

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 7AM Olga Silvester  
9AM Norma Geissberger

Tue 7AM John & Malvina Digardi  
9AM Fran & Stan Conway

Wed 7AM Pope, Bishops, & Clergy, *living*  
9AM Bob Haddad, *living*

Thu 7AM Lorenzo Alessandria  
9AM Alex Maffei

Fri 7AM Paolo Badessa  
9AM Stan & Fran Conway

Sat 7AM Christina Haddad, *living*  
9AM Lou Batmale

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lorenzo Acciai, Ken Anderson, Sally Arango, Marco Balistreri, Charles Bellia, Bertha, Madison Bostow, Joseph Calleja, Patricia Cane, Charles, Cary Chiappone, Yondellan Coleman, Elizabeth Crowley, Bill & Vladia Cutler, Dick Degan, Doris Doty, Doug, Nanette Duffy, Ed, Luke Duval, Faith Gillis, Eileen Harriman, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Chiara Iulucci, Joseph, Germaine Khohayting, Jeanne Killian, Karla Kincade, Jan Lamphere, Manda Masse, Warren McGuire, Richard Mogas, Monte Maroevich, Tony, Valerie Milroy, Mark Piatti, Bertha Ponce de Leon, Joe Popovich, Stephanie, Steve Schlesselmann, Mary Ann Smith, Rose Tannlund, Tim, Elizabeth Ward, Sibeal Whitty, & Camilla Wolfe.

### 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE—WEST COAST

Mark your calendars: Saturday, January 23, Join Saint Sebastian's parishioners and upwards of 25,000 Pro-Life Walkers for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life in San Francisco, and peacefully proclaim the message that abortion *hurts* women and that they deserve better than abortion.

[www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com)

To volunteer or to arrange buses call 586-1576  
or e-mail questions to [info@walkforlifewc.com](mailto:info@walkforlifewc.com)



**1260 on your AM dial**  
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*sharing the heart of the Christian faith*

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 3, 2010



### STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK

The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will *I* go, and what will *I* offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

### WORD OF LIFE

"Every child asks for our love. This night, then, let us think especially of those children who are denied the love of their parents. Let us think of those street children who do not have the blessing of a family home, of those children who are brutally exploited as soldiers and made instruments of violence, instead of messengers of reconciliation and peace. Let us think of those children who are victims of the industry of pornography and every other appalling form of abuse, and thus are traumatized in the depths of their soul. The Child of Bethlehem summons us once again to do everything in our power to put an end to the suffering of these children; to do everything possible to make the light of Bethlehem touch the heart of every man and woman."

—Pope Benedict XVI

*Homily at Midnight Mass, Dec. 25, 2008*

### CENACLE OF PRAYER TODAY

Today, January 3rd, from 3 to 4pm  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,  
Rosary, Meditation, & Benediction  
Spend an hour here with Our Lord.

**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON (1774-1821)**

**January 4**



Though her liturgical designation is “religious,” Elizabeth Seton, her feast-day prayer reminds us, was also “wife, mother, educator, foundress.” Born into a wealthy Episcopalian family, Elizabeth married William Seton, whose untimely death in Italy where the young family sought healing for William’s tuberculosis, left her, at twenty-nine, a widow with five children.

Inspired by the faith and charity of the Italian family with whom they stayed, Elizabeth embraced Catholicism despite her family’s disowning her and ceasing financial support. This woman of many firsts (and several vocations!) opened the first free Catholic school, beginning the American Catholic educational system, and founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. The tuberculosis that claimed her husband took also her oldest and youngest daughters and, finally, at just forty-seven, Elizabeth herself.

Another first: in 1975 she was canonized the first native-born American Saint. Once asked to summarize her spirituality, she replied: “Faith lifts the staggering soul on one side, hope supports it on the other, experience says it must be, and love says let it be!”

—Peter Scagnelli, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

**THE POPE’S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY**

*General Intention:* That young people may learn to use modern means of social communication for their personal growth and to better prepare to serve society.

*Mission Intention:* That every believer in Christ may realize that unity among all Christians is a condition for more effective proclamation of the Gospel.

Note: The “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” begins on January 18.

**THANK YOU**

To the dozen or so parishioners who decorated the church with garland, trees, wreaths, flowers, lights, and the manger.

To the choir and our musicians who helped us join the angelic choir in welcoming Christ to earth through beautiful music and singing.

To the children who enacted the Christmas story on Christmas Eve: Mary, Joseph, the Angels, the Shepherds, Caesar, the Three Kings. And to the parents and teachers for passing on the story to them so that generations to come will know about Jesus’ birth.

On behalf of St. Vincent’s School for Boys and Hanna Boys Center, we thank all of you who took tags from the Advent “Giving Tree” and purchased gifts so that the youngsters would experience the joy of receiving your presents at Christmas.

May God bless you with a bountiful return!

**“COFFEE SUNDAY” NEXT WEEK**

Next Sunday is “Coffee Sunday”, so don’t “run off”, but be sure to come to the Parish Hall after the 7am, 9am, or 11am Mass and visit with fellow parishioners who look forward to seeing you there!

“Coffee Sunday” is scheduled for every second Sunday of the month.

**Most Reverend William Justice**

Cordially extends an invitation to all married couples of Northern California to a **Solemn Eucharistic Celebration and Renewal of Vows** **February 27, 2010**

**St. Mary’s Cathedral**

Special honor will be shown to those who are celebrating their 25th, 50th, or 50+ Wedding Anniversary  
Register online at [www.SFfamilylife.com](http://www.SFfamilylife.com)

or call the Parish Office to register for the Renewal of Vows.

PARISH BULLETINS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON ST. SEBASTIAN’S WEBSITE: [www.sebastian94904.com](http://www.sebastian94904.com)

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

We celebrate the “Wise Men” who recognized the Christ! Yet what they did *seems* to have been so *stupid*! Otherwise, wouldn't others would have gone with them? These intelligent men then gave such expensive gifts to a homeless baby in a stable! If people had known that the magi were going to give away such treasures, there would have been a tremendous *crowd* following them for the free give-a-ways. But, no! All of Jerusalem, and King Herod and the others with all the political power remained in the comfort of the palace and their homes, and those with the *wisdom* to recognize God's presence followed the star that God had placed in the heavens.

Today, considering the support for the so-called “right to choose” abortion, children (especially *unborn*) don't have much value or legal protection in our society. In fact, every day 4000 unborn children are killed by abortion in the United States of America alone, where our currency declares “In God we Trust” but where we do *not* trust God any more than King Herod did. Even a fully-formed baby in the womb can be methodically killed by partial-birth abortion, and lawmakers are like Pontius Pilate, afraid of upsetting the voters, and *allow* such brutality to remain legal!

So, when we honor the Wise Men, it is because they saw the *truth* when they gazed upon the newborn Christ child. They were not *fooled* by appearances, as we tend to be fooled by appearances and to judge by *looks*. The magi are considered *wise* because they recognized the truth.

Let us recognize the truth and not be fooled by outward appearances. The world *needs* the truth. And the truth is that God became a helpless human being when he was first conceived in Mary's womb. Nine months later, when he was born in Bethlehem, his life was in mortal danger from those with political power. The “Holy Innocents” were killed in an effort to destroy the child Jesus. Innocent children are being killed today, too, on a much greater scale.

Let *us*, then, be wise, and ask the Holy Spirit for a new outpouring of the gift of wisdom upon ourselves and upon our world. We ask God's forgiveness for our failures. And we need humility to recognize our need. Then we, too, will be “Wise Men” who will recognize the Lord's presence around us today, and we can bring our gifts to Him, and he will accept them and bless us.