

Intentions for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Saturday, January 2, Epiphany of the Lord (Vigil)

5:00 pm Nora & Timothy Bowe

Sunday, January 3, Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 am Eugenio Torres

12:00 pm Gerald McKnight

Monday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

12:00 pm Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. Meehan

Tuesday, January 5, St. John Neumann

12:00 pm Rev. Msgr. James J. Boyd

Wednesday, January 6, Bl. André Bessette

12:00 pm Deceased Members of the Weadock
Family & Friends

Thursday, January 7, St. Raymond of Peñafort

12:00 pm For Priests in the Year for Priests

Friday, January 8, Christmas weekday

12:00 pm Bernard Rubin

Saturday, January 10, Baptism of the Lord (Vigil)

5:00 pm Anne & Fred Roys

Sunday, January 11, Baptism of the Lord

9:00 am Kitty Mae Campbell

12:00 pm James Boykin Bishop

Christmas Flower Memorials

Donald Betts

Isabel & Joseph Betts

Jim Bishop

Juanita Bishop

Nora & Timothy Bowe

Ramon & Juan Cabrera

Jean & Sal Calabro

Edith Califano

Kitty Mae Campbell

Peter & Helen Demanchyk

Paul Dean

Patrick Flanagan

Denis P. Fleming

Jame Flynn

Philip Freund

Gillis & Moss Families

Annetta Gomez-Jefferson

Martha & James Henry

Agnes & Henry King

Leonard Family

Lopes Family

Yotson & Rita Lovas

Michael Family

Jean Mainella

McElduff Family

Mahoney Family

Morrison Family

John O'Connell

Lucy O'Hare

Edward & Marie Paparelli

John & Josephine Paskewitz

Richard C. Perry

Diane M. Persico

Alfred R. Persico

Virginia Pittman

Tom-Joey Poggi

Alice & George Quinelvan

D. V. Reed, Jr.

Katherine "Kitty" Reichard

William Richard

Anne & Fred Roys

Bernard Rubin

Donald Sapio

Roslyn Savoca

Dorothy Sapone

Michael & Katie Shaughnessy

Stella & Edward Shore

Ann & Michael Spiatto

Adelaide T. Stella

Carmine Toto, Sr.

Michael, Theresa & William Tramantano

Ron Verdi

Jane & Joseph Vickers

Elizabeth & Arthur Walsh

Peter F. Wilkins

Attendance and Collections for Christmas Day and the Feast of the Holy Family

Our attendance for Christmas Day (December 25) was 210; the collection was \$2990. Our attendance for the Feast of Holy Family (December 27) was 127; the collection was \$1461. Thank you for your generosity to Guardian Angel. Our second collection next Sunday is for the Restoration Fund.



Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Please pray for our sick parishioners: Patti Adcroft, Mary Barone, Mary Billings, Anne Cahill, Kara Jean Fleming, Margaret Flynn, Sister Eileen McCabe, Carol Mohler, Jacqueline O'Grady, Fred Serafini. If you know of a parishioner who is sick, please contact the Rectory.

Catholic Alumni Partnership Guardian Angel School

On a visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II said: "Catholic Schools are a gift to the Church and to the Nation," and now, more than ever, we need to come together as a community to ensure that we are able to continue to provide this gift to future generations of children!

Guardian Angel School is blessed to be one of more than 300 schools, across seven arch/dioceses, participating in the Catholic Alumni Partnership (CAP). CAP is enabling us to reconnect with the many men and women who walked the halls of our school. Our Principal, Maureen McElduff has been, and will continually be, working closely with the CAP staff to identify our alumni and creating opportunities for them to become active members of our school community.

Whether you are an alumnus of our school or another Catholic elementary school, I urge you to be an active member of your elementary school community. Visit clickyes.com to learn if your school is participating in CAP.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information about CAP, please contact Ms. Maureen McElduff at 212-989-8280.

The Adoration of the Magi

The "wise men from the East" who came to adore Jesus in Bethlehem (Matthew 2).

We may form a conjecture by non-Biblical evidence of a probable meaning to the word *magoi*. Herodotus (I, ci) is our authority for supposing that the Magi were the sacred caste of the Medes. They provided priests for Persia, and, regardless of dynastic vicissitudes, ever kept up their dominating religious influence. To the head of this caste, Nergal Sharezar, Jeremias gives the title Rab-Mag, "Chief Magus" (Jeremiah 39:3, 39:13). After the downfall of Assyrian and Babylonian power, the religion of the Magi held sway in Persia. Cyrus completely conquered the sacred caste; his son Cambyses severely repressed it. The Magians revolted and set up Gaumata, their chief, as King of Persia under the name of Smerdis. He was, however, murdered (521 B.C.), and Darius became king. This downfall of the Magi was celebrated by a national Persian holiday called *magophonia*. Still the religious influence of this priestly caste continued throughout the rule of the Achaemenian dynasty in Persia; and is not unlikely that at the time of the birth of Christ it was still

flourishing under the Parthian dominion.

The Gospel narrative omits to mention the number of the Magi, and there is no certain tradition in this matter. Some Fathers speak of three Magi; they are very likely influenced by the number of gifts. The names of the Magi are as uncertain as is their number. Among the Latins, from the seventh century, we find slight variants of the names, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar; the Martyrology mentions St. Gaspar, on the first, St. Melchior, on the sixth, and St. Balthasar, on the eleventh of January. They probably crossed the Syrian Desert, lying between the Euphrates and Syria, reached either Haleb (Aleppo) or Tudmor (Palmyra), and journeyed on to Damascus and southward, by what is now the great Mecca route (*darb elhaj*, "the pilgrim's way"), keeping the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan to their west till they crossed the ford near Jericho. We have no tradition of the precise land meant by "the east".

We are certain that the Magi were told in sleep not to return to Herod and that "they went back another way into their country" (v. 12). This other way may have been a way to the Jordan such as to avoid Jerusalem and Jericho; or a roundabout way south through Beersheba, then east to the great highway (now the Mecca route) in the land of Moab and beyond the Dead Sea. It is said that after their return home, the Magi were baptized by St. Thomas and wrought much for the spread of the Faith in Christ. The story is traceable to an Arian writer of not earlier than the sixth century, whose work is printed, as "Opus imperfectum in Matthæum" among the writings of St. Chrysostom (*PG*, LVI, 644). This author admits that he is drawing upon the apocryphal Book of Seth, and writes much about the Magi that is clearly legendary. The cathedral of Cologne contains what are claimed to be the remains of the Magi; these, it is said, were discovered in Persia, brought to Constantinople by St. Helena, transferred to Milan in the fifth century and to Cologne in 1163 (*Acta SS.*, I, 323).

Choral Vespers at Corpus Christi

Choral Vespers for the Feast of the Lord's Baptism will be celebrated at Corpus Christi Church, 529 West 121 Street, on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at 4:00 pm. The Choir of Corpus Christi under the direction of Louise Basbas will sing, and Gail Archer is guest organist. Refreshments follow. For more information call 212-666-9350 or see www.corpus-christi-nyc.org.

Visit to the Sick, Homebound, or Hospitalized

If you or someone you know is sick, homebound, or hospitalized and would like a visit from a priest for Confession, Communion, or Anointing of the Sick, please call the Rectory.

Our Restoration Fund at Work

During the past weeks, the Baptismal Font has been moved back to the Baptistery. Some of the church's side doors, as you can see, are restored, other are in the process of restoration. It is our hope to work slowly, but surely, to restore the church, while causing minimal interruption to our divine worship. Our interior church restoration is being handled by Gargiulo Brothers, Inc., a company that specializes in church renovations. Visit their website at www.gargiulobros.com.