

# Octave of Christmas

## Masses and Intentions for the Week

### Sunday, January 1 White

Octave of Christmas (Circumcision), *I Class*

8:00 AM Rene Hoyden

11:30 AM Private Intention

On this, the eighth day after Christmas, the Church commemorates the Circumcision of our Redeemer and also honors Mary's Divine Maternity. The sinless Son of Man sheds for us the first drops of His Blood and the Lord of all submits to the Mosaic Law.

### Monday, January 2 White

Most Holy Name of Jesus, *II Class*

7:30 PM Ted Naff family

The Church invites us to celebrate in a solemn feast the Holy Name of Jesus, for under no other name is there salvation. This Most Holy Name should be on our lips during our lives and especially at the moment of our death.

### Tuesday, January 3 White

Feria of Christmastide, *IV Class*

6:30 AM Raymond W. Scheetz + (anniv.)

12:10 PM Wayne Ivy +

### Wednesday, January 4 White

St. Elizabeth Seton, Widow, *IV Class*

7:30 PM Clare Hogan

### Thursday, January 5 White

Vigil of the Epiphany, *IV Class*

6:30 AM Archbishop Sartain

12:10 PM Tobias Deitrich

### Friday, January 6 White (First Friday)

Epiphany of Our Lord, *I Class*

12:10 PM David F. Latta

7:30 PM Souls in Purgatory (*Solemn Mass*)

The word *Epiphany* means *manifestation*. The Church in the Mass over the next two weeks commemorates a triple manifestation of Christ: today, to the Magi who represent the Gentiles, and by whose gifts the Child is honored as King (gold) and High Priest (frankincense) who will redeem man from sin by way of His death (myrrh); on January 13, in His Baptism, when the voice from Heaven declared: "This is My beloved Son"; and on the second Sunday after the Epiphany in the miracle of changing water into wine at Cana.

### Saturday, January 7 White (First Saturday)

Saturday of Our Lady, *IV Class*

11:00 AM Chris Poncini

### Sunday, January 8 White

Holy Family, *II Class*

8:00 AM Anna Marie Roth and family

11:45 AM Pro Populo

The Church proposes for our imitation the virtues of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in their hidden and humble life at Nazareth, especially the subjection of the Son of God, throughout His earthly life, by obedience to Mary and Joseph.

## Thank You!

A *sincere* word of gratitude to all who helped with the Christmas Midnight Mass, from the choir and schola, to the servers, the ushers, to those who constructed the Manger. May God bless you as only He knows how!

## Sunday Mass Time Adjustment

For the time we remain at St. Alphonsus, in order to facilitate an easier transition between the 10:00 and 11:30 Masses, please note that the Sunday High Mass will begin at 11:45 AM, **effective next Sunday, January 8**. Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

## Additional Weekday Masses

With the arrival of Fr. Harkins, two additional weekday Masses will be added to the schedule on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 6:30 for all those early birds out there looking to get the worm, effective this week.

Please note further that the office of Compline will be sung on Monday and Wednesday evenings following the Mass. We hope to have booklets to help with following along in the coming weeks.

## Epiphany of Our Lord—Friday

Friday, January 6, is the Epiphany of Our Lord, the twelfth day of Christmas, which is also first Friday. The holyday schedule will be observed with Masses at 12:10 and 7:30 PM. As extra clergy will be available, the evening Mass will be a Solemn High Mass to which all are most encouraged to attend.

## Blessed Chalk and Water for Epiphany

Chalk for the annual home inscriptions and special Epiphany (holy) water will be blessed on Thursday, the traditional vigil of the Epiphany, and made available on Friday. The inscription "20 + C + M + B + 12" may be written on the outside lintels of the doors to the house, the letters standing for the names of the three kings, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. As the kings bore witness by their gifts to Christ's kingly authority, His priesthood, and death through which we have salvation, so the inscription testifies that those in the house bear witness to the same truths and pray for heavenly protection over the house, residents, and guests.

## Potluck—Next Sunday

Please note that the monthly potluck will follow the High Mass next Sunday. During the potluck, the children's choir will perform a short program of Christmas songs

and carols. Plan to attend!

### **First Communion Registration**

First Communion registration forms are now available in the vestibule. These can be returned either by mail or by dropping in the collection basket. Classes are scheduled to begin January 22. If there is a question in regards to a child's eligibility, please contact the rectory.

### **Confirmation with Archbishop Sartain**

We are most honored to welcome Archbishop J. Peter Sartain who will confer the sacrament of Confirmation in the traditional rite next Thursday, January 12, at 7:30 PM. As this will be the Archbishop's first official visit to the parish, please consider attending in support of the parish youth preparing to receive the Sacrament. Archbishop Sartain will visit again on March 7 to assist at Mass.

### **2011 Vital Statistics**

Registered households: 192

Baptisms: 21

Converts: 5

Marriages: 3

Funerals: 2

### **Please Keep In Your Prayers:**

Souls in Purgatory, Parish seminarians, Closure of local Planned Parenthoods, Shirley Hendrix, Anna Marie Roth, Hans Sharp, Dominic McLaird, Anthony Arena, Mary Purcell, Jackie Danieli, Jeff Aiken, Richard Hopp, John Barber, Jeff Kozitza, James King, Cliff Sears, Cindy Bailey, David Hobbs, Louis Leclezio, Stephanie Brusich, Mary McKinsey, Mark Hillis, John Deller +, Vince Egan +, Gerald Nikolaisen +, Fr. Saltan Pinto +

**Contributions** *May God reward your generosity.*

December 25      \$8877.94

### **Calendar of Events**

January 6            Epiphany  
January 6/7        First Friday/First Saturday  
January 8            Potluck  
January 12         Confirmation with Archbishop Sartain  
January 21         Young Adults  
January 22         First Communion Classes begin

### **A Final Thought...**

The humble, simple souls, who are little enough to see the bigness of God in the littleness of a Babe, are therefore the only ones who will understand the reason of His visitation. He came to this poor earth of ours to carry on an exchange; to say to us as only the Good God could say: "You give me your humanity, I will give you My Divinity; you give me your time, I will give you My eternity; you give me your weary body, I will give you Redemption; you give Me your broken heart, and I will give you love; you give Me your nothingness, and I will give you My All."

The world, which is so bent on power, never seems thoroughly to grasp the paradox that as only little children discover the bigness of the universe, so only humble hearts ever find the greatness of God. The world misses the lesson, because it confuses littleness with weakness, childlikeness with childishness, and humility with an inferiority complex. It thinks of power only in terms of physical force, and of wisdom only in terms of the vain knowledge of the spirit of the day. It forgets that great moral strength may be hidden in physical weakness, as Omnipotence was wrapped in swaddling bands; and that great wisdom may be found in simple faith as the Eternal Mind was found in the form of a Babe. There is strength—strength before which the stars prostrated, and strength before which the very throne of Herod shook in fear. It was strength in that Divine and Awful Love which shrank from nothing to convince us of God's measure of what is really great and high.

But His law must be our law. We must begin our eternal work as He was pleased to begin His, namely, by being at the lowest and the humblest as the starting point for the highest and the mightiest. As He who is God descended even to the lowliness of childhood, as the first step of His everlasting triumph, so must we descend from our ignorant pride to the level of what we are in His eyes. *Unless you become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Fulton Sheen, *The Eternal Galilean*, ch. 1