

ST LAWRENCE

JANUARY 7, 2018



The Feast of the Epiphany

Welcome, Fr Eric!

Father Eric is currently Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in North Bergen and has recently been appointed Administrator of St. Lawrence. He has been ordained for 13 years and because his father was in the Foreign Service with the State Department, he has lived in Romania, Switzerland and Mexico, in addition to several States in the Northeast. Fr. Eric enjoys spending time with his cat, Foxy, and following the New York Yankees. He is very excited to be part of the St. Lawrence Family and looks forward to many years of getting to know the wonderful faith community of Weehawken. Please pray for him as he begins a new chapter in his ministry!

TEN FACTS about the Feast of the Epiphany

1. The three Kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively.

2. Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was traditionally served at Epiphany in honour of Christ and the three Kings' visit.

3. Whoever finds the small statue of a baby Jesus hidden inside their slice of the Rosca de reyes throws a party on Candlemas in February.

4. In some European countries, children leave their shoes out the night before to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the three Kings' horses.

5. According to Greek Orthodox Church's traditions, a priest will bless the waters by throwing a cross into it as worshippers try to retrieve it.

6. In Bulgaria too, Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross in the sea and the men dive in - competing to get to it first.

7. In Venice a traditional regatta that started as a joke in the late 1970s has been incorporated in the celebrations of Epiphany Day.

8. In Prague, there is a traditional Three Kings swim to commemorate Epiphany Day at the Vltava River.

9. In New York, El Museo del Barrio has celebrated and promoted the Three Kings' Day tradition with an annual parade for more than three decades. Thousands take part in the procession featuring camels, colorful puppets and floats.

10. The day's activities involve singing holiday carols called aguinaldos.



RECOGNIZE HOW OLD YOUR SOUL IS

Ask yourself if you experience internal fire or fatigue. Just acknowledge it.



5 TIPS TO REJUVENATE YOUR SOUL



REMEMBER THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE YOUNG AGAIN

You have the possibility to live intensely, like a young person who wants to change the world.



REMEMBER YOUR DREAMS AND MISSION

Look inside you and find those essential things that touch your soul and motivate you.



RENOVATION IS IMPORTANT

Don't let obligations consume you. Look for opportunities to renew your spirit.



ASK THE LORD TO REJUVENATE YOU

Remember Psalm 103: "The Lord fills your days with good things, so your youth is renewed like the eagle's"

Feast of the Epiphany

Oftentimes we hear things and don't really understand them. Here are 10 facts about the history and meaning of Three Kings Day.

What is the Epiphany? Epiphany is the 12th Day of Christmas. The Church generally celebrates it liturgically on the Sunday closest to January 6. (Although some use the Epiphany as an 'unofficial' end to the Christmas Season, the liturgical Season of Christmas actually ends with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus by St. John the Baptist, this year transferred to Monday, January 8.

The six Sundays which follow Epiphany are known as the time of manifestation. The Twelfth Night (Epiphany) also marks a visit to the baby Jesus by The Magi, (the three Kings, or Wise Men). The word 'Epiphany' comes from Greek and means 'manifestation'. It celebrates 'the revelation of God in his Son as human in Jesus Christ'.

In the West, Christians began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century, associating it with the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus.

The three kings - named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar - followed the star of Bethlehem to meet the baby Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11, they offered symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus' birth, the gold representing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.

During the medieval period, Christmas was celebrated for the 12 days from Christmas Eve on December 24, until the Epiphany. Even up until the 19th century, January 6 was as big a celebration as Christmas Day.

For many Protestant churches, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6 until Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. The last Sunday of the Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday. Others, including the Catholic church, observe Epiphany as a single day. Some Catholic dioceses in the US mark the Epiphany feast on the Sunday after January 6.

Orthodox Christians, however, celebrate the holiday on January 19 each year.

Across the world, the day's festivities vary. In the Spanish speaking world Epiphany is known as Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings' Day). In Mexico, for instance, crowds gather to taste the Rosca de Reyes - Kings' bread. In other countries, a Jesus figurine is hidden in the bread.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 PRO-LIFE POSTER/ESSAY CONTEST Theme: "Be Not Afraid" Winners will be awarded at the Noon Pro-Life Mass on January 14, 2018 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Cardinal Tobin is scheduled to celebrate the Mass. Light Refreshments will follow in the chancery auditorium. All are invited. **Any questions contact the Respect Life Office 973-497-4350 or via e-mail rileyche@rcan.org**

FAITH, FAMILY, AND FORGIVENESS SERIES The latest program in the 70x7: Faith, Family, and Forgiveness Series sponsored by Immaculate Conception Seminary and Relevant Radio will take place Saturday, January 27, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul Inside the Walls, Madison, NJ. This program, Part IV in the Series, is entitled New Beginnings: New Life- How the Sisters of Life Accompany Others on Paths of Forgiveness, Healing and Hope. Presenting at this program will be members of the community of the Sisters of Life. **To register please contact: Theresa Miller at [mailto:theresa.miller@shu.edu] theresa.miller@shu.edu or (973) 761-9575**

ST LAWRENCE ROOF PROGRESS

Total as of
Jan 1, 2018:
\$57,425



**Thank You to All Have
Donated So Far!**

This Week's Mass Intentions

Tuesday, January 9

9:30 am + Timothy Bradley

Wednesday, January 10

9:30 am + Joseph Bradley

Sunday, January 13

8:00 am + Anne Fredericks

10:30 pm + Kathleen McCall

12:00 pm + Maria Dunlea

Visit us online at
stlweehawken.com

St Lawrence RC Church