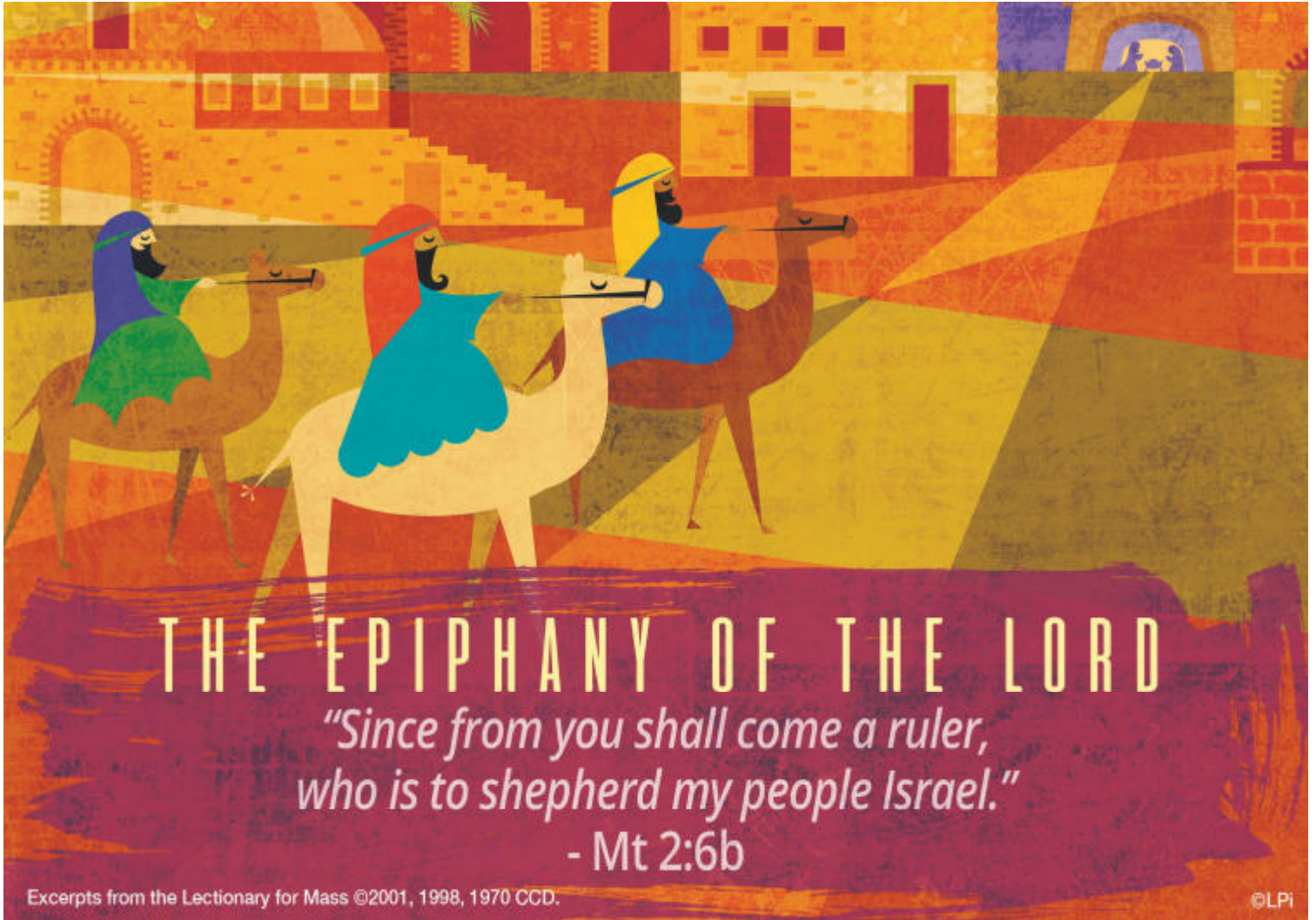




SAINT JOHN FISHER CHURCH

January 2, 2022



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*"Since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

- Mt 2:6b

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

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Mass Schedule

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM
SUNDAY: 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM
WEEKDAYS : Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM
HOLY DAYS: Vigil - 7:00 PM; 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM
HOLIDAYS: 9:00 AM
CONFESSION: Sat. 3:00-3:45 PM or by appointment

Business Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Closed weekdays for lunch between Noon and 1:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Robert B. McDermott (ext. 3)
Permanent Deacon: Rev. Mr. Daniel Bingnear
Weekend Assistant: Rev. Francis X. Devlin, O.S.A.
Business Manager: Mr. Daniel Kinnik (ext. 4)
Director of Religious Education & Music Ministry:
Mrs. Kathleen Aaronson (ext. 5)
PREP Secretary: Mrs. Patricia Donnelly (ext. 8)
Parish Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Regina Robinson (ext. 6)
Communications Secretary: (ext. 2)
Maintenance: Mr. Bill Casey (ext. 7)

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. John Sibel

4225 CHICHESTER AVENUE • BOOTHWYN, PA 19061

Website: stjohnfisherchurch.com Facebook: Saint John Fisher Phone: (610) 485-0441 E-mail: contact@sjf71.org

**TODAY IS JANUARY 2,
FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
THE GOSPEL IS MATTHEW 2:1-12**

Think about it: “Then Herod sent the magi to Bethlehem, saying, Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” (Matthew 2:8)

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important. We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

ADULTS: When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

YOUTH: When have you been jealous because something good happened to another person instead of you? What is the problem with feeling that way?

THANK YOU!

To the Knights of Columbus for their generous donation of the book, “Life is Messy” by Matthew Kelly, that was handed out at Christmas. We thank you for all of your dedication, hard work and thoughtfulness during the year!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6 // Eph 3:2-3a // 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

RESTORE: A WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

To be held on January 21-23, 2022 at St. Mary of Providence Center in Elverson, PA. God longs for us to acknowledge that we are his beloved daughters, carefully created, infinitely loved and valued beyond measure. We often struggle to experience the truth of who we are. Our pain and woundedness distorts the lens through which we look at ourselves and others. Come... and let Him restore you!

Retreat experiences include: small groups, individual healing prayer, Mass and Adoration. Retreat leaders are Father Stephen DeLacy and De Yarrison of You Are Made New Ministry. Find the full schedule and register:

<https://youaremadenew.com/restore-womens-retreat>.

TRIP TO THE CATSKILLS

It is not too early to think vacation. Are you looking to get away for a few relaxing days?

Why not join us on a trip to Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center in the Catskills. Dates are June 21 to 24, 2022. Trip includes 3 full breakfast and dinners and 2 lite fare lunches, a complete schedule of daytime activities and nightly shows and entertainment. Cost is \$625 for a double, \$585 for a triple and \$751 for a single. If interested please contact Barbara Tarone at 610-485-6067. Flyers will be available in the Church Hall and the Parish Office. Deposit check made payable to St. John Fisher Church. Hope you can join us!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Holy Family Alumni Award recipients:

Young Alumni Colleen Betzel Memorial Award: Tom Piraino Jr.

Holy Family Distinguished Alumni Award: Father Kevin Gallagher

Holy Family Leadership Award: Jackie Denning

Presenting the Awards at the Holy Family Winter Ball on December 4, 2021 was Board Chair, Bill DeFeo & Award Committee Chair, Maria Deysher. Holy Family Regional Catholic School is located in Aston, PA & serves parishioners from St. John Fisher, St. Joseph, Our Lady of Charity & St. Francis Parishes.

Photo left to right: Maria Deysher, Tom Piraino Jr., Father Kevin Gallagher, Jackie Denning, and Bill DeFeo.



Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for (2) Catechists who are receiving special awards next Sunday, January 9th, at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.

Meghan Yakas– 5 yrs– St. John Neumann Award
Joyce McQuaid– 25 yrs– St. Charles Borromeo Award

We thank them for all of their dedication and love for our children in helping them learn about the Catholic faith!

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed for New Year's on:
Monday, January 3, 2022.

WITH HUMBLE THANKS...

We are blessed to serve & lead the parishioners of St. John Fisher. Your example of charity and devotion continue to inspire each of us in our vocation. Thank you for your witness of faith in family life. We received many warm expressions for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, & we want to thank you for your thoughtfulness. Thanks, too for the delicious cookies, wonderful treats and other gifts of kindness during the Christmas season. Many blessings in the New Year! -- Fr. Robert McDermott, Fr. Francis Devlin, OSA, & Deacon Daniel Bingnear.

Caring for Friends Meals

Please consider donating your healthy and nutritious leftover meals to those in the parish and community that may not have enough to eat. Food containers can be found next to the meals refrigerator located in the Parish Center. Thank you for your generous donations.

FINANCIAL OFFERING: STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

DECEMBER 12, 2021

Total: \$ 12,743.00
Number # 320

Your generous & consistent support of the parish helps us "keep the lights on" to continue our mission of spreading the Gospel. Thanks for your faith, your prayers and your financial support!

2022 CALENDARS

The 2022 St. John Fisher wall calendar was distributed in church the weekend of December 19. Many thanks to the Pagano Funeral Home for providing the calendars this year.



BREAKFAST BAGS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

PREP is kicking off 2022 with its "Breakfast Bag" service project. Just fill a brown lunch bag with the following: a 100% juice bag/box, granola bar, cheese or peanut butter crackers, applesauce, raisins or fruit cup, or any other non-perishable breakfast food. You can also include a thoughtful note for the recipient or decorate the brown bag if you want. These bags are shared with children in families who are struggling to put food on the table. This is a great family project! It will run through January 31. Please contact Kathy Aaronson at 610-485-0441, ext. 5, if you have any questions.



IN APPRECIATION

Christmas is a time to be thankful to our God for sharing the gift of His Son with us, and to the many people who share their time, talent, and treasure with our parish. We truly appreciate all that you do! Thank you...

- ◆ To all who helped decorate the church and parish grounds for Advent and Christmas.
- ◆ To all who donated to the Christmas flower fund so we could fill the church with fresh greenery, poinsettias, and floral arrangements.
- ◆ To those who regularly support our food drives, Caring for Friends, and to the Knights of Columbus for delivering food to our neighbors in need.
- ◆ To all who thoughtfully shopped for gifts suggested through the Giving Tree, and those who helped deliver them to the agencies we support.
- ◆ To the Adult, Contemporary and Youth choirs, who dedicated their time to provide us with beautiful music during the Christmas season, and in particular to the musicians and cantors.
- ◆ To you, for your faithful financial support throughout the year.

NEWS FROM THE PREP OFFICE

Classes will resume on January 4,5. Enjoy the break!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

RETREAT—The students who will be celebrating First Reconciliation on January 24 are required to attend their Reconciliation Preparation Retreat with one of their parents on Monday, January 10 at 7 PM in the church.

REHEARSAL—A rehearsal for the Sacrament of Reconciliation children will be on Sunday, January 16 at 12:30 PM in church. All children receiving the sacrament must be present.

Sacrament of Confirmation

7th Grade Confirmation students will have their Pre-Confirmation Interviews on Thursday, January 6, 2022 . 7th Grade Confirmation candidates will go to Confession on Weds Jan 12th at 6:15pm!

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **Judith Benvenger**
From Marie Davie



UPCOMING MUSIC MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday 1/8	4:00pm	Cantor
Sunday 1/9	8:00am	Instrumental
	9:30am	Adult Choir
	11:30am	Cantor

CHRISTMAS SCENES AT ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH



Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2022

St. John Fisher Parish

Rev. Robert B. McDermott, Pastor

Who needs Jesus?

Many today say that they don't have a need for Jesus. They go to work, have homes, put food on their tables, raise families without His help. In fact, daily activities go on but the world can't really make sense without Him.

Truth. The truth is in Christ, "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). We cannot understand the truth without Him. To make sense of the world, we need Jesus to lead us.

Life. The life we have will eventually end. To keep living, we need Jesus. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father,

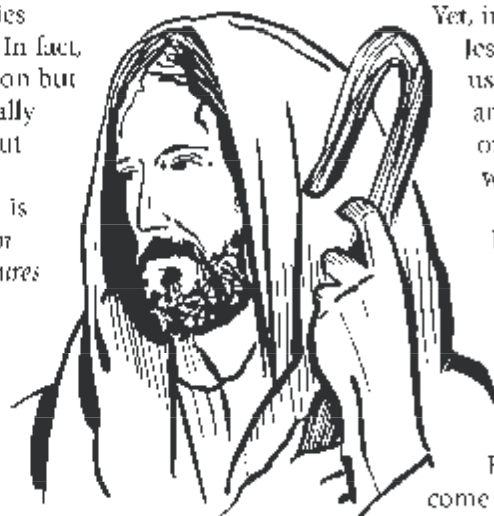
but by me" (John 14:6). Eternal life comes through Him.

Death. None of us escapes death. Yet, in the Resurrection, Jesus defeated death for us. It didn't hold Him and He offers the gift of life to each of us if we live in Him.

Sin. Even the holiest of us sins. Without Jesus, what becomes of us? He "gave himself as a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:6). If we don't accept

His price, our sins come back to us for eternity.

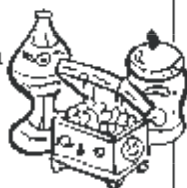
Suffering. Modern science can alleviate but not eliminate some of the world's suffering. Jesus provides comfort and healing to those who trust Him and surrender to Him.



One Minute Meditations

Laying our gifts at the feet of the King

The three Wise Men gave Jesus gifts worthy of a king. We can also present Him with our own royal gifts. While ours may not be actual gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we can still give to Him the best we have. Give God the first and the best of what you have and He will give you more than you can imagine in return.



Fall in love with God

From the moment God created you, he has been deeply in love with you. He made you deliberately so he could love you. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5). He waits for you like a parent anticipates the return of a beloved child. Don't let Him wait long.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4-5).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Catholics don't pray to Mary, but instead ask her to pray for us. For example, the Hail Mary prayer asks the Mother of God to stay close to us in prayer.

While we don't

Why do Catholics pray to Mary?

worship Mary, we honor her as Jesus' mother. On the Cross, Jesus gave her to us as our own mother (John 19:27). We can approach her with our needs and concerns and ask her to present them to Her Son. Mary always leads us to Him.



Three tips to boost your prayer

Prayer fuels our spiritual life, but praying effectively can be challenging. Even the saints had dry spells. Among these was the mystic and Carmelite reformer, St. Teresa of Avila. Try these suggestions from her to enliven your prayer:

Become aware of God's presence. It may feel as if God is distant, but He is so close. St. Teresa began by enjoying God's nearness. Know that He is with you and wants your company.

Bring a good book. St. Teresa, who struggled with dryness in prayer, kept a book with her Scripture.



Lives of the Saints, or a book about the Faith can help us focus and spark conversation with Him.

Be honest. It is said that St. Teresa once fell into the mud and told God bluntly, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" God wants to you to share all your experiences with Him - good and bad. Entrust your cares to Him and "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

from Scripture

Luke 4:21-30, God's will is unexpected

In this Gospel, Jesus returns to Nazareth after launching His public ministry. He announced He is the Messiah of Isaiah's prophecy. But then comes a twist: Jesus recounts a time when great prophets were sent to call Israel to repentance and were ignored and persecuted.

The response of faith God was looking for in His Chosen People was found elsewhere: in the Gentiles. Jesus' listeners doubted that He was really the Messiah and were deeply insulted at being reminded that "foreigners" had received God's favor instead of them. In anger, they threw Jesus out of the synagogue and tried to

cast Him off a cliff. He passed unharmed through their midst.

God's will can surprise us. For example, He willed that the Messiah King be a local carpenter. God's favor extended beyond the Chosen People to include Gentiles, who were considered outsiders. Sometimes, we assume we know how God works, and lose faith when He does something that seems illogical. We can pray for the faith to see Jesus as He really is and trust Him, even if He does the unexpected.



Feasts & Celebrations

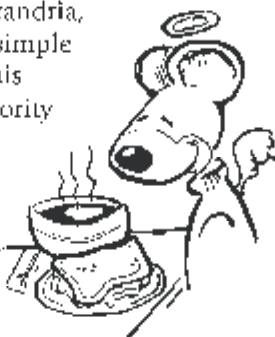
Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, and also Jesus, as true God and true Man.

Jan. 9 - Baptism of the Lord. Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. The Heavens opened up and God the Father spoke, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Jan. 14 - St. Macrina the Elder (340). St. Macrina was related to St. Basil the Elder and St. Macrina the

Younger. She and her husband were forced to flee during the Diocletian persecutions and endured many hardships. After her return, she helped raise her grandchildren Saints Gregory of Nyssa and Basil the Great.

Jan. 23 - St. John the Almsgiver (616). Despite being a noble and the Patriarch of Alexandria, St. John lived a simple life and put all his wealth and authority to good use by serving the poor and aiding refugees in his diocese.



Q & A Can you suggest a New Year's resolution to grow in Holiness?

All Christians are called to holiness. "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). There are three tools on which every Catholic can rely to attain greater holiness.



Daily prayer. God meets us in a very real and present way when we come to him in prayer. Start in the morning and pray throughout the day.

Weekly Mass. The Mass is a sacrifice and a meal. We receive Jesus' body and blood as real food for our souls. He said, "For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (John 6:55-56). That's why we call it, "Communion."

Monthly Confession. Jesus created the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession) because he knew we would stray. He also knew we would want to come back. Frequent participation in this Sacrament sharpens our sense of sin, holds us accountable for our errors, and gives us the grace to keep trying for holiness.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version, and the New American Bible.

May They Rest in Peace

To All Those Who Have Died From Covid 19, Cancer And Other Terminal Illnesses

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy

Please Pray for Our Sick

Emanuel Broomall, Norman Carriero, Emily Meakim, Mary Anne Vail, Lisa Casey, Barbara Manaka, Patti Ruditys, Dot Elliott, Patricia Hunt, Mary Ann Palmer, Kristine Nolen, Dennis Bieryla, John Maguire, Eileen Kirby, Carol Gaska, Ann Thomas, Kevin English, Beverly Shinnen, Michael Baglione, Michael Tart, John McGurk, Christine Schweidler, Nikki Zaborowski, Eric Evangelista, Connie McElwee, Joe Stafford, John Chambers, John Montella, Bernice Watson, Susan Peppelman, Ursula Sparks, Jerry Kester, Anthony Costa, Karen Mariniello, Elizabeth DiTomaso, Regan Sperduto, Sharon Hildick, Kathleen Fischer, Linda & Ed McDaniel, Joe & Joan Mascherino, Verna Ebright, John Murphy, Brian Allison, Harry Sperrone, Lorraine Karpinski, Nicholas Pilch, EllieMae McCreight, Michael McGovern, Gloria Williamson, Kim Cassano, James Mack, Margaret Chaga, Cass Powers, Shawn Bedwell, Scott Moyer, Gail McCafferty, JoAnn Bezold, Linda Johnston, Hazel Neary, Norman Falkowski, Jr., Ruth Jobe, Ruth Ann Moffett, Connie Carney, Billie Hobdell, John Grady, Bryan Snyder, Betty Ann Deshullo, Gladys Kinsler, Frank Breitmayer, Mary Giambri, Pasquale Mignogna, Paula Davis, Hank Granville, Colleen Hughes, May Graves, Amy Calcagno, Susan Curl, Marie Barker, Helen Brogley, Kevin Neary, Mark Lane, Tom Oleary, Nancy Weins, Robert Scheivert Jr., Molly Remaley

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	Jan 1	4:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday	Jan 2	8:00 AM	Sally Davis
		9:30 AM	Mary Page
		11:30 AM	Jerry Cooney
Monday	Jan 3	7:30 AM	Thomas Litchko
Tuesday	Jan 4	7:30 AM	Terry Ladd
Wednesday	Jan 5	7:30 AM	Wendy Aron
Thursday	Jan 6	7:30 AM	George J. Ershaw
Friday	Jan 7	7:30 AM	Philomena Hillson
Saturday	Jan 8	4:00 PM	Anna Kravitz
Sunday	Jan 9	8:00 AM	People of the Parish
		9:30 AM	Jim Hanavin
		11:30 AM	Melvin Trujillo



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