A Saving Mix-up?

Do you hunger for details of Jesus’ early life? Spend time searching the Gospels, and soon you’ll discover details are remarkable sparse. Neither Matthew nor Luke wrote to satisfy the interest of history buffs. They wrote to evangelize, to save souls. Their infancy narratives are primarily about powerful theological truth, connecting the Old Testament and the coming of the Messiah. The meaning of Jesus, the Christ, is the driver, not biography. John, giving his purpose for writing, explains: “These things are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name”.

Often, things we assume to be in the Bible are actually from much later writings (like the proto-evangelium of James), or even paintings, mosaics and other art. Look for three kings, their names, or camels in Matthew – no luck!

So the saving mix-up? Bethlehem. The first Christian church is built there in 339. In 529, Justinian has that small church torn down, replacing it with one of the most magnificent churches of the time. As today, so then, many folks heard both infancy narratives, Matthew’s and Luke’s, and created one picture in their mind; a manger, the infant Jesus, Mary & Joseph, livestock, shepherds, angels, magi and camels. Since Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wouldn’t the magi visit there? The artists who designed the mosaics in the Church of the Nativity assumed so. Had they been adept scripture scholars, they may have noticed Matthew describes magi visiting a house, not a stable or inn. By the time they went to Herod, inquired of the priests and scribes about prophecies, and headed to Bethlehem, wouldn’t Mary and Joseph have brought their son home to Nazareth? I can see an innkeeper explaining the story to the magi, and sending them to Nazareth, but then that is me filling in details we don’t have!

At any rate, mosaics of magi in the church of the Nativity proved fortuitous. The Persians rampaged through the Holy Land in 614, destroying all Christian churches in their wake. But in the Church of the Nativity, their commander saw three magi, dressed in familiar Persian attire. The church was spared. Again in 1009, churches throughout the Holy Land were destroyed by order of the Caliph, Hakim. However, Christians in Bethlehem had a long standing tradition of sharing the church with Muslims, who were permitted to use one transept for their prayers. The locals refused to destroy the church; again, it was spared.

What a difference it makes when folks believe that others have made an effort to understand them! The Persians assumed good will, seeing a Christian church adorned with three individuals from their own culture. Muslims knew of the good will of Christians, who shared their church, and refused to obey Hakim’s order. Following the World Day of Peace, Epiphany is a great day to pray for greater mutual understanding among all God’s children! Peace, Fr. Bob
**Mass Intentions for This Week**

**MONDAY - JANUARY 5**
St. John Neumann, Bishop
1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
11:00 am Marcel Tas - Loyola & Jack Connolly
5:15 pm Dr. Philip Bonanni - Angie & Joe Aguece

**TUESDAY - JANUARY 6**
St. André Bessette, Religious
1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
6:45 am Virginia McMurtry - Aroesty Family
11:00 am Edward Lada - Family

**WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 7**
1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
11:00 am Clara Koerner - Bernard Streb
11:00 am Mass at the Highlands Living Center for the People of Our Parish
5:15 pm Frances Tortora - Lynne & Family

**THURSDAY - JANUARY 8**
1 Jn 5:1-4/2Jn 4:14-22a
6:45 am William Bristow - Pittsford American Legion
11:00 am William H. Perham III, (Anniversary) - Perham Family

**FRIDAY - JANUARY 9**
1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
11:00 am Margaret Kunz Rand - Robert & Dorothy Kunz
5:15 pm Timothy McGrath - The McGrath Family

**SATURDAY - JANUARY 10**
1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
9:00 am Katherine Bukys - Paul & Geri Dolan
4:30 pm Robert N. Monahan - Joe Pocious

**SUNDAY - JANUARY 11**
Baptism of the Lord
7:30 am Walter Gaesser - Sunday Morning Breakfast Bunch
9:00 am Alice Jones Gramps - Brian DeJoy
11:00 am Charles Dispenza - Nick & Marcia Mendola
5:00 pm Bill Wilmot - Eileen Wilmot

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**SPECIAL INTENTIONS**

We invite you to have a Sanctuary Lamp lit at the Blessed Sacrament to have your very special intentions remembered for a week.
To arrange this, please call or visit the Ministry Center. The Thursday Holy Hour Ministry will offer special prayers for your intention.

- One Lamps will burn for Judy Kenrick by the Abels.
- One Lamp will Burn for Helen Bauer by the Abels.
- One Lamp will Burn In Memory of Louis A. Corsetti by Daughter.

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**Please Please Pray for World Peace**

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**Saturday & Sunday, January 10 & 11. Thank you, faithful servants!**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</th>
<th>Liturgical Assistants</th>
<th>Cantor</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>L. Spellman</td>
<td>L. Peckham, L. Milazzo, A. Herdklotz</td>
<td>L. Nunn</td>
<td>S. DiPasquale</td>
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<td>S. Schrecker</td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>B. Gerace</td>
<td>E. Ramos, A. Wilt, S. Bestram, C. Thomas, D. McBride, M. Payne, R. Calcagno, B. Bullis, S. Carpentier, K. McBride</td>
<td>A. Doerr</td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>R. Strassell</td>
<td>G. Burke, S. Whitaker, E. Whitaker, C. Hester, C. Kress, C. Boyd, S. Ward, T. Kress</td>
<td>M. Lawther</td>
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**Sunday Communion Service - January 11**
The Highlands: Dick Lenio  Heather Heights: Jim Haefner
Our Weekend Scriptures: Epiphany

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
Your light has come!

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
The stewardship of God’s grace for others

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12
We come to do homage

Preparing for Next Weekend
Baptism of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11
Come, listen, that you may have life

2nd Reading: 1 John 5:1-9
The victory that conquers is faith

Gospel: Matthew 1:7-11
With you I am well pleased

An Open Table
Next weekend we will hear one of the most lyric, poetic passages in Isaiah. The thirsty are invited to come to the water; all are invited to a banquet of rich fare, which will truly satisfy. ‘You who have no money, ... come, without paying and without cost’. We will hear this passage again at the Easter Vigil: those to be baptized being freely invited to the water and to the table of the Eucharist. In the Bible, feasting runs through history, from Abraham inviting three strangers to a meal, to Jesus celebrating Passover with his disciples, to the banquet at the end of time, the eschatological banquet.

Sitting with this passage took me back to my sabbatical in the Holy Land. Each day during the month of Ramadan, when the fast breaks at sunset, tables appear all over, and time and again, anyone and everyone (without paying and without cost) is invited to break the fast and celebrate. Exploring with an open mind just how much ‘people of the book’, adherents of Christianity, Judaism and Islam share, could do wonders in promoting peace!

Water, Blood and Spirit
If next week’s second reading isn’t crystal clear to you, you are not alone. The commentary on this passage in the Sacra Pagina commentary series takes over 23 pages! Most likely, Jesus coming through water refers to his baptism, the blood to his death. At another level, these two may point to the community’s sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. The Spirit could refer to the Spirit of truth, the Spirit present in Jesus’ ministry, or the Spirit present in his community of disciples. A question for us: what personal victories have we experienced through our faith? Spending time on that will give us a witness to share with others!

It Is Right There!
Want some good background to next week’s Gospel? Pick up your copy of At Home with the Word and read the Scripture Insights on page 35. Don’t have a copy? We still have some available at the entrances of church.

Bless Our Home
There is an ancient tradition of blessing one’s home on the Feast of the Epiphany, connected to the magi coming to the home in Nazareth. Here is one approach:

Leader: Peace be to this house.
All: And to all who dwell herein.

Leader: From the east came the Magi to Nazareth to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

All Pray: the Our Father

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray. Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

After the prayers of the blessing are recited, the initials of the Magi, (Caspar, Melchior & Balthasar) may be inscribed upon the doors with chalk. (The initials, C, M, B, can also be interpreted as the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ bless this house", 20XX for the year.) Example: 20 + C + M + B + 15.

Picturing Mary
The National Museum of Women in the Arts (www.nmwa.org) has an exhibit running through April 12th. Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea showcases images of Mary from the Renaissance and Baroque periods, some paintings making their debut in the US. Not going to be in the DC area, but art helps you pray? Have you every visited Artchive? It is a wonderful virtual museum of classic and contemporary art.
Thank you for joining us in this holy Christmas season! On this Feast of Epiphany, remember: Jesus came into this world, lived in a family, died and rose again that we might become His family. We appreciate your praying with us. We appreciate your offering your share of support to the family. We are a tithing family, and your Sunday offering makes it possible for the parish to tithe 10% each week, supporting our Saint’s Place outreach, as well as many other ministries locally and abroad. We Believe. We Belong. We are Good Stewards. And like the magi, who will arrive on the Gospel scene next week, we joyfully offer our gift to the Lord!

Would you like to make it easier next year? Consider shifting to electronic giving. EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) means that your monthly contribution is automatically transferred from your checking or savings account to St. Louis Church. Benefits of giving through EFT: You control the amount and timing of your monthly offering to St. Louis Church, plus related Diocesan/National appeals as well as Holy Days. You can spread your contributions evenly over the entire year, and the Church can count on an even flow of contributions. You receive an annual statement by e-mail or regular mail. These statements also document Diocesan/National and Holy Day collection amounts. This page serves as a record for those who itemize contributions on their tax returns. To use EFT, you need to complete the Authorization Form and return it with a voided personal check. EFT forms are available in church; or you can call the Ministry Center (585-586-5675) for us to mail the form to you; to download a form go to www.stlouischurch.org/parish-support.

To all who have already generously responded to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, thank you!! Our diocesan family as a whole is at over 81% percent of the goal. Eleven parishes have already exceeded their goal. With well under half (529) of our parish responding so far, we are over 80% of our share of the goal. Even if those who have not responded were to give a modest contribution, we could make our goal! Please remember, the CMA is our fair share of the budget for ministries that serve people throughout our diocese. Chaplains at colleges and hospitals, folks at Catholic Charities, those who provide HR, IT, Faith Formation, and many other services to each parish are funded through CMA contributions. Remember too, any shortfall comes out of our parish budget, so your generosity is important! Especially if you haven’t participated in the past, PLEASE consider making a pledge to this year’s campaign. If you are moved to take an envelope and give a bit more than you already have, bless you!!

**Please Pray for Me**

If you or a family member is ill, and would like to be included in the weekend ‘Prayer of the Faithful’, please call the Ministry Center (586-5675) to let us know. You can also come to the sacristy, and the name can be added to the General Intentions there. The same applies to have us pray for a loved one who recently died. To have the prayer request included in the bulletin, please call the Ministry Center or email cwensel@dor.org.

**Thank You Volunteers! Don’t forget to mark your calendar now for the Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Saturday, January 31, 6:00 pm at Mario’s on Monroe Avenue. (Please RSVP by Monday, January 26 to efinn@dor.org)**
**I’m Ready To Come To The Table! Fill Me With The Spirit!**

Please register now for the sacramental preparation programs of First Communion and Confirmation. If your child is ready to prepare for First Communion they will also have to prepare for the sacrament of First Penance before they celebrate their First Communion. There will be a First Penance preparation program in January for these children.

You can register for the First Communion and Confirmation programs with a registration form found at the Ministry Center or at the Faith Formation bulletin board in the back of church in the narthex hallway (across from the restrooms), or you can register on line at our website. Please remember your child’s registration will NOT be complete until we also have a copy of their baptismal certificate.

**Registration Deadline for these Programs is Monday, January 5th**

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**Understanding Forgiveness; Finding Peace**

Make a New Year’s resolution: I am going to do what it takes to find more peace in my life! No path to peace can detour seeking, finding, or offering forgiveness. On **Tuesday evening, January 13th at 7PM** in the church, please join the parents of those preparing for 1st Penance in an adult session on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It will be a rich opportunity to learn a bit more about the sacrament (perhaps a nice refresher); a chance to share experience, as well as to take a step forward on a New Year’s Resolution. Bring a friend too!

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**Learning to Say Goodbye and Heal**

The sessions will take place at Good Shepherd School, St. Marianne Cope, R.C. Parish 3288 East Henrietta Road. We will meet on **Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm beginning January, 29, 2015**.

The sessions will follow Dr. Bruce Fisher’s book, *“Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends”*. Participants can receive hope, encouragement and support knowing they are not alone in their journey. The cost for the ten week session is $50 and includes Dr. Fisher’s book. A Rebuilding brochure with an overview and outline of the program, and application can be found at [http://www.beginningexperiencerochesterny.org/Activities-Calendar.html](http://www.beginningexperiencerochesterny.org/Activities-Calendar.html).

For more information or to register call: Patti (585-425-8079) or Lynn (585-349-3091) or E-mail beofrochester@gmail.com

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**Being Fed**

Hungry? Need some good nourishing food for body, mind and spirit? Ultreya is the answer! Saturday evening, January 10th, give it a try. We begin with a pot luck supper that will definitely feed the body. Then for the soul, we do some sharing, in small groups. We reassemble to hear someone give a witness about their faith, reflect together, and to close the evening, proceed to the church for closing prayer. Never been on a Cursillo weekend? Please come to Ultreya. You will be well fed, and believe it or not, that could just be an appetizer!

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**A Transforming Weekend!**

“Epiphany celebrates the Magi bringing gifts to the Christ child, and in many cultures, it is a time for exchanging gifts. Give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking your spouse on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Tell your Spouse: One of the greatest gifts I can give you is my time to make our relationship even better than it is today. Please join me in attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on February 6-8, 2015. You are special to me and I want to spend this time alone with you. Happy Epiphany! For more information visit our website at: www wwme-wny.org, email Applications@wwme-wny.org or call (877) 697-9963.

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**Be My Valentine**

Mark your calendar now for a special night for couples, Friday, February 13, Valentine’s Day Eve. A special Mass, renewal of vows, and reception. More information to follow.

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**Christmas 2014 Marks the 10th Annual Crèche Display at Sacred Heart Cathedral.**

Crèche is a French word that refers to figures of Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child – also known as “Nativity sets.” The crèches on display were blessed by Bishop of Rochester Emeritus Matthew Clark following Mass when the display opened on November 30. Displays can be elaborate panoramas with the setting and clothing often reflective of the crèche maker’s home city or country. The crèche displays began at Sacred Heart Cathedral in 2005 with a display of over 100 crèches from John and Rose Ellen Larish of St. Anne Church in Rochester, all of which were given later as a gift to the University of Dayton. This year’s display features crèches on loan from families across the Diocese of Rochester. These families have generously chosen to share their personal remembrance of the birth of the Christ Child with the entire community. In addition this year, the Vietnamese Catholic community of Rochester will display a very large crèche created in Vietnam. The display is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and closes January 18, 2015.
Dear Friends of Saint’s Place,

The bells are ringing in the New Year. It’s 2015 and we enter our 17th year of helping the refugees who come through the doors of Saint’s Place. Before we say goodbye to 2014, there are so many to thank for their continuous generosity, their volunteer time, their willingness to go the extra mile for those less fortunate. Saint’s Place is blessed with the most wonderful group of men and women I have had the privilege to know. In freezing temperatures, they carry furniture up three flights of stairs so that a Burmese family will have a home. Another volunteer rises at 5:00 a.m. to bake cookies and cakes every day for the staff, the volunteers and visitors. A tutor drives to Buffalo to cheer on her student as she becomes a United States citizen; A group of women look at every donation coming through our doors. They sort for the Annual Sale for the clothing closet, for Goodwill and sometimes find treasured pieces to be sold on e-bay. The volunteers at our Clothing Closet dress over 1200 refugees a year…always with dignity, with care and then there are those “behind the scenes” who sift and sort through thousands of bags of donated clothing. Saint’s Place could not prevail without its volunteers and the giving spirit of the community of Rochester. Our efforts with fund raising in 2014 were rewarded by earning over $73,000 from the Annual Sale; $13,000 from Patron Saints and $6,000 from our Furniture Sale.

Now for 2015! We greet this year with excitement and a new surge of energy. We have expanded the use of our Clothing Closet to those refugees who are working and cannot avail themselves of our clothing. They can now come on Saturdays. We will have various partners helping us run the Clothing Closet on Saturdays, e.g., The Rotary, Mercy High School, McQuaid Mothers, and others. Jointly working with our partner, Catholic Family Services, we are spreading the word among different refugee community areas about the Saturday Clothing Closet.

We have formed a very strong alliance with the Rochester International Academy which teaches only refugee children (245). Saint’s Place has become a significant resource for the school. We have purchased uniforms for the students for two years. Now we can provide clothing on a monthly basis for the children and their parents; if a family is in need of household items, we can deliver them to the school and the staff will ensure that the families receive the goods. When children or their parents need additional tutoring, our programs will welcome them with open arms. The school sends their oldest students to help at the Clothing Closet once a month.

2015 will see us doubling our efforts to recruit new volunteers. We have had sixteen new volunteers join our ranks in the last six months. We will explore new ways to raise money so that we can offset our biggest cost…new beds/pillows for every refugee. We spend over $95,000 dollars on mattresses, frames, cribs and pillows. The tutoring program at the Greek Church of the Holy Spirit will welcome new refugees.

It will be a year of growth. Change but constant will be our love for the refugees and wanting them to have a better life here in America. We have two great forces working in our behalf, the grace of the Holy Spirit and people who want to help. This is a winning combination for Saint’s Place.

Sincerely,

Isabel Miller
Executive Director, Saint’s Place
Hi Teens,

Dear Teens,
This week we will celebrate the Epiphany. The expression “to have an epiphany” means to have an enlightening moment when suddenly everything makes sense. (It makes me think about when a light bulb pops up above the head of a cartoon character). I imagine this is exactly how the three wise men felt. After traveling for months and months, they finally saw Christ and everything made sense; their past journey, as well as their future. Christ offers us the same sense of clarity if we open our eyes and hearts to him!

Hope to see you at some of our upcoming youth group events!

Have a great week, Mr. McBride and Molly

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, January 4, 5:00 pm Teen Mass; 6:00 - 7:30 pm Dinner and Youth Group Mtg.
Sunday, January 11, 5:00 pm Teen Mass; 6:00 - 7:30 pm Dinner and Youth Group Mtg.
Sunday, January 18, 5:00 pm Teen Mass; 6:00 - 7:30 pm Dinner and Youth Group Mtg.
Wednesday, January 21-23, March for Life in Washington, D.C. Leave Wednesday after school and return late Friday night
Saturday, January 24, at 1:00 pm until Sunday at 4:00 pm, Diocesan Retreat at Camp Stella Maris
Saturday, January 31, 5:30 - 7:00 pm Ice Skating Party at Manhattan Square Park

UPCOMING - DETAILS TBA

Wednesday, March 4, Hands of Christ Awards
Friday, Saturday, March 20-21, Parish Teen Retreat

THE HANDS OF CHRIST AWARDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Each year the Rochester Diocese recognizes exceptional high school seniors for their faith and action in their parish and community. We will be accepting nominations for seniors from our parish for this award until Friday, January 23, 2015. Parish staff, school and community leaders, or *friends and family may submit nominations.

The Criteria for the Hands of Christ recognition are the following:

- Has consistently demonstrated a Christian attitude by word and example.
- Has been actively involved in the parish as well as their school or community.
- Has been a positive role model to their peers, younger children and adults.
- Is a practicing Roman Catholic in a parish in the diocese of Rochester and attends Mass.
- Is currently a high school senior.

*If you know of a deserving senior from our parish, contact Dan McBride at stlouisyg@gmail.com.

THE HANDS OF CHRIST AWARDS

Winter Skating Party

Come join us at downtown’s Manhattan Square Park (next to the Strong Museum) for the St. Louis Church Family Skating Party

Saturday, January 31
5:30 – 7:00 pm

The parish has rented the rink for the evening. Bring your own skates or rent them for $3.

We’ll provide the hot chocolate, bring some cookies if you like. Stop on down and bring some friends. Don’t miss out on the fun!

Any questions, contact Dan McBride at Stlouisyg@gmail.com.

In all your ways be mindful Of Him, and He will make Straight your paths. Proverbs 3:6

Page Seven St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY January 4, 2015
Gifts of the Magi

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as “epiphanies,” including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

The gifts of the Magi – gold, frankincense, and myrrh – have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say.

Prayer for National Migration Week

Loving Father,

Remembering that the Holy Family fled violence and lived for a time as refugees, we ask that you protect all refugee families fleeing persecution, and provide them a place of safety and comfort.

For children who are making perilous journeys, often alone and without the protection of loved ones, we ask that you reunite them with their families and protect them from violence on the journey.

For all migrants, that they not feel compelled to migrate but have opportunities in their homeland where they can thrive and live fully human lives.

Open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality for those who come in search of refuge through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

March for Life Buses

Please join Bishop Matano and hundreds of people from the Diocese of Rochester who will gather with people from across the country to pray for and peacefully witness to the sanctity of all human life at the 41st annual March for Life in Washington, DC on January 22, 2014.

Buses are leaving from various points in the Diocese on the night of Wednesday, January 21 and returning the night of Thursday, January 22.

Bishop Matano and the faithful from the Diocese of Rochester will attend the 10 AM Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, where Archbishop Chaput will be the principal celebrant and homilist. Following Mass, the March for Life will begin on the Mall and conclude at the Supreme Court. For details check the diocesan website at www.dor.org. For more information, contact Suzanne Stack, Life Issues Coordinator at 585-328-3210, ext.1304 or sstack@dor.org.

Diocesan Mass for Life

Bishop Matano will be celebrating Mass on Sunday, January 18, 2 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral in support of all human life, especially the unborn. This Mass for Life is a local event in acknowledgement of the March for Life on January 22, held on the anniversary of the tragic US Supreme Court Roe vs Wade decision which legalized abortion in our country. A reception hosted by the Knights of Columbus will follow Mass. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Suzanne Stack, Life Issues Coordinator at 585-328-3210, ext.1304 or sstack@dor.org.
Our Diocesan Public Policy Committee is asking parishes to focus their advocacy efforts this winter on the Women’s Equality Act. This set of proposals introduced in the New York State legislature includes nine life-affirming points that support the human dignity of women and girls.

Among these are policies to end workplace discrimination against pregnant women and mothers.

One of these points would require employers to provide reasonable accommodation for pregnant women. State Senator Kemp Hannon, sponsor of this measure explained the situation this way:

“It is shocking to see many pregnant women still being denied equal treatment in the workplace. Pregnant women are all too often forced to choose between their health and their job, when both could be maintained with modest adjustments, such as extra bathroom breaks, water breaks, and sitting rather than standing. This legislation will ensure employers provide the same reasonable accommodations to women with verifiable pregnancy-related conditions as they do for other individuals in need of reasonable accommodations.”

This proposal would especially support low-wage workers who feel powerless at their worksites and who fear that even asking for modest accommodations could get them fired. And it would give all mothers-to-be fair and respectful treatment as they carry precious human lives.

Once women give birth, they can continue to face unfair treatment at work. Another point in the Women’s Equality Act would outlaw workplace discrimination against people with children. It would make it illegal for employers to deny work or promotions to people because they have children.

This would particularly support working mothers, as women with children are less likely to be recommended for promotion and tend to receive lower salaries compared to men in similar jobs, and even compared to women who don’t have children. This discrimination against mothers translates into greater financial hardships for themselves and their children. We’ll be advocating for these life-affirming provisions of the WEA in our Public Policy petitions this coming February.

Respect Life Coffee Hour

Join us for a fun night of lively discussion, great coffee and delicious snacks

Women's Equality Act and the Diocese of Rochester Public Policy
Our guest will be Suzanne Stack, Life Issues Coordinator for The Diocese of Rochester
Wednesday, January 14, 2015
7 to 8 pm in the Living Room Church of the Assumption

LIFE! in Focus

"Courtesy is not a condescension of a superior to an inferior, or a patronizing interest in another's affairs. It is the homage of the heart to the sacredness of human worth."

~ Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Do not suffer alone and in silence. God wants you to be at peace.
If you have had an abortion, or been affected by an abortion in some way, please know that hope and help is available to you and it is free and confidential. Please start the healing process by calling Project Rachel at 1-888-972-2435 Compassionate and caring people are waiting to help you.
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<th><strong>PARISH OFFICES</strong> - Ministry Center</th>
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