



Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1 is the oldest celebration of Mary in the Catholic Church. The custom of honoring the Virgin on the first day of the New Year originates in the sixth century, when her celebration was tied to the octave day of Christmas, the eighth day after December 25. In doing so, ancient preachers would remind their congregations about the role that Mary played in the history of salvation. Jesus was born of a woman, and so, as Eucharistic Prayer 4 states, "Made incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, he shared our human nature in all things but sin." The human nature of Christ is rooted in his being born like us. As we round out the Christmas celebration with its Octave Day on January 1, we venerate the woman who gave birth to him.

There is a dual action in today's Gospel that is sometimes overlooked. The shepherds find the infant in the manger as has been told to them by the angel. And then they go out to tell others about the child. In the meantime, Mary reflects on all these things in her heart. These are the two complementary stances of the Christian: action and reflection. Both are needed for a balanced spiritual life. It is, in effect, putting into practice the two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor.

As we begin the New Year, it is customary to make resolutions: to diet, to exercise, to change something in one's life. Like Mary, who reflected on the events surrounding the birth of her child, we take some time to reflect on our own lives: where we have been, and where we are going. The Gospel gives us the opportunity to situate that reflection in a spiritual context. What does the birth of Jesus mean for me spiritually (reflection), and what do I intend to do about that in my daily life (action)?



WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

WEEK OF 12-25-11—we will publish next week.

Budgeted Collection Amount \$8,100.00



Thank You!



As we begin this new year, I have taken time to reflect on 2011. It was an exciting year for me as a religious celebrating 25 years of vowed commitment. What a wonderful celebration~~thank you so much. I am extremely blessed.

I also spent some time in prayer thanking God for the blessings of my family, especially three of my brothers who have had health issues, particularly David. In case you were wondering, David is doing very well. He is home for Christmas and getting better and stronger each day. He and my whole family are so grateful for all of your prayers.

Blessings, Sister Dorothy

- ◆ Mary Lois Verilla for fixing and refurbishing our Nativity Set ~ they really look beautiful and were a work of love.
- ◆ Trenz Funeral Home, Wiley Funeral Home and Gross Funeral Home for sponsoring our parish calendars once again this year.
- ◆ Everyone who helped to make our Church look so beautiful for Christmas.
- ◆ Our Choir, under the direction of Navada Pociernicki, for making our Christmas Eve mass so enlightening.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our school family would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. At this time we hope you reflect on all of the blessings God has bestowed on you this past year. May 2012 bring you happiness, good health and a year of blessings.

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school on Monday, January 2, 2012.
There will be no extended care offered.

SCHOOL RESUMES

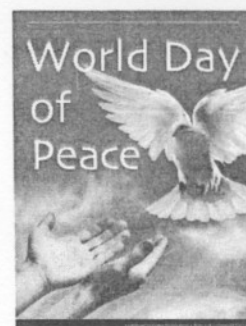
School resumes on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.



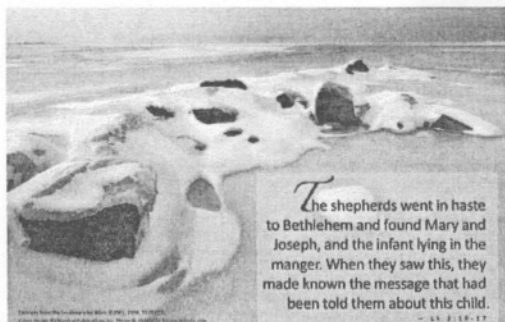
Readings for the Week of January 1, 2012



Monday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday:	1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
Thursday:	1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 2:1-11
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Someone you love in a troubled marriage? You might suggest that they consider Retrouvaille. Retrouvaille has helped 10's of thousands; it can help you. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on January 13, 2012, contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434 or e-mail 3041@retrouvaille.org.



The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.

LIFE TEEN

Our Lifeteen Group will be sponsoring to CPR Classes. These classes will be led by Joanne Turka and are a fundraising attempt for Lifeteen members to attend their yearly retreat.

Class Dates are:

Heart Saver (AED, Choking and Adult CPR)
January 15, 2012, 12 Noon — \$20
(registration deadline, January 11, 2012)

Health Care Providers
February 19, 2012, 12 Noon — \$30
(registration deadline, February 15, 2012)
Please call rectory to register.

JANUARY 1, 2012

REFLECTION

When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. - Lk 2:17-19



MARRIAGE MOMENTS

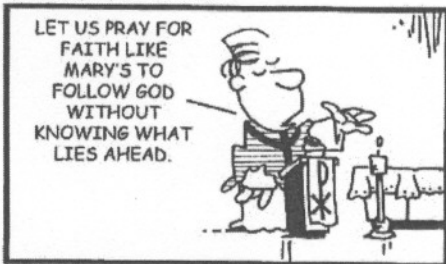
Welcome to a new year! Discover something new about your spouse today. Do you know his/her favorite website, in-law, romantic turn-on, scripture passage, etc.?

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

The next class for parents will be held here at St. Bart's on Monday, January 16, 2012 at 7 PM in the Pastoral Conference Room.

To register, please call the office at 412-242-3374.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



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MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2012

Saint Basil the Great

10:00 AM Frank M. Dileo
(Dan & Clare Beck & Family)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard, St. Susanna

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard, St. Susanna
1:30 PM **NO QUEST BIBLE STUDY**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012

Saint John Neumann

10:00 AM Paul F. Medvedo, Sr. (Petrona Family)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012

Christmas Weekday

10:00 AM Philomena & Gary Steven
Matts (Frank Matts & Family)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2012

Vigil, The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 PM **No Confessions**
5:00 PM Theresa Matelan (Sandra Dupal)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012

Epiphany

8:00 AM Carmen Iodice
(Jean Vacchiano)
10:30 AM People of the Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in

memory of

Anthony & Mary Rose

Calvano

from their

Daughter, Pat & Family.

