

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 3, 2010

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . . Kathleen Schroot, Carolyn Pelletier, Julie Coats, Evelyn E. Nelson, Elizabeth Dunbar, Barbara McLean, Ken Meserve, Kate Starr, Sophia Shaw, Sally Minich, Eutawna Clark, Rita Pooler, Thomas Queen, Carolyn Dutton, Marie Magill, Lisa Carey, Beth Rebello, Paul Haggerty, Glen Brotchie, Donna Wilson, Linda Wilson, Terry Plourde, Isabella Buccafusca, and all who are ill, in nursing homes, and for those who are hospitalized.

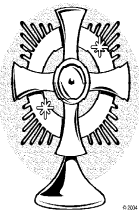
PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

Father, hold our troops in your loving hands and protect them as they protect us. Be with them and comfort them with your loving presence while they are away from their homes. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need and grant us all peace, both as individuals and as a world community. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, with faith that you will hear and answer all our prayers according to your will. Amen

CAN YOU HELP?

Beverly Hospital is in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers to bring Communion for and to pray with the sick. Volunteers are needed, especially on SUNDAYS, to assist with this worthwhile ministry. Training is available and even one hour a month would be appreciated and helpful. Those who feel called to this ministry are encouraged to call John J. Kwiatek, Beverly Hospital's Pastoral Care Coordinator, at (508) 932-7311. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for your adoration in the chapel on Saturdays from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

The Blessed Sacrament will be reserved in the tabernacle for your adoration at all other times. The lit sanctuary lamp is always a sign of the presence of the Lord and is an invitation to all who wish to come and spend some quiet time with the Lord.

YEAR 2010 FAMILY APPOINTMENT CALENDARS

are available at the doors of the church.

These beautiful calendars have been
donated to St. Paul's by
John A. Morris
of the Morris Funeral Home
45 North Main Street
Ipswich, MA

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 2
4:30 pm
Gerald T. Shea

Sunday, January 3
8:00 am
Marie Riley
Kathleen Dwyer

10:15 am
Carole LaMontagne

5:30 pm
Randi Thibeault

Monday, January 4
9:00 am
Alexander Monka

Tuesday, January 5
9:00 am
Mary Vaughn

Wednesday, January 6
9:00 am
Jen D'Arcy

Thursday, January 7
9:00 pm
Robert Safrin

Friday, January 8
9:00 am
Eileen Mortimer

Saturday, January 9
4:30 pm
Leonard Saduikis

Sunday, January 10
9:00 am
Marie Fox-Miller
10:15 am
Celeste Fuller
5:30 pm
Sarah DeFloio

**BIBLE STUDY
SUMMARY - SECTION I**

Lenten Bible Study

Father Arthur Driscoll, former dean of St. John's Seminary College, will conduct a bible study at St. Paul's starting in February. Fr. Driscoll has over 20 years experience conducting bible studies. This study will provide a great opportunity for participants to increase their knowledge of the bible. Father Driscoll will start with an extensive introduction to the bible and provide a framework for better understanding the bible. His approach will benefit those who are new to bible study as well as those who have attended bible studies before. The program will then move to a study of the gospel of Matthew.

The bible study will be held on Thursday nights in the church hall from 7 to 8:30 pm, starting on February 11. Join us and make this a special Lent. Feel free to come to any sessions that you are able to make.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**
 - 1. A history textbook?
 - 2. A biography?
 - 3. A novel?

- B. WHERE DID IT COME FROM?**
 - 1. The spoken word.
 - 2. The written word. From Solomon.
 - 3. The TRADITIONS.

- C. Who were the authors?**

PSEUDOGRAPHIA

- D. What was their purpose?**

Communication with God.

- E. INSPIRATION - The "word, breath of God."**
 - 1. Holy men. (Fathers of Church; synagogue)
 - 2. Holy Spirit
 - 3. The Church - Holy Community
 - 4. The Dynamic of inspiration
 - 5. God reveals Himself - a person
 - 6. INSPIRATION and TRUTH

- F. CANONICITY - THE LIST.**
 - 1. Protocanonical
 - 2. Deuterocanonical
 - 3. Who chose the inspired texts?
 - 4. The role of the Church
 - a. The Pope - encyclicals
 - b. The Bible Institute - Jerusalem (Dominicans)
 - c. The Pontifical Biblical Commission

- G. TOOLS OF INTERPRETATION**
 - 1. Textual Criticism - the original text?
 - 2. Literary Criticism - the true meaning of the text - language, grammar, style.
 - 3. Historical Criticism
situation at the time. "Sitz im laben."

II. THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's the miracle that always captures the attention! Sight restored. Lame limbs healed. Hearing brought back. The dead raised. Water changed into wine. When you think about it, the first four are often routine today. Granted, the miracle doesn't happen every time. But many have their sight restored through cataract surgery. Broken bones that would have led to incapacitation are mended. Cochlear implants help some who did not hear. And even some people who were in cardiac arrest have been brought back. These medical miracles happen so regularly that we don't even advert to them as "miracles" anymore. They are "procedures." It's when things don't work that we get disappointed-and maybe even pray for a miracle.

Of course, we still haven't been able to crack that water-into-wine thing. It is still a bona fide miracle. Relying on the miraculous misses the point that John is trying to make in today's Gospel. The "sign" is not about how much wine we can get out of Jesus, but rather that he was revealing his glory, leading his disciples to belief. The signs in John's Gospel are again and again about faith, about coming to believe in Jesus.

Praying for the miraculous can lead to an increase of faith. But we can't let the miracle-or lack thereof-get in the way of faith. Instead, we can let our faith uncover the miraculous that already takes place each day: the healing that goes on in hospitals; the amazing production of food that feeds so many; the growing ability of humankind to understand this created world; the wonder of a child who grows from just a few cells to an adult in the span of two decades. It's these miracles that can capture our attention and deepen our faith!

Tax Laws for Charitable Contributions

Due to changes in the federal tax laws or charitable contributions, parishioners who itemize deductions on Schedule A of their tax return will not be able to deduct contributions to the parish unless they maintain a bank record or receive a written contribution statement from the parish. Cash contributions that are not in a parish envelope cannot be tracked by the parish and will not be included in the year-end contribution statement.

Recommended donation methods:

Use of parish envelopes provided to you by the parish.

Written check made payable to the parish.

Direct deposit from your bank/credit card account

Payroll deduction

St. Paul's will track contributions made using the parish envelope system and will, upon request, provide a written statement of contributions made during 2008. This information will include the name of the parish, name of parishioner, date of each individual contribution, and the dollar amount. St. Paul's cannot track cash contributions, regardless of the amount, that are not part of the parish offertory system.

Please note that this does not change the requirement that a taxpayer receive an acknowledgment from St. Paul's for each deductible contribution of more.

Please consult your tax advisor for additional information.

THE CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL

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Eileen Larkin

04-0129

January 17, 2010