



# From The Pastor's Desk

In today's Gospel from Saint Matthew on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we hear:

*Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.* MATTHEW 2:11-12

This Solemnity of the Epiphany usually falls on the Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Family. This year since Christmas was a Sunday it falls exactly after the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God January 1. The Feast of the Holy Family fell this year on Friday, December 30.

Today we think of the gifts offered to our Lord: the gold signifying His royalty, frankincense, or incense which indicates praise and homage offered to our new-born king. Our prayers like "incense" rise to the heavens. The myrrh is bittersweet as it is the spice which will be used to prepare Christ's body for burial. The life Christ takes up as the God-man; the death He endures for us is His mission. Through His Resurrection all of us may have life and have it to the full!

Today's feast highlights the fact that Christ came for all not just for the Jews. He came for all mankind. Why not ask Christ to illuminate your path this day and this year! Let us give our gifts of ourselves to Jesus Christ our new-born king who came out of love to save and protect us and help us prepare to live one day with Him in heaven. In a very real way, we need to bring Christ's message to others today. This is the whole emphasis that Pope Francis and all of us should have on this Solemnity of the Epiphany to bring Christ's light to the whole world!

Again, I thank all for your generous Christmas gifts to your church. During the winter months especially, your generosity helps us to maintain our parish life when some of our seasonal parishioners are in Florida or away from their spring and summer residence.

## January 22 is the Anniversary of Roe vWade.

This year the MARCH FOR LIFE will be Friday, January 27. St. Rosalie's will be hosting a bus with Immaculate Conception Church of Westhampton Beach. We are inviting our young people in our junior high and high schools at Our Lady of the Hamp-ton, Hampton Bays Public Schools and McGann-Mercy High School to go to the March for Life. More details to follow.

## Come Home for Christmas

And those of you who have taken the first step in **Coming Home for Christmas**, we want you to **Stay With Us!** Here's your invitation. Now that you have taken the first step in **Coming Home for Christmas** why not think about **Staying With Us!** We are all on the same earthly pilgrimage to heaven.

## Bishop-designate Barres

As you know, Pope Francis has named Bishop John O. Barres as our new Bishop. We are planning to send him our prayers and hopes for our Diocese and for him as he prepares to take over our Diocese on January 31. I ask you to consider offering your prayers and good works for the success of His ministry here in our midst, by participating in our St. Rosalie's Spiritual Bouquet for him. Please estimate a number, which we will total and send to Bishop Barres when he comes to lead our Diocese later this month. Please place the completed form in the collection box located in the lobby or bring to Parish Center. The deadline is January 15.



## A Spiritual Bouquet for our new Bishop, John O. Barres

I will offer my Masses _____	Personal prayers _____
Holy Communions _____	Rosaries _____
Good works _____	Offerings for the Poor _____
Visit the sick or imprisoned _____	Feed the hungry _____
Comfort the dying _____	Other spiritual and corporal works of mercy _____



We, the parishioners of St. Rosalie's, call upon the Blessed Mother to intercede for us to ask the Prince of Peace, her Son, to bring us tidings of joy and peace this Christmas and New Year!

A Blessed and Peaceful New Year to all,

*~Father Ed  
Welcome Home!*