

## The Epiphany of the Lord

**January 8, 2017**

**Saturday, January 7**

4:30PM Camaioni Family

**Sunday, January 8**

7:30AM Philomena D'Orazio

Joseph Baranowski

9:30AM Joseph Fritz

Doris Leister

11:30AM William A. & Betty Moore

**Monday, January 9**

8:15AM Roseann M. McCormick

**Tuesday, January 10**

8:15AM J. S. Felix

**Wednesday, January 11**

8:15AM Clarence Swire

**Thursday, January 12**

8:15AM Mary Quinn DeLaya

**Friday, January 13**

8:15AM Mary Ann Messere

**Saturday, January 14**

4:30PM Edward Drab Sr.

**Sunday, January 15**

7:30AM Joseph Pierce

9:30AM Angelina D'Orazio

Dorothy D'Annunzio (25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

11:30AM Teresa Flocco



Tom Tone, David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, Sophie Grabowski, Msgr. Robert Grudowski, Anthony Bonanno, Joanne Toth, Theresa Lenczewski, Luke

Birkhead, Erik Kozlowski, Marlene Salkowski, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszcak, Patrick Kelly, Sean McGonagle, Mary Pierce, Brian Dunlevy, Sr. Jean Streibig, Stephanie Hathaway, Charles Streibig, Kylie Reiff, Nikki Dolan, Joseph Rozecki, Betty DiCola, Shawn Gallen, Eduardo Gloria, Molly Glick, Deb Smith, Ann Campbell, Francina Capolingua, Cathy Pierlott, Lynn Bowman, James Sousa, James Gauger, Emilia Bello Jones, Rita VanBuskirk, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Mike Ancin, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Ann Greco, Jessica Jara, Leanne Purcell, Joe Lotito, Matt McNamee, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath, Carl Pierce, Ursula Kozlowski, Benedetto McDaniels, Kevin Kelly, Emily Armstrong, Charles Lare, Joanne Kalacinski, Mary DiMedio, Sue Stephan, Anna Marie Ferrier, Mary Stoffel, Jeri McClennen, John Boccella, Jim Bokoski, Hans Pawling, Margie Burghart, Jack Susskind, Kristen Lafferty, Thomas Waszena, Debbie Miller Hannon, Barbara

Laranko, Robert Berk, Irene Barnes, Anna Marie Berry, Emma Forlini, Paul & Family, John Dalton, Edward Clinton, Joseph Januzelli, Barbara Clement, John DiDonato, Derek Dean, Baby Noah Marchetti, Richard Wolfrom, Albinia Costello, Peg Schultz, James Simpson, Roseann Sirianni Lare.



*Pray for the deceased:*

**John Tierney**

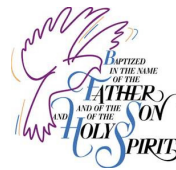
**Elizabeth Bowe**

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:** Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Jonathan Stats, Lt. Col Evah McGinley, The 108<sup>th</sup> Wing McGuire AFB, Matthew Horning, 1st Lt. Stanley J. Reimer III, SR Brett Pellicciotti, Corporal Thomas Mazzochetti, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, Michael Bondra, Senior Airman Jacob Shoemaker.



**CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE**

1/7 4:30 Fr. Ryan  
 1/8 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. McGuinn 11:30 Fr. Heron  
 1/14 4:30 Fr. Heron  
 1/15 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Msgr. Owens 11:30 Fr. McGuinn  
 1/21 4:30 Fr. McGuinn  
 1/22 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Msgr. Owens  
 1/28 4:30 Fr. Ryan  
 1/29 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. McGuinn 11:30 Fr. Heron



**Pre-Jordan Instructions:** The Sacrament of Baptism is administered in church on the first three Sundays of each month following the 11:30 A.M. Mass. In preparation for having a child Baptized, parents are required to attend "Pre-Jordan Instructions." Classes are the 1<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday of each month. **The next class is Tuesday, February 7 at 7PM in church.** You will be required to attend a class if this is the Baptism of your first child. To schedule your Baptism go to [www.stmatthewparish.com](http://www.stmatthewparish.com)

**PRE-CANA:** St. Matthew Parish is offering a one day pre-Cana program on **Saturday, January 21, 2017** from 8:30am – 4 pm followed by Mass. Snow date if necessary is February 4, 2017. Cost \$200 per couple. Couples from all parishes are welcomed. Contact Deacon Mike Kubiak: 610-828-0424 X 5



or [deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net](mailto:deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net)



**St. Matthew's Young Adult Group**

**The Mustard Seeds:** Are you age 22-35 and interested in meeting other Catholics your age? Do you yearn for more community? Are you interested in service work? If you have any questions, feel free to email Tony Moral [tony.moral2@gmail.com](mailto:tony.moral2@gmail.com) or 215-715-2115.

Join our Facebook group The Mustard Seeds for updates!

**First Eucharist/ First Reconciliation**  
**2016-2017**

Please pray for our candidates of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist March 13 and April 29 2017

*Hector Balleisillo*  
*Damaris Bell*  
*Leonardo Bell*  
*Dominic Benevenuti*  
*Robert Blunt*  
*Stephen Bono*  
*Aiden Borusiewicz*  
*Shane Brescia*  
*Colin Calvanese*  
*Chris Ciavarelli*  
*Colin Cleary*  
*Hannah Craytor*  
*Joshua DeLeon*  
*Charles Donati*  
*Harry Finn*  
*Elle Foster*  
*Sam Foster*  
*Mathew Foster*  
*Kyra Gordon*  
*Andrew Graham*  
*Tristian Herbert*  
*Jack Jingoli*  
*Madeline Kavalow-Huie*  
*Anthony Makoid*  
*David Makoid*  
*Devon McLafferty*  
*Payton Morasco*  
*Max Peterson*  
*Alex Pignoli*  
*Cole Reilly*  
*Olivia Ross*

*Nolan Schneider*  
*Brody Stump*  
*Emma VanCoillie*  
*Sophia VanCoillie*  
*Alexandra Warren*  
*Wesley Warren*  
*Sophia Lauren Wittig*

**Religious Education**

**CCD**

**First Penance will be on March 13, 2017 at 6:30PM**

**First Holy Communion will be on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 11AM**

**Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3PM**



takes place every Sunday at the **9:30AM** Mass. All children are invited from the altar to the sacristy to share in a child-like presentation of the Readings of the Day. They return after the Prayer of the Faithful. Parents and older siblings are encouraged to accompany younger children.



**ALTAR SERVER**  
A JOB SO BIG ONLY A KID CAN DO IT

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

Are you 10 years old or older? Do you want to help in the parish? Join the St. Matthew's Altar Servers. If you are interested email

[stmatthewrectory@verizon.net](mailto:stmatthewrectory@verizon.net).

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:**



We most 'warmly' invite you to be a part of this Ministry by meeting with us in the St. Vincent DePaul room **Tuesday, January 10 at 7PM in the SVDP Rm.** If you know of someone who might like to receive a shawl, please let us know-or make one yourself for someone special to you. Contact Alice O'Connor [acaoc@verizon.net](mailto:acaoc@verizon.net)

**ST. MARY'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB:** Meets every Thursday at St. Mary's Church Hall. Three-dollar fee. Play Cards 9:00 AM Snacks 10 AM Lunch 11 AM Play Bingo 12 – 2:30 PM. **Casino Trips:** scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month: **January 10 & February 14.** Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11<sup>th</sup> & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Call Joe (610-825-4596).

## God's Plan for Giving

January 1, 2017

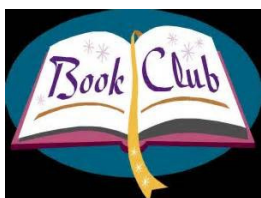
WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFERTORY GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

**\$18,360.00**

Electronic giving \$2,561 + \$15,799 = \$18,360



**ELECTRONIC GIVING: Parish Giving** is convenient for you and there is **NO COST** for you to participate. Contact Deacon Mike Kubiak at [deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net](mailto:deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net) to register [www.parishgiving.org](http://www.parishgiving.org) or [www.stmatthewparish.com](http://www.stmatthewparish.com)



### BOOK CLUB

Fiction with a Christian Twist

Our next gathering is **March 23** in the meeting room off of the Rectory parking area at 7 PM. Stories are selected for themes regarding religious faith and moral

issues. But first of all because they are good stories and worth the time it takes to read them. We meet roughly once a month. Books on our wish list are *The Children Act*, *The anchoress*, *Lying Awake*, *The Painter of Silence*, *The Red Tent*, *Poisonwood Bible*, and *Stones Across the River*. Next week's bulletin will feature the names of the three novels for March, April and May. Now is a good time to join the group. Contact Monsignor Owens to register your interest on line

at [stmat2014@gmail.com](mailto:stmat2014@gmail.com) or by phone (610 – 828 – 0424 extension 112). The discussions are lively and the stories thought-provoking.



### WOMEN'S CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY - Walking with Purpose

Walking with Purpose is a Catholic women's bible study that meets once a week to discuss Scripture as it relates to our everyday lives. If you are at all curious

or just interested in meeting an amazing diverse group of women with one thing in common, the love of Christ, please join us for coffee and lite bites on Wednesday, **January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** in the St. Matthews Parish Center on Fayette Street, Conshohocken. Feel free to come alone or bring a friend, we're a very welcoming group! Questions, please contact Judy [Kukowski at JAKukowski@verizon.net](mailto:Kukowski@verizon.net) or 610-331-2147.



**March for Life:** The annual March For Life in Washington, D.C. is scheduled for Friday, **Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>** Epiphany of Our Lord Church will be providing a bus leaving our parking lot at 6:30 a.m. sharp and returning at approximately 9:00 p.m. Cost per adult is \$20.00. Students \$5.00. To

sign up or if you have any questions, contact Bernie Toth 610-279-2788 or Elaine Thorpe 610-828-6925.



**Please Note:** All Christmas blankets and decorations will be removed from the cemetery on **January 15, 2017**.



### Busy Young Men's Retreat

The Malvern Retreat House is again conducting a 24 hour retreat experience for men 40 years old and under. It will be held **Friday and Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**& 4<sup>th</sup>**, beginning Friday evening and closing with the 4:30 PM Vigil mass on Saturday. Retreat directors will be Monsignor Joseph T Marino, Rector of the retreat house and Bill Donahee, a layman who has worked in the field of evangelization since 1999. In October, 2000, he was commissioned, along with 11 other lay missionaries, by Pope St. John Paul II to "bring Jesus back to your country." He has given hundreds of talks on the Catholic faith to young people throughout the greater Philadelphia area and beyond. He and his wife, Rebecca, live just outside of Philadelphia PA with their four children. The focus of the retreat will be *Encountering the Divine Physician*. The cost of the retreat is \$125, which includes three meals and an overnight stay. To register, please visit [malvernretreat.com/register](http://malvernretreat.com/register) or call 610 – 644 – 0400 for more information.

### Discernment Retreat - January 20 to January 22 Friday (6PM) to Sunday (1PM)

#### Villa Maria House of Studies

Young women (18-35) are invited to join us for this retreat which focuses on the IHM Charism and the importance of listening to God's call and discovering the many ways that God speaks to us. Time will be included for personal and communal prayer as well as the opportunity to interact with the sisters in Formation. (Contact: [ihmvoc@aol.com](mailto:ihmvoc@aol.com) or 610-889-1553)



### The Conshohocken Art League, Mary Wood Park House, 120 E. Fifth Ave. Conshohocken, is forming its 2017

semester of classes as follows:

ADULT DRAWING PAINTING INDEPENDENT

PROJECTS: Tuesday, **February 7**, 9:30 to 11:30 AM

ADULT BASIC DRAWING: Thursday, February 9, 9:30 to 11:30 AM - \$150 for 10 weeks plus \$10 yearly membership fee

YOUTH CLASS – INTRODUCTION TO FINE ART

Ages 9 to 18 (class size limited) - Saturday **February 4**, 10 AM to 12 noon - \$100 for 10 weeks

For all classes, please pre-register at [conshohockenartleague.org](http://conshohockenartleague.org)

You are invited to attend a presentation by artist Stanley Bielen on Sunday, **February 19** at the Mary Wood Park House from 1 to 3 PM. Snow date will be **February 26**.

### Long Term Sub Teaching Position

Merion Mercy Academy, a Catholic independent all girls high school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, has an opening for a long term substitute teaching position in a combined roster of secondary biology and chemistry for the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year. Degree required. Experience and certification preferred. Qualified applicants are asked to email a cover letter and resume by Tuesday, **January 10<sup>th</sup>** to Mary Ann Danovich, Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs, at [madanovich@merion-mercy.com](mailto:madanovich@merion-mercy.com).

## Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection



### **"Balthasar, Gaspar, Melchior"**

The story of the Magi is one of the best known in all of Christian literature. It is filled with mystery and intrigue. These "kings" from the East see a strange star in the sky and decide to follow it. They set out on a journey, not sure of where exactly they were going. But they had this innate curiosity, this inner drive, this desire to find out what the star meant and where it would come to rest.

In many ways this story of the Magi's journey represents our own journeys to discover the truth. Evelyn Waugh describes the Magi as patrons of all late-comers; of all who have a tedious journey to make to the truth; of all who are confused by knowledge and speculation; of all, who through politeness, make themselves partners in guilt; of all who stand in danger because of their talents.

We, like the Magi, make complicated journeys to God. Some begin close to God in families of faith and then drift away through distractions and complexities of life. We lose the light as the Magi did for a while and we get ourselves into dreadful, muddled situations which involve others as well as ourselves. The Magi lost their guiding light and politely, but unwittingly, betrayed Jesus and the Holy Innocents when they went to Herod.

Others are not so fortunate to begin their journey to God within a family of faith. They start out in darkness and stagger about like blind men and women. They have no star to guide them, no one, that is, to show them the way. But sometimes, by God's grace, a stranger might come into their lives and help them recognize something important about themselves - what is best in their lives, self-discovery, a hidden talent. We all must be prepared for such manifestations in our lives - surprise epiphanies that shine light on our darkened lives; where we had been following the false light of our pride and self-righteousness, now, we can follow, with confidence and a sure step, the true light that lightens the path to God.

Whenever we set out on a journey of discovery we run the risk of failure. This risk seems to be a constant companion. It keeps many people at home afraid to venture forth on what could be a most exciting journey of the soul. Many are afraid about what they might discover. They may discover what they do not want to know. We want clear and easy signs, fixed stars, a good reliable map. Sadly, there are many Herods out there who would deceive us, lead us astray, involve us in their wicked, evil schemes.

Yes, the story of the Magi is our story. They are our patrons. We can learn a lot from them about the courage and inner drive necessary to go on a journey of discovery. We will find, as they did, Jesus on the way. This story reveals that all men and women who honestly seek God are acceptable to Him.

## Reflections from my rocking chair

Dear friends,

I imagine that a majority of "New Year's resolutions" have to do with losing weight and exercising more, a worthy project. However, I dare to suggest that THE most important New Year's resolution we can make is to spend more time at prayer. What I am not suggesting is that you say more prayers but that you spend more time with God in prayer. So what am I suggesting? Since God is the author of life and the source of all true love there can be no more important activity than spending time with him. I am grateful of the parable of the widow pounding on the judge's door. She is admired, or at least gets what she wants, because she is persistent.

Why would we need to be encouraged to persevere? Why would someone "give up" on prayer? While it may be true that each person's journey is unique, I can imagine elements of the struggle to pray are common to all of us - in some measure: (1) Sometimes we lose touch with God as our loving Father, who loves us more than we love ourselves. In this case prayer can become stale or rote. (2) Sometimes we stop praying because of a lack of faith - unconvinced that God would want to reveal himself to me in the circumstances of my ordinary life. (3) Sometimes our sinfulness causes us to lose hope - our shame keeps us away even though God would want to be close to us in our sin, as we are. (4) Sometimes our prayer is dry and we derive no good feeling from it. (5) Sometimes we grow weary of prayer because we do not get what we want.

Let's go back to basics! What God has to say to me is more important than what I say to God? What is important, however, is that you first invite God to enter your life's daily occurrences. At this point we strive to be simply receptive. Saint Teresa of Avila was asked to describe what her meditation was like. She said simply, "I look at him and he looks at me." No need for words. Saint Therese of Lisieux used her imagination and meditation picturing a field of flowers, some great and noble like roses and others simply sunflowers like herself, small and seemingly unimportant. I most like the description of meditative prayer described by Saint Clare of Assisi (Francis' dear friend),

His affection holds one fast  
His contemplation is like the breath of new life  
His kindness fills one to the brim  
His sweetness is in overflowing measure  
The recollection of him shines with a soft light His  
fragrance revives the dead.

In addition to the prayers you say, try Christian meditation: sit still for a few moments and breathe deeply to relax, slowly read Saint Clare's comment over and over until you are moved to think about what it means to you, allow your thoughts to become a prayer, and, finally, enjoy His Peace that will sometimes settle down upon you. Blessings,

Msgr. Tom Owens ([stmatt2014@gmail.com](mailto:stmatt2014@gmail.com))



Wise men still seek Him!

END OF BULLETIN