

*Epiphany Prayer*

*Lord may the Magi be my example this year  
In their travels teach me perseverance  
In their gifts teach me generosity  
In their adoration teach me love*



**Manager or Magi?**

Ever taken an extended car trip? If your family was like most, weeks of preparation were required. Road maps and guidebooks were consulted to ensure maximum fun with minimum inconvenience. Itineraries were made, and revised, half a dozen times before you left the kitchen table. Faced with the vagaries of travel, we strive to manage the future, forearmed with traveler's checks and motel reservations.

Now what if Dad or Mom appeared one day with no maps or guidebooks and simply said, let's get in the car and go where God takes us. Would you climb in ready to be a Magi, or call your local psychiatrist? Would faith or fear win? It's not just a hypothetical question. Each day of our lives we face that same choice. When the morning greets us we have a fresh road to explore, a new trip to take. Will we trust in our plans and preparations, or allow God's grace, power and mystery to act in our lives? If we hold to our rigid schedules, we may feel more secure, but we may also miss the miracles God has in store. Which are you today, manager or magi?



*Mother, Help me  
Holy Mary, Virgin clean  
Mother of Jesus the Nazarene  
Me, your child, help today  
Shield me, hear me, when I pray  
That with you eternally  
In God's kingdom I may be.*

**Mother of God, Mother of Mercy**

Mary then is the one who has the deepest knowledge of the mystery of God's mercy. She knows its price, she knows how great it is. In this sense we call her the Mother of Mercy, Our Lady of Mercy or Mother of Divine Mercy.

*Pope John Paul II*



Our parish family welcomed five new members in the holy sacrament of Baptism in December. We join their families in thanking God for these children and for the great gift of faith that we share with each one of them:

- Leah Celine Lamontagne*
- Connor Leigh Malloch*
- Brandon Gerard St. Louis*
- Hailey Marie St. Louis*
- Matteo James Wood*



**Another New Year's Day, Lord**

A day for new beginnings, big plans, noble dreams. But what's the use? A year from now, I'll be starting all over. And I'll be forced to face my failure to keep the resolutions I make today. Why does my performance so often fall short of my hopes,

Lord? Why do I think so big and act so small?

As I face the fearsome task of another year, Lord, teach me not to give up. Remind me that you don't give up on me, that you made me and have given me the freedom to succeed or to fail. And you love me no matter what the outcome.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, Lord, when you whisper "try to make this year a work of art", give me the courage to pick up the pen of service, the paper of faith, and with a hand of sacrifice and love, trust you to write the story I am incapable of.

**Begin again**

So often we ask God for a fresh start, to start afresh the tasks He has assigned us. And faithfully, lovingly He gives us each new morning throughout the year, an unsullied page on which to write. May we be ever thankful for this daily gift of newness, treasuring the opportunity to begin again, fresh in His grace and love.



*The priests would like to thank you for all the cards, gifts, greetings, prayers and warm wishes they received during this Christmas season. Their prayers are with you and your families for a healthy, happy, safe and blessed New Year.*

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to St. Michael's Parish who is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We extend our prayers and thanksgiving for all the ministry you do.



Fr. Fillion has served his last Mass here at Ste. Marguerite's. We thank him for his many years of devoted service to our parish and wish him well.

Anyone who wishes to send a card or note to Fr. Fillion may do so by placing it in the offertory basket, dropping it by the Parish Office or mailing to his residence.

Fr. Norman Fillion, O.M.I.  
St. Anthony's rectory  
172 Belmont St.  
Manchester, NH 03103-0452

# Thank You

Thank you to McKenna-Ouellette Funeral Home for their generous donation of 2009 calendars. Anyone who hasn't already gotten one may pick one up at the back of the church.



### MARRIED COUPLES - IT'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TIME.

Resolve to start a new love affair with your spouse that's beyond your wildest dreams. It can happen on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Sign up soon so you can renew your love for

one another. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in New England are January 16 -18, February 13-15, and March 6-8. For more information call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-WWME or visit our webpage at [www.wwmeMA.org](http://www.wwmeMA.org)



### A SPECIAL NEED!!!

Tim Buxton, his wife Missy and their 3 sons ages 2, 6 and 10 have recently been displaced due to a fire in their home. Tim is the son of Jim and Ruth Buxton former parishioners

of St. Mary of the Assumption and Ste. Marguerite d'Youville Parishes. The Buxton's have lost EVERYTHING. If you would like to make a clothing or monetary donation you may do so by dropping it by the Dracut Police Department. Trips are made frequently to Wells, Maine where Tim, Missy and their 3 sons reside. Items needed are Boys clothing sizes 14, 7/8 and 4/5 toddler, Men's Clothing 2/3X, women's clothing 2X. The Buxton's are deeply faithful and would truly appreciate your prayers.



### A PARISHIONER IN NEED

A fund has been started for Joey Kilmartin, one of our young parishioners. Joey is a Junior High School student who has tragically lost both of his parents. Anyone wishing to donate to the fund may do so at

any Jeanne d'Arc Credit Union branch. Please make donations to:

### The Joey Kilmartin Charitable Fund *God bless you for your generosity!*



At this time of the year many people are struggling with heating bills, finding enough money to feed their families or to pay medical bills. Help those of our parish who are in need by making a generous donation to the St.

Vincent de Paul Society using the Poor Boxes located at the church entrances. SVDP bins for your clothing donations are located in the parking lot behind the Parish Center.



You can play BINGO in a SMOKE-FREE environment every Tuesday in the Parish Hall beginning at 6:45 p.m. Doors open at 3:00 p.m. and delicious homemade food is available between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

### FINANCIALS

AMOUNT NEEDED WEEKLY \$7,702.00

Income received from 12/16/08 to 12/22/08

Offertory Collection \$ 4,424.00

Other Income \$ 232.00

Parish Monthly \$ 2,117.00

TOTAL PARISH INCOME \$ 6,773.00

WEEKLY GAIN or (DEFICIT) (\$ 929.00)

Grand Annual Collection to date \$40,949.00

Christmas Flowers \$2,273.00

There is no second collection this weekend. The second collection next weekend is The Parish Monthly Collection.

### ELECTRONIC GIVING

By: NetCharge

(Online giving made fast and easy)

We are pleased to announce a new online giving option for our parish. This option became available on December 1, 2008. Many have been inquiring about this type of giving choice to help them better manage their personal finances. For those who wish we will be continuing with our traditional way of giving with offertory envelopes. Please read the brochure it gives all the details on how to utilize our electronic giving. If you have any questions or concerns about the electronic giving please don't hesitate to call Joanne Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm.



A special thank you to all who so generously contributed to the giving tree. Many families have enjoyed Christmas thanks to your spirit of giving. In the following weeks you will see some of the thank you notes we received at the parish office printed in bulletins. Again, our sincere thanks to all.

*JANUARY 4, 2009*



## **GIFT OF BREAD AND WINE**

This week, at all Masses, the gift of Bread and Wine is given in memory of **Irene Toupin**. Please remember her in your prayers.

# *Mass Intentions*

**This weekend, January 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>**

### **Saturday**

4:00 p.m. Tricia Fortin (10<sup>th</sup> Ann.)

### **Sunday**

7:30 a.m. Therese Rondeau (50<sup>th</sup> Ann.)

9:00 a.m. Gertrude T. Belanger

11:00 a.m. Yvonne Beland

### **Weekday Masses**

Monday	7:30 a.m.	Norman Ruest
Tuesday	7:30 a.m.	James B. Horman
Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	Parish Intention
Thursday	7:30 a.m.	Parish Intention
Friday	7:30 a.m.	Parish Intention
Saturday	7:30 a.m.	To St. Anthony for favor obtained

**Next weekend, January 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**

### **Saturday**

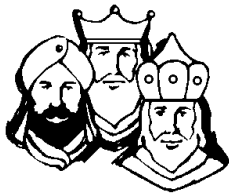
4:00 p.m. Mary Perry (1<sup>st</sup> Ann.)

### **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

7:30 a.m. Pauline Bourret

9:00 a.m. Raymond Boucher, Sr. and  
Raymond Boucher, Jr.

11:00 a.m. Thomas Waterworth, Jr.



## **Christmas Blessings**

