

# OLV Rel. Ed. Newsletter



Vol. 1, Issue No. 3

January 2023: Peace

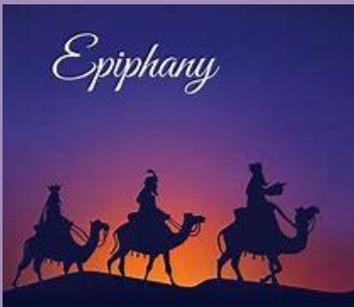
Happy New Year! January 1 is a holy day of obligation, when we go to Mass to celebrate Mary, Mother of God. We can call on Mary to help us through Her Son, Jesus. Remembering how Her trust in God gave Her Heart peace, we, too, can have hope. In the stillness and quiet of winter, we see the wonder of God's peace. Our January monthly challenge is to take some time with God for reflection. Perhaps you will pray as a family, creating a dedicated space for prayer, such as a home shrine, to go to for reflection, or you might go to Eucharistic Adoration.

As we greet the new year, we continue to celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas, the days from the Nativity (December 25) to Epiphany (January 6). An epiphany is a discovery, a new insight we gain. The Feast of Epiphany is rightly named, then, as we celebrate when the Three Kings traveled to see the newborn baby Jesus. Meeting the Son of God, the Three Kings found what they were looking for, the greatest source of love, joy, and peace. The Three Kings remind us to keep learning and growing in our faith, because "the wise still seek Him." In Jesus is everything we need, and in knowing that, we need not worry. Just as the wisemen did, let's continue to follow the star, Christ as our light, staying focused on God to carry us through the new year. Keeping our hearts joyfully open to the many blessings to come, we can keep the spirit of Christmas with us.

*Pax domini sit semper vobiscum* (The peace of the Lord be with you always)!

-Katie Sadakierski

sadakierski.olv@gmail.com



#### \*January Dates to Remember\*

- Jan. 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
- Jan. 6: Epiphany (Three Kings Day), celebrated at January 8 Mass
- Jan. 24: Our Lady of Peace
- Jan. 26: Class Session 2
- Jan. 31: Feast Day of St. John Bosco

\*see our website for more religious education information:

<https://olveasthampton.org/religious-education/>

\*see our bulletins for Mass times:

<https://olveasthampton.org/bulletins/>

# A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our spirits to be born again.  
Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame  
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

*Prayer Source: Xavier University*



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

## Scripture Spotlight:

“And seeing the star  
they rejoiced with  
exceeding great joy.”

-Matthew 2:10 (DRA)

## Song of the Month:

“We Three Kings”



## Saint Spotlight: St. John Bosco

Born in 1815 in Italy, St. John Bosco is a strong example of peace because of his faith in God. After losing his father as a child, St. John Bosco worked hard to help his family. Called to become a priest, St. John Bosco knew he could achieve his goals with God. Although he was poor, and had not had educational opportunities as he worked to support his family, St. John Bosco was determined to go to seminary. Through his faith, he overcame obstacles. He trusted that God would help him, and He did, sending St. John Bosco people along the way, including kind priests, to encourage and support him in achieving his dreams. Once he became a priest, St. John Bosco helped children, especially those without families, by teaching them about God’s love for them. One of the boys St. John Bosco guided as a spiritual father became a saint: St. Dominic Savio. St. John Bosco saw the good in each heart, and never gave up in his mission to save souls. He brought peace to other people by being present for them, always someone they could count on to help. A patron saint of students, St. John Bosco teaches us all to have hope, having learned from the greatest teachers: Jesus and Mary.