



## Father Sam's Forum

**W**e really don't know much at all about the Magi, or the Wisemen as some call them. There is nothing in the text of Scripture that says they were kings, nor does it indicate how many there were. Because of other references from the Old Testament, the notion of kings coming to visit the Newborn King of the Jews developed, and because of the three gifts mentioned by Matthew in the gospel, their number seemed to be set at three, one gift per king.

What is important and what we do know about this feast we celebrate today is that it continues the story of Incarnation, God in human flesh, and that its point is to tell us that those who should do not always recognize the Lord, while outsiders do. It's a very common theme for St. Matthew who said of the religious leaders that "tax collectors and prostitutes" were entering the Kingdom before them. The call to conversion was heeded, but not by those who would have been first by virtue of their role in religion.

This speaks volumes to us today. The late Cardinal of Chicago, Joseph Bernardin, made this challenge once: "Will you join me in becoming a living sign of Christ's loving presence so that all...might experience His love?" The word Epiphany means *manifestation*. As the Lord was shown to Gentiles, the Magi, so he has to be shown to the world through us, through our love, our care, our compassion, as the cardinal wrote. It's bringing light to darkness. We witness some religious leaders in every land today who fail to see that we are all children of God.

What about dialogue with those of other faiths. What prejudices do we have about Muslims or Jews? Other faith groups? Do we paint everyone of a particular religion with the same brush? That would be sinful because it is against justice and truth. How can we learn about other faiths? I was a little surprised to hear one of our seventh grade classes discuss this topic a few weeks ago, and the students were in agreement that they wouldn't want to be anything but Catholic. We believe that our Church, descended from Christ through his apostles and their successors, is the real "church" and so contains the truth necessary for salvation. Other faith groups seek the truth and have some share in the truth for certain. When we learn as a world, to work together and for the common good, then we can dialogue peacefully about our differences in doctrine and understanding and come to a better acceptance of how to live with our disagreements.

This is not to say that every religion is equal or that one is as good as another. Parents will sometimes remark that even though their children now practice a different faith they are happy that "at least they are going to church," or "it keeps them on the straight and narrow," or "isn't it just about knowing that there is a God?"

Yes, and no. God revealed Himself to us in the person of Jesus, and Jesus, whom we call the Christ, left a community with the charge to continue his mission. So we believe and teach that our Church goes back to Christ. It wasn't started by someone in the 16th century or 20th century. It came from the special relationship of God with the People of Israel, sealed in the covenant of blood that Jesus shed on the cross. But while we hold this to be true, it still calls us to be respectful and considerate of other faiths and to learn together how to bring the light to the darkness.

### **Mass Intentions: Jan. 4—Jan. 11**

#### **Sunday, January 4—Epiphany of the Lord**

- 7:30a **For the People of the Parish**  
 10:00a **Alfreda O'Toole** (Frances & Jernigan Hall)  
 12:30p **Lillian Rebholz** (Dan & Joyce Quinn)  
 6:00p **Mike & Lallie Lordi** (Children)

#### **Monday, January 5—John Neumann, bishop**

- 8:30a **Tim Ellwood Smith** (Friends)

#### **Tuesday, January 6—Christmas Weekday**

- 6:30a **Roberta Soffa** (Cousin, Joanne)  
 8:30a **Albert & Florence Eustis** (Merridy Greenlief)

#### **Wednesday, January 7—Christmas Weekday**

- 6:30a **Dorothy Trovato** (Clark Family)  
 8:30a **Mickey & Betty Jozwiak**  
 (Mary Beth Bokelberg)

#### **Thursday, January 8—Christmas Weekday**

- 6:30a **Lenore Novak** (Pat Nigro)  
 8:30a **Patrick O'Rourke** (Children)

#### **Friday, January 9—Christmas Weekday**

- 8:30a **Patrick Dolan** (Daughter, Patricia)

#### **Saturday, January 10—Christmas Weekday**

- 8:30a **Michael Schultz** (Mina & Family)  
 5:00p **Margaret Lucas** (Tom & Phyllis Sproull)

#### **Sunday, January 11—Baptism of the Lord**

- 7:30a **Carmen & Margaret Lachina**  
 (Joanne Lachina & Children)  
 10:00a **For the People of the Parish**  
 12:30p **Mildred Kampert** (Husband, Philip)  
 6:00p **John Krapp** (M/M Richard Schlieper)

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for Donald E. Huffner, Sr., requested by Nancy, and the Bread and Wine are in memory of Bob & Rose Fonzo, requested by M/M Frank Meola.*



## Pastoral Staff

### Lay Ecclesial Ministers

Michael Benya, Business & Facilities Manager—Ext. 201  
 Gregory Fincham, Director of Music & Liturgy Ext. 304  
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate—Ext. 206  
 Janet Roberto, Youth Ministry Director—Ext. 234  
 Colette Specia, Director of Religious Education—Ext. 205

### Parish Staff

Mary Ann Bitters, Parish Secretary—Ext. 200  
 Rachele Buynak, Religious Ed. Secretary—Ext. 208  
 Justin Cumer, Maintenance—Ext. 200  
 Shirley Jacobs, Administrative Assistant—Ext. 202  
 Beverly Jurcic, Director  
     St. Benedict's Preschool—724-731-0222  
 Cathy Malencia, Formation Coordinator—Ext. 209  
 Elaine Motyl, Youth Ministry Assistant—Ext. 234  
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance—Ext. 200  
 Kathy Pfeifer, Communications—Ext. 200  
 John Risher, Weekend Maintenance—Ext. 200  
 Kevin Wolford, Maintenance Supervisor—Ext. 200

\* Religious Education/Youth Ministry—724-941-9587

## Serving the Parish Next Weekend: Jan. 10—Jan. 11

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Reisz, Ellsworth **Greeters:** Tatman, Patnesky  
**EMHC:** Vandewater, Sarra, T & D Martin, Specia, Femiani,  
 Greenwald, Howell, LaCamera **Servers:** Curry, Reisz, P & M  
 Ellsworth, Curran

**7:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lector:** Mamros **Greeters:** Black, Kalaski, Henger, Kolling  
**EMHC:** Fagioletti, Klinar, Glod, S & J. Christopher, Petricca,  
 Boston **Servers:** J, J & N Bianco

**10:00am**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** Yurkovich, Morosco **Greeters:** Verlato, Stewart  
**EMHC:** Schultz, Kail, Gaudy, Serrino, Daley, Torres, Glover,  
 Orient, Bayer **Servers:** N & V DeRienzo, Wisniewski, Pampena,  
 Carrington

**12:30pm**— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

**Lector:** Tallon **Greeters:** Fink, Ragan **EMHC:** Capozza,  
 Oldaker, Ruggieri, Smith, Huffner, L & K Newmaster **Servers:**  
 Tallon, F & M Meola

**6:00pm**— Fr. Esposito

**Lector:** Rovito, Flanigan **EMHC:** G & T Mauro, Phelan, M  
 Locke **Servers:** Pfeifer, Maher

### Readings for the Week of January 4

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a,5-6/Mt 2:1-12  
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17,23-25  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22a  
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30  
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4,6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11

## Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them...

Please remember in your prayers **Theodore Homol**, father of our parishioner Elaine Dolcich, who died recently. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## Eucharistic Adoration

This week is our monthly 24-hour adoration, beginning Thursday at 4:00pm and concluding on Friday at 4:00pm.

The Holy Eucharist will also be exposed in the chapel following the 8:30am Mass on Saturday, January 17, until 4:00pm. All members of the parish are invited to spend some time with the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Because this is the weekend before the March for Life, everyone is encouraged to pray for the success of the March and respect for all human life.

## Epiphany Blessing of Homes

Everyone is encouraged to take home the packets of chalk and incense to bless their homes in the new year.

*On the Epiphany of Our Lord, family and friends gather at the main entrances to homes and ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live or visit there.*

Reader: Peace be to this house and to all who enter here. As it reminds us in Proverbs: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

Let us pray: Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus, so enable those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*Using chalk people are invited to inscribe the horizontal frame above the door with the inscription 20 + C + M + B + 09. The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the "three kings" -- Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar. Some also suggest "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means "May Christ bless this dwelling!"*

Let us pray: Sovereign God, we pray that you will bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction. We ask that all who pass through our home this year may discover what the Magi discovered, the King of Kings. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, remember your children and teach us to pray:  
Our Father...

*People may make the sign of the cross.*

Reader: May the Lord watch + over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.



## March For Life

The annual March for Life will be held on **Thursday, January 22**, in Washington, DC St. Benedict the Abbot will charter two buses. The buses will leave from St. Benedict's at 6:00am. Donuts and beverages will be provided; however, you should bring a lunch. There are restrooms on the buses with one comfort stop along the way. The trip to Washington, DC takes about 5 hours.

Each bus has a Captain, who will provide information and leadership throughout the trip. They circulate sign-up sheets for Marchers, give directions to Lobbyists who elect to visit the House and Senate offices, provide instructions for Shrine visitors, collect letters to legislators, and inform marchers about our white crosses.

The buses drop the Marchers off close to the National Mall around 11:00am. Some proceed to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception where those who cannot march may spend several hours visiting and meditating. This is a beautiful Basilica with an 11:00am Mass and many chapels representing the various ethnic groups who make up our country. There is also a cafeteria at the Shrine. At 3:30pm the bus returns to meet the Marchers at Union Station. Others visit the Capitol Buildings to lobby our State Representatives.

The March begins with a rally at the National Mall and continues up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court Building—a distance of about 2 miles. We will carry fifty white crosses and the St. Benedict and Ben's Men banners. The March for Life is a peaceful demonstration packed with thousands of people from all over America, including many teenagers. Let's show our politicians and judges that we detest the killing of defenseless babies.

After the March, we meet at Union Station where the bus will depart at 4:00pm. There is a stop for dinner, at your own expense, on the way home. We will arrive at St Benedict's parking lot at approximately 11:00pm.

The teens ride for free and have an excused absence from school. Absence request forms for students are available from Janet Roberto.

For bus reservations and additional information, call Ken and Theresa Ross at 724-745-064.

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### MARCH FOR LIFE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_ Students? Yes/No

**Cost for the trip is \$15/person, \$30 maximum per family—TEENS ARE FREE!  
Make Checks payable to St. Benedict the Abbot.**

**Return this form with payment to the Parish Office.**

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### Father Sam on Retreat This Week

Fr. Sam will be making his annual canonical retreat—required of every priest—this week, Monday through Friday. Please keep him in your prayers during this time as he will remember all of us and our parish needs. Anyone who needs to talk to him, meet with him, etc. should leave a message at 724.941.9406, ext 204.

*Need confidential assistance? Companionship and understanding for a difficult time? Stephen Ministers are here to help you. Call 724-941-5026.*

**Hotline for Victims of Sexual Abuse  
412-456-3060 or 1-888-808-1235**



## Question of the Week

What are the “precepts” of the Church?”

## Lesson of the Week

### What are the qualifications to be a godparent?

A part of Catholic tradition is to have a godparent for the sacrament of baptism. The Church requires only one godparent and that person is to be a practicing Catholic, which means someone who can be a role model for the person being baptized. This means, specifically, that the person has been fully initiated; that is, baptized, confirmed, and has received the Eucharist. It also means the person is not under any canonical impediment which would result from not marrying validly in the Church or according to the policies of the Church for marriage in another faith. Someone, for example, who has gone through the pre-marriage preparation and received permission from the bishop to marry their Baptist fiancé in a Baptist church is considered married validly and according to the Church’s teaching. Someone who has married in another faith without the required instruction and permission is not. A Catholic who has married civilly cannot act as a godparent nor can a Catholic who has remarried after a divorce without an annulment. It also would seem that if someone does not attend Mass regularly or follow the precepts of the Church that he or she is not capable of fulfilling the role of godparent because the model for Catholic life is absent. If a couple wishes to have a Christian witness in addition to a Catholic godparent, that is allowed. However, the witness has to be baptized and should be active in his or her own congregation. The same requirements for a godparent hold true for the sponsor at confirmation. It would be a good idea for anyone not married validly who hopes to act in this role someday to attend to the details of validating their marriage. Just call one of the priests.

## Wine & Prime Thank You

Ben’s Men would like to thank all those who made Wine and Prime a great success. A special thanks to Fr. Sam, Fr. Michael, Ben’s Barbecuers, the decorating and set-up committees, event captains, our Bucket Brigade, the Chuck Stewart Trio, and our cheerful Youth Ministry Teens for their outstanding efforts before, during, and after the event.

Allison Crawford  
Natalie Toscano  
Kelsey Munsick

Theresa Perenteau  
Danielle Dolcich  
Brianna Kilberg

Happy New Year!

## Christmas Flower Donations In Memory of...

**McGovern, Meehan, Poteray & Frantz Families** by M/M John McGovern  
**Norman & Kim Mertens and Alma & Tim Brunatti** by Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Mertens  
**Mary Chalfa Yatchum** by Joseph Yatchum  
**Salvatore & Margaret DiMasi Esposito, Patsy & Jennie DiMasi, and Theresa Fiorante** by Fr. Sam Esposito  
**Harry W. Buzzato** by M/M Scott Morgan  
**Leon & Helen Christ and Lee Koletar** by Loretta Christ  
**William P. Kohne, Sr. & M/M John Angelo** by Mrs. William Kohne  
**Betty Slomiany** by M/M Paul Slomiany  
**Deceased Members of the Pfeifer & Volanski Families** by M/M Steve Pfeifer  
**Stephen & Julia Onderko** by Ondrea Barnes  
**James & Gertrude Gallagher** by M/M Ted Joseph Gallagher  
**Krall & Patnesky Family Members** by M/M Charles Patnesky  
**Deceased Family Members** by M/M Gary McLaughlin  
**Coletta Saternos & Lowry Stoops, Jr.** by M/M Lowry Stoops  
**Leo Kaylor** by Wife and Son  
**Souls in Purgatory** by M/M Michael Barry  
**Nora Gabler** by Rosemarie Evans  
**George & Edythe Johnson and Eugene & Rosalie Mauro** by M/M Eugene Mauro  
**Family** by Elsie Siget  
**Deceased Rockacy & Podlesnik Family Members** by M/M Eugene Rockacy  
**Phil Niederberger & Shoemaker Family** by M/M Oliver Shoemaker  
**Susan Hajduk** by M/M Brian Mann  
**Paul & Mary Bezilla and Frances Bezilla** by M/M Jeffrey Steich  
**Deceased Members of Stanik & Kocon Families** by M/M John Stanik  
**Bob & Rose Fonzo and Patsy Meola** by M/M Frank Meola  
**Kathryn Lutz** by M/M George Lutz, IV  
**John Barr** by M/M Stephen Banas  
**Linda Thomas & Richard Timney** by M/M John Timney  
**Nello Pellegrini** by M/M Louis Lignelli, Jr.  
**Theresa Dubaniewicz** by M/M Peter Marcanio  
**Owsiany & Kline Families** by Kevin Owsiany  
**Carol Seaman** by Neil Seaman  
**Members of the Friedberg & Husa Families** by M/M Charles Husa  
**Ruth Balash** by M/M Peter Balash  
**M/M Charles Ferris, Vivian Treu & Mike McCarty** by Cheryl Treu  
**Christian Ripepi** by M/M Robert Quinn



## Flower Donations—Cont.

**Grace Diulus & Jovena Mattarock** by Nanette Stevens  
**Deceased Members of the Aites & Salley Families** by M/M Bryan Salley  
**Paul & Helen Kempinski and Babies Adolph** by M/M Carl Adolph  
**M/M Joseph Lucas** by M/M David McConnell  
**Betty Olszewski** by Stanley Olszewski  
**Esther Gardner & Louis Hirtzy** by Barbara Ann Borgfeldt  
**James Goscinski** by M/M Peter Joseph McGuire  
**Mary & Joseph & son Carl Roney** by Ann Long  
**Our Loved Ones** by M/M Gerald Prado  
**Harold Holsinger & James Corrello** by M/M Gregory Holsinger  
**James & Elizabeth McCurry** by M/M Francis McCurry  
**Lackovic & Walters Family** by M/M John Lackovic, Jr.  
**Steve Wojtkowski & Ann & Frank Wojtkowski** by M/M M. Robert Racko  
**Deceased Family Members** by M/M Walter Dryburg, Jr.  
**Robert & Nancy Payton and Terrence J. Murphy, Jr.** by M/M Terrence J. Murphy  
**Helen Broglie** by M/M Les Broglie  
**Charlotte & Stanley Orcutt and Helen & Anthony Thomas** by M/M Dennis Orcutt  
**Deceased Parents** by M/M William J. Schneider  
**Julia Klinghoffer & Esther Bresch, Dr. & Mrs.** Martin Johns  
**The Zuk & Latagliata Families** by M/M Edward Zuk  
**Nick Vitale** by Mary Lois Vitale  
**Michael Liposky** by M/M Jack Proksa  
**Frost & Massart Families** by M/M George Frost  
**Rose & Joseph Stanio & Parents** by Amelia Baumgartner  
**Robert Stemnock** by Elizabeth Stemnock  
**Stephen W. Slafka** by M/M Kenneth Slafka  
**George Robert Onesko** by George Robert Onesko  
**Joseph Syp** by M/M William Wahl  
**M/M William Gaab** by M/M Ronald Gaab  
**Michael C. Adams** by M/M Gregory Adams  
**John Gordon** by M/M Eric Gordon  
**Mary Stepanian** by M/M John Tupta, Jr.  
**George & Mary Roell and Bill & Rita Glivic** by M/M William Glivic  
**Rudolph Carosone** by M/M James Jasek  
**M/M Flagella, James Flagella, Lily Preshok, Theresa Tiano** by M/M John Tiano  
**Helen Abraham** by M/M Charles Abraham  
**Joan & Jeff Martin** by M/M William Patrizio  
**Joe & Lorraine Colosimo** by M/M Gary Colosimo  
**Grandon & Ellen Asay, Sean Mack and Agnes Ehrig** by M/M Robert Asay  
**Francis Milfeit, Sr.** by Francis Milfeit, Jr.  
**Joseph Lickman** by M/M David Wiegmann  
**Zalenski & Pollera Family** by M/M Richard Pollera

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, January 4

*Abbey Coffee House Open after  
7:30 & 10:00 Masses*

8:40a	Religious Education Session	
11:00a	Pre-Baptism Session for Parents (OBH)	
11:10a	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Youth Ministry Teen Night	(PBAC)

### Monday, January 5

7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)

### Tuesday, January 6

9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204-208)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)

### Wednesday, January 7

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:45p	Respect Life Meeting	(208)

### Thursday, January 8

9:30a	WOSB Bridge	(OBH)
12:00p	NA	(206)
4:00p	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	(Chapel)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:00p	Women, Inc.	(210)
7:30p	Boy Scouts Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

### Friday, January 9

9:30a	Prayer and Share Group	(Cry Rm)
4:00p	Closing of Adoration	(Chapel)

### Saturday, January 10

9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

### Sunday, January 11

*Abbey Coffee House Open after  
7:30 & 10:00 Masses*

8:40a	Religious Education Session	
11:10a	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Youth Ministry Teen Night	(PBAC)

**Alexander Wasko** by M/M Larry Schmitt

**Bill Werner** by Marjorie Werner

**Anna & Joseph Hinnebusch** by M/M Paul Hinnebusch

**Our Parents & Grandparents** by M/M Erman Hartmann

**John Sawezyszyn** by Mary Sawezyszyn

**Mildred Hanley & Kathy Cannon** by M/M Richard Wall

**Father William O'Brien & Mitchell Serena** by M/M T. R. McMillan, Jr.

**Angelo J. Noce** by Virginia Noce



## TO GET INVOLVED, CALL...

### **Abbey Coffee House**

Ellie Puskarich  
724-941-4686

### **Altar Servers**

Kathleen Bench  
724-942-0338

### **Ben's Men**

Ernie Sichi  
724-916-4595

### **Boy Scouts**

Kevin Dolinar  
724-942-0388

### **Cantors, Choirs,**

### **Bell Ringers**

Greg Fincham  
724-941-9406

### **Catholic Men's Fellowship**

Ed Corbett  
724-942-6429

### **Catholic Scripture Study**

Tara Curry  
724-942-7539

### **Elijah Cup**

Carlotta Zuback  
724-941-5758

### **Engaged Couples Program IHN**

Ed & Mary Lou Fraticelli  
724-941-4230

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Mary Ann Campbell  
724-941-4297

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Jack McGinnis  
724-941-4213

### **Finance Council**

Jeff Lioon  
724-941-4908

### **Food Bank**

Susan Brooks  
724-942-4287

### **Funeral Repast**

Mary Kay Schaner  
724-941-5147

### **Funeral Server**

Dick Gawronski  
724-873-7911

### **Greeters**

Erma Grego  
724-941-6956

Mary Spinabelli

724-942-2478

### **Lectors**

Dawn Pustay  
724-942-2451

### **Library**

Ellen Mavrich  
724-941-2446

### **Liturgical Environment**

Emma Diamond  
724-941-8315

### **Ministry to the Sick**

Barb Scheuering  
724-941-9104

### **MOMS**

Kathleen Chaudhari  
724-941-8546

### **Pastoral Council**

Amy Schmidt  
724-942-0338

### **Respect Life**

Beth Quinn  
724-942-1057

### **Stephen Ministry**

Jay Jarrell  
724-941-5026

### **St. Benedict Gardeners**

Linda Maydak  
724-941-3123

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

Please call parish office  
724-941-9406

### **Ushers**

Don Ligman  
724-941-5938

### **Vocations Council**

Bill Barker  
724-941-1359

### **Wedding Coordinators**

Lois McCloskey  
724-941-6879

### **Women of St. Benedict**

Nancy Huffner  
724-941-6805