



BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA

A Call to Holiness

Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Parish

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they 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 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



EUCARISTIC LITURGIES

Mon.-Fri.:	6:30am SM	9:00am SA
Sat.:	9:00am SA	4:00pm SA (Anticipated)
Sun.:	7:30am SM	9:00am SA
	10:30am SM	12:00pm SM (Español)
Holy Days:	6:30am SM	9:00am SA 7:00pm SA

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Philip Sanders	Pastor
Rev. Johan Betancourt	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Msgr. Joseph Reilly	Weekend Associate

Philomena Coco
Patrick Costello
Vivian Crespo
Janet Cymbor
Frank Fano
Paige Porter
Marge Russo
Hector Soto
Regina Terriogo

Faith Formation
Parish Trustee
Office Manager
Parish Trustee
Music Director
Cantor
Choir Director
Maintenance
Bookkeeper

PARISH OFFICE

326 Avenue C
Bayonne, NJ 07002
Mon. - Fri.: 9:30 - 6:00
Sat. - Sun.: Closed
(201) 437-4090
(201) 437-0388 (fax)
secretary@BMTParish.org
Website: BMTParish.org
Facebook: [BMTParish](#)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

All Saints Catholic Academy
19 West 13th Street
Bayonne, NJ 07002
(201) 443-8384
Sr. Rita Marie Fritzen, OSF
Principal
rfritzen@ascabayonne.org

WORSHIP SITES

St. Mary, Star of the Sea
326 Avenue C

St. Andrew the Apostle
2 West 4th Street

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 2:00pm - 3:00pm,
St. Mary Lower Church or by appointment

BAPTISM

Children of registered parishioners are eligible for the Sacrament of Baptism which is normally celebrated on the 2nd Saturday of the month (alternating between St. Mary and St. Andrew) except during the Lenten season. Contact the parish office via email at baptism@BMTParish.org.

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK

Any parishioner unable to attend Mass may contact the rectory to make arrangements to receive the Eucharist at home.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be started at least one year in advance for the necessary preparation. Parish registration of either the bride or groom is required.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration is required of all who wish to consider themselves to be parishioners at Bl. Miriam Theresa Demjanovich Parish. *Census forms and collection envelopes are available at the office.*

DEVOTIONS

St. Jude Novena:
Mondays after 6:30 Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:
Tuesdays after 9:00 Mass

Morning Prayer:
Weekdays after 6:30 Mass
Weekdays before 9:00 Mass

Communal Rosary:
Weekdays after 9:00 Mass

1st Saturday Eucharistic Adoration
3:00 - 4:00 (St. Andrew)
Benediction following 4:00 Mass

January 3, 2021

Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Parish



Sat., Jan. 2 Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

4:00 pm (St. Andrew) Carrie and John Eichler

Sun., Jan. 3 The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 am (St. Mary) *Pro Populo*

9:00 am (St. Andrew) William Velazquez

10:30 am (St. Mary) Antonio and Stella Prosapio

12:00 pm (St. Mary) Norma Cortes

Mon., Jan. 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

6:30 am (St. Mary) Mae Cowan

9:00 am (St. Andrew) Terry Smith

Tue., Jan. 5 St. John Neumann

6:30 am (St. Mary) Joseph Oliveto

9:00 am (St. Andrew) Mary Beth and Mary Spuma

Wed., Jan. 6 St. André Bessette

6:30 am (St. Mary) Anthony Zalewski

9:00 am (St. Andrew) Robert Moloney

Thu., Jan. 7 St. Raymond of Peñafort

6:30 am (St. Mary) Angie Labate

9:00 am (St. Andrew) Patrick and Anne Boyle

Fri., Jan. 8 Weekday of Christmas

6:30 am (St. Mary) Robert Romano

9:00 am (St. Andrew) Edward Rydwin

Sat., Jan. 9 Weekday of Christmas

9:00 am (St. Andrew) Helen Claire Kontje

4:00 pm (St. Andrew) Judith O'Donnell Lee

Sun., Jan. 10 The Baptism of the Lord

7:30 am (St. Mary) Steve Kenner

9:00 am (St. Andrew) *Pro Populo*

10:30 am (St. Mary) Helena Rutkowska and Ludwik

Rutkowski

12:00 pm (St. Mary) Dionisio Cortes

Memorials

St. Andrew

Sanctuary Lamp

Wine and Hosts

St. Mary

Sanctuary Lamp

Wine and Hosts

Ruth Miller

Joan Incanella

Marybeth Powanda

Jessica Gallagher and Mary Maida

Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen

Lou, Helen, Louise, and Ronald Ambrosio; Lois Biondi; John Buzinkai; Jimmy, Shaun, and Patty Lucia



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prayer Requests

For those serving in the Military:

Joseph Barbarise, Vincent Barbarise, Brandon Materowski, Joseph Materowski, Brandon Picerno, Shawn Redondo, Jonathan Weeks

For those who are sick and suffering:

Claudia Adamson, Gladys Astudillo, Bernadette Burke, Hector Brito, Victoria Cabello, Raymond Calvo, Kathleen Feeley, Irma Fernandez, Maria Fernandez, John Fitzpatrick, Irma Gomez, Marilyn Joyce Hager, Nancy Herrera, Vanessa Hlavaty, Barbara Kelly, Anthony Kotowski, Celestina Mercedes, Michael Morris, Rita Paragone, Eridania Perez, Jimmy Pullaro, Barbara Rotunno, Lorraine Seidel, Mitchell Seidel, Theresa Sullivan, Veronica Tirado, Gregory Trapp, Humberto Valdez, Diana Van Allen, John Wilson, Ezequiel Yost

For the Recently Deceased:

Lucy DiDomenico

Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael Archangel, defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness

and snares of the devil;

may God rebuke him, we humbly pray

and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host,

by the power of God,

cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits

who wander about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Faith Giving

As always, thank you for your continued generous support of the Parish, especially during these difficult and uncertain times!

December 20: Sunday Collection

\$6021

The Epiphany of the Lord

Notes from the Pastor

Last month, Pope Francis declared a Year of St. Joseph running from December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021. This special year coincides with the 150th Anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. This Wednesday, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. André Bessette, the great Saint of Canada who tirelessly promoted devotion to St. Joseph.

André was born in 1845 and had a difficult childhood. He suffered ill health and was orphaned by the time he was 12 years old. His parish priest recognized his tremendous piety and sent him to the Holy Cross Fathers in Montreal. They originally rejected him but the local bishop intervened. Before the Second Vatican Council, a young man would need to pass through a number of different minor orders on the way to priestly ordination. The first of the minor orders was Porter. The Porter was required to greet all those who called at the seminary and ring the bell calling his confrères to the Divine Office. While Porter was a lowly assignment, Brother André embraced it with great fervor and greeted each visitor with tremendous kindness for more than 40 years. Without fail, Br. André recommended devotion to St. Joseph. As time passed, many miracles were performed drawing attention to Br. André but he always insisted that it was St. Joseph who was responsible for obtaining the miracles.

As the years passed, Br. André desired to build a chapel in honor of St. Joseph. During his lifetime, the chapel was expanded so as to accommodate the crowds who came to ask for St. Joseph's intercession. Today, that little chapel has become the great Shrine of St. Joseph that overlooks the city of Montreal. Br. André was such a beloved citizen of Montreal that nearly a million people came to pay their respects when he passed in 1937. Br. André was canonized in 2010.

Since coming to Bayonne, I have visited the Shrine twice. The first time was the year we had nearly 3 feet of snow at the end of January. I decided to look at the weather map to see where I could go for a few days to escape the snow. It turned out that Montreal was snow-free. Who would have thought? But I digress. What I found was a massive, beautiful Shrine where devotion to St. Joseph is palpable. In the crypt, where St. André is buried, the walls are covered with crutches and little plaques presented to St. Joseph in gratitude for the miracles received. St. Joseph was certainly a humble man, a man who never sought attention for himself. Perhaps that's why he seems to be a Saint in the Shadows. In the same way, St. André was humble and never sought attention for himself. One thing is clear, however, St. Joseph is a powerful intercessor for those who seek his help. May St. Joseph take our cares to the Holy Throne of God this year and obtain for us the many graces we need in our lives!

Welcome!

Vincent Michael Manno, Jr., son of Vincent and Desiree Manno, became an adopted son of God when he was Baptized at St. Andrew's on Saturday, December 19.

What Catholics Believe

Question: What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

Answer: The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scours and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have. The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace – or for something less – depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.

The Lighter Side

A doctor, a nurse, and the top executive of an HMO died and were in line together at the pearly gates. St. Peter asked each one what good they had done in their lives.

The doctor said, "I have devoted my life to the sick and needy and have had a part in caring for and healing thousands of people."

St. Peter replied, "That's great. Go ahead into heaven."

The nurse chimed in, "I have supported the doctor and his patients my entire life as an adult, have taken time to explain things to patients, and have helped them lead healthy lives."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter. "Please proceed in with the doctor."

Then the executive said, "I was the president of a very large health maintenance organization. I was responsible for the healthcare of millions of people all over the country."

St. Peter says, "Oh, I see. Please go on in ... but you can only stay two nights!"

January 3, 2021

Stewardship Corner

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort – rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration. – TEW

Confessions

Now that the weather has gotten too cold to wait outside, Confessions will now be heard in the Lower Church of St. Mary's. Enter from the parking lot and wait in the St. Joseph Room. The time will remain the same, 2:00 - 3:00 pm.

The Practical Side

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?

Bayonne, NJ

ASCA News

All students will participate in virtual classes for the first two weeks of January so as to allow families who traveled over the holidays to quarantine and return to in-person instruction safely. Looking ahead to the rest of the month, we will have progress reports distributed to the students in grades 1 to 8 and kindergarten students will receive their first report card. Graduation pictures for our 8th graders are also on the horizon.

Faith At Home

Formed.org provides the very best of Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help you explore your faith anywhere, even from home! They have movies, children's programs, e-books, and faith formation programs. Spiritual programming is a necessary means for helping us to be faithful disciples. You can sign-up for free on the **Formed.org** website. They have English and Spanish content.

- Go to: www.formed.org
- Click on "Sign up"
- Click on "Sign up as Parishioner"
- Search for BMT Parish using our zip code.
- Once you select BMT Parish, you'll need to provide your Name and email address.

The Week at a Glance

Sun., Jan. 3 Lessons and Carols, 3 pm, St. Mary Church
Wed., Jan. 6 Holy Hour, 7 pm, St. Mary Church

Readings for the Week of January 3, 2021

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

Looking Ahead to Next Week

Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father. He is the light of the nations and Lord of all creation. To Him be all glory and praise!



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