

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 2009

The story of the magi speaks of a God who came for all peoples, then and now, who continues to reveal the divine presence in songs and words, but especially through the Child at the heart of this story.



The journey of the magi reminds us that the truly wise are willing to leave behind the familiar to seek a greater treasure.

Today's feast reveals not only the all-embracing love of God, but also manifests the importance of the spiritual life for life's journey. If we wish to find peace and fulfillment in this life, we need to become like the Magi and through the power of prayer, keep our eyes fixed above looking for the guidance of the star; which will lead us to Christ. As we begin this New Year, it is a good time to re-examine our spiritual lives and recommit ourselves to the discipline of prayer and let God be our guiding light. What is more, as we open ourselves to the mysterious reality, we need to be open to change, which, uncomfortable as it may seem, is a constant in life. The Magi demonstrate to each of us a true sense of openness when in a dream they were warned to take a different route.

So often God reveals himself in the mundane everydayness of life, which is why we always need to keep our life attuned to God's working in and through us.

MANIFESTING THE KINGDOM AWARD

Each year the Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh sends out a letter to the Pastor/Administrator/Parish Life Collaborator asking us to identify a parishioner who embodies the Kingdom of God here in the parish, as well as in their lived out expression of their Baptismal Promises.

It gives me great pleasure to announce to you that after much prayer I nominated Bert Towe from our parish to receive this award from Bishop Zubik at St. Paul's Cathedral on January 25th.

Since my arrival here at St. Bart's I have often found myself in awe of just how committed to God through prayer and action Bert is.

Bert is a Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist both at Church and to the Homebound; she is a Lady of Charity who works tirelessly ministering to the residents of Seneca Nursing and Personal Care Home by bringing them Eucharist and praying the rosary. Bert also is a weekday sacristan, takes care of the candles for the church and very often leads the recitation of the rosary before morning mass.

CONGRATULATIONS BERT!!!



*Blessings,
Sister Dorothy*

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH

School News

School Resumes

Our faculty, staff and students have enjoyed a nice long Christmas break and we welcome them back today, Monday, January 5th. We hope that everyone had a blessed holiday and we wish you all the best in 2009.

PTG MEETING

The PTG will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 6th at 6:30 pm in the school library. All parents/guardians of school students are encouraged to join us.

MASS

Please join Miss Begley and the 2nd and 3rd graders for mass on Thursday, January 8th at 10 am. Our school students have worked very hard to prepare for this mass. Please join them.



Please join us this afternoon, January 4th, at 3:00 PM for an **International Epiphany Christmas Concert**, featuring the choirs of our cluster parishes. The concert will be held at **St. Gerard Majella Parish**, 121 Dawn Drive, Verona Pa. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the singing of Christmas Carols.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD



MAGNIFICAT A MINISTRY TO CATHOLIC WOMEN

Ladies, join Magnificent Pittsburgh for an extra special prayer breakfast on Saturday, January 31 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry Twp.

Internationally known Christian singer, KATRINA RAE will give her testimony of fame and change interspersed with a soft humor and her beautiful singing. Katrina is an international singer and evangelist in a contemporary Catholic ministry. She helps people accept healing from Jesus for life's plan and reach out to others with God's enduring love.

Katrina is a 20 time Unity Award recipient with many TV and radio appearances including EWTN.

The cost of the breakfast is \$18.00. Registration deadline is January 23rd. For more information, call Kay at 724-772-6749 or Pam at 412-461-8906 or see www.magnificatpittsburgh.org

JANUARY 4, 2009



THE SILVER RING THING

THE SILVER RING THING is a high-tech, high energy performance that educates teens about the benefits of remaining abstinent and the dangers of promiscuous behavior. On January 16th the Silver Ring Thing will be held at Seton LaSalle High School from 6:30—9:30 P.M., and all teenagers, parents, and youth workers are invited to attend. With dramas, videos, special effects, and speakers, teenagers will be motivated in a unique and personal way to choose to commit to both God and their future spouses, to remain chaste until marriage. For further information please contact Colleen Ford, our Youth Minister at 412-242-7207.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY IS CELEBRATED THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 7-8, 2009.

THERE WILL BE A DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF WORLD MARRIAGE DAY ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009 AT ST. MAURICE PARISH, FOREST HILLS, PA.

IT WILL BEGIN WITH MASS AT 5:00 PM IN THE CHURCH WITH BISHOP ZUBIK AS THE PRESIDERS AND HOMILIST. FOLLOWING MASS THERE WILL BE A WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION IN THE PARISH HALL. A PRESENTATION BY MIKE CLARK OF CHANNEL 4 NEWS WILL FOLLOW. DONATION IS \$10.00 PER COUPLE. TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR FAMILY LIFE AND CATECHESIS 412-456-3160.

JANUARY 4, 2009



MON., January 5, John Neumann
10:00 AM John Stack (Nieces)

TUES., January 6, Weekday after Epiphany

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Joseph

WED., January 7, Weekday after Epiphany

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Susanna

7:00 PM Holy Hour

THURS., January 8, Weekday after Epiphany

10:00 AM Antonio Piccolino (Wife, Josephine Piccolino & Family)

FRI., January 9, Weekday after Epiphany

10:00 AM Nicholas Macioce (The Rick Family)

SAT., January 10, Vigil, Baptism of the Lord

4:00 PM CONFESSIONS

5:00 PM Marie Russell & William Ley (Mary Ellen Craver)

SUN., January 11, Baptism of the Lord

8:00 AM (People of the Parish)

10:30 AM Thomas McGrath, Sr. Family (Addie Albright)

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of our parish; also the recently departed members of our Parish Family, especially

*Jack Tonsic, Helen Ecroyd
Josephine Battiste
Amelia Gaudino, Veronica Bellini*

