

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



1920 New Haven Ave.,  
Far Rockaway, N.Y. 11691

Phone: (718) 327-1133

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e-mail: [info@saintsmaryandgertrude.org](mailto:info@saintsmaryandgertrude.org)

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

## ADMINISTRATOR:

Rev. Fulgencio Gutierrez, Ext. 22

## PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Jean Yvon Pierre, Ext. 27

## PARISH PASTORAL STAFF:

Deacon Michael C. Moss  
Deacon Adalberto Eddie Montero  
Deacon 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

## TRUSTEES:

Miguel Jimenez  
Lillian Virginia Roundtree

## PASTORAL COUNCIL, CHAIR:

Yvonne Hall

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE, Ext. 25

Deacon Michael Moss, Director, (917) 769-4496  
Dr. Emy Punsalan, RICA  
Ms. Estabana Nino, RICA  
Ms. Carmen Macfie, CCD  
Mrs. Susan Singh-Smith, CCD  
All children in grades 1-8 should be registered every year for Religious Education classes.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Mr. Joseph R. Villadiego, Ext. 24.

## 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 (Spanish), 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 & 9:45 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.

**JDV Group:** Wednesdays 8:00 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 7 – St. Raymond of Penyafort**

12:10 pm – Thomas Valentine (healing)  
 5:00 pm – Adam Jole Halsey (healing)  
 Bruce Lester (dec)  
 7:30 pm – Zoila Lopez (dec)  
 Richard Alvarez—Acción de Gracias

**Sunday, January 8 – The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:15 am – George A. Corchia (dec)  
 9:45 am – (St. Gertrude) Mass available  
 11:30 am – Ruben De La Cruz  
 Rigoberta Reyes (cumpleaños)  
 Luis A. Castillo (dec)  
 Julian Cruz (dec)  
 Por los Sacerdotes  
 Presentación del bebe Carlos Alvarez Herrera  
 1:15 pm – Mass available

**Monday, January 9 – The Baptism of the Lord**

8:00 am – Mass available  
 12:10 pm – Meredith Lewis (dec)

**Tuesday, January 10**

8:00 am – Adam Jole Halsey – Thanksgiving  
 12:10 pm – Mass available

**Wednesday, January 11**

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

**Thursday, January 12**

9:00 am – (St. Gertrude) Mass available  
 12:10 pm – Anna & Pasquale Cavallo (dec)

**Friday, January 13 – St. Hilary**

12:10 pm – Virginia Matchack (dec)  
 7:30 pm – Mass available

**Saturday, January 14**

12:10 pm – Mass available  
 5:00 pm – Mass available  
 7:30 pm – En honor al Señor de Esquipulas

**Sunday, January 15 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:15 am – Mass for the People  
 9:45 am – (St. Gertrude) Mass available  
 11:30 am – Pedro y Cristina Bonilla—Acción de Gracias  
 1:15 pm – Mass available  
 2:30 pm – Mass for the Haitian People

**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**

**1st Collection last weekend - \$4488.00**  
**2nd Collection - \$1616.00**

**First Collection Same Sunday Last Year (2011):  
\$6356.00**

**(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.

**Weekday Readings**

**Sun** \* Is 60:1-6 \* Ps 72:2, 7-8, 10-13 \* Mt 2:1-12

**Mon** \* Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38 \* Ps 29:1, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10 \* Mk 1:7-11

**Tues** \* 1 Sm 1:9-20 \* 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8 \* Mk 1:21-28

**Wed** \* 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 \* Ps 40:2-5, 7-10 \* Mk 1:29-39

**Thurs** \* 1 Sm 4:1-11 \* Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 25-26 \* Mk 1:40-45

**Fri** \* 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22 \* Ps 89:16-19 \* Mk 2:1-12

**Sat** \* 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 \* Ps 19:8-10, 15 \* Mk 2:13-17

**2011 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

Bishop DiMarzio and the staff of Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens send their sincerest thanks to the parishioners of St. Mary Star of the Sea and St. Gertrude Parish for their generous contributions to the Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities. Your gifts enable Catholic Charities to continue to work with the children and families of our diocese who are in need.

**FILIPINO COMMUNITY**

Monsignor Ramon C. Tronged, Vicar General of the Diocese of Legazpi, will celebrate Mass on Saturday, January 14 at 3:00 P.M. in honor of the Holy Child Jesus. A reception will follow in the school.

**MEMORIALS THIS WEEK**

The sanctuary candle is given in memory of **Elena Vinuesa & Juan Casco.**



Eileen Barton, Roberto Bonilla, Maria Guadalupe Vasquez, Pedro Bonilla, and our faithful ... departed especially: George A. Corchia.



## The Epiphany of the Lord

### WHAT WILL THE NEIGHBORS THINK?

It must have been quite a sight on the streets of Bethlehem as the magi, those star-searchers, made their way to the house of Joseph (in Matthew's Gospel the Holy Family are residents of Bethlehem until the flight to Egypt). Imagine the wonder that filled the eyes of the neighborhood children as this caravan made its way. Matthew doesn't tell us many specifics about them (he never numbers them as three or calls them "kings"), but travel was hard in that time, and "safety in numbers" was the rule for making a long trek. Most likely it was a lengthy cortege that wound its way under the guidance of that star. If the celestial phenomenon that guided them there hadn't already excited the village, the arrival of these women and men (in the ancient world astrologers and sign-readers were frequently female) with their dromedaries, unusual clothing, foreign ways—and gifts!—certainly would have roused the neighbors. News travels fast in small towns, and imagine the surprise when it was learned where these travelers stopped.

### DON'T BE FOOLED

We can include the magi on our list of role models in faith for the season. They were not Jews, but were willing to follow a route that led to an insignificant and troublesome Roman province. When they were led to the Holy Family's humble abode in Bethlehem they did not say, "No way! This can't be the place. It's too lowly, they're not affluent enough." They simply bowed down and worshiped Jesus the Christ, in a scene that prefigures the disciples bowing to worship him later in Matthew's Gospel after his resurrection. These sign-seekers were willing to be led by their wonder, ready to persist in their journey, not knowing where the quest for their revelation would lead them, but open to its possible presence anywhere. We, like they, must be ready to seek the *epiphania*, the manifestation of God, earnestly and honestly, and be prepared to bow in worship when we find it.

## The Baptism of the Lord

### FRIEND OR FOE?

Water is a rich and potent symbol. We all know that no life on earth would be possible without it. We use it for our sustenance, our cleansing, our relaxation; it touches nearly every facet of human life, and its absence is soon noted. Without it, the grain, wine, milk, and other "rich fare" from Isaiah would not be possible. The messianic age is characterized as a time of abundance and fertility, not attainable without water. It was a precious commodity in Jesus' world. Water has its dark, dangerous side as well—the chaos of the dawn of creation was symbolized by water, the earth was destroyed (and still knows destruction) by the waters of

the flood. Israel risked it all in the waters of the Red Sea as they fled Egypt and entered the desert. In similar fashion, today Jesus risks it all in his calling as Son of God and, like the Israel whose son he also was, he will enter the desert in the next few verses of Mark's Gospel.

### THICKER THAN WATER

Another powerful life symbol is blood. Like water, it is essential. John's letter today tells us that three things testify to Jesus as the Son of God: water, blood, and the Spirit. Today's feast forms a hinge of sorts between the two great "water and blood" moments in the life of Jesus. It is the culmination of the season of the Nativity, the time when we remember and celebrate that Jesus came into the world as a fully human being, in water and blood. It is also the day on which he begins his public ministry of calling Israel to repentance by proclaiming the reign of God, a ministry that will ultimately end in water and blood as he is crucified. But hovering over all of this is the Holy Spirit. It is by the Spirit that Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary; it is the Spirit who guides his entire ministry from Jordan to Calvary; and it will be the Spirit who brings his resurrected life back to the world, who continues it to this very day in the waters of baptism and the blood of disciples, by which his Body, the Church, is still proclaiming the reign of God to the world.



The 2011 tax statements are now available. Please fill in the form below; drop it in the collection basket at the weekend Mass, bring it to either rectory, or mail request form to:

St. Mary Star of the Sea and St. Gertrude Church  
 1920 New Haven Avenue  
 Far Rockaway, NY 11691  
 Attn: Joanne Murray

**NOTE: Tax statements will not be automatically mailed out. Statements are given by request only.**

### **Request for 2011 Tax Statement** **Please fill in and print all information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if applicable)

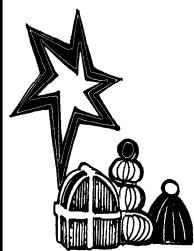
select one: \_\_\_\_\_ Will pick up \_\_\_\_\_ Please mail

**NOTE: Tax letters will only be mailed to the address on our files**



**EL DIEZMO—EL REPORTE DE LAS OFRENDAS****Domingo Pasado: \$4488.00****Segunda Colecta: \$1616.00****Mismo Domingo Hace un Año: \$6356.00****Un Promedio de Gastos Semanales: \$8756.25**

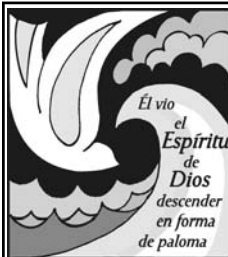
Si usted es nuevo en nuestra parroquia, puede hacerse miembro oficial de Santa María llenando una tarjeta de inscripción que está disponible en el vestíbulo de la Iglesia. Que Dios les bendiga!

**La Epifanía del Señor****¿QUÉ PENSARÁN LOS VECINOS?**

Debió ser algo asombroso el espectáculo en las calles de Belén cuando los magos, observadores de estrellas, se dirigían a la casa de José (en el Evangelio de San Mateo, la sagrada familia reside en Belén hasta la huida a Egipto). Imaginen las miradas de asombro de los niños del vecindario cuando pasaba esa caravana. Mateo no es muy específico (nunca menciona que eran tres ni los llama “reyes”), pero viajar era difícil en aquellos tiempos, y “seguridad en números” era la regla cuando se hacían viajes largos. Es muy posible que un largo cortejo serpenteaba las calles guiado por aquel lucero. Si el celestial fenómeno que los guiara hasta allí no había llenado ya de asombro el pueblecito, la llegada de mujeres y hombres (antiguamente los astrólogos e intérpretes de símbolos eran frecuentemente mujeres) con sus dromedarios, extrañas vestiduras, modales extranjeros — ¡y regalos!— ciertamente habría atraído a los vecinos. Las noticias viajan muy rápido en los pueblos pequeños. Imaginen la sorpresa cuando supieron en dónde se habían detenido estos viajeros.

**NO SE DEJEN ENGAÑAR**

Podemos incluir a los magos en nuestra lista de modelos de fe en esta temporada. No eran judíos pero estaban dispuestos a seguir una ruta que los conducía a una insignificante y problemática provincia romana. Cuando fueron guiados hacia la humilde posada de la Sagrada Familia en Belén no dijeron, “¡Ni modo! Este no puede ser el lugar. Es muy humilde, no son suficientemente ricos”. Simplemente se inclinaron y adoraron a Jesús el Cristo, en una escena que prefigura a los discípulos inclinándose a adorarlo más tarde en el Evangelio de Mateo después de su resurrección. Estos buscadores de señales estaban dispuestos a dejarse guiar por su curiosidad, listos a persistir en su jornada, sin saber a dónde los conduciría la búsqueda de su revelación, pero abiertos a su posible presencia en cualquier sitio. Nosotros, como ellos, debemos estar listos para buscar la *epifanía*, la manifestación de Dios, ansiosamente y honestamente, y preparados para inclinarnos en adoración cuando la encontremos.

**El Bautismo del Señor****¿AMIGO O ENEMIGO?**

El agua es un símbolo rico y potente. Todos sabemos que no puede haber vida en la tierra sin ella. La usamos para nuestro sustento, nuestro aseo, nuestra relajación; toca prácticamente cada faceta de la vida humana, y su ausencia se nota muy pronto. Sin ella no habría grano, ni vino, ni leche, ni otros “ricos manjares” mencionados en Isaías. La era mesiánica es caracterizada como un tiempo de abundancia y fertilidad, inalcanzable sin el agua. Y era un lujo en tiempos de Jesús. El agua tiene también su lado oscuro y peligroso — simbolizó el caos del principio de la creación, la tierra fue destruida (y todavía sufre destrucción) por las aguas del diluvio. Israel lo arriesgó todo en las aguas del mar Rojo cuando huyó de Egipto y se adentró en el desierto. De modo similar, hoy Jesús arriesga todo en su llamado como Hijo de Dios y, como el Israel del que él también es hijo, entrará en el desierto en los próximos versículos del Evangelio de Marcos.

**MAS ESPESA QUE EL AGUA**

Otro poderoso símbolo de vida es la sangre. Al igual que el agua, es esencial. La carta de Juan hoy nos dice que tres cosas dan testimonio de Jesús como Hijo de Dios: agua, sangre y el Espíritu. La fiesta de hoy conecta los dos grandes momentos de “agua y sangre” en la vida de Jesús. Es la culminación de la estación de Navidad, cuando recordamos y celebramos que Jesús vino al mundo como un ser completamente humano, en agua y en sangre. Es también el día en que comienza su ministerio público invitando a Israel a la conversión, proclamando el Reino de Dios, un ministerio que culminará en agua y sangre al ser él crucificado. Pero revoloteando encima de todo esto está el Espíritu Santo. Por el Espíritu Jesús fue concebido en el vientre de María, fue el Espíritu quien guió todo su ministerio desde el Jordán hasta el Calvario, y será el Espíritu quien traerá su vida resucitada al mundo, en donde continúa viviendo hasta el presente en las aguas del bautismo y la sangre de discípulos, mediante ellos, su Cuerpo, la Iglesia está aún proclamando al mundo el Reino de Dios.

**COMUNIDAD FILIPINA**—El Monseñor Ramón C. Tronged, Vicario General de la Diócesis de Legazpi, celebrará la Misa en honor al Santo Niño el Sábado 14 de Enero a las 3:00 P.M. seguida por una recepción en la escuela.

**COLECTA DE NAVIDAD 2011**—El Obispo DiMarzio y Caridades Católicas envían su agradecimiento a la Parroquia Santa María Estrella del Mary Y Santa Gertrudis por sus contribuciones generosas a la Colecta de Navidad de Caridades Católicas. Sus contribuciones permiten a Caridades Católicas continuar trabajando con los niños y las familias de nuestra diócesis que están en necesidad.