



# Mass Intentions for the Week

**January 9 - January 17**

## **The Baptism of the Lord**

**Saturday**

5:00 Special Intention of  
Lillian & Charles Koegler

**Sunday**

7:30 All Parishioners Living and Deceased

9:00 Helen Mohyde  
RB Family

10:30 Robert D'Louhy  
RB Henetz Family

12:00 Leonard Gentile  
RB Angela & Domenic Gugliotti

**Monday**

8:00 Ann Colonari  
RB Vowick Family

**Tuesday**

8:00 Michael Francis deMayo, Sr.

**Wednesday**

8:00 Ralph Bershefsky

**Thursday**

8:00 Agnes Bensko  
RB Stella Papson

**Friday**

8:00 Raymond & Katherine Montague  
RB Daughters

**Saturday**

8:00 Joseph Malisek  
RB Family

5:00 James Rafferty  
RB Mary Gorman

## **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday**

7:30 All Parishioners Living and Deceased

9:00 Joseph & Aldona Marchalonis  
RB Jim & Marie Orlower

10:30 Joseph William Hines  
RB Nancy & Rick Cody

12:00 Tony Magro  
RB Steve & Marie Politica



Peace  
on Earth

**Merton House Ministry:** We thank our volunteers who assist Deacon Paul cook 250 or more meals twice a month at Merton House. We go the 3rd Thursday and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10:30 to 1:15PM. If interested, email Deacon Paul at [pkurmay@att.net](mailto:pkurmay@att.net) or call him at 378-8025. *If you would like to donate money* (each meal costs about \$500), send a check to the Parish Office payable to St. Mark Church and with Merton House written in on the memo line of your check. Thank you for helping God's poor.

**Collective Intention Masses for 2010** are available in the Parish Office in person or by mail. Collective Intention Masses have been celebrated twice a month since January 2006 and are celebrated for more than one person. The theological rationale for the Collective Intention Mass is simply this: because the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the same sacrifice accomplished by Christ on the Cross, it has the same infinite value as Christ's sacrifice. Therefore, whether the Mass is celebrated for one person or 50, the benefits and effect are the same for each person. Through the Holy Mass, God has provided superabundantly for our spiritual needs. It would be theologically unsound to think that a Collective Intention Mass is inferior to any other Mass. The Mass has infinite, limitless value for each and every soul, regardless of the number for whom it is offered.

**Men's Bible Study** will resume on Tuesday, January 26th, at 7:30 PM in the Upper Room. New members are cordially invited. This term we will begin Israel's Story, Part I, an in-depth study ranging from Genesis to the fall of the Northern Kingdom. For more information, call Charlie Ciuci at 203-375-4542.

**La Pieta Prayer Group** will meet in the Church on Sunday, January 10th, at 2 PM. All are welcome.

**Hospital Visitation:** When you enter the hospital, please designate yourself, or your family member, as a **parishioner of St. Mark**. Due to the national privacy act, we would not be aware of your hospitalization otherwise. You may also inform the Parish Office about your hospitalization.

**Pre-Baptismal Class** - the next class will be Tuesday, January 12th, at 7:30 PM in the Upper Room. All those anticipating the birth, and subsequent Baptism of their first child, need to attend this class. Please call the Parish office at 377-0444 to register.

**The readings for this Sunday may be found in:  
Catholic Community Hymnal in  
Section 498/ The Baptism of the Lord/ABC**

## **From Our Pastor, Fr. Don...**

### *Life Lessons from the Wise Men*

Life is filled with mysteries. Things happen that do not make any sense. We want answers and we want them fast. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, the three wise men offer us a better, more tried and true way. These men knew a lot about horoscopes and astrology. The Fathers of the Church assure us that they were experts in astronomy and the science of nature. St. Augustine has no problem calling them wizards. We know very little about them, other than they came “*from the East.*”

Like many of us, the wise men searched for answers to the mysteries of life and death. For years before the birth of Christ, they looked to the stars to answer their deepest questions: Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? Why is there suffering? Why do people die? What is to be done about it? Since astrology cannot possibly answer these all-important questions, we know from their actions that these men were disillusioned with their horoscopes. Why else would they embark upon a very dangerous 1,000 mile journey through rugged terrain and the Middle Eastern desert to follow an unknown star? In the process, they would also come face to face with King Herod, one of the most cunning and murderous tyrants in human history. These were highly intelligent and learned men. They were the scientists and professors of their time and had much to lose. They would not undertake such a formidable journey lightly. Their hearts were restless and they wanted answers that would satisfy; and they needed more than what their horoscopes and philosophy books had offered. Without even knowing it, they were thirsting for the Living God.

With the benefit of divine revelation, theologians understand that the Holy Spirit had inspired and enlightened these three men to seek the newborn Christ Child, and to worship Him as God when He was found. St. John Chrysostom tells us: “If the Magi had come in search of an earthly King, they would have been disconcerted at finding that they had taken the trouble to come such a long way for nothing. Consequently, they would have neither adored nor offered gifts. But since they sought a heavenly king, though they found in Him no signs of royal pre-eminence, yet, content with the testimony of the star alone, they adored: for they saw a human babe, but they acknowledged a God.”

We are told that “*on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.*” The ancient Byzantine Liturgy imagines the Mother of God questioning the Magi about their journey. She compares the strange journey from the East to the infinitely stranger journey of God the Son from Heaven to Earth: “The pure Virgin spoke in wonder, as she heard the Magi standing together before the stable, and she said to them: “Whom do you seek? For I see that you have come from a far country... You have come with zeal to worship Him who, journeying as a stranger from on high, has strangely, in ways known only to Himself, came to dwell in me, granting the world great mercy.” Imagine that Our Lady is speaking these words to you: “Whom or what do you seek? Where do your thoughts take you? Where do you seek the answers to life’s deepest mysteries? Are you, like the Magi, thirsting for my Son?”

Then we are told, “*They prostrated themselves and did him homage.*” Another translation is, “*They fell down and adored Him.*” This simple gesture tells us that their conversion was now complete. Never again would they search the stars, pagan philosophy or consult horoscopes, for right before them was the Answer to all the yearnings of the human heart and life’s deepest mysteries. St. Paul sums up the truth about Jesus when he says, “*all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ.*” Notice Paul said, “all,” not some! The Magi were seekers of truth, and when they found Jesus, they worshiped the truth they saw in Him. Sadly, King Herod’s darkened mind refused to consider that. The only truth he worshiped was his thirst for power, possessions and prestige. Before whom or what do we bow? To whom or what do we owe our ultimate allegiance? What truth do we worship?

Ultimately, the wisdom of the Magi teaches us that when we truly seek God, especially at great cost to ourselves, He will let us find Him. “*You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will let you find Me, says the Lord, and I will change your lot.*” (Jer. 29:13-14) Then we come to understand that in all the mysterious events of human life, we are surrounded by the greater mystery of God’s love and guided by His infallible truth. In the Babe of Bethlehem we have the answers to the deepest questions that both challenge and define human existence – its meaning; its goal; and its eternal destiny.

AMEN.


  
**Time Talent Treasure**
  
**Our Stewardship of Treasure**

Budget for this Week	\$12,000.
Sunday, January 3, 2010	\$ 8,333.
Sunday, January 4, 2009	\$10,970.
Mary, Mother to God, 2010	\$ 4,360.
Mary, Mother of God 2009	\$ 4,665.

*“John tried to prevent him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?’”*

*Matthew 3:14*

Each of us has received the Baptism that John sought – a Baptism into the Church of Jesus. The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one simple gift that we need to give to Jesus. The only gift God wants is a complete offering of ourselves. Once we surrender ourselves to God in this way, we will know in our hearts what else God might call us to do.

**The Monthly Collection** which helps toward the extraordinary expenses of the parish will be taken up this weekend. Thank you for your generosity!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

Lorraine Studley, Bob Haborak, Fedare Hrinak, Jeff Mastroni, Barbara Manning, Arlene Liscinsky, Julie Koloules, Bob Wargo, Mark Burry, Jose Millet, Kathy Skinner, Diane Vanderwaylan, Matthew Freetas, Caroline DiRiusso, Toni Stabile, Kathleen Hampton, Shirley Fenn, Michael Howard, Katie Bleekrod, Mary King, Christina Alterio, Evelyn Garafolo, Andy Yankowski, Olive Sullivan, Carol Gay, Elaine Hauge, David Gallo, Eugene Greytak, Julia Sellers, Julie Porzio, Lawrence & Emma Cannon, Mary Kahanec, James Whelan, Lillian Butler, Michael Hostetter, Jr., Rachel Maietto, Joan Watkins, Marilyn Lonzenski, Carl Blumenthal, Mark Bensen, Florence Steele, Yvonne Wilson, Henry Pawley, Marie Pfrommer, Bea Fiocca, Martha Reynolds, George Fountain, Samantha Frattarola, Claire Hromjak, Eddie Corcoran, Mary Hovan, Constance Papp, Bette Stumpp, Nancy LaGanga, Bill Maloney, Mike Czech, Kevin Collins, Arlene Zayas, Spencer Grady, Joan Shannon, Raffaella Gagliione, Bernice Mendoza, Eleanor Cornese, Carol Curcio, Lee Everetts, Frank Vitucci, Sr., Terri Nardone, Cayden Morin, Felizardo Cipriano, Connie Dezso, Mary Ann Scioscia, Douglas Selmont, Ann Vanicky, Gail Bergers, Chelsea Wheeler, Thomas D. Smith, Joan Green, Andrea Timchak, Elizabeth Rea, William Flynn, Paul Iwanoski, Mark Morreale, Charles Petrino, Patricia Lembo, Sharon Gotch, Michael McLoughlin, Gary Iadarola, Charles Falzone, Donna Bizak, John Semosky, Joanne McCormick, Maureen Siuzdak, Alex Convertito, Edward Recupero, Jim Garrity, Gail Kotalick, Michael Swain, Daniel Marzella.

*Let light eternal shine on them,*  
*O Lord, with Your saints forever,*  
*for You are merciful.*  
**Ethel Hayduk**

**Readings for the Week of January 10**

Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or 40:1-5, 9-11/Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 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:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

**Chapel Snow Closings** When snow or bad weather forces the closing of the Adoration Chapel, we will announce the closing on WICC 600AM radio and post the news on CTWEATHER.com (IAN closings, Public Organizations). In general, the Chapel will be closed any time the Stratford Public Schools are closed. *Always remember...* if you are ever uncomfortable traveling, even if you have not heard that the Chapel is closed, **Please Do Not Go!** God bless all our Adorers!

**Adoration Chapel Schedule**

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
12am	X	X	O	O	O	O	C
1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	C
2am	X	X	X	X	X	X	C
3am	O	O	O	O	O	O	C
4am	O	X	O	X	O	X	C
5am	O	O	O	O	X	O	C
6am	X	X	O	X	X	X	C
7am	X	X	O	X	O	O	C
8am	O		O	O		O	C
9am	O					O	C
10am	O	O	X	X	O	C	C
11am	X		O	O	O	C	C
12pm	X	O	O		X	C	C
1pm	O	O		O	O	C	C
2pm	X	O		O	O	C	C
3pm	O	X	X	O	X	C	C
4pm		O	O			C	C
5pm	O	O	O	X	O	C	C
6pm	O	X	O		X	C	O
7pm					X	C	O
8pm	O	X		X	O	C	X
9pm	O	O	O		O	C	O
10pm	O		O	O	O	C	O
11pm	O		O	O	O	C	O

**ADORERS NEEDED FOR ALL “X” and “O” HOURS!**

**X = NO ADORER SCHEDULED**

**O = One Adorer Scheduled**

**C = Chapel CLOSED (for now)**

Partial Update: Oct. 1, 2009

Please call Gary Tennyson at 203-953-1200

or Scott Goodfellow at 203-394-2248 or

Email to [StMarkAdoration@comcast.net](mailto:StMarkAdoration@comcast.net)

with questions or to volunteer for an hour

**Feed the Hungry** This Ministry provides approximately 80 meals per month to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. We will meet in the Parish Center Kitchen on Saturday, January 23rd, from 8:45 to 10:00 AM. The menu will be Chili, Corn Bread, Salad and Fresh Fruit. You may donate fresh fruit/ salad ingredients and drop it off before 9:00 that morning. Thank you to all who support this ministry at the parish. Questions, please call Marilyn Mucci at 612-7018. A special thank you to Kathleen Maccio who made and donated 120 scarves for the guests at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission at Christmas time.

**Are You a Snowbird?** Parishioners who don't reside in Stratford for the winter months can have the Parish Office temporarily suspend their envelope mailings. Please call the parish office at 377-0444 and let us know when you will be returning to your Stratford address. We will do the rest! This saves the parish the cost of those mailings while you are away. *Thank you!*

**Pro-Life Mass** will be held on Sunday, January 10, at 12 Noon at St. Pius X Church in Fairfield. Please join Bishop William E. Lori, S.T.D., the Sisters of Life, Parishioners from throughout the Diocese, the Knights of Columbus, Youth from our Catholic Schools, Religious Education Programs, and Pro-Life Advocates from various institutes and organizations who will be participating in this event. In accord with the God-given sacredness and dignity of every human life which begins at the moment of conception, it is our obligation and privilege to participate in activities that proclaim, support and enhance the basic right to life. Let us come together to pray and to witness in promoting the overall respect for every unborn child. The basic right to life of every unborn child must be ensured. For more information, please contact the Respect Life Ministry / Mimi Giannino, 203-416-1444.

**Marriage Enrichment Day** – A Perfect Valentine's Gift for Married Couples. Please join us **Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm at The Catholic Center, Bridgeport** for a Day to Remember, Celebrate and Believe in the Power of Your Marital Love. This workshop is based on the book "Forever and a Day: An Invitation to Create a Marriage That Lasts a Lifetime" by Robert and Rita Boeke. Boekes' presentations combine great stories filled with humor, faith, gentleness and affection with hints, tips and things learned over many years of married life. This is a day designed to strengthen and enhance marriages. The registration fee of \$35 per couple includes a continental breakfast, lunch and featured book. **Registration is required;** please contact Family Life Ministry for details, 203-416-1442 or [bcasaretti@diobpt.org](mailto:bcasaretti@diobpt.org).

Acct # 04-0152

Saint Mark Church  
Stratford, CT.

04-0152 wk# 7c  
Sunday, January 10  
tom@hitekracing.com  
Questions: Call Susan  
203-377-0444

