

## **Intentions for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**

### **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

### **Monday, January 11, weekday in Ordinary Time**

12:00 pm Martha Henry (13th Anniversary)

### **Tuesday, January 12, weekday in Ordinary Time**

12:00 pm James J. & Mary Weadock

### **Wednesday, January 13, St. Hilary**

12:00 pm Helen Zuvich (14th Anniversary)

### **Thursday, January 14, weekday in Ordinary Time**

12:00 pm Maria Rudge

### **Friday, January 15, weekday in Ordinary Time**

12:00 pm Martha Henry

### **Saturday, January 16, II Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil)**

5:00 pm James McLoughlin

### **Sunday, January 17, II Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 am James Armstrong

12:00 pm Rev. Fr. Robert McKnight

## **Attendance and Collections for the Feast of the Epiphany (January 3)**

Our attendance for Epiphany (January 3) was 185; the collection was \$2129 (including the collection of January 1, for the Feast of Mary the Mother of God). Our second collection today is for the Restoration Fund. Our second collection for next Sunday is for the Catholic University and Catholic Communications.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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](http://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.

## **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](http://www.corpus-christi-nyc.org).

## **Our Restoration Fund at Work**

During the past weeks, the Baptismal Font has been moved back to the Baptistry. 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](http://www.gargiulobros.com).

## **Help! Church Clean-Up—Next Saturday**

Our clean-up volunteers will meet to clean the church at 9:30, on Saturday, January 16. Our church cleaning usually takes place on the third Saturday of each month. Please come and lend a hand to keep our church neat and clean.

## **Baptism of the Lord** **Msgr. Luciano Alimandi**

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or "epiphany" which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

The presence of John the Baptist accompanied us through the season of Advent and we met him again on our liturgical and spiritual journey on the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. The figure of the Baptist is mysterious and captivating. He was the Precursor of Christ, not only two thousand years ago but in a sense also in our day. He is the friend of the Bridegroom. The voice, which makes us hear the Word, which introduces us to the mystery of the redemption, who helps us to respond to the call to conversion, with humility and love. He helps us understand that the human person, every person in front of the Lord Jesus stands before the greatest mystery of our existence: the Mystery of the Man God!

We cannot stand before Jesus as if he were not what he is: God from God, true God from true God! Only a person who has a relationship of humility with the Lord is able to receive the faith, which illuminates the mind and warms the heart. Atheism is the product of human pride, which renders man unable to believe because he is closed to the truth, to humility.

Truth-humility cannot be separated! John the Baptist is the herald of truth because he is the herald of humility and vice versa. His words are fire which desires to burn any remnant of pride deposited in the hearts of his disciples, who are disarmed in front of the figure of Jesus, his apostolic success, his truly surprising manner of announcing the Kingdom of God: a Messiah whom they had imagined differently.

The Gospel speaks of this "crisis" of the disciples of the Baptist, which we might call "crisis of humility," because it touches this fundamental disposition of the human soul before the mystery of God who reveals himself in Jesus. The Gospel says: "so they went to John and said, 'Rabbi, the man who was with you on the far side of the Jordan, the man to whom you bore witness, is baptizing now, and everyone is going to him.' John replied: 'No one can have anything except what is given him from heaven. 'You yourselves can bear me out. I said, "I am not the Christ; I am the one who has been sent to go in front of him." 'It is the bridegroom who has the bride; and yet the bridegroom's friend, who stands there and listens to him, is filled with joy at the bridegroom's voice. This is the joy I feel, and it is complete. He must grow greater, I must grow less.'"(Jn

3, 26-31).

These are among the strongest words and most moving testimony with regard to the identity of Christ, his priceless greatness compared with our littleness.

The fact that this warning was addressed by the Baptist to his disciples who were prepared to welcome the Messiah makes us realize the insidious nature of the temptation to enter into "crisis of humility": refusing to recognize that "everything is grace", that God's gifts do not belong to us, that "No one can have anything except what is given him from heaven"...

How often the disciple thinks he is the teacher; the servant the master. John the Baptist knew well that the original sin was pride, a desire to possess the gifts of God separating them from their origin and identity as gifts, starting with freedom! How dangerous it is for the believer to forget the nothing he is and everything that God is. That original temptation is ever ready to arise in our soul. How good it is for us to say now and then, "you alone Lord are everything!" Right at the beginning of the spiritual journey of Catherine of Sienna, the Lord said: "do you know daughter, who you are and who I am? If you know these two things, you will be happy. You are not, and I am who is. If you hold this knowledge in your soul the enemy will not be able to mislead you, you will be safe from all his threats; you will never accept to do any thing contrary to my commandments and you will have no difficulty in obtaining abundant grace, truth and light" (Raimondo da Capua, *La vita di S. Caterina da Siena*, I, X, 92, ed. Cantagalli).

Although with different words, John the Baptist offered his disciples the same teaching: "He must grow greater, I must grow less"; in order to make way for the Everything He is, we who are nothing must forget ourselves. This is the extraordinary dynamic of the conversion announced by the Baptist and repeated by Jesus: lose oneself in order to find God, become little in order to be great, be the least in order to become the first in the Kingdom of Heaven!

The path of humility teaches us to see God's gifts in ourselves and in others, a sign of the goodness He pours into the hearts of his creatures. Those who follow the example of Jesus, Mary, Joseph and John the Baptist, will be open to joyous testimony of God's gifts and remove from their soul all trace of jealousy and rivalry, envy and ambition, because they will understand that the only true greatness lies in allowing to grow in their soul not self, but the only True Great One. God! And of this, Mary is the greatest example.

*Almighty, eternal God, when the Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism in the Jordan, You revealed Him as Your own beloved Son. Keep us, Your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful to our calling. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever*

*and ever. Amen.*