The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person. The March of Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifeers converge on the National Mall and march on Capital Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It is the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest...TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, value and protected.
Matthew narrates that the first people to recognize Jesus as king of the Jews and adore him are the magi who are from the east—not Jewish. This shows that Jesus’ kingship is not only for Israel, but is universal. Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the long-awaited Messiah of Jewish prophecy and expectation—the anointed one and heir to King David’s throne. But more than that, he is savior of the entire world.

**THE THREE MAGI**

In some countries and even here in USA, many children receive their presents on January 6th, the day when Los Reyes Magos (The Magi) bring gifts to good little boys and girls.

In addition to presents, Reyes traditions include “Rosca de Reyes”—an oval sweet-bread containing a figurine of the infant Jesus. The hidden baby symbolizes the desire to find for the Christ child a safe haven protected from King Herod’s persecution. Colorful parades and lively music round out the festivities.

The holiday marks the adoration of the baby Jesus by the Wise Men. On the Church calendar, this day is called the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The biblical narrative can be found in the Gospel according to Matthew.

The three gifts were prophetic of Christ’s offices of King, Priest, and Savior:
- Gold is a precious metal symbolic of royalty and wealth. In ancient times it was common to give gold as a sign of tribute to a new king.
- Frankincense is an aromatic tree resin. Its name comes from incense of Franks since it was reintroduced to Europe by Frankish Crusaders. It was used by Jewish priests in temple rituals. The gift is symbolic of Jesus’ role as eternal High Priest and of his sacrificial offering.
- Myrrh is a gum resin used in making ointments and perfumes. It was also used in the embalming of the dead—a symbol of Jesus’ future suffering and death: "Nicodemus...came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes...They took the body of Jesus and bound it...along with the spices..." John 19:39-40

**ST. ANDRE BESSERTE**

Feast day: Jan 6

He was born in Quebec on August 9, 1845, and he was orphaned by the time he was 12. He had to work to support himself and had little formal education, but from an early age he had a lively faith and a strong devotion to St. Joseph. His childhood pastor encouraged him to consider a vocation to religious life. He sent Alfred to the Congregation with a note that said, “I am sending you a saint.” Initially, Holy Cross did not accept Alfred because of his poor health. However, Alfred, with the assistance of the Archbishop of Montreal, entered the Holy Cross Novitiate on Dec 27, 1870. Once there Alfred took the name André, which was the name of his childhood pastor. Given his frail health and lack of a formal education, Brother André was assigned as doorkeeper of Notre Dame College in Montreal. He continued this assignment as a professed brother. Among his many duties, he greeted visitors and tended to their needs.

Many people began to experience physical healings after praying with Brother André, and his reputation as a healer began to spread. He knew that the real source of these miraculous cures was St. Joseph’s intercession.

He saved the money he earned from giving haircuts at five cents a piece, eventually earning the $200 he needed to construct a simple oratory to increase the devotion to St. Joseph. This shrine opened on October 19, 1904, and in 1909, Brother André was released from his duties as doorkeeper and assigned full-time as the caretaker of the Oratory of St. Joseph.

The Oratory attracted large numbers of pilgrims, and plans were made to construct a large basilica. Brother André’s full-time ministry for the rest of his life was to receive the long lines of sick visitors who flocked to the Oratory to see him. He became known as the “Miracle Man of Montreal”

Br. André died on Jan 6, 1937 at 91. During the week that his body lay in state outside of St. Joseph’s Oratory, around one million people braved the bitter Montreal winter to pay their respects.

On Oct 17, 2010, St. André Bessette became first saint of the Congregation of Holy Cross when he was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI.
**THE WAY THINGS ARE**

*In the Gospel Reading God sent the Magi by means of heavenly signs to the baby Jesus. In the end, the signs in heaven were not enough; but there was a special revelation about this child that added the missing element. When they did find the child, the Magi left him rich gifts. And then God warned the Magi in a dream not to return to King Herod to tell him where the baby was. Because of that dream, the Magi went home another way, and the baby was kept safe from Herod.*

Just look at all the things God does for this one child! Signs in heaven, miraculously helpful strangers, special messages from God, rich gifts, and warning dreams, divine protection against powerful bad people. How many children die who might have been saved if even one of these things had been done for them? A sign that brings help from afar, a special instruction from God, huge amounts of money, a dream that protects from bad guys—these things are not enough to keep all children from early death, but surely many children could have been saved by any of these means.

Why does God give all these things to Jesus? Why doesn’t God give even some of them to all children?

The answer to both questions is the same, I think.

The first thing that happens after the Fall is that Abel, one of the children of Adam and Eve, dies at the hand of Cain, their other child. God could have protected Abel from Cain by any of the means God used to help Jesus—but God doesn’t do so. From the very beginning of our post-Fall world, God establishes the following policy: he will not force anybody to do what is good or omit what is evil. God will call his people and shepherd them—but he will not force them. And so countless children die because of the evil of other human beings.

But the powerless baby Jesus is God’s best hope of healing human evil. Jesus is God’s call of love. And that is why God’s power can be used to keep Jesus from dying as a baby. He needs to die on the cross. That death is the last, most powerful call of love.

Eleonore Stump

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**READINGS**

The Epiphany of the Lord—A

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12
**Ministries:** If you're interested in ministries of service either as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, please fill out the form below and give it to Fr Frank. An information & a training session will be held so you'll be prepared.

Name: ____________________________
Phone __________________________

___ I am interested in serving as a Lector
___ I would like to serve as an Eucharistic Minister

We are **Looking for more Altar Servers**, girls and boys, third grade or older, to participate as ALTAR Servers. This ministry is a wonderful privilege for either young or older people. It allows you to participate actively in the weekend celebrations of the Eucharist. Please fill out the form below and return to the rectory or Fr Frank.

**Telephone _________________________________**

**Report Abuse**

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints, and encourages anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct by the clergy, religious and lay staff to tell us immediately, so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to sexual abuse victims. Individuals who wish to report an allegation may do so by calling the Child and Youth Protection. 201-407-3256, Fax: 973-497-4001. Or in person, 171 Clifton Avenue. Newark, NJ 07104

**GOOD SHEPHERD ACADEMY 973 375 0659**

There are openings for all day

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<th>Pre-K 3 &amp; 4</th>
<th>Kindergarten and Grades 1 thru 8</th>
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<td>Excellence in a non-violent atmosphere, Caring teachers, Academic structure with a strong discipline code and School Uniforms, Hot Lunch</td>
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**Pre-K 3 & 4 All Day Kindergarten**

5 Days- 7:30am-5:30pm 5 Days/week 8am-2:45pm
Before and aftercare Optional before and aftercare

**Grades 1 thru 8 Specials**
Optional before/aftercare Art, Music, Computer for all grades Physical Education, Spanish

**You can Sponsor the ALTAR BREAD, the SACRIFICIAL WINE, OR the SANCTUARY LAMP!**

The Sanctuary Lamp, Altar Bread and Sacrificial Wine are nice ways to remember someone in need of healing, those who are celebrating births, anniversaries, etc. or a deceased loved one.

It reminds us the ever presence of Christ. We bring our intentions into HIS PRESENCE with our offering.

If you wish to remember someone in this special way, the Sanctuary Lamp will burn for a week, and the Altar Bread OR the Sacrificial Wine of everyday Mass will be offered for your intention an entire week

(circle one) Please, consider offering the:

Sanctuary Lamp or Altar Bread or Sacrificial Wine

In Memory of:

___

Or for a special Occasion starting on: ___ ___
For: 

Requested by:

**Telephone #:_______________________________**

Please fill out this form. Return it either to the rectory or to Fr. Frank with a check in the amount of $25.

January 5, 2020