

January 7, 2024

EPIPHANY of the LORD

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 6, 2024 <i>Saturday of Christmas</i>	
8:00 a.m.	† Kathleen O'Donnell Kelly
12:00 p.m.	† Leonard, Sr. & Mary Armstrong
5:00 p.m.	† Joanne Werner
Sunday, January 7, 2024 <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	
10:00 a.m.	† Anthony Crescenzo
Monday, January 8, 2024 <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	
8:00 a.m.	Susan & Roger Gronert
12:00 pm	Intentions of the Chico-Guzman Family
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 <i>Tuesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time</i>	
8:00 a.m.	† John Ervin
12:00 p.m.	Lorenzo Matozzo
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 <i>Wednesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time</i>	
8:00 a.m.	Members & Benefactors of the Shrine
12:00 p.m.	† Anthony & Sarah Caccese
Thursday, January 11, 2024 <i>Thursday of the First Week in Ordinary Time</i>	
8:00 a.m.	Alonzo Vargas (conversion & healing)
12:00 p.m.	Banneux Protection – Reinedy, Jinnely & Junior
Friday, January 12, 2024 <i>Friday of the First Week in Ordinary Time</i>	
8:00 a.m.	Alonzo Vargas
12:00 p.m.	† Eleanor Calabrese
Saturday, January 13, 2024 <i>Saturday of the First Week in Ordinary Time</i>	
8:00 a.m.	Alonzo Vargas
12:00 p.m.	† Joanne Miniscalco
5:00 p.m.	† Rosemarie DeMarco

Bread & Wine Offering	Sanctuary Candle
Kathleen O'Donnell Kelly (†)	Rosemarie DeMarco (†)
† = Deceased	

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE:			
	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
Sun	Is 60:1-6	Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6	Mt 2:1-12
Mon	Is 55:1-11		Mk 1:7-11
Tues	1 Sm 1:9-20		Mk 1:21-28
Wed	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20		Mk 1:29-39
Thurs	1 Sm 4:1-11		Mk 1:40-45
Fri	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a		Mk 2:1-12
Sat	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a		Mk 2:13-17

Healing Mass: January 21, 2024

12:00 p.m. Mass
11:30 a.m. Confessions

Do you find yourself mentally, physically, spiritually, socially, or emotionally burdened? We invite you to join us for our next Healing Mass! We will gather on Sunday, January 21, 2024 to pray for Saint Rita's healing intercession, and receive a special blessing with Saint Rita oil. All are welcome!

The Strength to Seek Help

All of us occasionally have problems in dealing with the demands and perplexities of daily life and our relationships. From time to time we can get "stuck" and have the need to sort out the challenges and choices to be made. These are the times when we can benefit from talking with a person who is trained in the skills of Pastoral Counseling and psychotherapy. Here at the Shrine, we have resources on staff to help. Fr. Jim Paradis, O.S.A. is a certified pastoral counselor, and Br. Bob Thornton, O.S.A. is a clinical psychologist. Both draw on the resources of faith and psychology to help people burdened by personal, couple, and family problems. It is a sign of strength to face and seek professional guidance with such issues. If you would like to learn more, please call **Fr. Jim Paradis, O.S.A., D.Min.** at **215-546-8333, ext. 1400.**

Please pray for our sick:

Anthony Acchione, Steven E. Addeo, JoAnn Allessio, Judy Alonzo, Mia Andrilla, Cecilia Anguera, Carol Antonelli, Alene Avetian, Isaiah Baker, Marissa Biancaniello, Marie Bidy, Sarah Bidy, Bo Botto, Joseph Botto, Lula Bottoms, Samuel A. Bowlen, Elizabeth Boyer, Anna Boyle, Zack Bove, Kevin & Elizabeth Brennan, Deborah Brown, Kay Brown, Pat Bruno, Alice Butterworth, Mikey Calabretta, Frank Cammarata, Rose Campolongo, Katie Cassidy, Aurora Cassidy, Christine Castelli, Sonia Celia, Noah Checchia, Cindy Chen, Anthony Cimini, Lynn Costello, Robert Cox, III, Rosemary Crescitelli, Ralphal Curry, Jr., William D'Amato, April L. DeMatto, Dora Di Costanzo, Raymond DiPalma, Cecilia Dougherty, Ryan J. Dougherty, Madeline Farnese, Anthony Ferrara, Cristina Field, Nova A. Fields, Jeannette Forcina, Patricia Fueschlin, David Gavin, Jeanne Giaccia, Helen Glowacki, John Glowacki, Roger Gronert, Stella Gualtieri, Marie Guan, Eileen Hammel, Dean Hardwick, Gavin Horn, Christina Houser, Sister Mary Joan Huggard, Ray Huxen, Sr., Richard Iezzi, Carolyn Jenkins, Rosalie Jones, Ignation José, Mila José, Kathy Kelly, Sheila Kendall, Brian Kuran, Rose Marie Lattanzio, Dina Levine, Mikey Ludwig, Bill Maffucci, Catherine Mahoney, Alexis Makowiec, Jilian Mariutti, Bernadette Mastromarco, Rocco Mattio, Tara McCabe, Marie McKenna, Blaise Michaels, Greg Michaels, Jeanette Million, Lynn Minko, Robert Monroe, Natalie Deal Mullen, Josephine Neilson, Jack O'Connell, Dennis O'Hara, Elizabeth Paglia, James Papa, Kate Pepper, Courtney Pisano, Rita Pisano, Annamaria Ranieri, Joseph & Maureen Reihl, Michael Reihl, George Richardson, Robin Rosenfeld, Roberta Ruskowski, Joseph Russo, Carolyn Sabatina, Nicholas Salmieri, Maria Scocca, Martha Sechuck, Audrey Seebarith, Javon Welch Smith, Nancy Tatum, Andrea Wells, Sophia Haifa Zedan, Joanne, Phil & Renee.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Due to the early submission date for this bulletin, the recent collection totals will be included next weekend. Thank you for your patience and generosity!

A Few Simple Notes from the Director

A Reflection on the Magi

When you stop to think about it, we know very little about the Magi from today's Gospel story. While we know that they come from the East and follow a star on their journey to Bethlehem, we pretty much assume everything else about them. We think that there were three of them based on the number of gifts named in the Gospel, but could there have been more? We assume that they were wealthy, like kings, because of the type of gifts they offered Jesus, but were they? Most medieval art represents the Magi as multiracial coming from Asia, Africa, and Europe, but how can we really know where they are from?

For years, different scripture scholars and theologians have weighed in on these characters, their impact on the Christmas story, and their role in recognizing Jesus as a divine King. And as important as these insights are, I wonder if the lesson for each of us is more straightforward: Like the Magi, aren't we called to (1) recognize the signs in our midst that point us to God, (2) adore God earnestly, offering all that we have and do to Him, for His glory, and then (3) be open to the conversion that awaits us as a result of these encounters? This seems to be the story of the Magi, and over 2,000 years later, it appears to be our story as well. As we begin 2024, let's pray for the grace and strength to seek God at work in our lives so that we might pay Him homage in all that we do.

A New Vision for Shrine Ministries

Over the next few weeks, I plan to share with you a new vision for our ministries at the Shrine. Inspired by the life of Saint Rita, this vision will help us properly situate what we already offer and why we offer it, as well as give us direction on how we might expand our programs moving forward. Members of the staff and I had the opportunity to think through some initial ideas - really exciting and dynamic possibilities - the week before Christmas that will help us realize the Shrine's growing impact on the Church and the world. We are thinking big, so stay tuned as we prepare to share what we have in store for this new year and beyond! And, as always, Saint Rita, keep praying for us!

Security Incident & Update

This past Tuesday, we had a gentleman enter the Lower Shrine and intentionally punch our image of the Divine Mercy in the Saints' Grotto. He shattered the glass, caused a bit of a scene, and then ran away. Thanks to members of the Shrine staff, the police were called, and a report was filed before the man was eventually arrested. He has been seen causing trouble around the Shrine before, so while shocking, it was easy to identify him.

Sadly, these types of incidents are becoming more and more common at the Shrine and other houses of worship around our neighborhood. Over the next year, I intend to make significant updates to our security protocol, and allocate resources to ensure the safety of our patrons and staff. Your patience, alertness when in the Shrine, and prayers are appreciated as we navigate these realities.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

"Brothers and sisters, as it was for the Magi, so it is for us. The journey of life and faith demands a deep desire and inner zeal as we seek the Lord and adore Him."

Pope Francis, January 2022

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Please note that the Shrine will celebrate only one **Mass at 9:00 a.m. in the Upper Church on Monday, January 15, 2024 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** The Shrine will close immediately after Mass and will open again for regular hours on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. The Shrine Office and Gift Shop will be closed for the holiday.



Are you a mom who worries about their children because they have fallen away from their faith? In the Spring, the Shrine will begin hosting a weekly prayer group in collaboration with "Millions of Monicas," a national prayer ministry specifically for moms worried about their kids. There is hope. Stay tuned!

Please prayerfully consider stopping by the Lower Shrine Chapel to join us on **Thursdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.** for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Saint Rita, in ecstasy before the Blessed Sacrament, pray for us!

Save the Dates: Triduum 2024

We hope that you will make plans to join the Shrine for our commemoration of the Paschal Triduum this year:

Holy Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 2024 | 7:30 p.m. Mass

Good Friday

Friday, March 29, 2024 | 7:30 p.m. Service

Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 30, 2024 | 8:00 p.m. Mass

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. Mass

To Have and to Hold

Congratulations to

Jessica Lynn Becker and Matthew Francis Coppolino, III
who were married at the Shrine this weekend!

May they experience God's abundant blessings as they begin their married life together.

To learn more about other local events and programs, visit:
www.SaintRitaShrine.org/virtual-bulletin

The readings for the Epiphany of the Lord, begin at **number 974 in the hymnal.**

BATHROOM CODE: 1-2-5-7