

89 OVERLOOK DRIVE  
MASTIC BEACH, NY 11951  
PHONE: 631-281-5743

Roman Catholic  
Shrine Church of  
**St. Jude**

WWW.STJUDEMB.ORG  
RECTORY@STJUDEMB.ORG  
FAX: 631-395-5786

“To the Greater Glory of God and the Salvation of Souls.”



**Celebration of  
the Eucharist**

SATURDAY EVENINGS  
5:00pm Vigil Mass  
7:30pm Spanish Mass  
SUNDAY  
8:00am English & Italian  
9:30am Children's Choir  
11:30am Adult Choir  
5:00pm Youth Mass  
MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY  
9:00am Mass  
WEDNESDAY  
9:00am Mass  
Noon Mass  
SATURDAY  
8:30am Mass  
HOLY DAYS AS  
ANNOUNCED.

## Epiphany of Our Lord - January 8th 2012

**Pastor**  
Rev. Gregory Yacyshyn

**In Residence**  
Msgr. John Heinlein

**Senior Priest**  
Rev. James Leone

**Parish Office  
Hours**

MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY, & FRIDAY  
9:00am-5:00pm  
WEDNESDAYS  
9:00am-6:00pm  
SATURDAYS  
CLOSED  
SUNDAYS  
10:00am-2:00pm  
CLOSED HOLIDAYS

**Deacons**  
Thomas Gillen  
Kenneth Geoghan  
Mark Herrmann  
Joseph Simeone

**Useful Numbers**

RECTORY  
281-5743  
PARISH OUTREACH  
281-5634  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
281-2835  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
281-5743  
NURSERY SCHOOL  
395-3959  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES  
SCHOOL  
878-1033  
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL  
219-3542

**Sacrament of  
Anointing of  
the Sick**  
Available in danger of  
death or whenever  
there is a personal  
need, call the rectory  
for an appointment.

**Sacrament  
of Penance/  
Confession**  
SATURDAYS  
4:00-4:45pm and by  
appointment  
WEDNESDAYS  
2:00-2:45pm and by  
appointment

**Parish Outreach**  
MON.-THURS.  
9:00am-1:00pm  
CLOSED  
FRI., SAT., SUN.,  
AND HOLIDAYS

**Sacrament of  
Marriage**  
Couples wishing to be  
married should contact  
the rectory at least one  
year in advance to meet  
with one of the priests  
to make wedding  
arrangements.  
Pre-Cana is required  
for all couples.

**Sacrament of  
Baptism**  
Celebrated on most  
Sundays throughout  
the year. Please contact  
the rectory to set up  
an appointment with  
a member of the staff  
to arrange for the  
Baptismal preparation  
session and to set a  
date for Baptism.

**Devotions**

MIRACULOUS MEDAL  
NOVENA  
Mondays after the  
9:00am Mass  
ST. JUDE NOVENA  
Thursdays after the  
9:00am Mass  
ADORATION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
Wednesdays  
12:30pm-1:00pm  
Benediction at 1:00pm  
FIRST FRIDAY  
8:00pm-9:00pm  
Benediction at 9:00pm  
THE HOLY ROSARY  
Monday through Friday  
at 8:30am; Saturdays at  
8:00am

## Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2012

5:00pm Parishioners of St. Jude

7:30pm Joan Sudol †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012

8:00am Victor Mendolia †

9:30am Anna Diadema †

11:30am Georges Frusco †

5:00pm Catherine Famularo †

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012

9:00am Graziella Lore †

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

9:00am Joan M. Jeans †

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

9:00am John Sylvester †

12 Noon Saint Jude Guild:

Rita Zoda †

“Thank you St. Jude †”

St. Joseph †

St. Ann †

Barbara Giaccone †

Anthony Mineo †

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012

9:00am Anna Diadema †

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012

9:00am Anthony F. Jeans †

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012

8:30am Ken DiPietrantonio †

5:00pm Graziella Lore †

7:30pm Parishioners of St. Jude

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

8:00am Jacob & Vera Omelcruk †

9:30am Henry Struckhoff †

11:30am Mike & Mary Scalzo †

5:00pm Kenneth Kinman †

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Benjamin Archer, Faith Barile, Paul Bidegain, Janeth Billian, Janet Brandimarte, Francis X. Butler, Cecelia Cottone, Anthony Cuccia, Mary Theresa Cunningham, Michael Francis Cunningham, Natalie Danisi, Alexandra Ditman, Isabella Grace Dobbeck, Chuck Drake, Nicholas Ferrara, Anthony Fino, Christian Gallucci, Frank Gaeta, Bob Gamberale, Nora Getchell, Ann Giordano, Michelle Gonzalez, Joan Guarino, Charlotte Hall, Catherine Hannon, Jon Hanson, Steve Herrbrandt, Jo, Richard & Matthew Kaminsky, Father Walter Kedjerski, Cookie Landau, Frances Lee, Christine Leone, Katherine Lindsey, Carmine Linsalata, Brian Lotus, Julius Manchise, Joseph V. Mosca Jr., Joan Muller, Ruth Muller, Ronald Nappe, Frank Nitto, Miguel Oriana, Doris Ortiz, Joan & Jessica Passaro, Jackie Pastore, Gina Pisano, Abdul Rattu, Karen Ratcliff, Salvatore Russo, Lucille Story, Joseph Stozzetto, Patricia Swenson, Angelo Tafuro, Al Vanderbilt, Mary Vazzana

FOR THE DECEASED: Margaret Crisci, Byron Martin, Mathilda Wengenmeier, Frederick Alan

FOR THE MILITARY: John Abel, Matt Corica, Joseph Competello, Michael Cuervo, Kenneth Drumm, Jr., Daniel Edwards, Daniel Engo, Michael Hickey, Jeffrey Holmes, Steven Kay, Richard Kruger, Chris Manakides, John Maresca, Joe Occhineri, Anthony Ochoa Jr., Katherine M. Onorato, Matthew Parenti, Rich Pinckney, Tory Pinckney, Gerard Posillico, John Redding, Jr., Eric Reilly, Vinnie Riveria, Randy Sanchez, Steven Schloesser, Carl Seaman, Don Skelton, Bobby Sosa, Derek Trabocchi, Timothy Weisner

## Faith Formation

**CONFIRMATION CONVERSATIONS:** Will be held Friday, January 13th, 20th & 27th. Please arrive on time for your scheduled appointment and if unable to attend on assigned date, please contact the office.

**CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY:** The office will be closed and there will be no classes on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

**LARGE GROUP PRESENTATION FOR CP2, RCIC2 & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:** On Wednesday, January 18th at 7:45PM to 8:45PM. IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND VIEWING OF PAM STENZEL DVD ON DECEMBER 14th, YOU CANNOT ATTEND THIS PRESENTATION!

**BAKE SALE THANK YOU:** YOU DID IT AGAIN, THANK YOU! Thank you Lori Gagliardi, Laura Vecchio, to all parents, students, and volunteers who helped to make our Faith Formation Bake Sale a HUGE success! The baked items brought in as donations looked so very delicious and were decorated festively for the holiday. All your hard work paid off. We raised \$241.50. OUTSTANDING!

## St. Vincent de Paul

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the spirit of the Magi, please you can give a gift to the St. Vincent de Paul Poor so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

## Lighthouse Catholic Media

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:** Lose weight, get more organized, and grow in your spirituality! Take home a CD from the stand and listen while you clean out closets and get rid of the junk. You may rediscover the many hidden treasures of the Catholic Church, come back to the healing Sacrament of Confession, and lighten your soul. Also, Matthew Kelly's book, Rediscover Catholicism, is available in the rectory for \$5 while supplies last.

## Pauline Book & Media Fair at St. Jude

'The Sisters, the Daughters of St. Paul' will be hosting a book and media fair here next Saturday January 14th and Sunday, January 15th after Mass. Parish book fairs are an extension of their media apostolate. It is a wonderful opportunity to peruse a large selection of great Catholic books, CD's, and DVD's for all the family, in English and Spanish. Our dynamic life and mission is to bring people to encounter Christ within the culture of communications. We are inspired by the example of St. Paul the Apostle, the great communicator.

## Young Adult Mass

**SAVE THE DATE:** On Tuesday, January 17th, at 'St. Brigid's Church', 75 Post Avenue in Westbury at 7:30PM with Fr. Greg. Fellowship to follow. All Are Welcome!

## Seminary of the Immaculate Conception

Offers the following graduate degrees— MASTER OF ARTS in THEOLOGY MASTER OF ARTS in PASTORAL STUDIES. The spring semester begins January 30th 2012. Registration closes January 25th. For further information, contact the 'Academic Office' 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743 (631) 423-0483 x112 or x147. Or visit our website, [www.icseminary.edu](http://www.icseminary.edu).

## Capital Campaign Update

The Capital Campaign improvement for the renovation of the parish center officially closed December 2009. Since that time, we have continued to mail statements to the remaining open pledges throughout 2010 and 2011—to those who have expressed a desire to continue paying the remainder of their pledges. In 2012, we will no longer be mailing statements. If you have not achieved the balance of your pledge, and still wish to continue payment, we applaud your commitment to the campaign! Please indicate on your payment envelope that your offering is for the Capital Campaign. Thank you to all who contributed!!!



# o Time Like the Present

A couple of months ago, a priest-friend and I were getting together for dinner. He mentioned that he had a very fine bottle of wine that had been given to him as a gift some years ago, and which he was saving for an appropriate occasion. He thought that this would be a good time to open it. We were very much looking forward to its lovely bouquet and flavor. Unfortunately, when the bottle was opened, that which was once a costly wine was a couple of years past its prime and barely drinkable. It was poured down the drain...

Somewhat similarly, after my grandmother died, my sister got her good china. She kept these pieces stored in a corner of the cellar, carefully stacked in quilted pouches, so that they would be safe from my nephews' roughhousing and other possible threats to their safety. Well, one day, my sister went to take something off the shelf, and it collapsed, and the pouch containing the soup plates fell and hit the concrete floor, breaking them all. Another valuable lesson learned...

While it is important to have "special" things for "special" occasions, life does not happen only on holidays, parties, and important days. Life happens at every second. The past is past and the future is not promised to any of us. The moment we live in is very important, and while we look forward to landmark occasions—births, baptisms, graduations, weddings, vacations—we cannot live waiting for them alone, because we will miss what God wants us to celebrate *right now*, where He is very much present and always at work.

The word *epiphany* means "appearance; manifestation; showing." The word *theophany*, may also be used, as this Epiphany refers to the public appearance of God in the person of the infant Christ to the shepherds and the Magi. What others may have perceived as just another child born to parents of very modest means and not worthy of much attention, these people were blessed to have recognized the promised Messiah; the King of kings and Lord of lords. A very special occasion indeed.

While I likely would neither drink a fine vintage wine with a cheese burger, nor serve that same burger on my grandmother's good china, the "good stuff" (whatever the category) should not be squirreled away and held in such high esteem that it spoils or is broken before it ever gets to be enjoyed. That is a waste. Everyday is special. Everyday is an opportunity to grow in God's grace. This New Year is an invitation to us to generously use/share the gifts God has given us and not keep them stored away for some better time in the future. God gives us graces every day, which are never for ourselves alone. If we don't we don't use them, we might lose them. The opportunity to draw closer to God and bring others His light and life is in our hands. Let's not keep it on a shelf, but concretely put it to work for the glory of God and the salvation of the souls who need the Light of the World—Jesus Christ and His Holy Church—more than ever.

The New Years Eve Party went very well. Everyone seemed to had a most enjoyable time. Thanks to the committee members, the generous vendors, prize and supply donors who made it possible. Since I literally contributed nothing to the effort except my blessing and moral support, any compliments given to me, I pass on to those who made it all happen, and for a very low ticket price at that.

Thank-You!

**In Christ,  
Fr. Greg**

## Catholics of African Ancestry

The 'Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Committee of Nassau County, Inc.' presents 'Dominica, West Indies' The homilist is Msgr. William John-Lewis, 'Diocese of Roseau', at the **27TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. INTERFAITH CELEBRATION** on Sunday, January 15th at 7PM 'St. Brigid Church', 75 Post Avenue in Westbury. Honoring the 'Freedom Riders' Keynote Speaker: Mr. Lewis Zuckman, 'Freedom Rider'. **YOUTH J.A.M. FOR JESUS** "Leadership Through Service" on Saturday, January 21st from 1-8PM at 'St. Charles Borromeo' located at 211 West 141 Street in NYC. If you are interested in attending 'Youth J.A.M.', please contact: Darcel Whitten-Wilamowski, Coordinator, 'Ministry to Catholics of African Ancestry' no later than Monday, January 9th (516) 678-5800, X239 dwhitten@drvc.org. **BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2012: THE 31ST ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING** on Saturday, February 25th at 2PM at 'St. Agnes Cathedral' located at 29 Quealy Place in Rockville Centre.

Love God, serve God:  
everything is in that.  
—Saint Clare of Assisi

**Man of the Year—Fr. Greg!**  
'The Rotary Club of Shirley and the Mastics' Invite you to celebrate with us as we honor our '2012 Man of the Year', Rev. Gregory Yacyshyn on Saturday, February 4th at 'Sunset Harbor'. Cocktail hour begins at 7pm. Dinner and festivities from 8pm-Midnight. Tickets are \$75 per person, \$140 per couple. Journal sponsorship opportunities are available. Covers: \$300, Full Page: \$100, Half Page: \$75, Quarter Page: \$50, Business Card: \$35, Family Booster: \$25. Please email artwork (size 8.5x11) for your ad to info@designbyrene.com or mail us the wording with your check and we will create an ad for you. R.S.V.P by January 20th. Please make checks payable to 'Rotary Club of Shirley and the Mastics', PO Box 40, Shirley, NY 11967.

## 39th Annual D.C. March for Life

On Monday, January 23rd in Washington D.C. "Thou Shalt Protect the Equal Right to life of Each Innocent Human in Existence at Fertilization. No Exception! No Compromise!" Every day 3,500 babies die by abortion. Come and exercise your democratic right of peaceful protest and demonstration. Join our 'Respect Life Ministry' as we travel to Washington D.C. by bus with thousands of others from all parts of the nation to 'March For Life'. This is a Holy Pilgrimage, a real sacrifice and great educational opportunity for students as we lobby in the Halls of Congress. The January 23rd Agenda: 4:45a.m. Gather for bus from 'Our Lady of the Snow' parking lot at 5AM. Bus leaves 'Our Lady of the Snow' at 5:15AM. Gather for bus from 'St. Lawrence the Martyr' parking lot at 5:30AM. Bus leaves 'St. Lawrence the Martyr' parking lot at 5:45AM. Noon Rally on the National Mall/Madison Drive between 4th & 5th Streets at 1PM. March down Constitution Ave to the 'Capital' and 'Supreme Court' at 2:30PM. Lobby our Congress people and Senators at 4PM. Bus leaves for home and arrives around 10PM. Bus reservations are \$10 per person or \$20 per family (scholarship available). Make your check out to 'OLS Respect Life' and call Jean for reservations at 631-472-0033. If you are unable to join us please pray and fast for the end of the violence and the respect, celebration and thanksgiving of life from conception through natural death.

## Woman at the Well

Come together with other women as we look at the stories of the Women in the Bible, as well as other women in our church history and see how they relate to our lives today. Join us next Tuesday, January 24th where we will be discussing **Castle Dweller, St. Theresa of Avilia** 7:30-9PM at 'Mary Immaculate' in Bellport. Class is located in Room 7 of the Church Auditorium.

## Operation Hearts & Home

Please consider donating unwanted/used electronic items to help children in third world orphanages and we will be happy to give you a letter for tax purposes. 'Operation Hearts & Home' works in conjunction with the 'St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Ukraine' as well as Africa to bring humanitarian aid to the orphans there, as well as bringing orphans to the U.S. so they can receive medical attention. We would be happy for your donations of used laptops, batteries, cell/smart phones, etc. Visit us at [www.operationsheartsandhome.com](http://www.operationsheartsandhome.com) a charity dedicated to improving the lives of orphans worldwide. Please contact Mary at 631-338-3613 or Pat 516-662-4094 to donate.

## Respect Life Youth Contest

The 'Diocesan Respect Life Office' is excited to announce the '9th Annual Youth Respect Life Contest' for grades 7-8 Level 1, and grades 9-12 Level 2. We welcome all Catholic youngsters in the 'Rockville Centre Diocese' to participate. Download your registration form at [www.drvc.org/respectlife](http://www.drvc.org/respectlife). The awards ceremony will be on March 22nd, 2012. All entries must be attached to the registration form, postmarked by January 27, 2012, and mailed to the 'Respect Life Office'. Please note the registration form must be signed by a parent or guardian. Participation in the contest is through poetry, art (book mark design), essay, photography, music and video. All entries will be judged on originality and expression of thought in relation to our Catholic faith and the contest theme, **"I came so that all might have life and have it to the full"**. Respect life issues cover abortion, adoption, euthanasia, cloning, stem cell research, just war doctrine, death penalty, suicide, responsibility of Catholic politicians, reproductive technologies that include invitro-fertilization and embryo adoption, marriage, chastity, rights of the disabled and conscience protection for Catholic health care workers.

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# Flower Offering

Flower Offering in Memory of or Dedicated to:

Eugene Kranz  
Mr. Jack Asaro  
For Church

Alvarado Family  
Lorme Family  
Filandro Family

McNeil Family  
DelValle Family

## Retrouvaille—Marriage Counseling Retreat

'Retrouvaille' is a peer ministry. Couples who have had problems in their own marriages and have recovered from those problems, share their experiences with couples in troubled marriages with the hope that they too will see that their marriage can be saved. Thousands of couples all over the globe have found hope, help and healing by participating in the 'Retrouvaille' program. A 'Retrouvaille Weekend' is a deeply personal and private experience shared between a husband and wife that can help a couple to reconnect and go on to lead a happy and fulfilling life together. **YOU CAN SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE NOW!** For more information about the upcoming 'Retrouvaille Weekend' that begins on Friday, February 3rd at the 'Montfort Retreat House' in Bay Shore. Please call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected (confidentially) to an experienced couple from 'Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille' who can help.

## New Years Eve Party—Thank You!

The party was well attended by 178 persons. The music was phenomenal; 'D.J. Bob Vecchio' kept us dancing all night long. We also had a special treat to ring in the New Year: LIVE coverage of the ball drop from Times Square.

To prepare for a party of this size takes months of preparation. The first thought came in August, when the nearing of the final renovations to our parish center hall was apparent. By September, a committee was formed and began the first phase of preparation. I want to thank the following committee members Melissa, Grace, Denise, Joe, Teri, Benny, Al, Barbara and Connie for their personal sacrifice of time and talent by taking on various tasks to make this party happen.

Like in any big event, it takes many to make it successful. To the local merchants who generously donated: the tables 'The Kane Family', beautiful flower arrangement 'Lee Anne's Florist', the projector 'Mastic/Moriches/Shirley Community Library' and consecutive full page colored ads 'South Shore Press'... We greatly appreciate your generosity!

To the local merchants who provided at their cost all the wine and champagne 'Parmars Liquor & Wine', the kegs of beer 'Southfork Beverage', and dessert 'Silverlake Cookie Company' and 'Ice Cream Cottage' your generosity helped us raise additional funds for our parish. Thank you to the raffle donors; 'Roma Funeral Home', 'J.V. Kavanaugh Council Knights of Columbus', 'Empire National Bank', and our two anonymous donors, for the fabulous prizes we were able to offer.

To all the extra helping hands who helped in the set up and in selling raffle tickets: Sue Fumai, Anne Schiraldi, Lauren Vernice, Greg Haren, Lorraine Hickey, Sue & Gary Nappo, and our parish maintenance men John and Joe, your help was much appreciated. To Richie Berkhout who I called on the last minute for the help in obtaining trees and as always comes shining through. The trees truly added to the ambiance of the décor. To Anne Snyder, rectory receptionist who I delegated many behind the scene tasks, you were a true blessing. To my daughter Brittney and Richie thank you for handling the coat check room. Thank you to all the people who did not attend but supported our parish event by purchasing raffle tickets. Most importantly thank you to Father Greg for all your support and encouragement in allowing us to making this event possible.

Finally, to all who attended we appreciated the opportunity to provide you with a night of fun with family, friends, and your parish community. I hope we were able to fulfill your expectations. We wish you all a very Blessed New Year!!!!!!

With sincere thanks,

Cynthia Lacey  
Committee chairperson

P.S. Funds raised for parish \$5,868.38

Raffle winners: 1st prize; The Vernice Family, 2nd prize; sorry no one could remember the name, 3rd prize; Lorraine Hickey, 4th prize; Renee Spaziant, 5th prize; Richie Berkhout

## Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY		SUNDAY				Total
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30	5pm	
Dec. 18	305	145	251	387	545	199	1832
CHRISTMAS EVE							
	4pm	6pm	8pm	Midnight	Total		
Dec. 24	825	225	205	735	1990		
CHRISTMAS DAY							
	9am		11:30am		Total		
Dec. 25	302		610		912		
	SATURDAY		SUNDAY				Total
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30	5pm	
Jan. 1	323	155	165	208	495	190	1536

## Weekly Collections

December 18th	\$9,892.53
Christmas 2011	\$25,503.65
Christmas 2010	\$31,018.00
January 1st	\$9,691.84
Solemnity of Mary	\$1,655.00

## Catholic Ministries Appeal

2012 Goal	\$50,174.00
Total pledges a/o 12/31/11	\$59,414.08
# of Donors	200
Payments a/o 12/31/11	\$56,696.58

Thank you to all who have pledged.

## Scripture Readings

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012
<i>Baptism of the Lord:</i> IS 42:1-4, 6-7 OR IS 55:1-11
• ACTS 10:34-38 OR 1 JN 5:1-9 • MK 1:7-11
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012
<i>Weekday:</i> 1 SM 1:9-20 • MK 1:21-28 OR 1 SM 1:1-8 AND 1:9-20 • MK 1:14-20 AND 1:21-28
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012
<i>Weekday:</i> 1 SM 3:1-10, 19-20 • MK 1:29-39
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012
<i>Weekday:</i> 1 SM 4:1-11 • MK 1:40-45
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012
<i>Weekday:</i> 1 SM 8:4-7, 10-22A • MK 2:1-12
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012
<i>Weekday:</i> 1 SM 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1A • MK 2:13-17
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012
<i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time:</i> 1 SM 3:3B-10, 19 • 1 COR 6:13C-15A, 17-20 • JN 1:35-42

## Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of January 9th has been donated:

In memory of Grace Donovan

Available dates for week of January 23rd & 30th, March 5th, 12th & 19th

## Altar Flowers

Available dates for week of January 21st & 22nd, January 28th & 29th

## Baptism

Carlee Felicita Marchese  
May God Bless her and her family!

# Feast of the Epiphany

You're sitting in a lawyer's office for the reading of your parents' will. You expect to be splitting your inheritance with your siblings, but then you're told you'll also be sharing it with someone unrelated to you—someone you find quite distasteful.

Wouldn't you be shocked? Speechless? Furious? That's exactly what happened to the first followers of Christ, who were Jewish. God's chosen people, they believed that Christ came to redeem the children of Israel. And indeed he did. But as we hear today from Saint Paul, Christ also came for the Gentiles—the non-Jews. Saint Paul writes, "The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus." This was difficult for Jesus' Jewish followers to absorb. The Gentiles were not related to the Jews by bloodline, so how could they also be chosen by God for Christ?

"The Gentiles are coheirs,  
members of the same body,  
and copartners in the  
promise in Christ Jesus."

The Gospel story of the Magi also brought home this truth. The magi were Gentiles, and their coming signaled that Jesus was a light to all nations, not just Israel.

This message of inclusivity was hard for Jesus' Jewish followers to hear, and it's difficult to hear today. How much time do Christians spend bickering among ourselves, labeling each other "conservative" or "liberal" and demonizing those we consider "less Christian"?

Today's feast demands better of us. Until we give up the infighting, we're shrouded in darkness. Epiphany is about celebrating the light that Jesus is for all, and the light we

Christians are called to be—together, as coheirs, copartners, and brothers and sisters in Christ.

JANEL ESKER

[sundaybulletins@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletins@liguori.org)

## A Special Pilgrimage to Rome, Italy

From March 7th through the 13th for only \$999 per Person\* and Departing from New York, JFK Airport. **Wed. Day 1:** Depart U.S.A. Enjoy an overnight flight with meals served aboard the aircraft. **Thu. Day 2:** Rome. Upon arrival at the Rome Airport the group will be transferred by deluxe motor coach to the hotel. There are no planned activities for the first day so please enjoy some time at leisure to explore Rome on your own. Enjoy dinner at the hotel your first night in the "Eternal City." **Fri. Day 3:** Rome. Enjoy a free day in Rome, or take part in the OPTIONAL TOUR. Enjoy a guided tour of 'St. Peter's Basilica' and the world famous 'Vatican Museums', featuring a visit to the 'Sistine Chapel', with its beautiful artwork by Michelangelo. Dinner on your own. Overnight in Rome. **Sat. Day 4:** Rome. Enjoy a day at leisure in Rome or take part in an OPTIONAL SIDE TRIP that will be offered to visit the town of St. Francis—Assisi. The tour will include visits to the 'Basilica of St. Francis' (view the exquisite artwork of Giotto), the 'Convent of St. Clare', and the 'Basilica of St. Mary of the Angel's. Return to Rome for dinner and overnight. **Sun. Day 5:** Rome. The group will attend one of the highlights of the trip, the 'Papal Blessing' (if available). After the Blessing enjoy a tour of Christian Rome including the 'Basilicas of St. Mary Major' and 'St. John Lateran', and the 'Holy Stairs'. From here you will go to the 'Appian Way' where we find the 'Chapel of Domine Quo Vadis'. We arrive at the Catacombs for a

visit. Overnight in Rome. **Mon. Day 6:** Rome. Enjoy a free day in Rome. In the afternoon enjoy an OPTIONAL TOUR OF ANCIENT ROME. Starting from the square of the Capitol, from here you will enjoy the unique sight of the 'Forum' and of the 'Palatine Hill' with a view of the 'Colosseum'. Walk along the ancient pavement, which crosses the 'Ruins of the Roman Forum', the 'Curia', the 'Reggia', and admire the 'Temple of Vesta', the 'Arch of Titus' and the 'Arch of Constantine'. Continue towards the 'Circus Maximus' and 'Aventine Hill', ending up with a visit to 'St. Paul Outside the Walls', which contains the 'Grave of St. Paul'. Dinner on your own and overnight in Rome. **Tue. Day 7:** Rome After breakfast depart Rome Airport for U.S.A.

**Included Highlights:** *Airfare:* Non-Stop Round-trip from New York JFK Airport *Accommodations:* 7 days/5 nights superior tourist class hotels with private bath (three star hotels) *Meals:* 5 Breakfasts & 2 Dinners *Sightseeing:* As indicated in the itinerary. *Also Included:* Daily Mass, Airport-hotel group transfers, hotel tips & taxes, baggage handling, touring by private air-conditioned motor-coach, services of a professional tour escort. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL THE CATHOLIC TOUR TOLL FREE AT 1-877-MARIAN TOUR. That's 1-877-627-4268. Or email: [jimadair@thecatholictour.com](mailto:jimadair@thecatholictour.com). (\*ADD \$187 departure taxes, \$420 fuel surcharges and \$189 for optional travel insurance.)

## Diocesan Pilgrimage to the 50th Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, Ireland

The 'Diocese of Rockville Centre' is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the '50th Eucharistic Congress' which will be held in Dublin, Ireland under the leadership of Bishop John C. Dunne, auxiliary Bishop of our Diocese. The dates are June 4th-13th. Msgr. Jim McNamara, pastor at 'Holy Cross Church' in Nesconset, is coordinating the pilgrimage events. This pilgrimage is open to everyone. Our pilgrimage will begin with some touring in the western part of Ireland and will end with the first three days of the 'Eucharistic Congress'. Since Bishop Dunne's parents came from Castlebar, we are designing this pilgrimage around his family roots in the west of Ireland. This will enable us to visit some well-known sites (like the Cliffs of Moher and Kylemore Abbey) but also to take advantage of local places of interest that will introduce us to the richness of Irish culture and heritage. Travel arrangements are being made through '206 Tours' in Hauppauge. If you wish to have a brochure sent to you, can contact Eva at '206 Tours' at [631-361-4644oreva@206tours.com](mailto:631-361-4644oreva@206tours.com). To see a brochure visit: [Pilgrimages.com/bishopdunne](http://Pilgrimages.com/bishopdunne).