



The Epiphany of the Lord ABC 2
Ephesians:3:2-3a, 5-6

Secret Plan

The birth of Jesus became the worst kept secret in the history of the world. All along, people knew God had a plan. God had told everyone from Adam and Eve, to Abraham and Sara, to Moses and Miriam, to David and Bathsheba, to Hosea and Gomer, to Mary and Joseph that there was a plan. Nobody fully understood it. Nobody knew how God would bring the plan to fulfillment. But they all believed. They had seen God work mighty deeds in their lives, and they believed that one day the promise of redemption would be fulfilled.

Jesus was God's secret. When Jesus was born in humble surroundings outside of royalty and pageantry, only a handful of people even began to realize what God had done.

But the secret got out. Angels appeared in the sky. Shepherds showed up. And Magi traveled from a faraway land. Everyone was finding out God's two great surprises: Jesus was born as the promised Messiah, and he came not just for his own race, but for all the people of the world.

The Letter to the Ephesians says, God's mystery "was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Jesus was born, and he came to save each of us, no matter what family we came from, what we believed, or how we behaved. The mystery of God's love is open now to the whole world. That is the epiphany, the revelation of God's secret.

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It's an Epiphany Party!

Religious Education classes will resume on Jan. 8, the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord. We will be celebrating with a family prayer service and party at 9:30. Please plan to join us; you are welcome to bring drinks or baked goods to add to our festive table. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

We are very much aware that many people in our community are struggling to make ends meet - to pay for utility bills and to put food on the table. We invite you to take a Zip-Lock Bag and fill it with excess coins that you might have lying around. Then when we gather on the 8th of January to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany bring your bag and be part of the procession to the Christmas Crib by placing your coins in the baskets provided. Monies collected will be used to aid those in need.



Father Benintende officially retired, January 1. Father will continue to live at the rectory until his apartment is available in March; and will celebrate Mass at Saint Mary's periodically.

An Invitation

Please join us for a reception immediately following

The 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 15th, 2012

**In the Parish Center Gym to honor
Rev. Joseph Benintende
On the occasion of his retirement**



Begin the New Year by helping to provide a hot meal and warm fellowship at Saturday's Bread on January 14th. Adults and youth 12 and over are welcome. Please sign up to participate by calling Ellen at 432-5514 or by e-mail at ealex@stny.rr.com. Other dates for 2012 are March 3rd, May 5th, July 7th, September 1st, and November 3rd.



Epiphany Chalk by Paul Turner

Some Christians bless their homes on Epiphany each year. With chalk, they write an inscription on the inside lintel above the front door. The series of numbers, letters and crosses changes only slightly from year to year. For example, at the start of the year 2012, the line read as follows: 20+C+M+B+12.

The four digits designating the New Year appear at the beginning and end of the line. In 2012, for example, the last number changed to a 2. Because Epiphany comes so near the beginning of the New Year, the numbers represent an annual renewal of God's blessing.

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words "*Christus mansionem benedicat.*" "May Christ bless the house." The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing.

The crosses represent Christ, whom we invoke, and the saintliness of the magi. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing.

The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and patron of the beginning and end of things. This blessing adds a Christian dimension to the traditional observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by God's eternal Word in this holy season.

If you want to bless your home this Epiphany, read the opening verses of John's Gospel, pray the Lord's Prayer, then write the inscription for this year above your front door with chalk.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Parish Mission here at Saint Mary's, Oneonta
March 24 - 29, 2012

conducted by
**Sister Joan Bukrey, Father Michael Champlin
and Father Nicholas Punch**
of
The Thomas More Center



TUESDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

January 10th at 10:00 a.m.

The Holy Land Revealed

Lesson 15

The Sectarian Settlement at Qumran

By Professor Jodi Magness

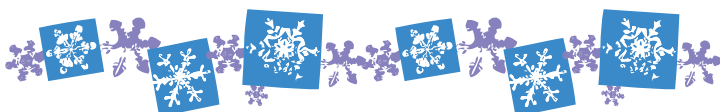
A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

Is Your Child Preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion?

Please remember to send a copy of your child's baptismal certificate to the Faith Formation office. You may drop them, off on Sunday morning, bring them to the rectory or mail them to us at 39 Walnut Street, attn: Faith Formation. Thank you!

January 23rd is a **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. Mass at Saint Mary's will be at 9:00 a.m. on January 23rd.



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Readings for the Week of January 8, 2012

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1:9-20/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42

"Calvary Hill Retreat Center will be hosting a workshop on Christian meditation on Sat, Jan. 14th from 9am to 3pm. The retreat called Deep Listening will be presented by Bruce Gardiner, a well known and popular retreat leader in the Catholic community from the Albany area. Below is a description of the workshop:

Deep Listening: Bringing Contemplative Dimension in Everyday Interactions

Just as praying the Scriptures in the practice of Lectio Divina has four stages or four moments — Reading, Reflecting, Responding, and Resting in the Word of God, so too does the practice of Deep Listening reveal four parallel stages.

Literal Listening

Downloading (viewing present experience through interpretive frames from the past)

Active Listening

Open Mind (suspending inferences to look for "the facts")

Affective (Empathic) Listening

Open Heart (shifting from self focus to "other" focus)

Transformative (Contemplative) Listening

Open Will (suspending self; shifting focus to "the Holy Other")

As with the Divine Presence, the capacity for Transformative Listening abides in each of us, though it is often un-awakened. As we work together during the workshop, we will use prayer, meditation, and scriptural voice dialogue, to "presence" each of these four stages of listening. While Literal, Active and Affective listening may well be within our experience, Transformative Listening probably has been more elusive. But during the workshop, we should be able to glimpse all four. And we will also ground each mode of listening in paired and small group exercises, thus bringing the practice of Deep Listening in its Contemplative Dimension into our daily interactions.

The cost is \$20 and includes lunch. For more information or to register, call 432 4926 or email calvaryhillretreat@yahoo.com. Calvary Hill Retreat Center is at 290 Chestnut Street Oneonta NY 13820 (the old Chestnut Street School)."



YOUTH MINISTRY

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national program which allows youth to raise funds and awareness to help relieve hunger in their local communities.

On Saturday and Sunday, February 4 and 5, Saint Mary's young people will be collecting food items and monetary donations after each of the Masses for Saint Mary's Food Pantry.

Please give generously, and support our young people in their efforts to reach out to our neighbors in need.



**WEEKEND
RETREAT**



FEBRUARY 17 - 19, 2012

Father Benintende will be conducting a weekend retreat at Mount Saviour Monastery, Pine City, NY. We will be using "Finding Our Sacred Center: A journey to inner peace" by Henri Nouwen as our basis of discussion.

About the book:....*It was January 1990, the dawn of a new decade, and Henri Nouwen, world-renowned spiritual writer, was in France but his writing wasn't going well. Frustrated and discouraged, he decided to go to Lourdes, even though it was the off season, to give his anxious heart a rest. This profoundly inspiring journal is the result of his three-day stay. Lourdes restored Nouwen's inner peace and helped him return to his sacred center. He realized, of course, that he did not need to be at Lourdes to find peace and joy. The purity, simplicity, and freedom he experienced belong to the heart and can be lived anywhere. Whether we have been to Lourdes or not, does not matter. This small journal is bound to touch our own restless and searching hearts and help us to find again our own sacred center, the living Christ within us.*

Cost of the retreat will be \$125.00 plus food - if you plan to participate call the rectory office as soon as possible, as space will be limited.

Please remember our parish in your will...we are:
"St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Oneonta, NY"

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



January 7 - 15, 2012

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2012

4:00 p.m. Catherine Mondillo by Ann Oliver & Family
and Edith Armstrong
Anne Marie Sullivan
by Jason & Maryanne Ogden
Tim Mc Donald (4th Ann) by Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012

8:30 a.m. Philip Colone (12th Ann) by Children
Joseph Fiederer by Kevin Mroczkowski

10:30 a.m. People of Saint Mary's Parish
Emil & Alice Tisenchek by Family
Enzo Marchiano by Rose Grigoli

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012

9:00 a.m. In celebration of Diz La Monica's 101st Birthday
by Jo Ann

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

9:00 a.m. Father Richard O'Halloran by The Butler Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

9:00 a.m. Donna Hathaway by Bob & Carol Basha

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012

9:00 a.m. Anthony Cillis by Grace Kent

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012

9:00 a.m. Giuseppina Picone by Rose Grigoli

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012

4:00 p.m. Mackena, Delaney & Kason Miller (1st Ann)
by Aunt Jean

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

8:30 a.m. Gloria Christie by Mark & Arminda Colone
People of Saint Mary's Parish

10:30 a.m. Father Paul Roman (Birth Rem)
by Diz * Jo Ann La Monica
Eleanor Ronovech (24th Ann) by Husband

**The Sanctuary Lamp will burn
January 8 - 14, 2012
in loving memory of
Joseph & Harriet Mitchell by Family**



STEWARDSHIP

as of December 27, 2011

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION \$30, 395.73

**if you haven't had a chance to
contribute to the**

Christmas Collection, there is still time

Thank you to all who have given so generously

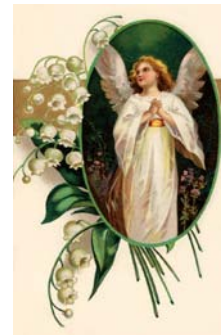
PRAYER CORNER

We ask that you remember in your prayers the following persons who are ill: *Phil and Patricia Devine, Sharon Ann Hickey, Frank Furlan, Beulah and Ralph Morley, Barbaranne Nelson, Frances Baker, Mary Downs, Margaret Osterhoudt, Kathleen O'Hara, Owen Howarth, Betty Benintende, Dorothy Walsh, Robert Conway, Deborah Conway, Jack Stanley, George Parslow, Pat Healey, Ruth Healey, Noel Ranieri, Joseph Mercun, Karen Kelsey, Kristen Collins, Christine Schermerhorn, Joan Ingram, Jason "Jake" Deleski, Paula Hickey, Patty & Carl Wener, Victor Olmedo, Robert A. Harlem, Marlene Nagy and George Gerken* (names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks, and then removed unless notified by family - thank you)

We pray for the men and women of our parish and community who are serving in the military.

We remember in prayer the following Priests of The Albany Diocese: *Fathers John Cairns, Paul Cox, Gordon Polenz, Peter Pagonos, John Malecki, Kofi Ntsiful-Amissah, Joseph Benintende, Paul Engel, John Facci, Richard Dybas and Bishop Harry Flynn*

Let us remember those who have died especially the members of our families and parish community.



**A special thank you to Lester Grummons
Funeral Home for the beautiful 2012 calendars
this year.**

**A special thank you to everyone who
participated in the annual Christmas Giving
Tree this year. Your generosity made many
people in our local nursing home have a Merry
Christmas. Your love and compassion truly
makes a difference in the lives of many.**

**At this time of year we would like to extend a
very special "Thank You" to all who provide
music at all our liturgies. We know that a lot of
preparation and practice go into your efforts
each and every week.**

**Our special thanks to Ace Glass and Tom Rowe
for constructing the front plexiglass on the
outdoor nativity.**

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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
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Comments:
