St. Barnabas the Apostle

Ordinary Time Begins on Tuesday

Monday, January 9 The Baptism of the Lord
6:30 AM Benjamin C. Klimkowski
9:00 AM James Spillane
Alfred Basso
Thomas Bradley

Tuesday, January 10
6:30 AM Peter Gerwatoski
9:00 AM Frances Kinach

Wednesday, January 11
6:30 AM Charlie & Ann Klika
9:00 AM Paul Maffeo

Thursday, January 12
6:30 AM Mildred Baltzer
9:00 AM Carl & Dolly Nobile

Friday, January 13
6:30 AM John Smith
9:00 AM Daniel Astrup

Saturday, January 14
8:00 AM Kathleen Uttendorfer
Fr. Kevin 4:30 PM Gerard Bahnken Sr.
Anthony Buffalano
Margaret Johnstone
Frank Carrano
Louisa Maud Higgins
Tina Dupuis Andreotis
Fr. Kevin 7:00 PM Lynne Manzi

Sunday, January 15 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Fr. Kevin 7:00 AM Rev. John J. Galvin
2nd Pastor of St. Barnabas
Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM Flo Canino
Level 2 Attending
Fr. Adrian 10:15 AM The People of Our Parish
Fr. Gus 10:30 AM Donald Williams
Fr. Gus 12:00 PM Elvira Sanchez
Fr. Adrian 5:00 PM James Clare
The Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany was celebrated in Eastern Churches before being observed in Rome. It seems originally to have been a feast of the nativity of our Lord, January 6th. For those Churches it was the equivalent of December 25th in the Roman Church.

The Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world... the shining forth of the Light of the World... the manifestation of the Incarnation to the entire world beyond the Jewish world. The three kings symbolize the coming of God to the Gentiles... the entrance of God into all of the world in all of its history.

The essential reality of the Christian religion is that God reveals Himself to us. God comes to us where we are; He makes Himself known to us at our own level, in our humanity. It is fundamental to Christian belief that God entered our human condition in order to enter into communion and close communication with us. From Adam and Eve until now it is God who comes to search us out; it is not we who search God out.

God’s Light continues to shine on us in many ways... in the beautiful insights of people we meet who give us a way of seeing things in truly striking ways. We have all met such people. They move us to feel that God is near. Those are grace filled moments in our lives. God continues to give us epiphanies in those moments.

Or perhaps God’s Light comes to us in moments of silence and reflection when we are trying to pray. Perhaps we feel dry... that the words just do not come. Yet there are moments when God will come to us in our attempts at prayer... when He is very near... when He is trying to manifest Himself to us... when His Spirit is moving within us.

Or it may come in a particularly beautiful or moving celebration of the Mass... or in a reading from an Epistle or Gospel account. These, too, are epiphanies of God. These, too, are moments when we can bring our own personal gifts to Him, the gold that is the richness of our lives... the frankincense of our love for Him... the myrrh of the bitterness and suffering we carry within us. These are moments when God looks upon us as beloved friends. Didn’t He tell us that when He declared: “I no longer call you slaves, but I call you friends”? That was truly an amazing statement by God.

And so let us try harder to push the darkness of our vision aside. Are we bitter and resentful like Herod was? Do we feel upset with the Catholic Church? With having to go to Mass? Are we upset with priests... with bishops... with the pope? Do we carry animosities in our hearts toward those with whom we live? Toward our associates or our neighbors? Let us therefore cast aside the darkness that keeps us from seeing each other as God sees us.

Let us try once more during this coming year to see the epiphanies of God in our lives, especially those manifestations of Him that come to us through other persons. Let us turn our hearts to renewed prayer. Let us renew once again our commitment to see God’s Light in our lives, for He wants to share His very self with us. He wants to have a total communion... a Holy Communion with us.
A bright star appears in the heavens. For Jews who knew their Scripture, the star is a sign of the birth of a King, a descendant of the great King David. Some others see the star. They are not Jews. They are Gentiles, outsiders. Although in the Christmas carol they are called ‘kings of Orient,’ they are really ‘magi’ - magicians, astrologers, star-gazers. They have been studying the heavens, and have been captivated by the bright star they have seen. They decided it is a sign of something of great significance, and so they follow it.

King Herod the Great notices too. He doesn’t notice the star, but he does notice the Magi, and he’s curious about their intentions. He doesn’t notice the star because he’s a Jew in name only, not in faith or practice. He’s a ruthless king, power hungry, striving to please the Romans at whose whim he governed, and he won’t hesitate to do away with anyone who gets in his way. A wife, a brother-in-law, and three sons, all were executed by Herod because he perceived them to be threats to his rule. This child is a King, and Herod knows that there’s not room for both of them just a few miles apart, and so he does what kings do: he puts all the power of his realm to work to destroy the threat, to hunt down Jesus and kill Him.

Although His life is threatened at an early age, this newborn King will grow up to be an incredibly powerful! He will grow up to suffer terribly at the hands of those who think they are in power. And then the tables will turn, and Jesus will rise in triumph, and He will, indeed, be made known as ruler of the entire universe! And He will rule with mercy, and forgiveness, and love. What a King Jesus will be!

The Magi followed a star, and were led to Jesus. But they didn’t worship the star. They didn’t focus on the heavenly sign, the silent messenger from God, they focused on Jesus. They gave their precious gifts to Jesus. After the star was gone, they were warned in a dream that Herod had evil intentions. So the Magi went home, changed, transformed, renewed. They went home by another way.

By another way. That phrase has a double meaning. Yes, the Magi took a different route home, steering clear of Jerusalem, avoiding Herod, wanting to honor Jesus. They took a different route. They also took a different path. Their lives were changed. They no longer were on the outside looking in. No longer dependent on rare and mysterious stars to guide their lives. Now they could follow Jesus and know God’s unending mercy and abundant love. They could follow Jesus, and their lives would have a purpose. The Magi found another way, another way to LIVE!

And will we? That’s the challenge of this story. The message is clear: Jesus is King, King for all people, King of the Universe. And with that, there comes a challenge: will we follow Him as our King? Or will the Herod in us, the one who wants to be in charge, and destroy any one and any thing in our way, will that urge rule our lives?

There is another way. It’s the way of following Jesus. And there is, of course, the way of Herod, the way of selfishness and lusting for power. And that’s the question before us. Which way will we choose? Which way home?
We Pray for the Sick

Nicoletta Russo, Meghan Alice Roach, Stephen Rich, Patrick Hoyne, Don Davis, Rosemary Grandwilliams, Louis Romano, Eugene Ryan, Kristin O’Halloran, Patricia Merget, Theresa Anselmo, Jason Todhunter, Jacob Daniel Haubeil, John Nalick, Kevin Keegan, Joyce Caggiano, Joan Gallagher, Robert Volpe, Christina Sumperl, George Stockerl, Angelo Giglio, Donna Polemini, Terrie Manderson, Charlie Riiska, Evelyn LaMont, Dr. Lawton Manderson, Maggie Schmidt, Mario G. Cacace, Elizabeth Maiorana, Joanne Santarsiero, Dolores Trimboli, Robert Wright, Cynthia Simpson, Jillian K. Yonker, Ed Messemer, Charles Young, Iype Kuriakose, Mary Beth Novello, Robert Pisano, Anthony Cammaratta, Andrzej Okolski, Angela Ferrara, Peter & Margaret Meenan, Shane Sammartino, Michelle Hilliwiz, Baby Lucas Spina, Dorothy Giammona and Babies Grayson & Gavin Pierre.

We Pray For Our Deceased

John Gallacher
Mae Wanamaker

May They Rest In Peace

Financial Reports

12/27/15: $16,426
12/25/16: $16,582

1/3/16: $16,662
1/1/17: $14,612

Parish Families Registered: 5,029
Envelopes Mailed: 1,284 Used 12/26/16: 599
Envelopes Used 12/27/15: 589
Envelopes Used 1/3/16: 594
Envelopes Used 1/1/17: 507

2016 Catholic Ministries Appeal
Goal: $107,900 Donors: 559
Pledged: $122,562 Received: $121,527

Second Collection This Week
Maintenance & Repair

Second Collection Next Week
**10:15 Mass Holy Family Chapel**
Today we will celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord by having 3 children dress in Magi costumes and participate in the entrance procession and the offertory. They will carry the gifts that the Magi brought to the newborn king. Next month, we will be celebrating Agape/Hospitality Sunday on February 5th. If anyone can bring baked goods, please e-mail margic@optonline.net to sign up. We invite all new parishioners to join us for hospitality on Sunday, February 5th, it is a good way to meet other families and children of the parish. If you tell us before mass, we can announce your names at the end of Mass.
We are always in need of children to join the Children’s chorus, play instruments or be a junior or lead lectors. These are wonderful service jobs for religious education or school assignments.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**
Today is the feast of the Epiphany, where Magi find the newborn king and offer Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the spirit of the Magi, please remember to support the St. Vincent de Paul Society, so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child. If you know of anybody who needs assistance, please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 785-6243 so that together we can assist those who are in need of help.

**Rosary Making Group**
The Rosary Making Group welcomes new members. We meet every Wednesday, from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM in the school cafeteria. Please call Melissa at 221-9821 if you are interested in joining.

**Cub Scout Fun & Faith Day**
A special morning of prayer, handicrafts, games and a patch, Saturday, January 21st at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Brookville, 8:30 AM - 12 Noon. For information contact the Catholic Scouting Office at 678-5800 ext. 245.

**Blue Mass**
All police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel are invited to attend the Blue Mass on Sunday, January 15th at 9:30 AM at St. Rose of Lima Church, Massapequa. All who attend in uniform are invited to participate in the opening procession. There will be a blessing of emergency vehicles. A reception with light refreshments will follow Mass in the auditorium.

**Alzheimer’s & Dementia Assistance**
Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia can be very challenging. You don’t have to do it alone. **Willing Hearts, Helpful Hands** provides free in-home consultations, support groups, education and training programs, respite scholarships for in-home assistance, adult day services or overnight stays, access to volunteer caregiver companions and memory cafes. This initiative is supported by a grant from the New York State Department of Health and by Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation. Services are free and available to anyone caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias living in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. For information call 586-1507.

**Help Wanted**
A Sacrament Program Administrator is needed at St. Raphael’s Parish in East Meadow. This is a full-time position, applicants should be pleasant and welcoming, a team player, and possess the ability to be self-motivated and flexible. Knowledge of the Catholic faith and its tenets is a plus. Computer skills are required - Microsoft Programs, and Internet. Send resume to KAL714@aol.com.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**
Give your spouse a gift like no other - time for each other, rediscover your love and enhance your hopes and dreams. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter is right in time for Valentine’s Day, February 10th-12th at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington. Call 1-877-697-9963 for information.

**St. Barnabas Choir**
The St. Barnabas Choir is seeking new members. Altos especially needed, but all voices are welcome. No audition required. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM in the Church, and we sing at the 10:30 AM Sunday Masses in addition to some special events during the year. Call the rectory and ask for Bill Dione.
The Impact of Addiction
Join us for an evening of Help Hope & Compassion on Thursday, January 26th at 6:30 PM, at the Brookside School Auditorium located at 1260 Meadowbrook Rd, N. Merrick. The event includes Guest Speakers, Resource Fair, Prevention, Sign & Symptoms, Treatment Options, Personal Stories, Advocacy and a Q&A Panel. For more information call Susan Ellinghaus at 992-1082.

Marian Healing Ministry
Healing Mass at St. Anastasia’s Church (45-14 245th Street Douglaston – Little Neck) on Tuesday, January 10th. The Rosary, Mass and Healing Service begins at 7:00 PM. The celebrant is Fr. Augustine Fernando. For information call (718) 631-4454.

Bereavement Support Groups
Good Shepherd Hospice Bereavement Services are open, at no charge, to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss through death. Upcoming Bereavement Support Groups, led by a Bereavement Specialist include: Spousal/Partner Loss Support Group - January 18th - March 8th, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. Adult Loss of Parent or Sibling Support Group - January 18th - March 8th 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM. Both groups will meet at Mercy Medical Center at 100 North Village Ave. in Rockville Centre. Registration is required, please call 828-7629.

Respect Life
Please join us on our bus trip to Washington, DC on Friday, January 27th to participate in this powerful, life-changing event. For details contact Vin Murray at 781-7846. March for Life Mission Statement - “The mission of the March for Life is to provide all Americans with a place to testify to the beauty of life and the dignity of each human person.”

Something to think about - “I wish to restate as firmly as I can that abortion is a grave sin, since it puts an end to innocent life. In the same way, however, I can and must state that there is no sin that God’s mercy cannot reach and wipe away when it finds a repentant heart seeking to be reconciled with the Father.” ~Pope Francis, “Mercy and Misery”, Apostolic Letter, November 20, 2016.

Long Island Coalition for Life
Help restore the right to life for pre-born humans. Please join the Long Island Coalition for Life for the Roe v. Wade Anniversary Memorial Face the Truth event on Sunday, January 22nd, 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM. This peaceful public witness will be held on the sidewalk in front of Nassau University Medical Center (2201 Hempstead Tpke., East Meadow), a hospital that commits abortions. Thousands more are hurting because of those abortions. Be a positive sign for LIFE! Signs will be provided. Sponsored by: LICL (631)243-1435, info@prolifeLI.org.

An Evening of Celtic Music
February 11th, 7:00 PM, at St. Anthony’s High School. Benefiting St. Anthony’s High School Celtic Friars Pipe Band. It will feature the IONA College Pipe Band, Celtic Friar Pipe band, The Bob Morris Irish Band, St. Anthony’s Irish Step Dancers, The Friar Choir, and Irish Sing-Along. Tickets $20 in advance or $25 at the door.

The Week at a Glance
Sunday:
1:30 PM  Baptisms, Church

Monday:
7:30 PM  Charismatic Group, HFC

Tuesday:
7:00 PM  Parent Meeting, HFC
7:00 PM  Family Music, Church
7:30 PM  Right to Life Meeting, Rectory

Wednesday:
7:00 PM  Chosen, HFC
7:00 PM  Rosary Making Group, School
7:30 PM  Al-Anon, Rectory
7:30 PM  RCIA, Convent
8:00 PM  Choir Practice, Church

Thursday:
7:00 PM  Chosen, HFC
1:30 PM  Contemplative Prayer, Convent
7:00 PM  Bible Study, Rectory
7:30 PM  Contemplative Prayer, Convent

Friday:
1:30 PM  Lectio Divina, Convent
7:30 PM  Lectio Divina, Convent

Saturday:
12:30 PM  Confessions, Church
How can I encourage my child to grow in faith at home?

Regular family prayer time is important. Simple family prayers, such as grace before meals and a decade of the Rosary, can have a powerful impact on your child’s faith formation. The witness of St. Monica, who spent many years praying for the conversion of her wayward son, Augustine (later St. Augustine), reveals the power of a parent’s prayers and participation in the sacraments.

Sometimes, though, getting your child to do the “basics” can be challenging. One effective way to encourage your child’s faith is to appeal to his or her natural desire for independence and social connection. Suggest that your son or daughter become involved in youth ministry; this will place him or her in a spiritually uplifting environment and help deepen his or her life of faith.

Your role as a parent in your child’s faith formation does not end with religion class. Your prayers and personal example can exert a powerful impact on your child for his or her whole life. Accept the challenge—and it is a challenge—to establish a family habit of discussing faith, morals, and spiritual growth.

Why do we need to attend Mass every week?

Having a parent who is personally committed to prayer and is participating in the sacramental life of the Church can provide an important example that will stay with a child for life. For this reason, and for your own spiritual well-being, make weekly Mass and regular Confession a priority in your family.

Sadly, many Catholics do not attend Mass every Sunday, missing out on the most vital, basic element in the life of faith. A lack of commitment to Sunday Mass has many serious consequences. Failure to attend Sunday Mass disregards the third commandment to “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8), as well as Jesus’ command to “do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19). These are not merely suggestions, but commandments that call us to “conscious, active, and fruitful participation” (CCC 1071) in Mass every Sunday.

When we do not attend Mass, we miss receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, which is “the source and summit” (CCC 1324) of our Catholic Faith. We miss out on the immeasurable grace given to us when we receive Holy Communion. At Mass, Jesus offers himself to us. God humbles himself and gathers our works, joys, and sufferings and transforms them. We are united to God’s love in the most powerful way. What could possibly be more important?

While the reality of the Eucharist is hidden under the appearance of bread and wine, St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us in his traditional hymn Tantum Ergo that “what is hidden to our senses, we grasp with the help of faith.”

What can you do to make attendance at Sunday Mass more of a focal point of your family life?

If you have not been attending Mass regularly, make a fresh start by going to Confession and Mass together, followed by a special meal at home or in a restaurant. If you already attend Mass every Sunday, think about what you can do to help your family get more out of the experience. Go online to find the Mass readings for that week at USCCB.org, and read them. Encourage your child to share his or her thoughts about the homily or that week’s Scripture readings.

Why is going to Confession important? What if I have not gone in a long time?

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we confess our sins to God through the priest, who has been given the authority to act in persona Christi, i.e., with the very authority of Christ himself (see CCC 1548). In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest lends his face, hands, and voice to Christ so that we may have the powerful sensory experience of seeing and hearing, in the words of absolution, that our sins have been forgiven, and that our relationship with Christ and the Church has been restored. By requiring us to confess serious sins to a priest, the Church is fulfilling the task Jesus gave to the apostles to forgive sins.
Parent & Child Program

For children ages 2-3 years old. Our Time is a class where a child with a parent can become familiar with the classroom environment while singing songs, doing crafts, reading books, and celebrating God’s love together.

- Class sessions are offered on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM from September through June at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School.
- Our Time is an affordable way to introduce your child to the classroom environment without the worry of being separated.
- It allows for the child to be comforted with a parent’s presence and prepare for entering Pre-K.
- Our Time is taught by Mrs. Sabina Lamb. Mrs. Lamb is also the leader of the Family Liturgy Music Ministry. Contact Sabina Lamb 781-9834

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School
2341 Washington Ave, Bellmore, NY 11710
www.steas.com
Call us at 785-5709

St. Barnabas Parents Night
For Parents of Children Attending Religious Education & Catholic School

Tuesday, January 10th
7 to 8PM Holy Family Chapel

God is the Answer
Presenter:
Nolan Reynolds
Campus Ministry at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School

St. Barnabas Parents Night
For Parents of Children Attending Religious Education & Catholic School

Tuesday, January 10th
7 to 8PM Holy Family Chapel

Faith Formation

Tuesday, January 10th Parent Meeting,
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Holy Family Chapel
with Nolan Reynolds, Campus Ministry
at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School.

Monday, January 16, NO CLASSES, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

With the winter weather approaching we are looking for volunteers to help with the Religious Education Program. We need Hall Monitors and Substitute Catechists to cover when someone calls in sick.

Please contact the Office of Christian Formation 785-0130 for more information.

Please remember to check the Religious Education website regularly to keep up to date on what’s happening in Religious Education.
The purpose of this lesson is to help us appreciate the significance and importance of Baptism. Through washing and regeneration, the waters of Baptism make us children of God and mark the first step in our journey toward our home in the kingdom of God. By understanding the symbolism and significance of this rite in their lives, we are encouraged to think of the salvation story more definitively as our story.

**Conversation After Class**
- What happens when someone is baptized? (There are two primary effects: (1) washing/cleansing and (2) regeneration/rising to new life.) (See CCC 1262.)
- What would you say to someone who had a baby but was going to wait until the child was older so he or she could decide for himself or herself whether to be baptized? How does Baptism benefit even infants?
- Being part of a family involves both benefits and responsibilities. What are some of the benefits and responsibilities we have as part of God’s family?

The Church makes the salvation story our story, here and now. Through the Church, we encounter Christ in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, in the other sacraments, and through other people. While developing and maintaining a personal relationship with Christ is fundamental to our faith journey, we are reminded that to follow Christ is also to be in communion with others. It is not something we do alone - we have a personal relationship in context of our communal relationship. It is in and through the Church, Christ’s body, that we find that communion.

**Conversation After Class**
- Why do you think it is important to be Catholic? What makes the Catholic Faith unique?
- Which of the four marks of the Catholic Church seems most important to you, and why? (The four marks are one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.) (See CCC 811-812.)
- If a friend invited you to skip Mass to attend a Protestant service instead, why would that not be a good idea? What do you receive at Mass that you cannot get anywhere else?
St. Barnabas Church Door

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Rev. Robert Holz ~ Pastor of St. Raphael
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Rev. Adrian McHugh ~ Pastor of St. Barnabas
Rev. Tomaz Gomide
Sister Karen Lademann, OP ~ Coordinator of the Trip, St. Raphael

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FOR A BROCHURE WITH COMPLETE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT OR DETACH & MAIL TO:

Sister Karen Lademann, OP
St. Raphael Catholic Church
600 Newbridge Road
East Meadow, NY 11554
Tel: (516) 221-9096 or (516) 673-6709
Email: Raphaelreo@hotmail.com

NAME: ____________________________________________
ADDRESS: _______________________________________
CITY: ________________________ STATE: ________ ZIPCODE: __________
PHONE: __________________________ EMAIL: ______________
US Army:

National Guard:

US Navy:

US Marines:

US Air Force:
Capt. McLean G. Bethea, Nicholas P. Wright, Rev. Major Timothy Hirten

US Merchant Marine:
Lt. J.G. Eric Stumpel.

US Coast Guard:
Season to Believe Gala

Honoring:
Father Gregory Cappuccino * Laurie & Jim Graham
Laurie & John Murray Jr. * Lyn Ryan

The Coral House
Saturday, February 4, 2017
Cocktails 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Dinner and Dancing 7:30pm – 11:30pm
Cost $90.00 per person

As a permanent remembrance of each Gala, a 16 x 20 Scroll of Honor is professionally printed, framed and prominently displayed in the School’s lobby. The success of the Gala depends upon the generosity of our donors. Please consider purchasing a donation for the Scroll of Honor.

The donation levels for the Scroll of Honor are:
- Grand Marquis - $1,500
- Marquis - $1,000
- Diamond - $500
- Platinum - $300
- Gold - $200
- Silver - $125
- Bronze - $75

If you would like to attend the Gala or make a donation, please complete the form below and return it to the Rectory, attn: Stacy Romanelli – SEAS Gala. Please make all checks payable to SEAS.

If you have any questions please contact Stacy Romanelli at seasgalafeb@gmail.com or (516)457-0558.

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* Your response is requested by January 20, 2017

Name: ____________________________________________

# of attendees: _____ x $90.00 / per person  Total enclosed $__________

Donation level: ________  Total Enclosed $______________

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St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
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Where we “Reach” with Respect, Responsibility & Reverence
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NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
January 29 – February 4, 2017
OPEN HOUSE
January 29th ~ 11am - 1pm
Come see how a Catholic education will change your child’s life...
2341 Washington Ave, Bellmore NY ~ 516-785-4468, Call for more info.

K-1 Timothy Williams
K-2 Nicholas Gelish
1-1 Christian Calabro
1-2 Brody Hoffman
2-1 Maryann Sorto
2-2 Tia Penna
3-1 Nicholas Freudenberg
3-2 Lexi Abate
4-1 Julia Murray
4-2 Jack LaMaina
5-1 Julianna Cantelmo
5-2 Patrick Garvey
6-1 Matthew Buono
6-2 Madeleine Graham

Congratulations to January’s recipients of the Ambassador’s of Christ Award!

Thank you Mrs. Carlson’s class for hosting our fourth Advent Prayer Service!
The Story of the Other Wise Man
(adapted from Henry van Dyke)

In the days when Augustus Caesar was master of many kings and Herod reigned in Jerusalem high on the hill overlooking the region of Persia, sat the estate of Artaban the Median, a priest of the Magi, a king in his own right.

Artaban was trying to free his mind from all that had happened, trying to make sense of it, actually. His friends refused to go with him on his journey to find the King who was to be born this night. In fact, they had wondered out loud: what had happened to Artaban’s rational mind, his predictability, even his sanity. They had known him as a scientist…not a believer in a child born to become the King, and to be the hope of the world, out of some vague predictions.

Artaban held on to the knowledge that at least three of his colleagues among the Magi believed with him. They understood why he would sell his home and all of his possessions, and use what he received in order to buy gifts for this king yet to be born. Gaspar, Melchior & Balthezar would be the ones who would join together with him to journey to find this one to be born Kind of Israel.

He reached into the pocket of his robe and drew out three great gems – one blue as a fragment of the night sky, one redder than a ray of sunrise, and one as pure as the peak of a snow mountain at sunrise.

His gifts to the king – his tribute, to honor him. As Artaban looked back to the sky his eyes opened wide with wonder! Out of the darkness began an explosion of color. It was as if the colors of the jewels in his hand mixed together and finally exploded into a point of white radiance. The star shone in the distance.

This is it…It is the sign!” He said. “The King is coming, and I will go to meet him!”

And before the sun began its journey across the sky, the Fourth Wise Man was in the saddle of his swiftest, most trusted horse, riding to meet his friends.

Artaban knew he must ride wisely and well if he was to arrive at the appointed hour with the other Magi at the Temple of the Seven Spheres just before midnight on the tenth day. Artaban’s prize horse was almost spent as he arrived, at nightfall of the tenth day, beneath the shattered walls of Babylon. He would have turned into the city to find rest and food for himself and his horse, except that he knew that he had three hour’s journey yet to the Temple of the Seven Spheres, and he must reach the place by midnight if he were to find his comrades waiting. So he did not stop, but continued on.

Near the farther end of the darkness, caution seemed to overtake the horse. She sensed some danger or difficulty. At last she stood stock-still, quivering in every muscle, before a dark object in the shadow of the last palm tree.

Artaban dismounted. The dim starlight revealed the form of a man lying across the road. His humble dress and the outline of his haggard face showed that he was probably one of the poor Hebrew exiles who still dwelt in great numbers in the vicinity. The chill of death was in his lean hand, and as Artaban released it, the arm fell back limply on to the motionless breast.

He turned away with a thought of pity, resigning the body to that strange burial which the Priests of the Magi deemed most fitting – the funeral of the desert where vultures and varmints would pick the bones clean.

But as he turned, a long, faint, ghostly sigh came from the man’s lips, and the brown, bony fingers closed on the hem of the Priestly Magi’s robe and held him fast. Artaban’s heart leaped to his throat, not so much with fear, but with a dumb resentment at the inopportunity of the timing…of the possibility of a delay while so close to his destination.

How could he stay here in the darkness to minister to a dying stranger? What was his duty? If he was delayed for even an hour he could hardly reach the meeting place at the appointed time, and his companions would think he had given up the journey. They would go without him. He would lose his quest, the quest he had invested so much in.

But if he went now, the man would surely die.
His spirit was in agonizing turmoil. Should he turn aside, if only for a moment, from the following of the star, to give a cup of cold water to a poor, perishing Hebrew?

“God of truth and purity,” he prayed, “direct me in the holy path, the way of wisdom which only you know.”

Then he turned back to the sick man. Loosening the grasp of his hand, he carried him to a little mound at the foot of the palm-tree.

Assuring first that he was comfortable, he brought water from one of the small canals nearby, and moistened the sufferer’s brow and mouth. He mixed a drink of one of those simple but potent remedies which he carried always in his girdle – for the Magis were physicians as well as astrologers – and poured it slowly between the colorless lips. Hour after hour he labored as only a skillful healer of disease can do; and, at last, the man’s strength returned; he sat up and looked about him.

“Who are you?” He said, in the uneducated dialect of the country,

“I am Artaban, of the Magi, and I am going to Jerusalem in search of one who is to be born King of the Jews, a great Prince and Deliverer of ALL. I can not delay any longer on my journey, for the caravan that has waited for me may leave without me.

Here is all that I have left of bread and wine and here is a potion of healing herbs. When your strength is restored you can find your way home.

The Jew raised his trembling hand solemnly to heaven.

He looked at Artaban, “I have nothing to give you in return for what you have done for me – only this; that I can tell you where the Messiah must be sought. For our prophets have said that he should be born not in Jerusalem, but in Bethlehem of Judah. May the Lord bring you safely to that place, because you have had pity upon the sick.”

So Artaban did indeed return to Babylon, and with his sapphire he purchased what he needed for the journey.

Through heat and cold, Artaban, Priest of the Magi, the Fourth Wise Man, moved steadily onward – crossing the desert

He arrived weary, but full of hope in Bethlehem, bearing yet his ruby and his pearl to offer to the King. “Now at last,” he said, “I shall surely find him. This is the place the Hebrew exile told me that the prophets had spoken of.

As he searched for the place where the baby lay, he was aware of the desolation of the streets. All was an eerie quiet. From the open door of a low stone cottage he heard the sound of a woman’s voice singing softly. He entered and found a young mother hushing her baby to rest. She told him of the three wise men that had appeared in the village three days ago, and how they said that a star had guided them to the place where Joseph of Nazareth was lodging with his wife, Mary, and her newborn child, and she told how they had given many rich gifts to the child to honor him.

“But the travelers disappeared again, as
suddenly as they had come. And the man of Nazareth took the babe and his wife and fled away that same night secretly, and it was whispered that they were going far away to Egypt.

Ever since there has been a spell upon the village; something evil hangs over it. They say that the Roman soldiers are coming from Jerusalem to force a new tax from us, and the men have driven the flocks and herds far back among the hills, and hidden themselves to escape it.”

The young mother laid the babe in its cradle, and rose to care for the strange guest. She set food out for him, what little food she had, - graciously offered, and the gratefully received. Suddenly there came the noise of wild confusion and uproar in the streets of the village, a shrieking and wailing of women’s voices, a clanging of swords, and desperate cries: “The soldiers! The soldiers of Herod! They are killing our children!”

The young mother’s face grew white with terror. She held her child close to her, and crouched motionless in the darkest corner of the room, covering him with the folds of her robe, praying he would not wake up and cry. Artaban went quickly and stood in the doorway of the house. His royal bearing filled the opening, blocking any sight of the home within.

The soldiers came hurrying down the street with bloody hands and dripping swords. At the sight of the stranger in his imposing dress they hesitated with surprise. Artaban did not move. But said, in a low voice;

“I am all alone in this place, waiting to give this jewel to the prudent captain who will leave me in peace.”

He showed the ruby, glistening in the hollow of his hand like a great drop of blood. The captain barely hesitated, but stretched out his hand and took the ruby greedily.

“March on!” he cried to his men. “There is no child here.

The clamor and the clang of arms moved down the street. Artaban re-entered the cottage. He turned his face to the east and prayed:

“God of truth, forgive my sin! I have said the thing that is not, to save the life of a child. And two of my gifts are gone. Shall I ever be worthy to see the face of the King?”

But the voice of the woman, weeping for joy in the shadow behind him, said, very gently:

“Because you have saved the life of my little one, may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.”

So, the Fourth Wise Man traveled from place to place beginning in Egypt, he searched among the people of the dispersion, he saw hunger and famine, plague stricken cities, imprisoned and enslaved. In all the morass of humanity, he found none to worship - but many to help. He fed the hungry, and clothed the naked, and healed the sick, and comforted the captive; and his years went by more swiftly than the weaver’s shuttle through the loom, leaving behind a pattern of love and compassion. It seemed almost as if he had forgotten his quest.

Thirty-three years of the life of Artaban passed away, and he still was a pilgrim, and a seeker after light. His hair was now white as the wintry snow. Worn and weary and ready to die, but still looking for the king, he had come for the last time to Jerusalem. He had often visited the holy city before, and had searched through all its lanes and crowded hovels and black prisons without finding any trace of the family of Nazarenes who had fled from Bethlehem long ago. But now it seemed as if he must make one more effort, and something whispered in his heart that, at last, he just might succeed.

It was the season of the Passover. The city was teeming with strangers and many languages. But on this day there was a singular agitation visible in the multitude. The sky was veiled with a dark and rolling gloom. And Artaban joined company with a group of people from his own country, Parthian Jews who had come up to keep the Passover, and inquired of them the cause of the agitation, and where they were going.

“We are going,” they answered, “to the place called Golgotha, outside the city walls, where there is to be an execution. Haven’t you heard what has happened? Two famous robbers are to be crucified, and with them another, called Jesus of Nazareth, a man who has done many wonderful works among the people, so that they love him greatly. But the priests and elders have said that he must die, because he
named himself as the Son of God. And Pilate has sent him to the cross because he said that he was the ‘King of the Jews.’”

Artaban’s heart beat quickly. Could it be the same one who had been born in Bethlehem thirty-three years ago, at whose birth the star had appeared in heaven? He said within himself: Could it be that my last pearl is just in time to offer for His ransom and save his life.

So the old man followed the crowd. Just beyond the entrance of the guard-house a troop of Macedonian soldiers came down the street, dragging a young girl with torn dress and matted hair. As the once noble and stately Magi, still priestly in his bearing, paused to look at her with compassion, she suddenly broke from the hands of her tormentors and threw herself at his feet.

“Have pity on me,” she cried, “and save me, for the sake of the God of purity! I also am a daughter of the true religion which is taught by the Magi. My father was a merchant of Parthis, but he is dead, and I am seized for debts to be sold as a slave. Save me from this fate worse than death.”

Artaban trembled. It was the old conflict in his soul, which had come to him in the palm grove of Babylon and in the cottage at Bethlehem – the conflict between the expectation and the impulse of love. The conflict between the gift he hoped to offer the king and the open faced need right before his eyes. This was his last time to face this choice.

One thing only was sure to his divided heart – to rescue this helpless girl would be a true deed of love. And is not love the light of the soul?

He took the pearl from his bosom. Never had it seemed so luminous, so radiant, so full of tender, living luster. As he looked at it, a soft and iridescent light, full of shifting gleams of blue and rose, trembled upon its surface. It seemed to have absorbed some reflection of the colors of the lost ruby and sapphire.

He took one last look and laid it in the hand of the slave.

“This is your ransom, daughter! It is the last of my treasures which I kept for the King.”

While he spoke, the darkness of the sky thickened, and shuddering tremors ran through the earth.

The walls of the house where they stood in the shadows rocked back and forth. Stones were loosened and crashed into the street. Dust-clouds filled the air. The soldiers fled in terror. But Artaban and the girl whom he had ransomed crouched helpless beneath the wall of the Praetorium.

What did he have to fear? What did he have to live for? He had given away the last gift to the king, his tribute. And with that he gave up the hope of ever finding Him. The quest was over, and it had failed. But, even in that thought, there was peace. It was not resignation. It was not submission. It was something more profound and searching. He knew that all was well, because he had done the best that he could, from day to day. He had been true to the light that had been given to him.

One more lingering tremor of the earthquake quivered through the ground. A heavy tile, shaken from the roof, fell and struck the old man on the temple. He lay breathless and pale, with his white head resting on the young girl’s shoulder, and the blood trickling from the wound.

As she bent over him, afraid he was dead, a came sound through the twilight, very small and still, like music sounding from a distance, in which the notes are clear but the words are lost. The girl turned her head to see if someone had spoken from the window above them, but she saw no one.

The old man’s lips began to move, as if in answer. Clearly he had heard the words, and she heard him say in the Parthian tongue:

“Not so, my Lord. For when did I see you??”

He stopped talking and the sweet voice came again. And again the girl heard it, very faint and far away, but now it seemed as though she too understood the words. She heard this:

“Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me.”

A calm radiance of wonder and joy lighted the pale face of Artaban, like the first ray of dawn on a snowy mountain peak, and one long, last breath of relief exhaled gently from his lips.

His journey was ended. His treasures were accepted. The Other Wise Man had found the King.
Find the hidden letters in the picture below.

J E S U S

The Magi were warned in a dream not to go back to King Herod.

Trace the line that goes around King Herod.

They followed a special star. It led them to the place where Jesus was.

The Magi worshiped the baby Jesus.

Shade in the .

Match the gifts they gave to baby Jesus.
The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.
Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).

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Write the letter that's missing in each set on the line. Find the names of the gifts they brought.

FH NP KM CE
LN XZ QS QS GI
HJ MO BD DF MO RT DF

Use the code to find their words.

🌟 = A  🌟 = E  🌟 = I  🌟 = O

“W_h_r_s th_n”

wh_h_s b_n b_rn

K_ng f th J ws?

W_s w H_s st r n

th st nd h v

c m t w r sh p H m.”

The king was disturbed. He called together the chief priests and teachers of the law to find out about this “King” the Magi spoke of. They told him what they knew from the Scriptures. The king told the Magi to find the child and report back to him.

Add or subtract words or letters to fill in the blanks.

1.) Who was this disturbed king?

- ous + - in + - bir = __________

2.) Where was the “King of the Jews” born?

- ik + 3 - ree + - rur + - so
+ - broo = _____________________

3.) Why did the king say that he wanted to know where the child was?

- m + - to ____________ him

The king was not telling the truth, however.

The Magi followed the star. It stopped over the place where the child was. They saw the child and His mother.

Connect the dots. Write the letters in order on the lines.

They bowed down and