



*W*E HAVE SEEN

HIS STAR IN THE EAST

AND HAVE COME

WITH GIFTS TO

ADORE THE *Lord.*



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*St. John the Baptist Parish, Haverhill, MA
January 3, 2010*

*Father of all, we pray to You for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them Your peace; let light perpetually shine upon them; and in Your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of Your perfect will through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. This week the Sanctuary Lamp is given as a loving remembrance of **John & Helen Riley and Mary Petell** by their family.*



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 2	4:00 PM	George & Brian Butkier (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, January 3	8:30 AM	Philip LaBranche (Memorial Mass by Family)
Sunday, January 3	10:30 AM	Michael Grasso (2nd Anniversary Mass by Family)
Monday, January 4	9:00 AM	Intention of the Celebrant
Tuesday, January 5	9:00 AM	Benjamin F. Peel, Jr. (Anniversary Mass by wife, Mary)
Wednesday, January 6	9:00 AM	All the Departed Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, January 7	9:00 AM	Prayer service
Friday, January 8	9:00 AM	Mass of Thanksgiving
Saturday, January 9	9:00 AM	Sandra Wentworth (Month's Mind Mass)
Saturday, January 9	4:00 PM	Frederick Conte (11th Anniversary Mass by Family)
Sunday, January 10	8:30 AM	James H. Mann (Anniversary Mass)
Sunday, January 10	10:30 AM	John Costa (3rd Anniversary Mass by Wife & Family)

Mass Schedule

Saturday ~ 9 AM, 4 PM;
Sunday ~ 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM Family Mass
Monday to Friday ~ 9 AM
Eve of Holy Days; Holy Days ~ As announced

Sacraments

Reconciliation ~ Saturday 3 to 3:45 PM; also by appointment; **Marriage** ~ Couples are asked to call the parish office at 978-372-2780 at least 6 months prior to the planned wedding date; **Baptism** ~ 2nd Sunday of each month @ 1 PM Contact the parish office at 978-372-2780 for more information

Religious Education

Grades K to 4: Sunday, 9:00 AM to 10:25 AM
Grades 5 to 10: Sunday, 5:30 PM to 6:55 PM
Classes meet every other week in the lower Church hall
Phone: 978-521-4557
Administrator: Renee Barrick (rbarrick@parishmail.com)
Safety Coordinator K to G3: Kim Shapiro (kshapiro@parishmail.com) **Safety Coordinator G4 to 6:** Jennifer Connolly **Safety Coordinator G7:** Deacon Tom Anthony

Parish Contact Information

Address: 110 Lincoln Ave, Haverhill, MA 01830
Phone: 978-372-2780 **Fax:** 978-469-0947
Website: www.stjohnhaverhill.org
Pastor: Fr. Keith LeBlanc (stjohn@parishmail.com)
Permanent Deacon: Tom Anthony (978-973-0437; razorsedge1970@aol.com) **Secretary:** Diane Forte (dforte@parishmail.com) **Pastoral Council:** Deacon Tom Anthony, Bill Bibeau, Donna Bibeau, Joann Corthell, Linda LeBlanc, Celeste McCusker, Joan Pechnik, Mary Peel & Anne Six **Finance Council:** Deborah Conner, Bill Dale, Mary Duchemin & John Stevens **Activities Committee** (stjohnactivitiescommittee@parishmail.com) ~ Roberta Alicata, Deacon Tom Anthony, Donna Bibeau, Sue Brewster, Betty Burrill, Don Clough, Pauline Clough, John Connor, Kathy Connor, David Corthell, Joann Corthell, Mary Duchemin, Celeste McCusker, Barbara O'Shea, Joan Pechnik, Mary Peel, Frank Perra, Joan Perra, Margaret Pfifferling, Anne Six & Bill Vlahos **Youth Group** ~ Leslie Crowe (stjohnyouthgroup@parishmail.com) **Health Ministry** ~ Donna Bibeau (dbibeau@parishmail.com) **Prayer Shawl Ministry** ~ Donna Bibeau, Diane Forte, Celeste McCusker, Barbara O'Shea, Norma Pappas, Kay Poole, & Marsha Tartaglia

Welcome to St. John the Baptist. We're glad you are here to celebrate Mass with us today. If you are new to our parish or haven't been here in awhile, *WELCOME*. If you would like to register as a parish family, registration forms can be found at the back of the Church. You can either mail it to the Rectory or drop it in the collection basket. God Bless.



From the desk of Father Keith...

My Dear Parishioners:

January 6th is the actual date of the Epiphany, but the Church moved the Feast to the nearest Sunday to assure that the Feast is kept. (The Eastern Catholic churches and the Orthodox churches continue to celebrate "the twelfth night" on the sixth). The feast of the Epiphany originated in Egypt sometime during the third century predating our celebrations of Christmas. Historically it celebrated the three Epiphanies or "manifestations" of Jesus' divinity: His birth, the adoration of the Magi and His baptism. In the West we celebrate the three events individually.

The Epiphany is about the identity of Christ being made known. This happened through the shepherds at the birth of Christ, with the coming of the Magi, and when a voice from heaven identified Jesus as "my beloved Son" at Jesus' baptism. We celebrate that Jesus is being revealed as Our Lord and Savior. But on the date of January 3rd, we are reminded it is also the memorial of "The Holy Name of God." We are now challenged as we enter a new year and a new decade to ask ourselves as to how we are to keep Holy the name of Jesus. St. Paul had an idea, saying that "at the saying of the name of Jesus every knee should bend" both in heaven and on earth.

Today we should work to reclaim a sense of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for us. We should find ways to reconnect with the sacredness of God and the awe that Jesus can inspire in us. The story of the Magi might help us. "Magi" is the plural of "magus," and today is translated most often as "magician."

Originally, however, a magus was a priest. In Persia at the time of the birth of Christ, magi were priests but they were also astronomers and astrologers. Combining priest, astronomer and astrologer tells us the magi of scripture were holy and learned men. They sensed that something had changed in the world, and as priests they came to give praise. As astronomers and astrologers, they teach us that even the heavens reacted to the birth of God into the world.

Herod knew something was up, but his reaction was one of fear for his position. He was not a kind king. He was ruthless and vicious in the persecution of his enemies both real and perceived. In Jesus we find a king who is the complete opposite. He would be concerned with our relationship with His Father. There should be some awe in us when we ponder Jesus and say His name. There should be some revulsion when the Sacred Name is misused. It is time to once again learn to do what the sisters taught us, what our grandmothers taught us, and bow our heads when the Name is said.

"God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him that name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth..." Philipians 9-11."

God Bless, Father Keith

Readings for the Mass begin on page 59 of the *Breaking Bread Missal 2010*. Proper parts of the Mass begin on page 3.

St. John the Baptist Parish

The next meeting of the **Parish Pastoral Council** will be **January 3 at 6 PM** in the Rectory.



The next meeting of the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will be Wednesday, **January 6** at 6 PM in the Rectory. All are welcome to join us. Can't knit or crochet—we'll show you how!

The **Youth Group** has scheduled a **Planning Meeting** and we will be **voting on our next fun activity**. LaserCraze, tubing at Amesbury Sports Park or a movie night at a local theatre are some of our options. **MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!** Come to the meeting on **Thursday, January 7 at 6:30 PM** in the Rectory. Pizza and refreshments will be served. Any child in our CCD program grade 4 and up is welcome!



There has been recent interest by members of our parish to form a **Society devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary**.

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 13** at 6:30 PM in the Rectory as we hold our first organizational meeting. All are welcome to participate in this new ministry at St. John's.



The bishops of the United States have established January 22 at a particular day of penance "for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee to the right to life." *General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373.*

St. John the Baptist will participate in the 2010 Archdiocese of Boston **Holy Hour for Life** on **Friday, January 22, 2010, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**. All those faithful to the inherent dignity of all human lie from conception to natural death are invited to participate.



The Archdiocese of Boston Vocation Office is sponsoring a **St. Andrew Dinner** on **Wednesday, January 27** at St. Sebastian High School., Needham from 5:30 to 8 PM.

The St. Andrew's Dinner is a gathering of **young men grades 7 and up** for an informal dinner with Cardinal Sean. The evening consists of Evening Prayer, dinner, conversation with seminarians and vocation witness stories. For more information, please contact Deacon Tom at 978-9783-0437.

The Epiphany of the Lord ~ January 3, 2010

Dear Parish & Family Members:

I, on behalf of the First Communion Class of 2010, would like to thank all the parents, grandparents, guardians, friends, etc., who helped with our charity project this holiday season. We were able to provide all 65 Baker-Katz residents with a holiday gift bag. We were ALSO able to bring the 30 ladies at Stevens-Bennett Home a holiday gift bag.

This effort by the second graders and their families and friends was above and beyond what one could expect. Not only were the residents of these two homes thrilled to receive this kind gesture, but I was blown away personally by the caring and enthusiasm that the children showed in creating the bags.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas season and is looking forward to next year. Thank you again!

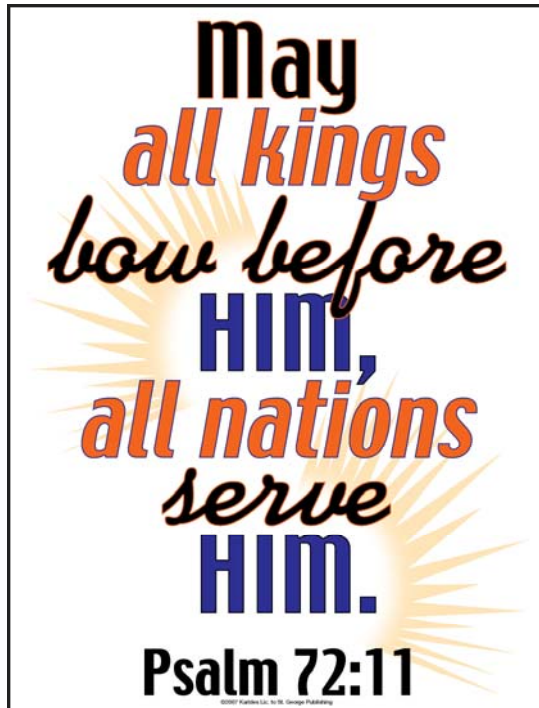
*Best Wishes,
Kim Shapiro
Lead Teacher
2nd Grade CCD*



St. John's **Adult Choir** sings at the **4 PM Saturday Masses** for the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. There is no long term commitment; there are no "tryouts." You are welcome to sing whenever you can. **Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM** in the church and generally run for about 30 minutes. Questions? Ask anyone you see in the music ministry.

Our **Children's Choir** sings at the **10:30 AM Family Mass on most Sundays**. **Rehearsal for the next Sunday is held right after Mass** and usually lasts about 30 minutes. Children are not asked to commit to every Sunday but we do ask that they attend the rehearsal for that Sunday whenever possible. All kids from Grade 3 & up are welcome.

For more information on **St. John the Baptist Parish**, please visit our **website** at **www.stjohnhaverhill.org**.



A King to Behold

By Scott Hahn

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendid lights and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas Day appears.

Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts to their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see 2 Samuel 2:5), the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth” (see Micah 5:1-3).

These promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay Him homage. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king.

The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfillment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob (see Numbers 24:17).

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth” (see 1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see Song of Songs 3:6, 4:6, 14).

One greater than Solomon is here (see Luke 11:31). He has come to reveal that all peoples are “co-heirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: Will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
www.SalvationHistory.com

Readings of the Week

Sunday, January 3

Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday, January 4

1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday, January 5

1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday, January 6

1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday, January 7

1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday, January 8

1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday, January 9

1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30

Sunday, January 10

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



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