

Readings for this Sunday and Questions for Discussion**Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord:****Gospel:** Matthew 2: 1-12**Key Passage:** 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."**Adult:** When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?**Child:** When have you been jealous because something good happened to another person instead of you? What is the problem with feeling that way?**LIVING STEWARDSHIP***Amen, amen I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the work that I do...* John 14:12**Saturday**4:00 pm *People of St Mary's***Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord**7:30 a.m. 23rd Anniv. For *Anne V. Kneeland* requested by The Family10:30 a.m. *Epiphany Pageant***Monday** 7:45 am Morning Prayer8:00 a.m. *For All Souls***Tuesday** 7:45 am Morning Prayer8:00 a.m. *Mass***Wednesday** 7:45 am Morning Prayer8:00 a.m. 7th Anniv. For *Stasys Marcinkevicius* requested by The Daughter**Thursday** 7:45 morning prayer**Next Saturday**4:00 pm In remembrance of his Birthday, *William McKinstry* requested by Danny
2nd Anniv for *Albert Szczur* requested by The Family**Next Sunday The Baptism of The Lord**7:30 a.m. 6th Anniv for *Constance Graves* requested by the Family
16th Anniv for *William Cournoyer* requested by The Family
10th Anniv. For *Michele Foley* requested by the Family
10:30 a.m. 17th Anniv for *Raymond M. Goodwin Jr.* requested by the Family**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE***Father, accept these, the gifts of your people. We return this portion of your many blessings to us so that the work of your Son, Jesus, might continue in our parish home.***Fourth Sunday of Advent** 4,206.00**Monthly** 213.00

4,419.00

(Parish tithe to charity 5% 210.30)

133 Adult Envelopes 4,117.00

Loose Cash 89.00

HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS: The first Holy Hour for Priests at St. Mary's will take place on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, from 2 - 3 p.m., and on the 1st Wednesday of each month during the remaining months of the "Year of the Priests". The Rosary will be prayed, as well as some special prayers for priests, with time for private prayer also. All are encouraged to express appreciation for the many graces brought to us by our priests!**MARKET SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND****There have been 25 new tags added to our Parish Giving****Tree.** The tags represent the 24 Seminarians studying for the Diocese of Worcester. Every parish in the Diocese is participating. With a \$10 gift card from every parish, each seminarian will be able to purchase over \$1000 in Seminary-related, or Ministry-related items for the present academic year. God Bless your continued generosity.**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION OF AN UNBORN BABY
THE SEVENTH MONTH OF LIFE**

Your spiritually adopted baby is completely formed, as he has been since eight weeks, and is busy gaining weight. He can hear, taste, touch, cough, yawn and hiccup. He now recognizes his own mother's voice. As he is preparing for life outside of the womb, so must we prepare for his arrival. Our prayers continue to help but we must also gather baby clothes and supplies that he will need in two more months.

The Pro-Life Ministry will continue to collect your donations of baby items under the Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space. These gifts will be donated to Problem Pregnancy and Visitation House. Thank you for your generosity in the promotion of protecting the sanctity of life.

*In Loving Memory*We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of *Robert Maynard*. May he rest in Christ's eternal light and peace.**BUY A BARREL**

This year, like you, St. Mary's Parish is facing energy costs like never before. We need your help again! Please use your Fuel Collection Envelope to help "Buy a Barrel". Your support of any amount, large or small, will go directly to the St. Mary's Energy Fund. In addition, 5% of collections will be disbursed by the Stewardship Ministry to parish families in need of fuel assistance. Contribution Barrels are in the Gathering Space. Thank You.

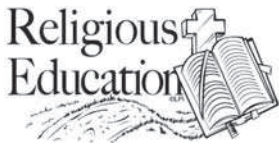
THE 2010 CALENDARS

The 2010 calendars are available to pick up after all the Masses. If you would like us to mail one to anyone in the parish, please notify the parish secretary and she will send one out to them. Calendars will be brought to all the homebound on our visitation list. Again we are grateful to the Roney Funeral Home and the Olde Post Office Pub for sponsoring these beautiful calendars.

ANOINTING OF THE SICKThe Celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be this weekend January 2nd & 3rd *The Anointing will take place after each of the Masses on the weekend.*

Those parishioners who are chronically ill, for example, with Diabetes, Asthma or Arthritis or any other chronic illness are encouraged to come. We also invite those who are preparing for surgery in the coming months and those with any emotional or mental illness to please come join us.

**Epiphany**



Epiphany Pageant

A big note of gratitude to Lori Dewar and Katie Heffernan who coordinated the Pageant and to Dawn Geoffroy who made and repaired costumes. Our little ones will be presenting the Gospel at the 10:30 am Liturgy.

HOME BLESSING ON EPIPHANY

Epiphany means "manifestation." This feast celebrates the revelation of the Christ Child to the Magi who journeyed to Bethlehem in search of the new king. It is truly our feast because this is the occasion for Jesus to be revealed to the gentiles, non-Jews.

Epiphany is traditionally the day when homes are blessed. This could be done with a grand procession through every room. Everyone involved may have something to carry: candles, incense, the cross or crucifix, the symbols of the Magi (gold, incense, myrrh). In each room one person asks the blessing. For example: "May this room be blessed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Then holy water (if available) may be sprinkled, the whole room honored with incense, and anyone can wish a blessing on what happens in that room: "May this basement stay dry and cool." "May this kitchen be fragrant for all who work here." "May this bedroom be filled with sweet rest and good dreams."

Sometimes it is customary to carry chalk and mark some of the doors with the year and the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar, according to tradition). Crosses separate the letters and numbers: 20+C+M+B+10. The CMB also stands for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, *Christ bless this home.*

... taken from A Book of Family Prayer by Gabe Huck and The Book of Catholic Customs and Traditions by Ronda De Sola Chervin & Carla Conley

Class Schedule

Classes will resume next Sunday and Monday at the usual hours.



There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? This week, I found out.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol...so pass it on if you wish. Merry (Twelve Days of) Christmas Everyone

JANUARY 3, 2010



FOR NEXT WEEKEND— January 9th & 10th

Saturday

4:00 pm

Lector: Ellen Goguen

Ministers of Holy Communion Marie Ouellette, Janet LaMarche,
J. Koss-Stephany

Altar Servers: Danny Carlson, Gina & Emily Koss-Stephany, Kate
Coughlin

Sunday

7:30 a.m.

Lector: John Harrison

Ministers of Holy Communion Marsha DePerro, Mary Turcotte,
Nancy Malone

Altar Servers: Christina DePerro, Margaret Harrison, Erin &
Madeline Rose

10:30 am

Lector: Donna Verdolino

Ministers of Holy Communion: Laura Deschenes, Sharon Doane,
Paul Verdolino

Altar Servers: Mary Deschenes, Melanie Dadah, Ryan Fennel,
Bergin Sullivan



Jan 6 Wed 7 pm

Stewardship Mtg

Conf Rm

GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A SPECIAL GIFT THIS

CHRISTMAS: Sign up now for the next Worldwide
Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a
great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a
little Christmas in your marriage every day! The
next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in
New England are January 8-10, January 29-31 and
February 12-14. For more information call Ralph &
Jane Becker at 1-800-710-WWME or visit our
webpage at www.wwmeMA.org

Retrouvaille - a Lifeline

Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille (pronounced re-
tro-vy) weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if
there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are
considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help
you. The next New England Retrouvaille marriage renewal
weekends will be held January 15-17, 2010, and April 16-18,
2010. To register for the weekend or for more information, visit
www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 800-470-2230.

EPIPHANY

