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December

19

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4PM
 Sunday 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM
 Weekdays 8 AM
 Saturday Morning 9AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday 12 Noon

Reconciliation

Saturday 9:30 Am, 3:15-3:45 PM

Anointing of the Sick & Homebound Visitation

Please call the Rectory at 856-456-0052 if anyone is homebound, in the hospital, critically ill or wishes to receive the Eucharist or the Anointing of the Sick.

Faith Formation

Director of Christian Initiation for Adults:
 Director of Youth Religious Education: Elizabeth Mariani
 Directory of Music: Joe Gorman

Queen of Ireland Gift Shop

Hours: Mon-Fri 9AM-2PM and after all Masses on Sundays.
 Kathy Arensmeyer, Director

Baptisms and Marriages

Baptism: See inside bulletin for exact detailed information.
Marriages: Arrangements must be made 1 year prior to marriage date. Please call the Rectory.

Policy for Certificates of Eligibility: In order to receive a certificate, **You** (Not your mother or father) must be a practicing Catholic, registered in the parish. If married, you must be married in the church. You must attend Mass regularly. Use of weekly offering envelopes will tell us you are attending regularly.

Trustees: Elaine & John McNutt

The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Mary

426 MONMOUTH STREET, GLOUCESTER CITY, N.J. 08030

www.stmarysgloucestercity.org/www.facebook.com/SaintMary'sChurchGloucesterCity/Email: stmaryrectory@comcast.net

Phone: 856-456-0052~Fax856-456-1837

Rev Msgr William A Hodge	Pastor
Rev David J Klein	In-Residence
Kevin C Heil	Deacon
Charles Reed	Sacristan
Ronnie Battersby	Financial Secretary
Dan Spencer	Admin

Organizations Meeting Schedules:

Knights of Columbus: John McNutt, Grand Knight
 856-287-2547

Catholic Daughters of America: Elaine McNutt 856-981-6382

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians: Maread Gallagher, President

Legion of Mary: Wednesdays

9:15 AM

Adoration: Thursdays 12 PM

Religious Education: Wednesdays 3:40 PM & Thursdays 3:40 PM

DEC



Dec. 10th- Youth Mass and Gingerbread house making



Dec. 11th- Service Project- Food Drive



Dec. 15th- Cara Christmas Caroling



Dec. 29th- Video conference with youth in the Philippines

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 674

Family of the Month News Release

December 2021

The Family of the Month for December 2021 is:

[Ed & Betty Walton Family](#)

The Knights of Columbus Family of the Month program promotes and supports the development of strong and vibrant families by recognizing the good work being done every day in the homes of our neighbors. Recognized families outwardly exhibit strong ties of love and faith, exemplifying Catholic family values and making meaningful contributions to their parish and larger community.



One way we like to celebrate Advent is by counting down the days to Christmas with an Advent Calendar. The excitement builds as each day passes. A few ideas:

- Call a friend you haven't spoken with
- Visit a neighbor who lives alone
- Bring something special to your local homeless shelter
- Say a prayer for a different person each day
- Have a fundraiser for your favorite charity
- Ask your family for ideas, little ones have huge hearts and great ideas

Baptisms and Marriages

Baptism: Held the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month following the 11:30 Mass. Class is held the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7PM in the Rectory. You **CANNOT** attend class until eligibility slips are received. Parents and Godparents must attend class.

Marriages: Arrangements must be made 1 year prior to marriage date. Please call the Rectory.

Policy for Certificates of Eligibility: In order to receive a certificate, **You** (Not your mother or father) must be a practicing Catholic, registered in the parish. If married, you must be married in the church. You must attend Mass regularly. Use of weekly offering envelopes will tell us you are attending regularly.

Attention:

To all prospective Godparents:

The Rectory requires a minimum of **6 weeks** notice to verify and provide certificates of eligibility. Please be mindful of the Baptismal date when asking for the certificate of eligibility.



If you would like to make an online donation, you can do so by visiting our website: www.stmarysgloucestercity.org and follow the direction under the Giving Tab.

By contributing electronically, the parish will have the benefit of stable monthly contributions and achieve a significant reduction in administrative costs.

Keep in mind that you can always use your credit card to receive rewards. If you need assistance contact the Rectory.

Collection

12/05		12/12		11/21		11/28		/
Parish Offerings	4495	Parish Offering	4646	Parish Offering	4837	Parish Offering	3710	
Special Collection	2755	Parish Improvement	4511	Parish Improvement	1140	Parish Improvement	1532	Parish Offering
Total	7250	Total	9120	Campaign for Human	1135	Thanksgiving Gift	796	Parish Improvement
				Total	7112	Total	6038	Pro Life
								Total



St. Mary's youth group and The Legion of Mary came together on Oct. 27th. to recite the Rosary by candle light, forming the Rosary at the entrance to the Church.



Anyone who may be contributing to House of Charity via Employee Giving/Payroll Deduction thru United Way, United Way funds come in thru a bulk batch donation and if the acknowledgement is not sent to the diocese office it's not credited to any parish/individual. Please contact the Coordinator Carole Lackore at 856-583-6156 or carole.lackore@camdendiocese.org

All Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers: please email Sarah Murphy @ cupcakeeva04@yahoo.com with your name, phone number, email address and mass preferences in order for her to make a current contact list.

Going forward Masses will be limited to 3 recipients per Mass as per the Bishop's Office.

Christmas Food Drive:

This year we are altering how we provide for our food insecure neighbors. Instead of providing them with a complete food baskets, we will be giving gift cards to local grocery stores so that they may procure the food items. We will be offering gift certificates based on family size. We are asking you to help us meet the needs of our neighbors. If you would like to sponsor a family or donate , please put a check in the offering basket or return it to the Rectory marked Christmas. May your charity Bless our Neighbors and May Our Blessed Lady wrap her protective mantle about you to keep you safe from all harm.

We have been notified by several parishioners and have received multiple envelope returns this month, we are in contact with the printing company, FJ Remy from Mineola NY where they are mailed from and our local post office. We are mailing the ones we received back to the parishioners. In the meantime, please use a plain envelope with your name and address written on it, so you receive proper credit. Sorry for any inconvenience.

**Queen of Ireland Gift Shop will have a Christmas Gift Basket Raffle.
Tickets are \$5 each and will be sold starting Nov 20th through Dec 18th.
Drawing will be Dec 19th after the 11:30 AM Mass.**



Lucky Calendars for 2022 are here. Sign will be posted soon for captains and sellers. Dawn Burkhardt is our chairperson once again and we are grateful for her. Please make sure you fill out tickets completely as it makes it so much easier when printing the checks. Thank you for your support.

Gifts for Life

Every year for many years at St Mary's parishioners have generously brought a NEW baby gift during the Christmas season to help pregnant Moms in Need. These gifts are taken to 1st Way Life Center in Woodbury and are very much appreciated.

Your gift can be brought to Church on the weekend of December 18/19th and placed in the crib in Our Blessed Mother's Vestibule. The following items are need: any size onesies or sleepers, crib sheets, hooded towels & wash cloths, receiving blankets, bottles, bibs, socks, hats, wipes, pacifiers, baby shampoo, bath wash/lotion, women's toiletries, boy & girl clothes up to size 2, formula.

Thank you very much for your support of pregnant Moms in Need.

Please take your pictures of your Loved Ones from the table in front of the Blessed Mother's Altar. Thank You.

St Mary's is pleased to offer both **Masses** and **Bell Ringing**. We offer a beautiful card for the living and deceased memorializing the ringing of our magnificent Bells of St Mary. The donation for the Ringing is the same as announced Mass: **\$15**. St Mary's is pleased to now offer the ability to sponsor **Altar Flowers**. The cost is **\$50** per spray with upgrades available upon request.

The Candles for the week of December 19, 2021 for the following Intentions

BLESSED MOTHER ALTAR CANDLE is burning for **Tommy Stewart (D) (Christmas Rem)** R/b Mom, Dad, Ryan, Nick & Dani

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR CANDLE is burning for **DiGiacomo, Pacifico, Boyle, Farley, Allison & Colgan Families** R/b Family

SANCTUARY CANDLE is burning for **In Memory of Sis, Henry & Chris Barron (Christmas Rem)** R/b Anne

Saint Francis of Assisi Candle is burning for

Saint Anthony of Padua is burning for

St Patrick is burning for

The Divine Child Jesus is burning for **Int of Mary Pat MacWilliams** R/b Ronnie

Altar Flowers are in Memory of

Saturday December 18, 2021 *Bells: In Memory of Deacon Frank Crosson (1st Ann Rem) R/b Anne Delengowski & Children*

9:00 AM Marge Saunders (D) R/b Bill & Rita Ritchie & Family

4:00 PM Tom (D) & Jean McParland (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Pat Sharp, Bill Hutchinson (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Family, Thomas Virden Sr (D)

R/b Jack Fisher Jr, Sr Mary Ryan OP (D) (12th Ann Rem) R/b Pat Ragen, Marie Buckley Gougan (D) R/b Jim & Bea Buckley

Sunday December 19, 2021 *Fourth Sunday of Advent Bells: In Memory of Marie Buckley Gougan R/b Jim & Bea Buckley*

7:30 AM Int Denny/McHugh Children (L) R/b Herbert Family, Francis & Claire Kain (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Children, Patricia Underwood (D) (Ann Rem) R/b James Family

9:30 AM Tommy Stewart (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Mom & Dad, Sr Marie Margaret SSI (D) (Birth Rem) R/b Margie, Joe & Family, Robert Myers (D) R/b Phil & Sandie Schnell

11:30 AM Jergensen, Sherrer & Rafferty Families (Christmas Rem) R/b Lynne & Mark, Mike "Hutch" Hutchinson (D) R/b Jim & Vicky Parent, Colin (D), Marie (D) & Jerry Fitzpatrick (D) & Ryan Harter (D) R/b Family

Monday December 20, 2021 *Bells: In Memory of Lillian Tice (1st Ann Rem) R/b Anne Delengowski & Children*

8:00 AM People of the Parish

Tuesday December 21, 2021 *Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church Bells: In Memory of Doris Adamski R/b Michael & Denise O'Donnell*

8:00 AM Thomas J O'Donnell Jr (D) R/b Mike & Theresa Smollock, Doris Pulaski (D) (Ann Rem) R/b James & Colleen Mayhew

Wednesday December 22, 2021 *Bells: In Memory of Helen Falconiero (1st Ann Rem) R/b Anne Delengowski & Family*

8:00 AM Helen Falconiero (D) (Ann Rem) R/b Children & Grandchildren & Family, Joseph (D) & Theresa Younker (D) R/b John Gorman

Thursday December 23, 2021 *Saint John of Kanty, Priest Bells: In Appreciation for Living & Deceased Members of Saints & Singers*

8:00 AM Joan Ragen Roach (D) (22nd Ann Rem) R/b Pat & Family

Friday December 24, 2021 *Bells: In Memory of Joseph P Driscoll Jr R/b Anne Delengowski & Children*

8:00 AM Thomas J O'Donnell Jr (D) R/b Martin & Joanne O'Connor

4:00 PM Beatrice (D) & Babe Bobiak (D) & Jennie Pennino (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Family, Tricia Kain Sauter (D), John V Kain (D), John & Eva Berry (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Family, Charles Brucicquere (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Wife & Family

8:00 PM Ivar Jergensen (D) (Birth Rem) & Francis Sherrer R/b Lynne & Mark, Victoria & Joseph Tomshaw (D), Marie & Marty Coyle (D) R/b Tomshaw & Coyle Families, Rose Costanzo (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Family

Saturday December 25, 2021 *The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Bells: In Memory of Michael Wagner Sr R/b Anne Delengowski & Children*

9:00 AM M/M William Harvey, Frances Canning & Marie Quinn (Christmas Rem) R/b Family, Saunders & Pine Families & Matthew Moran (Christmas Rem) R/b Family, Thomas & Catherine Morrison (Christmas Rem) R/b Margie, Joe & Family, Damian & Gerard Gallagher (Christmas Rem) R/b Maread & Family, James (D) & Quinton (D) Families (Christmas Rem) R/b James Family

11:00 AM Richards & Goheen Families (Christmas Rem) R/b Family, Nellie Barr (D) R/b Michele Baglivo, Irv Brown Jr, Irv & Esther Brown, Ralph & Laura Longano R/b Charlotte Brown & Family

Sunday December 26, 2021 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Bells: In Memory of David Sitarine /b Anne Delengowski & Children*

7:30 AM Int Denny/McHugh Children (L) R/b Herbert Family, Marge Saunders (D) R/b Kathy (Murphy) Kinnarney, Marie Shodder (D) (Birth Rem) & Emanuel (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Family

9:30 AM Lewis Camillo (D) (Birth Rem) R/b Daughter Cathy, Joseph W Piechowski (D) R/b Olive M Driscoll, Intentions of Atkinson, Howey & Britton Families R/b Family

11:30 AM Helen F Tricocci (D) R/b Lisa & Ronald Munn, Thomas Danaher R/b Edward & Late Janet Crabtree, Deceased Members of James Family R/b Mike & Theresa Smollock

Please keep in Your Prayers

Our Sick: Annetta & Hugo Adorno, Florence Underwood, Martin Roach, Thomas Kain, Claire Dunn, Olive Driscoll, Caroline Dougherty, Justin Locker, Billy Gormley, Bob Glassman, Bob Ludwick, Eva Christ, Maryann Liebrand, John Risely, John Greene III, Denise Glassman, Grace Cooney, Barbara Burns, Eleanor Kain, Dominic Abate, Donna Musick, Charlene Riley, Carol Samsanavicius, Frank Angeloni Sr, George Springer, Grace Piscopio, Jack Heiser, James E Miller, Jillian DePoder, Cindy Dolson, Joe Flinn, John Battersby, Annette Pecina, Samantha Boulden, Johnny McDevitt, Jordan Neff, Joseph Carlino Sr, Ronnie Convey, Kelli Cline-Perrone, Marion Hakanson, Linda & Tom Ryan, Jack Sutcliffe, Linda White Locker, Lynne Jergensen, Diane Sutcliffe, Marie "Franny" Spencer, Marion Scalzo, Mary Lou & Bill Adams, Mike Murphy, Nicholas Mecchione, Elise Cowgill, Ed Hlopak, Mike Battersby, Rich Notis, Judy McGrath, Selma Toal, Sr Nora Foley, Lindsey Sobelewski Eller, Theresa Gorman, Carolyn Foyle, Nick Pinolini, Troy Lail, Vickie Virden, Wayne Bradlock, William Kelly, William Livengood, Winifred Settler, Richard & Pat Schwartz, Tom Pierman, Kelly Gartland, Frances Bregler, Susan Stano, Clare Kearney, Richard Dolson, Jon Sciarra, Chrissy Barron, Bill Ritchie, Marge Laarkamp, Connie Klein, Jill Mosco, Georgette Carter, Sally Ludwick, Ms Cerelle, Dolores "Ducky" Whilleson, Bob Stone, Bill Ritchie Jr, **Sue Green, Nancy McKeown, Joseph C Perry Sr**

Our Military: Colin Ward, Marine; Johnathan T Brown, Navy; John (Jak) Sullivan, US Air Force; Jacqueline Myers-Barton, US Army; AJ Parent, US Coast Guard, Sean Patrick Ward, US Army, Christopher James Grieco, US Air Force

Our Deceased:

Our Recently Baptized:

Prayer for the Spread of Perpetual Adoration

Heavenly Father, increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

We are obliged to adore Him, to give Him thanks and to make reparation for sins.

We need your peace in our hearts and among nations.

Christmas Novena to Obtain Favors

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure and Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold, O my God! To hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

(It is piously believed that whoever recites the above prayer 15 times a day from the feast of St Andrew (Nov 30) until Christmas will obtain what is asked.)

New Parishioners

We warmly welcome new parishioners and visitors. Let us know how we may be of service to you. You may register at the Rectory: Monday-Friday 9AM-3PM.

A reminder we are still cleaning the Church after each Mass due to the Covid Virus.

A big thank you to those who are spraying the disinfectant. We appreciate your help.

We also thank those wiping the pews and doors.

If everyone could help us by leaving kneelers down at the end of Mass that will let the cleaner know someone was in the pew.

If you are able to bring disinfectant wipes with you and wipe down your pew after Mass that would be great. You can then leave the kneeler up.

In case of a cardiac emergency in church, please keep in mind that there is an AED located behind the pillar near the St Joseph's Altar. In case of a relevant emergency, someone should call 911 while someone else who is trained should use the AED.

Dear St Mary's Parishioners,

My Granddaughter, 2nd Lt US Army Alexa Long was deployed to Lithuania, South West corner of the Baltic Seam North of Poland and east of Russia about 4.5 months ago. Her tour of duty is for 9 months. However, in her letters Alexa mentions how her soldiers would appreciate a *care package* from home. I am sharing a copy of her letter with you written to her mother, Colleen. It is self-explanatory.

Alexa attended St Mary's Grammar School in Gloucester City, NJ and graduated from Gloucester City High School and completed her ROTC training at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. After graduation she was inducted into the US Army. I am asking you to respond as soon as possible to her request for her soldiers. Please do not sit on the request as time is of the essence. All organizations and individuals are responsible for the cost of gifts and postage. Pray for her team of young soldiers who are serving our country.

Thank you from her Grandmother, Olive Driscoll

If anyone is looking for an opportunity to do something for others for the holidays, my Soldiers would greatly appreciate some care packages. There are 21 Soldiers, 17 males and 4 females, most in their 20's. Snacks, non-perishables cooking ingredients, hygiene products, or stuff to do during their downtime are somethings they'd like, especially American products. Mail can take about a month to reach us. Thank you in advance to anyone who sends something, my Soldiers will really appreciate it. Mailing address is:

Alexa Long
70th MCT
APO AE 09015

Announcements

- 1. QUEEN OF IRELAND GIFT SHOP HAS A CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE. TICKETS ARE \$5.00 EACH AND WILL BE SOLD STARTING NOVEMBER 20TH THROUGH DECEMBER 18TH. DRAWING WILL BE DECEMBER 19TH AFTER THE 11:30AM MASS.**
- 2. THE 2022 LUCKY CALENDARS WILL BE HERE NEXT WEEK. THE SIGN-UP BOARD IS POSTED IN THE BLESSED MOTHER SIDE VESTIBULE. PLEASE SIGN UP TO BE A CAPTAIN AND/OR SELLER. DAWN BURKHARDT IS THE CHAIRPERSON. OUR CALENDARS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND STOCKING STUFFERS!**
- 3. PLEASE TAKE YOUR PHOTOS OF DECEASED LOVED ONES HOME. WE'LL SOON BE DECORATING THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS.**
- 4. WE HAVE EXTRA CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES IN THE PEWS FOR YOUR USE. DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON THE CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES WILL REMAIN ON THE ALTAR. FEEL FREE TO WRITE THE NAMES OF LOVED ONES LIVING AND DECEASED ALONG WITH YOUR SPECIAL INTENTIONS ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE.**
- 5. THE NEW BOOK CLUB READING IS AVAILABLE IN SAINT JOSEPH'S SACRISTY. THE DONATION IS ONLY \$3.00. THE BOOK WILL BE DISCUSSED ON THE LAST THURSDAY IN JANUARY.**

Dear Family and Friends,

My good friend Jim Noonan has just finished an 8 year-long project, a royal biography which is so rich in history, fun fact, glamor and drama. In fact, if you liked Downtown Abbey you will love Alix & Minnie: A Royal Trilogy. This 3 book series is the next Downtown Abbey, in fact, we hope it will go to film one day soon. In the meanwhile, for all interested in great books...please go to Amazon and type in either James Charles Noonan or Alix & Minnie to find all three...the story of 2 sisters who rose out of obscurity to the mightiest thrones in Europe between 1853-1929- with intense drama in their extended families. I love the series and hope you will too, and that you will spread the word far and wide!!!

And it is a perfect gift!

Thank you, Monsignor Hodge

St. Mary's Church
Gloucester City, NJ



Dear Parishioner,

Each Christmas, Almighty God offers us a special Gift... His Son, Our Redeemer. This Gift, if really appreciated, can change your life. The presence of Christ in your life will truly bring you joy and happiness. As we think about Christ's coming, we think about receiving Him in Holy Communion. We think about making a good Confession, to prepare ourselves in the best possible way, to allow Christ to really become a part of us. This will bring Peace into your life, and give to this great Feast, its true meaning.

We want to thank you for your loyal and generous cooperation during the year, and wish you and your loved ones a truly happy Christmas and a New Year blessed by the presence of Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mgr. William A. Hodge, Pastor
Very Rev. David Klein
Deacon Dave Murnane
Deacon Kevin Heil

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2021



CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Friday, December 24, 2021

8:00 AM

4:00 PM

8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Saturday, December 25, 2021

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES

Friday, December 31, 2021

8:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

Saturday, January 1, 2022

9:00 AM

4:00 PM



CHRISTMAS CONFESSION SCHEDULE 2021 | HALF HOUR BEFORE MASS

Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 9:30 AM
Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 3:30 PM
Friday, December 24, 2021 at 3:30 PM
Friday, December 24, 2021 at 7:30 PM
Saturday, December 25, 2021 at 8:30 AM
Saturday, December 25, 2021 at 10:30 AM

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the
clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel.
(Mi 5:1)



PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see
your face and we shall be saved.
(Ps 80)



SECOND READING

"Then I said, 'As is written of me
in the scroll,
behold, I come to do your will,
O God.'" (Heb 10:7)



GOSPEL

"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of
your womb.
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should
come to me?" (Lk 1:42-43)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm
Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,
1997, International Commission on English in the
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WE ARE GOD'S INSTRUMENTS

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

Answer:

Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

ST. MARY'S LUCK DAY CALENDAR WINNERS – DECEMBER 2021

DATE	AMOUNT	TICKET	WINNER'S NAME
12/1	\$25.00	0701	MARION HAKANSON
12/2	\$25.00	0711	LISA MUNN
12/3	\$25.00	0278	BONNIE MILLS
12/4	\$25.00	0590	SHANNON WIDMER
12/5	\$25.00	0238	JOSEPH UNDERWOOD
12/6	\$25.00	0195	JOHN McCONNELL
12/7	\$25.00	0693	DONNA LEAP
12/8	\$25.00	0325	JAMES E JOHNSON
12/9	\$25.00	0763	MATT HDGAN
12/10	\$25.00	0146	CHAD & MARY BETH RETTIG
12/11	\$25.00	0157	WRAYANNE SIMCOX
12/12	\$25.00	0737	MARTIN T. O'CONNOR
12/13	\$25.00	0608	M. L. McCOMB
12/14	\$25.00	0237	CLAIRE T. UNDERWOOD
12/15	\$25.00	0281	KATHY WALSH
12/16	\$25.00	0415	CHRISTOPHER & KRISTIN VOGEL
12/17	\$25.00	0869	JENNIFER SPENCER
12/18	\$25.00	0886	BOB & RONNIE BATTERSBY
12/19	\$25.00	0142	JACKIE SPENCER
12/20	\$25.00	0277	VALERIE CASTAGNA
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