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ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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Rev. Marlon Pates, Pastor
mpates@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Rev. Arnel Patayon Tadeo
Shared Parochial Vicar
atadeo@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Masses in Masontown

Monday, Wednesday, Friday ..8:00 am
Saturday6:00 pm
Sunday..... 8:00 am & 11:30 am

Confessions: Saturday 5:00-5:30 pm
Adoration: Friday 4:30-6:00 pm

Masses in Footedale

Tuesday & Thursday8:00 am
Saturday:4:00 pm
Sunday.....9:30 am

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm
Adoration: Wednesday 4:30-6:00 pm

Office Hours: Monday through
Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Bulletin Articles: The deadline
for placing articles in the bulletin
is Monday at Noon.

New Parishioners, Welcome!
Please register as soon as possible.

Communion to the Homebound is
provided on a regular basis. Call the
Parish Office to be added to our list.

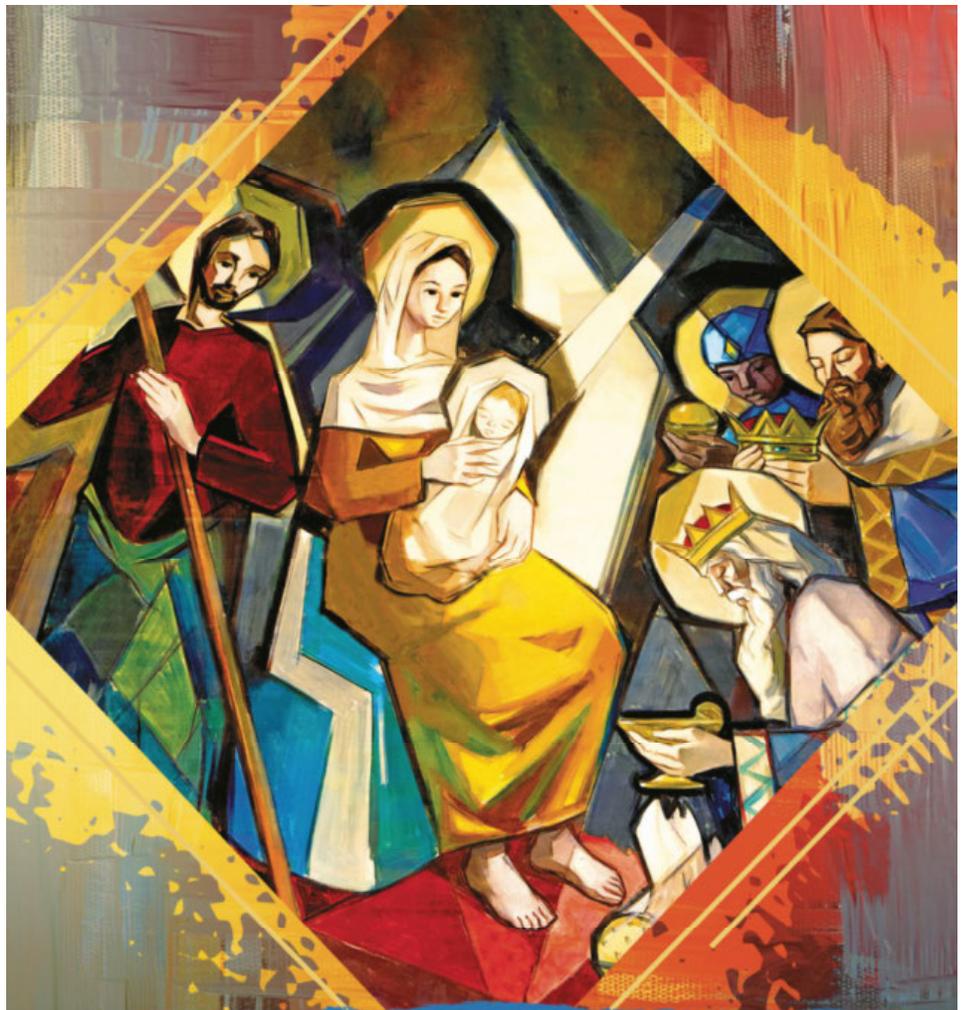
Sacrament of Baptism: By
appointment. Prior to your baby's
Baptism, you must be a registered,
practicing member of this parish.

Sacrament of Marriage: Requires
parish membership by at least one of
the parties for six months prior to
making arrangements for marriage.

Weddings should be scheduled
one year in advance.

Prayer Chain: To request prayer,
please call Patty 724-245-9746
or Valeria 724-583-9460

January 8, 2023



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star
at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:2**

Fr. Arnel's Reflections - The Epiphany of the Lord*Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12*

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We considered this day as the 12th day of Christmas. And I am sure we all know the Christmas song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. But what twelve days is it referring to? The Twelve Days extend from Christmas day, December 25, and run to the feast of the Epiphany, January 6 but we are celebrating Epiphany today because the Church authorities move the Feast of the Epiphany to the closest Sunday. It is very clear that Christmas is not a feast that we celebrate on one day only but rather a feast that we celebrate for twelve days.

In the *First Reading* from the Prophet Isaiah, we hear the prophet encouraging the people of Israel to rejoice and not be so sad for they were sorely depressed because of the disasters their life had fallen to after the Babylonian Exile. He tells them that if they are true to their Lord God, then the glory that was theirs at the time of David and Solomon will return. The Church looks upon this passage as a prophecy of the glory that came to Jerusalem with the birth of the Divine Savior at Bethlehem. To see how this prophecy has been fulfilled in a very simple and shallow way, just think of how this land has been blessed by millions of people (tourists and others) from all over the world following in the footsteps of the Magi to see where the Christ Child was born.

In the *Responsorial Psalm*, the psalmist also echoes the theme of celebrating the coming of the "King of kings and the Lord of lords." Although he might not have realized it at the time this Psalm was written, his description of the "king's son" fits Jesus as the divine King of the Jews and all mankind, who has and will accomplish all that was prophesied of Him.

The *Second Reading* is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians. In earlier chapter, Paul has just given us a brief glimpse of God's Plan of Salvation. Here in our Second Reading, he explains how he received this great insight and what it means for all who accept Christ and are baptized in His name which simply means that Christ is being given to all humanity, both Jew and Gentile alike, as light to all nations.

In the *Gospel Reading*, we hear the familiar story of the three men called "Magi" or "wise men" or "astrologers" from the East. They represent all mankind as the first Gentiles to come and worship the Babe of Bethlehem and recognize Him as a "King." It took faith and obedience to their inner conscience for the Magi to travel such a distance to worship and give gifts to the child who was to be there, and our, Lord and Savior.

Clearly, based on our Readings, God has revealed or manifested or appeared Himself in a human form to mankind. So, Epiphany which is taken from the Greek word simply means "manifestation" or "appearance". The Gospel during the Christmas midnight mentioned that the first visitors of our Lord Jesus Christ are the Shepherds. This means that God first revealed or manifested or appeared Himself in the person of Jesus Christ to the chosen people of God represented by the Shepherds. And then in today's Gospel, Jesus Christ manifested Himself to all the Gentiles including us represented by the so called 3 kings. Thus, Jesus Christ is a gift for everyone.

Furthermore, Epiphany can also be understood as the drawing back of the veil that covers a great mystery and all of us look in to this mystery, able to understand much more about who God is and who we are. He is the light in the darkness of our life; He is the God-with-us who humbly and truly shares in our lowly human nature. And we are a pilgrim church. We journey with God when we journey with Jesus, the Word made flesh. Hence, hopefully we have nothing to be afraid of as we journey in this life because we have Jesus with us in this journey. And finally, we have a great hope and faith that Jesus will guide us towards the Kingdom of our Father in heaven to experience in its fullness the great love of God.



EPIPHANY means “manifestation, appearance and revelation. May we recognize Him in our lives and celebrate His love for us. All nations are invited to sing the Lord’s praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

Blessing Your Home - Because this was the day the Three Kings visited the house of Jesus, the custom of blessing homes on Epiphany Day developed. After the blessing, the following was written in chalk on the back of the door: 20 + C + M + B + 23
The letters are the initials of the three Magi - Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar and are also shorthand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, Latin for *Christ Bless this house*. The numbers declare the new year and the four crosses represent the four seasons.

Bless Your Home by inscribing the above on the back of your door using the following prayer:
Lord Jesus, the Three Kings followed the star that led them to Your home. Help us to find You in this house through the love we share. Bless our home and all of us during this year ahead. Amen.

2023 CALENDARS: *Thank you* to the *John S. Maykuth Jr. Funeral Home* and to the *Terravecchia-Haky Home for Funerals, Inc.* for providing us with calendars for the New Year.



From the Diocese of Greensburg



With joy and thanksgiving to God, the Diocese of Greensburg announces that Bishop Larry J. Kulick has called **Mr. John Torres** to be admitted to **Candidacy for Holy Orders**.

Bishop Kulick will confer the Rite of Admission to Candidacy within Mass at 4:00 pm on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at St. Rita Church, Connellsville. Please keep John in your prayers as he continues his formation and final preparation for ordination to the diaconate, along with Craig Alexander and David Slusarick. Please pray for all those discerning God’s call in our diocesan formation programs.

ALL SHARE IN THE PROMISE

Picture a nativity scene in your mind’s eye. The scene likely includes figures arriving on camels, some elaborately dressed, with jeweled boxes containing precious gifts. These magi arrived from distant lands to pay homage to the Christ Child. We know little about the magi, but we do know that these visitors were not Jews. They represent people of all nations who will be drawn to the Lord. “Nations shall walk by your light and kings by your shining radiance.” The Good News of Jesus cannot be limited to one people; all share in the promise of God’s mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer at the Manger With the Magi

Let your light shine on us, O God, as the star showed the way to those who searched for Christ. Fill us with wisdom; help us walk in your ways, now and forever. Amen.

The Practice of Stewardship

Today we remember the three wise men from the East who came to pay homage to the infant Jesus, bringing Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, any myrrh. The gifts we bring - our time, service, and some share of what we earn for the work we do - are equally precious in His sight.

Stewardship of Treasure

Christmas: \$20,687; loose \$1,720; weekly \$4,613; monthly \$496; online \$317; children \$5; total \$27,838
Christmas Flowers \$3,370
Children/Family Services Appeal \$1,233
Solemnity of Mary: \$7,699; loose 485; monthly \$435; children \$13; online \$1,237; totaling 9,869

Your support of our parish is deeply appreciated!

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI
1927 - 2022



Prayer for the repose of the soul of
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



Father, eternal shepherd, hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict, who governed your Church with love. In your mercy, bring him with the flock once entrusted to his care to the reward you have promised your faithful servants. May he who faithfully administered the mysteries of your forgiveness and love on earth, rejoice with you for ever in heaven.

In your wise and loving care, you made your servant teacher of your Church. He did the work of Christ on earth. May your Son welcome him into eternal glory. May your servant whom you appointed high priest of your flock be counted now among the priests in the life of your kingdom. Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness and let your mercy win for us the gift of your life and love.

We entrust your servant to your mercy with faith and confidence. In the human family, he was an instrument of your peace and love. May he rejoice in those gifts for ever with your saints. Amen.

PRO-LIFE

VOICE
FOR THE
VOICELESS



rest in peace

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of
† **Patricia A. (Kalinay) Stunja**

who was buried Thursday, December 29

† **Erma (Rakushin) Voytek**

who was buried Friday, December 30

† **Joseph Coll**

who was buried Friday, January 6

May God grant to them eternal life and comfort
their families. May they rest in peace.



Organist Needed: We are in need of an organist
for the 4:00 pm Saturday Mass and the 9:30 am
Sunday Mass at the Footedale worship site.

If you or someone you know is interested, please
contact Fr. Marlon - mpates@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Candles: Beginning January 1, the cost of the **6-day
votive candles** will increase from \$3 to \$4 per candle
due to increased manufacturing/shipping costs.

Never Miss a Bulletin! Sign up to have our weekly
bulletin emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com

STAND UP FOR LIFE!

The St. Francis of Assisi Parish
YOUTH MINISTRY invites you
for A Pro-Life Day of Prayer for
an end to abortion and a greater
respect for all human life on
Saturday, January 21, 2023,
in Footedale worship site
(528 Footedale Road, New Salem, PA 15468)

8:30am – Holy Hour for Life
9:30am – Rosary for Life
10:00am – Pro-Life Mass

(celebrant: Fr. Dan Carr)

Refreshment follows at the Social Hall.

*Heartfelt gratitude to our Youth Ministry
for initiating this Pro-life Day of Prayer.*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 7 -- Vigil: Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 pm-F (A) Barbara/Paul Sirilla & Deceased Family
6:00 pm-M (M) Joseph & Patricia Fedor Family

Sunday, January 8 -- The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am-M (A) Amelia & Vincent Kopec (Family)
9:30 am-F (A) Pro Populo
11:30 am-M (M) Donna Parish (Mary Anne Hritz)

Monday, January 9 -- The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 am-M Sam Bartoni (Rick/Nancy Zatlakovicz)

Tuesday, January 10 -- Weekday

8:00 pm-F Sylvia Volek (Family)

Wednesday, January 11 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Charles & Dorothy Rohol (Family)
4:30-6:00 pm Adoration & Confessions in Footedale

Thursday, January 12 -- Weekday

8:00 am-F Bruno W. Smith (Brother, Walter)

Friday, January 13 -- Saint Hilary

8:00 am-M Nicolina Galluzzo (Joe/Judy Bogozi)

Saturday, January 14 -- Vigil: 2nd Ordinary Sunday

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
4:00 pm-F (M) Olesh & Budner Family (Family)
NO Confessions in Masontown
6:00 pm-M (M) Helen Blasinsky (Stephen Ballant)

Sunday, January 15 -- 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M (M) Paul Verska (Bill & Elaine Hruska)
9:30 am-F (M) Eleanor Sigwalt (Son, Raymond & Arlene)
11:30 am-M (M) Pro Populo

(M) Fr. Marlon / (A) Fr. Arnel

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Heb 2:5-12
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-11; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 49:3-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

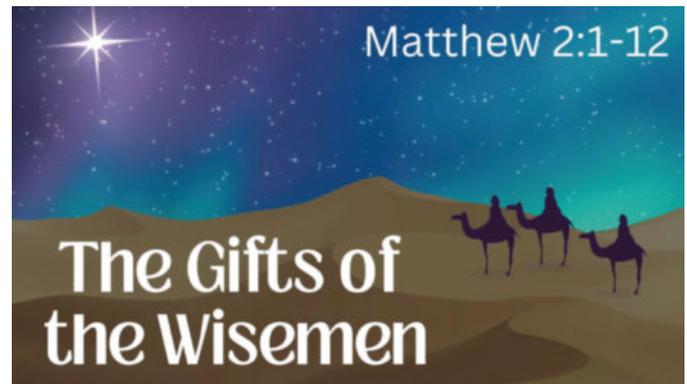


Question of the Week: How has my encounter with the Lord through this Christmas season changed me?
Where do I imagine my new path will lead?

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, January 11, in Footedale

4:30-5:30 pm: Exposition and Confession
5:30-5:45 pm: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
5:45-6:00 pm: Benediction



The bright star in the sky drew the magi from their distant kingdom to see the newborn King and offer Him their treasures. We were drawn here today by our King, Christ the Lord, and we offer Him our treasures - our hearts, our hopes, our lives. May we be that bright star for others, drawing our families, friends and neighbors to Him so that they, too, may find the treasure we know in the Lord.

On Monday we bring the Christmas season to a close with the celebration of **the Baptism of the Lord.**

We celebrate this day that we, too, are named sons and daughters of God and that we are to reflect on our own vocation and how the lives that we are leading as Christians are pleasing to our heavenly Father.

As we journey through the New Year, find ways to reconnect with your family of faith and make daily choices that reveal your divine heritage.

Following the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, **Ordinary Time** begins. Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle those weeks that do not celebrate a specific mystery of Christ in all its fullness.

This period is known as "Ordinary Time."

Ordinary Time begins Monday and continues through February 21, the day before Ash Wednesday.

Memorial Candles burn this week in loving memory of or for the special intention of:

† **Sanctuary** - Charles & Dorothy Rohol
requested by their family

† **Blessed Mother** - Don Bello
Birthday Remembrance
requested by his family

Linda Michalik
requested by Janet Michalik

† **Saint Joseph** - Jim Filiaggi
requested by Michael Bello

Richard Bolen
requested by Donna & Johnetta



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