes the visit of a God to earth. The first idea of the feast is the manifestation of Christ as the Son of God. *"Begotten before the daystar and before all ages, the Lord our Savior is this day made manifest to the world."* The feast unites three events in the life of Christ when His divinity, as it were, shines through His humanity: the adoration of the Magi; the baptism of Christ in the Jordan; and the first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. Moreover, at Epiphany the Church looks forward to the majestic coming of Christ on the "youngest day" when His manifestation as God will be complete. A second important idea in Epiphany is the extension of Christ's kingship to the whole world. The revelation of Christ to the three kings at Bethlehem is a symbol of His revelation to the whole of the Gentile world. Epiphany presents to us the calling of not merely a chosen few, but all nations to Christianity. Closely linked to both these themes of divine manifestation and world kingship is a third idea running through the Epiphany feast: that of light. During Advent, the world was in darkness, and we prayed and waited in the spirit of the Jewish nation which lived in expectation of the Coming Light during thousands of years. At Christmas the Light shone forth, but dimly, seen only by a few around the crib: Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. But at Epiphany the Light bursts forth to all nations and the prophecy is fulfilled: *"The Gentiles shall walk in Thy light, and kings in the brightness of Thy rising."* Learn more by **checking it out** in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* # 527-530



## Weekly Collection

DECEMBER 23, 2012

Weekly.....	\$13,484.28
Christmas.....	\$22,817.00
Annual (to date).....	\$67,762.00

*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 generosity!***



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

### SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Week: Building & Grounds Collection

## THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Monday—7:00PM—OLM School Board Meeting

# EPIPHANY



# OF THE LORD

# Epiphany of the Lord



**T**he 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.*

## A Prayer for the Epiphany



Thou, O Lord, art the Star of truth, that riseth out of Jacob, and the man that springeth from Israel. In the new Star thou showest thyself as God, and lying in the Crib God and Man, we confess thee to be the one Christ. In thy great mercy grant us the grace of seeing thee, and show unto us the radiant sign of thy light, whereby all the darkness of our sins may be put to flight: that so we who now languish with the desire of seeing thee, may be refreshed with the enjoyment of that blissful vision. Amen.

*This prayer was taken from the Mozarabic Breviary.*



# Baptism

**CONGRATUATIONS TO OUR RECENTLY BAPTIZED:**

Matthew Forbes,  
and his parents, Daniel and Stacey



RE Classes Grades 7, 8, & 9 resume on Monday, January 7 & Tuesday, January 8, 2013. RE Classes Grades 1-6, meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4:00PM.

### **Attention Parents of All 8th Grade Students**

All families of current 8th Grade Students, public, private or parochial, who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in October 2013 must attend a **MANDATORY PARENT MEETING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 15TH AT 7:00PM IN THE OLM SCHOOL CAFETERIA.**

One parent representative from each family **MUST** attend. Please note that this is a regular class night for Tuesday RE Classes. Please call or email Mrs. Mickey St. Jean at 884-1061 or [olmreled@cox.net](mailto:olmreled@cox.net) with questions.

### **Retreat on Priesthood**

with Bishop Thomas J. Tobin  
Seminary of Our Lady of Providence  
January 11-12, 2013  
7pm on Friday—6pm on Saturday

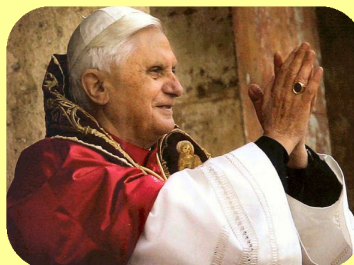
Bishop Tobin invites all high-school seniors, college, and post-college age men who are discerning a call to the priesthood to a "Retreat on Priesthood" at the Seminary of OLP on the weekend of January 11-12, 2013 from 7pm on Friday through 6pm on Saturday. Discussions, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass and fellowship are scheduled. Any young man interested in this quiet and prayerful time of discernment should contact Fr. Healey or Fr. Shemek at 884-4968 or Fr. Carl Fisette, Director of Vocations at 331-1316.



### **A Message from Our Holy Father**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, we joyfully celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, his manifestation to the peoples of the entire world, represented by the Magi who came from the East to render homage to the King of the Jews. Observing the heavenly phenomena, these mysterious personages had seen a new star and, instructed by the ancient prophets as well, they recognized in it the sign of the Messiah's birth, a descendant of David (cf. Mt 2: 1-12). From its initial appearance, therefore, the light of Christ began to attract to himself the people "with whom he is pleased" (Lk 2:14), of every tongue, people and culture. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that moves hearts and minds to seek truth, beauty, justice, peace. It is what the Servant of God John Paul II affirmed in the Encyclical *Fides et Ratio*: "men and women are on a journey of discovery which is humanly unstoppable - a search for the truth and a search for a person to whom they might entrust themselves" (n. 33). The Magi found both of these realities in the Child of Bethlehem.



Men and women of every generation need on their pilgrim journey to be directed: what star can we therefore follow? After coming to rest "over the place where the child was" (Mt 2: 9), the purpose of the star that guided the Magi ended, but its spiritual light is always present in the Word of the Gospel, which is still able today to guide every person to Jesus. This same Word, which is none other than the reflection of Christ, true man and true God, is authoritatively echoed by the Church for every well-disposed heart. The Church too, therefore, carries out the mission of the star for humanity. But something of the sort could be said of each Christian, called to illuminate the path of the brethren by word and example of life. How important it is that we Christians are faithful to our vocation! Every authentic believer is always traveling his own personal itinerary of faith, and at the same time, with the little light that he carries within himself, can and must be a help to those alongside him, and even help the one for whom finding the way that leads to Christ is difficult. —Angelus Message, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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