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ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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*A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*

Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L.



**Rev. Dick Anthony Cortado
Administrator**

dcortado@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: First & Third
Fridays - 4:30 to 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: Second & Fourth
Wednesdays - 12:30 to 2:00 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 7, 2024



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2



Thoughts From Father Anthony - The Epiphany of the Lord - Year B

Today is Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany means manifestation. God never stops manifesting Himself to us in different forms or varied ways. May we find joy and consolation as we continue fighting for our lives in the midst of this extended attacks of war. The magi survived, found the child Jesus, and went home with enlightenment. Like them, let us look up always to the bright star that will lead us to the Father's kingdom. Follow that Star. He is our Epiphany!

The gospel passage we hear today invites us into a question - perhaps THE question: *Where is God in this confusing, distorted world, and how do we move closer to God?* “Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed His star at its rising, and have come to pay Him homage.”

The magi were inspired by God to follow a particular star, a guiding light, to the place where a newborn king was to be found. Clearly, the inspiration to seek the light began in their hearts, not in their brains. Something deep within them, something from above and beyond, was calling them to move on to a new place. Someone from above and beyond was calling them in that eternal whisper. In today's Gospel, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Jesus manifested Himself to the wise men who sought for Him guided by the stars.

Herod also expressed his willingness to see Him but for an evil purpose. He wanted to kill Jesus who he believed to be a threat to his kingship. In the other accounts, the shepherds were told by the angels of the birth of Jesus and went to find and see the Lord. As part of God's plan of salvation, the Word, will embrace humanity in order for humanity to be able to embrace divinity. Thus, God who was invisible became visible. God had manifested Himself in Jesus. The question is, "Have we seen Him?" In another sense, "Have we experienced Him?"

We can consider two kinds of seeing; seeing physically with our eyes, and seeing spiritually with our faith. When Jesus began His ministry, many people had seen Him with their eyes but did not see Him with the eyes of faith. It is one thing to see Jesus physically and it is another thing to see Him spiritually. The magi and the shepherds, when they saw Jesus with their eyes, also saw Him with their faith when they humbled themselves before Him.

Spiritual seeing helps us see not only the human Jesus but the divine Jesus too. When Jesus went about doing His healing ministry, He was concerned about whether those healed would also have faith. In the healing of the ten lepers, only one came back and gave thanks. Salvation was given to that leper. Bartimaeus, also a blind person, did not only see Jesus the healer but also the Jesus Savior. When he was healed, he followed Him. This was not a common reaction to those whom Jesus healed. He saw not only with his eyes but also with his soul.

We can see God in nature. Nature has the mark and presence of God. Jesus said that whatever we do to the least of our brethren, we do to Him. In creation, we were created in His image and likeness. We express awe in His goodness and greatness but do we see Him as our Lord and Savior? Does He come across to us as the Master and our Savior? In other words, have we developed our faith in Him? Matthew is the only Gospel that speaks of the magi, and that with only the few words we have here, over the centuries Christians have added all kinds of details. For example, they made them three in number, after the number of their gifts. They gave them names: Gaspar, Balthazar, and Melchior. Matthew wants us to think of the magi in terms of Isaiah 60 which is today's First Reading. His message is the Good News that God loves all people and invites all to salvation.

This Sunday's Solemnity of the Lord's Epiphany is both a reminder and a challenge. It reminds us of what God had done and how far He went for us to believe and it is a challenge to us who are still blinded both spiritually and physically. We cannot find Jesus when we search only for what the eyes could perceive. When our concern only is physical, temporal, material (or historical) satisfaction of our longing to know or hold Jesus by our finite minds and finite hands. When we are interested only in what can benefit us, e.g., for our prayers to be answered, and not a lasting and close relationship with God, He hides behind our innermost desires. When we search for Jesus outside the guidance of the Star, which is the faith, we will be led inwards as if Jesus is leading us to confront our neediness and longings. After all, it might not be Jesus whom we want to search for but rather solutions to our problems.

Despite being wise men, Magi opted to be guided by a higher voice - a Star - to arrive at the place of Jesus. They recognized the star because they left behind their neediness, innermost longings, and passion “to know” by naked sight alone. They abandoned their agenda at the feet of Jesus in the form of frankincense, gold, and myrrh. They allowed themselves to be absorbed by the moment of pure encounter, pure faith, and pure joy.

**“The wise men followed the star and found Christ - because they allowed the light to guide them.”
In the moments of our trials and difficulties, let us allow Christ to be our guiding star.**

Though the magi did not know where the star of Bethlehem would lead, they trusted that God would be with them along the way. Let us all embrace that same faith as we go about the journey that God has planned for us this year.

We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage. (Matthew 2:1-12)

Today is the feast of the EPIPHANY - the arrival of the wise men - the manifestation of God to all peoples of the world. Until now, God revealed His Son to shepherds and townsfolk - all Jews - but now "foreigners" were shown the King and they revered Him.

Tradition tells us that there were three Wise Men.

Melchior of Arabia - *Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, GOLD I bring to crown Him again. King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.*

Balthazar of Ethiopia - *MYRRH is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom. Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

Caspar of Tharsis - *FRANKINCENSE to offer Have I; Incense owns a Deighty nigh. Prayer and praising, gladly raising, Worship Him, God on High.*

Following the star, they reached Bethlehem and upon entering the house, they found the Child with Mary, His Mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented Him with gifts of gold, representing His royalty; frankincense, representing His divinity; and myrrh, representing His suffering and death.

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.



EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

20 + C + M + B + 24

The numbers represent the New Year

Two meanings for C. M. B.

(Caspar) (Melchior) and (Balthasar)

Traditional names for the magi

Christus Mansionem Benedicat
which in Latin means

May Christ Bless This House

The numbers declare the new year and the four crosses represent the four seasons of the year of blessing.

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.

The Epiphany Proclamation

On Epiphany there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of Easter and the movable Feasts for the coming year. This proclamation has been used in connection with the blessing and distribution of calendars.

Know, Dear Brothers and Sisters that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the 14th day of February will fall Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the 31st day of March you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 9th day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 19th day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the 2nd day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the 1st day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

(From the Roman Missal, Third Edition, Appendix I)

2024 CALENDARS

Thank you to the John S. Maykuth Jr. Funeral Home and to the Terravecchia - Haky Home for Funerals, Inc. of Masontown for providing calendars to our parish for the New Year 2024. Our very grateful thanks! The calendars are available at the Church entrances.





Wreaths Across America

Through the sponsorship of the Fort Mason American Legion Post 423, eight wreaths representing the seven branches of the United States

military plus a wreath honoring the Missing in Action / Prisoners of War are located at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cemetery in Leckrone. We are grateful and honored to participate in this beautiful program.



On Monday we celebrate the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father. He is the light of the nations and Lord of all creation. He is the Son in whom the Father is well pleased. To Him be all glory and praise!

Ordinary Time: After today's 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 (33 or 34) that do not celebrate a specific mystery of Christ in all its fullness. This period is known as "Ordinary Time." Ordinary Time begins Tuesday and continues through February 13, the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season.



The U.S. Bishops' *Pastoral on Stewardship* reminds us that Baptism gives all of His disciples a share in His priestly work and calls them *to offer up the world and all that is in it - especially themselves - to the Lord of all.*

Our Baptismal Responsibility

The fact that many of us were baptized as infants should not stop us from understanding the meaning of baptism in our lives today. Each of us is called to evangelize - to spread the Gospel.

Evangelism is being so full of Christ that you just can't help sharing. Baptism is the graced beginning of a process that continues over our lifetime. It is our commitment to bring Christ to the community as Jesus' baptism was to bring the good news to Israel.

The meaning of our baptism is echoed in today's reading from Isaiah: "I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations." Like the early Christians described in the *Acts of the Apostles*, we, too, are sent to "proclaim peace through Jesus Christ.

*Solemn things of mystic meaning:
Incense doth the God disclose;
Gold a royal Child proclaimeth;
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.*

Roman Breviary, Epiphany;
Prudentius, 4th century



The Practice of Stewardship

The three Wise Men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for a \$100 donation to the Church for Christmas.

Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday, December 24: \$5,911; monthly \$285; loose \$151; Year End \$150; online \$227 **total \$6,724**

Christmas \$18,090; loose \$2,279; children \$18; Christmas Flowers \$4,766; **total \$25,153**

Our parish is grateful for your generous support!

The **Knights of Columbus** will meet at 11:00 am on Tuesday, **January 9**, at the cafeteria in Masontown.

Pro-Life Rosary and Mass - Saturday, January 13

The Youth Ministry of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish will host a Pro Life Rosary and Mass on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at the Masontown Worship Site Fr. Daniel Carr, Director of Pro-Life Activities for the Diocese of Greensburg will be the main celebrant The Rosary for Life will be prayed at 9:30 am followed by Mass for Life at 10:00 am

A reception with light refreshments follows in the cafeteria. RSVP to kstavish@dioceseofgreensburg.org by January 6 if you plan to attend the reception.

Pray for Life Day - Friday, January 19

Everyone is invited to join in a day of prayer hosted by the Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) at **Christ Our Shepherd Center** in Greensburg on **Friday, January 19**, the day of the **March for Life** in Washington D.C. The day begins with the Rosary for Priests at 11:30 am followed by Mass at Noon, Rosary for Life, Stations of the Cross for Life, Diving Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 pm, Litany for Life at 3:30 pm and closing prayer at 4:00 pm. There is no cost. Those attending can stay all day or part of the day. The DCCW will also be accepting donations of baby items for pregnancy centers in the Diocese.

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

MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

Saturday, January 6 -- Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 pm-F Sophia Berdar (*Carletta Fronczek*)
 6:00 pm-M Alverda Krofcheck (Niece, Christal Oravets)

Sunday, January 7 -- The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am-M Irene O'Brien (Anne Horne)
 9:30 am-F *Pro Populo*
 11:30 am-M Joseph & Patricia Fedor Family

Monday, January 8 -- The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 am-M Mary Fotta (*Caroline Marella*)

Tuesday, January 9 -- Weekday

8:00 am-F *Mike Hmelyar (Paul/Bonnie/Jean Dirda)*

Wednesday, January 10 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Mary Salek (*Anna Salek/Rose Lacey*)
 11:30-2:00 pm-F *Adoration / Confessions*

Thursday, January 11 -- Weekday

8:00 am-F *Anna Valusek (M/M David Mudery)*

Friday, January 12 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Charles & Dorothy Rohol (Family)

Saturday, January 13 -- Vigil: 2nd Ordinary Sunday

10:00 am-M Pro Life Mass
 3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
 4:00 pm-F *Pro Populo*
 5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
 6:00 pm-M George Rantovich (M/M Ron Frasoni)

Sunday, January 14 -- Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Linda Michalik (Sister, Janet)
 9:30 am-F *Stella Komara (Family & Friends)*
 11:30 am-M Deceased of Mazurik Families (*Zatlokovicz*)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Is 55:1-11; Mk 1:7-11
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-20; Mk 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-22; Mk 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17
 Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3-19; 1 Cor 6:13-20; Jn 1:35-42



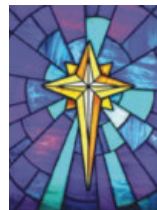
Question of the Week: Have I had an epiphany, a sudden insight, after an experience where I've recognized an encounter with Christ? If I cannot recall one, can I imagine how it could happen?

Please pray for PEACE on earth.



Today we recall the Magi, who drawn by the star, journeyed from distant lands to find the newborn king of the Jews and present Him with their finest gifts. We each make our own journey to the Lord and when we come to celebrate the Eucharist, we offer our finest gifts - our prayers, our lives, our future - to Him whose birth we have just marked. Let us in turn welcome all those who are making their journey from near and far to worship the Lord.

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.



The Holy Star

O Father, may that holy star grow every year more bright and send its glorious beams afar to fill the world with light.
 - William Cullen Bryant

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, January 10, in Footedale
 12:30-1:30 pm: Exposition / Confession
 1:30-1:45 pm: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
 1:45-2:00 pm: Benediction

Frequently, only silence can express my prayer.
 Saint Therese of Lisieux

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

- † **Sanctuary** - *Charles & Dorothy Rohol* requested by their family
- † **Sacred Heart** - *Healing for Anna Salek* requested by her sister, Rose Lacey



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