

# St. Mary Star of the Sea and St. Gertrude Roman Catholic Church



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Website: [www.saintsmaryandgertrude.org](http://www.saintsmaryandgertrude.org)

## TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATOR:

Rev. Msgr. John J. Bracken P.A., Ext. 22

## PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Jean Yvon Pierre, Ext. 27

## PARISH PASTORAL STAFF:

Deacon Michael C. Moss  
Deacon Adalberto Eddie Montero  
Deacon Candidate Rene Hernandez

## PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Ms. Joanne Murray, Ext. 16  
Mrs. Carmen Montero, Ext. 10

## IN RESIDENCE:

Rev. Charles H. White, Ext. 18  
Rev. Fredrick Anawonah, Ext. 17

## WEEKEND ASSISTANT:

Rev. Edward Smith

## TRUSTEES:

Lillian Virginia Roundtree  
Miguel Jimenez

## PASTORAL COUNCIL, CHAIR:

Yvonne Hall

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE:

Mr. Conrado Hernandez, Director, Ext. 25  
Mrs. Susan Singh-Smith, Ext. 25  
All children in grades 1-8 should be registered every year for Religious Education classes.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Mr. Joseph R. Villadiego, Ext. 24.

## SCHOOL:

Ms. Angela D. Brucia, Principal  
595 B. 19th St., Far Rockaway, N.Y. 11691  
Phone: 327-2242 Fax: 327-0797

## SCHOOL BOOKKEEPER

Ms. Carla Ramos - 718-327-2242, Ext. 204

## SATURDAY EVENING MASSES:

5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)

## SUNDAY MASSES:

8:15, 9:45 (Alternating English & Spanish at St. Gertrude's),  
11:30, 1:15

## WEEKDAY MASSES:

8:00 & 12:10—Monday thru Wednesday  
9:00 at St. Gertrude's & 12:10 at St. Mary's - Thursday  
12:10, 7:30 PM (in Spanish) - Fridays  
12:10 PM—Saturdays

## CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays at 3:30 to 4:30 PM, Mondays 7:30 to 8:30 PM  
or by appointment.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:** Mondays after the 12:10 Mass

**EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First  
Sundays 2:30 - 3:30 PM and First Fridays 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

**BAPTISMS:** Baptisms are scheduled for the Third Saturday of each  
month in Spanish and the Fourth Saturday of each month in English.  
Parents should call for an appointment with a priest to arrange for the  
baptism of child. Birth Certificate should be presented at this time.

**MARRIAGES:** Call the rectory for an appointment with a priest at  
least 6 months prior to the wedding.

**SICK CALLS:** Emergencies - ANY TIME. Home bound - call the  
rectory

**BECOMING A CATHOLIC:** The normal way for being received  
into full communion with the Catholic Church is through the R.C.I.A.  
Adults interested in being baptized, confirmed or making first  
communion should speak with a member of the parish staff to enroll

**CORO HISPANO:** MIERCOLES 7:30 PM

**ENGLISH CHOIR:** FRIDAY 7:30 PM

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** SATURDAY 11:00 AM

**CIRCULO DE ORACION CARISMATICO:** JUEVES 7:30 PM

**CURSILLO DE CRISTIANDAD:** VIERNES 7:30 PM

**SANTO NOMBRE & SAGRADO CORAZON:** 4th DOMINGO  
DESPUES DE LA MISA DE LAS 11:30

**CENÁCULO SACERDOTAL:** Rosario el 4to Domingo—11:00  
A.M. en Santa Gertrudis

**Rosary Society:** 1st & 4th Sunday of month after 8:15 Mass

**Legion of Mary:** Spanish: Mon. 7:00 PM - Rectory; St Mary

**Legion of Mary: (St. Gertrude's)** After the 9:45am mass

**Legion of Mary:** Spanish: Sats. 10:30 AM -Rectory Basement

**St. Vincent De Paul Society:** Contact the Rectory

**Jornada Youth Group:** Fridays 8:00 PM

**Haitian Committee:** Sunday 10:30 AM

**Charismatic Prayer Group:** in English - Mondays 7:00 P.M. - 9:00  
P.M. in the School Auditorium.

**Charismatic Youth Prayer Group:** Thursday 7:30 P.M.

**Prayer Group in English Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. in the Church.**

**Stewardship Committee: 2nd Sunday 2:30 P.M.**

**Nigerian Committee: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the 8:15 A.M. Mass**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

*Saturday, January 1*

*The Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God*

9:00 am – Christmas Novena  
Mass for the People

11:30 am – Misa disponible

*Sunday, January 2*

*The Epiphany of the Lord*

8:15 am – Mass for the People  
9:45 am – Mass available at St. Gertrude  
11:30 am – Novena de Navidad  
1:15 pm – Maureen Berdon (dec)  
Margaret Enright (dec)

*Monday, January 3*

*The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

8:00 am – Mass available  
12:10 pm – Mass available

*Tuesday, January 4*

*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

8:00 am – Mass available  
12:10 pm – Thomas Valentine (healing)

*Wednesday, January 5*

*St. John Neumann*

8:00 am – Mass available  
12:10 pm – Mass available

*Thursday, January 6*

*Blessed Andre Bessette*

9:00 am – Mass available at St. Gertrude  
12:10 pm – Mass available

*Friday, January 7*

*St. Raymond of Peñafort*

12:10 pm – Mass available  
7:30 pm – Misa disponible

*Saturday, January 8*

12:10 pm – Mass available  
5:00 pm – Mass available  
7:30 pm – Misa disponible

*Sunday, January 9*

*The Baptism of the Lord*

8:15 am – Mass for the People  
9:45 am – Mary Spina (dec)  
Hector A. Barrios (dec)  
11:30 am – Misa disponible  
1:15 pm – Meredith Lewis (dec)

**PLEASE PRAY** *for* Robert Cunningham, Yvonne Hall, Zoila Yopez, Beverly Smith, Pedro Bonilla, Ulitt Doyle, Donna Mohammed, Annabel Davis, Wiloby & Lukey Snips, Vivian & Edith Hall, Nydia Rodriguez, Lucinda Staten, Kathleen Briza, Michael Wanser, Shane Keane, Liz Moskowitz, William Anthony and our faithful departed: Maria Spina.

**We Are A Tithing Community Following God's Plan for Giving**

In return for the Lord's generosity, our people returned to His Church the following:

**Offertory Collection**

**Weekend of 12-18 & 12-19 2010**

Mass Time	# of Attendees	# of Env.	1st Collection	# of Env.	Debt Reduction	Total Collection
5:00 PM	84	41	\$911.00	17	\$170.84	\$1,081.84
7:30 PM	178	36	\$362.10	21	\$200.50	\$562.60
8:15 AM	173	68	\$1,030.46	20	\$222.26	\$1,252.72
9:45 AM	203	43	\$410.63	17	\$133.86	\$544.49
11:30 AM	390	81	\$1,134.35	57	\$439.17	\$1,573.52
1:15 PM	171	34	\$604.10	15	\$177.40	\$781.50
Christmas Gift	40		\$1,311.00			\$1,311.00
Christmas Mass	22		\$286.00			\$286.00
Christmas Flowers	39		\$439.00			\$439.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1199</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>\$6,488.64</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>\$1,344.03</b>	<b>\$7,832.67</b>

**First Collection Same Sunday Last Year: \$2834.13**

**(Parish weekly expenses average: \$8756.25)**

“Our Weekly Offering is One Way of Saying: WE BELONG to the Lord... And One Another. What Does **YOUR** Weekly Offering Say? Pray for His Guidance! THEN Make or Renew Your Commitment to Tithing –

**Make your Return to God Easier by using...  
PARISH PAY [www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com).**

**Weekday Readings**

**Sun** \* Is 60:1-6 \* Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 \* Mt 2:1-12  
**Mon** \* 1 Jn 3:22—4:6 \* Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12 \* Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
**Tues** \* 1 Jn 4:7-10 \* Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8 \* Mk 6:34-44  
**Wed** \* 1 Jn 4:11-18 \* Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 \* Mk 6:45-52  
**Thurs** \* 1 Jn 4:19—5:4 \* Ps 72:1-2, 14,15bc, 17 \* Lk 4:14-22a  
**Fri** \* 1 Jn 5:5-13 \* Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 \* Lk 5:12-16  
**Sat** \* 1 Jn 5:14-21 \* Ps 149:1-6a+9b \* Jn 3:22-30

**MASS INTENTIONS**— It is an ancient Christian tradition to request that Mass be offered living and deceased. You may request an announced Mass at the rectory. The customary offering is fifteen dollars. There are a limited number of Masses available between now and the end of the year.

**MEMORIALS THIS WEEK**

*The flowers are given in thanksgiving for **Rosalie McAllister.***

# The Epiphany of the Lord

## A DAWNING EPIPHANY



“It suddenly dawned on me!” We have all had experiences when, on hearing a joke, we laugh along with everyone else at the punch line, only at some later moment to actually “get” the joke. We feign understanding so that no one will think less of us. Having something suddenly dawn on us is very much like what we celebrate today. The Church’s yearly celebration of Epiphany is a reminder and an elaboration of what we celebrated at the feast of Christmas—just in case we didn’t get it the first time. Today’s “punch line” is contained in the second reading, where Saint Paul writes, “It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Ephesians 3:5–6).

### CULTIVATING EXPECTATION

Some non-Catholics complain that our religious expression is dull and boring. They might ask, “How can you say the same prayers week after week—doesn’t it just put you to sleep?” Our three-year cycle of readings, our codified prayers, and our liturgical calendar continue to repeat over and over again throughout our Catholic journey of faith. Today’s feast reminds us that all along the way, epiphanies can pop up out of nowhere. A prayer or reading that washed over us last week or last year suddenly has a tremendous impact and reveals God’s presence in our lives. This happens because it is we who are different each time we come to Mass. We should cultivate an attitude of expectation, just as the three magi did. They followed the star expecting to find the Savior of the world. Let us be ready to welcome the Savior today and each day of our lives.



### THANK YOU

We have once again celebrated the Magic of Christmas. We kneel in wonder as Mary & Joseph accept on our behalf the Christ Child. We join the Angels and Shepherds as we sing joy to the world, the Lord has come.

We are grateful to see many who have helped us celebrate the event which has changed the world.

Our churches were beautifully decorated. We thank all who devoted their time to add to the beauty of our celebration. We also all thank all who contributed to the Christmas Flower Fund. We would like to express our deep gratitude to Father White and Sister Agnes White for donating the new outdoor Nativity Set.

Music is so much a part of the Christmas Season and we are truly blessed with our music director, leaders of song and choirs. It is said that when we sing—we pray twice.

Like wise we are grateful to our sacristan and maintenance staff for their service all thru the year. We celebrate the coming of the Magi, who were non-Jews, to worship the Christ Child. Jesus is not just the Jewish Messiah but also the Savior of the whole human race.

We remember that the Magi did not come empty handed. The gold represent the treasure that we present our spiritual King. The frankincense symbolizes the time we devote to prayer and worship. The myrah represent our willingness to offer out time in service of others.

We are grateful to you our parishioners for your prayerful participation in our Christmas celebration. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless every family in the New Year.



**STAR GAZERS**

Around a thousand years ago a stonemason in Autun, France, was working on decorations for the city's new cathedral. One of his carvings shows a charming scene. The three kings, all wearing crowns and sharing one cozy bed, are being awakened by an angel pointing to a star. The angel's finger is gently touching the hand of one of the kings on top of the patterned coverlet. This king's eyes have popped open in surprise, while the other two slumber on. The stonemason artistically combined two biblical stories into one. The star reminds us of the one that led the kings to Bethlehem, while the visiting angel refers to the warning they received in a dream not to return to Herod after visiting the Christ Child. For centuries tradition has held that the names of the kings were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, but nobody really knows for sure. Other traditions call them wise men from the East who studied the stars. They were the first non-Jews to recognize and worship the Son of God and give him kingly gifts. In the Middle Ages, houses were blessed on Epiphany, reflecting how the magi found Christ "on entering the house." Try reviving this ancient tradition today. It can work for any family or household group. One person incenses the house while another sprinkles holy water, and a third writes in chalk over every outside doorway "20 + C + M + B + 11" (or whatever the year may be), which stands for "The three Holy Kings, Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar, in the year of Our Lord 2011." The letters C, M, and B also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this home." Blessing the doorways symbolizes the family's commitment to welcome everyone as Christ into their home throughout the year.

A prayer for Epiphany:  
 Father,  
 you revealed your Son to the nations  
 by the guidance of a star.  
 Lead us to your glory in heaven  
 by the light of faith.

**ARMED SERVICES**

If you have a family member or friend on active duty in the Armed Forces, please inform the rectory so that we may recognize their service and pray for their safety and swift return home.

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

410 families from our parish pledged 79,705 to this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. To date we have received 58,028. If you have not yet completed your pledge, please do so by December 31<sup>st</sup> so that the parish will receive credit for your gift. We thank you one and all for your support.

**BLOOD PREASURE SCREENING**—St. John's Hospital will conduct blood pressure screenings here at St. Mary and St. Gertrude Parish on:

- Sun. Jan. 23—11 am to 2:30 pm
- Sun. Feb. 27— 11 am to 2:30 pm
- Sun. Mar. 20—11 am to 2:30 pm

**FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND INDIVIDUAL THERAPY -**

Professional therapy, provided by the New York State licensed therapists, is available to our parish and 112 other parishes. This program, under the direction of Dr. George Giuliani has been conducted in the diocese for the past 36 years for the convenience of parishioners. Services are provided by the Catholic Counseling Center, a proprietary professional corporation, which is independent of and not controlled or supervised by the parish or diocese. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. Confidential information and appointments are available by calling 631-243-2503.

**HEAP PROGRAM**—Do you need assistance with paying your heating bill? Is your heat cut off because of lack of payment? Apply for a Heap Benefit today!! NYC Council Member James Sanders Jr. is offering The Home Energy Assistance Program (H.E.A.P.) The HEAP Program assists low-income New Yorkers with heating their homes. Apply Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Councilman Sanders' new Far Rockaway Office, 1526 Central Avenue, Far Rockaway—718-471-7014. No appointment necessary.

**CONTEMPLADORES DE ESTRELLAS**

En una catedral de Francia hay una escultura encantadora de los tres reyes magos durmiendo en una misma cama con sus coronas puestas. Un ángel apunta hacia una estrella y suavemente toca la mano de uno de los magos, que se ha despertado. La estrella es la que guió a los reyes magos hacia Belén y el ángel les advierte no regresar a ver a Herodes. La tradición dice que ellos se llamaban Gaspar, Melchor y Baltasar, los primeros no judíos que adoraron al Hijo de Dios. En la Edad Media las casas se bendecían el día de la Epifanía, reflexionando en cómo los magos encontraron a Cristo cuando "entraron en la casa". Trata de revivir esta antigua tradición. Inciensa la casa, rocía agua bendita y escribe con una tiza sobre cada una de las puertas exteriores la siguiente inscripción: "20 + G + M + B + 11" (o cualquiera que sea el año). Las letras honran a los tres reyes magos, y a la vez expresan y simbolizan que toda persona será recibida en esa casa como si fuera el mismo Cristo.

Una oración para la Epifanía:  
 Señor, Dios nuestro, que por medio de una estrella,  
 diste a conocer en este día, a todos los pueblos  
 el nacimiento de tu Hijo,  
 concede a los que ya te conocemos por la fe,  
 llegar a contemplar, cara a cara,  
 la hermosura de tu inmensa gloria.

**EL DIEZMO—EL REPORTE DE LAS OFRENDAS****Domingo Pasado: \$7838.67****Mismo Domingo Hace un Año: \$2834.13****Un Promedio de Gastos Semanales: \$8756.25**

Si usted es nuevo en nuestra parroquia, puede hacerse miembro oficial de Santa María llenando una tarjeta de inscripción que está disponible en el vestíbulo de la Iglesia. Que Dios les bendiga!

**La Epifanía del Señor****UNA EPIFANÍA MEJOR ENTENDIDA**

Todos hemos tenido la experiencia de oír un chiste y reírnos junto con los demás cuando llega el remate del chiste, pero sin haberlo entendido —es solamente unos momentos más tarde que venimos a entender cuál era la gracia. Nos hacemos pasar como que lo habíamos entendido, para que no nos tengan por tontos. Eso de venir a entender algo con un poco de atraso tiene cierto parecido con lo que celebramos hoy. Nuestra celebración anual de la Epifanía es como un recordatorio, a la vez que se amplían los detalles, de lo que ya habíamos celebrado en la fiesta de la Navidad —por si acaso no lo entendimos la primera vez. El remate se encuentra en la segunda lectura, donde san Pablo nos dice que “por revelación se me dio a conocer este misterio, que no había sido manifestado a los hombres en otros tiempos, pero que ha sido revelado ahora por el Espíritu a sus santos apóstoles y profetas: es decir, que por el Evangelio, también los paganos son coherederos de la misma herencia, miembros del mismo cuerpo y partícipes de la misma promesa en Jesucristo” (Efesios 3:5–6).

**CULTIVA UNA ACTITUD DE ESPERA**

Algunas personas no católicas que visitan nuestras iglesias se quejan de que nuestras expresiones religiosas son aburridas y cansanas. Tal vez nos pregunten: “¿Cómo pueden ustedes seguir rezando las mismas oraciones semana tras semana? ¿No es como para dormirse?” Nuestros tres ciclos de lecturas, nuestras oraciones codificadas, y nuestro calendario litúrgico se siguen repitiendo una y otra vez en nuestro caminar de fe católico. La fiesta de hoy nos recuerda que a lo largo de los años siempre podemos tener una nueva epifanía, salida de donde menos uno lo espera. Una oración o lectura, que la semana pasada o el año pasado, nos pasó por alto, adquiere de pronto un impacto tremendo y nos revela la presencia de Dios en nuestra vida. Esto sucede porque en cada Misa nosotros somos personas distintas. Debemos cultivar una actitud de espera —de expectativa— igual que la tuvieron los Reyes Magos. Ellos siguieron la estrella en espera de hallar al Salvador del mundo. Preparémonos para recibir al Salvador hoy y cada día de nuestra vida.

**LAS FUERZAS ARMADAS**— Si usted tiene a un familiar o un amigo en servicio activo en las Fuerzas Armadas, favor de informar a la rectoría para que podamos reconocer su servicio y orar para que regrese a casa pronto.

**NUESTRO AGRADECIMIENTO...**

Una vez más hemos celebrado la Magia de la Navidad. Nos arrodillamos con maravilla mientras María y José aceptan de nuestra parte al Niño Jesús. Nos unimos a los Ángeles y Pastores mientras cantamos con alegría al mundo, el Señor ha venido.

Les estamos muy agradecidos a todos los que nos han ayudado a celebrar el evento que ha cambiado al mundo.

Nuestras iglesias fueron maravillosamente decoradas. Les agradecemos a todos aquellos que dedicaron su tiempo para embellecer nuestras celebraciones. También le damos las gracias a todos los que contribuyeron al Fondo de las Flores de Navidad. Deseamos expresar nuestra profunda gratitud al Padre White y a la Hermana Agnes White por haber donado el juego de la Natividad.

La música también es una parte muy importante de la Temporada de Navidad y estamos realmente bendecidos por tener nuestro director de música, los líderes de música y los coros. Se dice que cuando cantamos — rezamos dos veces.

También le estamos agradecidos a nuestra sacristán y al personal de mantenimiento por todo su servicio durante el año. Celebramos la venida de los Reyes Magos, quienes no eran judíos, a adorar al Niño Jesús. Jesús no es sólo el Mesías sino también el Salvador de toda la raza humana.

Recordamos que los Reyes Magos no llegaron con las manos vacías. El oro representa el tesoro que presentamos a nuestro Rey espiritual. El incienso simboliza el tiempo que dedicamos a la oración y la adoración y el mirra representa nuestra buena voluntad de ofrecer nuestro tiempo al servicio de otros.

Y por supuesto les estamos muy agradecidos a ustedes nuestros feligreses por su fiel participación en nuestra celebración de Navidad. Que la Santa Familia de Jesús, María y José bendiga a cada familia en el Año Nuevo.

**CAMPAÑA ANUAL CATOLICA**

410 familias en nuestra parroquia hicieron su promesa a la Campaña Anual Católica de este año que hicieron un total de 79,705. Hasta ahora hemos recibido un total de 58,028. Si usted no ha terminado de saldar su promesa, por favor trate de hacerlo antes del 31 de diciembre para que nuestra parroquia pueda recibir crédito por su regalo. Muchas gracias a todos por su apoyo.

**INTENCIONES PARA LAS MISAS**

Ha sido una antigua tradición cristiana solicitar que una misa sea ofrecida por una persona en vida o fallecida. En la rectoría usted podrá solicitar que una misa sea anunciada. La donación de una misa es quince dólares. Hay un número limitado de misas disponibles desde ahora hasta el final del año.