

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2015

Please pray for those in special need of prayer:

Nga M^cMurray, David Becker, Margaret Robson, Melissa, Peg Torma, Betty Porterfield, Alec Hitt, Travis, Amber Hoyt Phraner, Angel, Carmen, Raymond Bivens, Jr., Helen Pratti, Agnes Henry, Rose Gunderson, Ronnie Hunter, and Robert Bivens.

St. John's Sunday Mass changes this weekend to 11:15 am.

St. John the Baptist Adoration

Adoration at St. John the Baptist will resume in the Chapel on Thursday, January 8, 2015 from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm with Holy Hour at 7:00 pm ... Everyone is welcome to spend some time in reflection & prayer in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament in our Chapel.

Book Group

The Book Group will meet next Monday, January 12, 4 pm at Hilda's Place to discuss our current book, Stitches.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Albany & Associates invite you to participate in our Annual Peace Retreat 2015:

Beyond Iraq, Beyond Afghanistan A Time To Love

Friday, January 16, 7 pm to Saturday, January 17, 4 pm, Carondelet Hospitality Ctr. 385 Watervliet~Shaker Road, Latham

\$100 overnight guests - \$55 commuters

Contact Joanne St. Hilaire, CSJ at 518.389.2666

✦ OFFERINGS ✦

	Offertory	Christmas
St. John:	\$2,259	\$2,718
Holy Family:	224	333
St. Peter:	1,141	2,444

Bishop's Appeal: thebishopsappeal.org

Epiphany House Blessing

*Bless, O Lord God Almighty, this home,
that in it there may be health, purity,
the strength of victory, humility, goodness,
and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law,
the thanksgiving to God the Father and
to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
And may this blessing remain upon this home
and upon all who dwell herein.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

After the prayer of blessing is recited, each room door of the home is inscribed with the initials of the Magi using chalk. (Their initials, C, M, B, can also be interpreted as the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ bless this house".)

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The Magi were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your child follows? Do not let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your child.

Lord Jesus, may this New Year be marked by our profound desire to be reconciled to You in every way. May we remain close to You through our faithfulness to the sacraments. Fill us with an authentic spirit of repentance, and be a witness to our faith.

Gospel Reflection

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do Him homage:

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." [The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.]

We know little about the Magi -- they come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts (the Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus). They represent the Gentiles' search for a savior and because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological (the theological interpretation of the person and work of Christ):

- gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship,
- frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple, and
- myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including His birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His baptism by John the Baptist, and His first miracle at Cana.

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the three wise men bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. Why not be wise and bring your spouse three compliments. Consider your beloved's appearance, a unique talent, and an act of kindness.

Retreats

Dominican Retreat Conference Center 518.393.4169

January 23-25 (January 30-February 1): Women's Retreat ~ "May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith"

~ \$195 Escape from your daily routines for rest, quiet, learning, reflection, inner healing, prayer, ... Enjoy conferences, worship, opportunity for private consultation/companionship with staff as well as free time.

~Father Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ (Sister Marilyn Vassallo, CSJ)

Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

On the ninth day of Christmas, nine ladies danced, but dancing is not only for ladies. Try dancing with your child. It needn't be ballroom --it needn't have partners--it needn't even be good dancing. Share a dance from your childhood with your child. It could be serious or silly: from the waltz to the hokey pokey. Let them share their style of dance with you, if you dare. Moving together can be joyous.

Faith Formation

Confirmation Retreat: Sunday, March 15, 1 to 7 pm at St. Mary's Church, Oneonta

Marriage Moments by Susan Vogt