

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 3, 2010

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."

REFLECTION

The story of the magi is especially meaningful in our day. While our own country is becoming more multicultural and multireligious, the importance of the message of this feast becomes more urgent: God's son Jesus was sent by God to bring all peoples together. The feast of the Epiphany speaks to God's desires that all live in peace as God's children.

The solemnity of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God. The word "epiphany" itself means to appear and is often used in reference to the appearance of God. The Church celebrates on this day both the coming of God in Christ and the coming of God in Christ into the lives of Christians.

In the light of God's epiphany in Jesus Christ we realize that these blessings are fully realized in the next life. Isaiah's reading informs us, however, of how God is already at work in some ways even now so as to achieve these ends.

Let us continue to pray that the divisions and hatreds that continue to plague our planet will be resolved through the wisdom that is the gift of God. We can also pray for an increase in wise women and men who are attuned to the signs of God drawing them to join together in worship and live together in peace. The ultimate destination of all people is to arrive in the presence of God.



I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make our church so beautiful for the celebration of Christmas. I think that those involved truly outdid themselves this year in helping to bring God's blessings alive for each of us and helping to provide a beautiful place for prayer and worship. I will not list names just in case I forget someone, but my sincere gratitude is no less meant.

I also thank each of you who remembered me with cards, masses, remembrances in prayer, gifts and special "goodies". You truly made my Christmas brighter. The times when I find myself away from my family for the holidays, I am even more grateful for being remembered by so many. My life is truly blessed by each of you and the only way I know to reciprocate your kindness is to keep you close to God's heart in prayer. May you all be as truly blessed as you have blessed me.

In case you keep in touch with Fr. Jim Ruggiero, his new address is:
Sunrise of McCandless
900 Lincoln Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
I am sure he would appreciate hearing from his former parishioners.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

WEEK OF 12-13-09 — \$5,235.65
WEEK OF 12-20-09 — \$6,850.50
Budgeted Collection Amount
\$8,100.00

Thank you for your sacrificial offering to your parish.

Have a Blessed Week.
Sister Dorothy



SCHOOL NEWS

CLASSES RESUME

After a blessed Christmas holiday break our students return to class on Monday January 4th.

PTG

The PTG will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday January 5th, at 6:30 PM in the school library.

MASS

Mrs. Sicilia and the first grade will host mass on Thursday January 7th, at 10:00 AM. Please plan on joining our students who do such a wonderful job planning and participating in the mass.

Did you know that St. Bartholomew Catholic School has an excellent academic program for students from preschool through eighth grade? We also provide a strong religious education program, integrated daily into our curriculum, based on our Catholic teachings, morals, and values. Registrations are now being accepted for the 2010-2011 school year, financial aid will be available at the beginning of the year. For more information, please call the school office at 412-242-2511. Thank you for your consideration, and may God continue to bless you always.

Epiphany of the Lord

Stars are amazing-not the people who claim star-status because of their work in sports or entertainment-but the stars that populate the universe. Most are between one and ten billion years old, a time span impossible to comprehend. Other than the sun, the closest star to Earth is Proxima Centauri, about twenty-five trillion miles away, another calculation that is impossible to comprehend. The exponential numbers scientists use when working with stars, whether it is age, distance, weight, composition, luminosity, or any other characteristic, race beyond our everyday calculations of hundreds and thousands. Stars are just too big for us humans.

No wonder Matthew's infancy narrative included a star as the sign for the newborn king. Everything about this child's birth seemed unimportant: born in Bethlehem instead of the big city, Jerusalem; unknown to the important people of the day; the pregnant woman taken into Joseph's home quietly so as not to cause scandal; a quiet, unremarkable birth in an unimportant country in the empire.

But then there's that star! Big, shining, revealing that there is more to this event than meets the eye. Visitors come from afar, and upset the balance of power as they seek the child who would be king. Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the world. And the star shows him to be who he really is-king of the universe and Lord of all. So it shouldn't seem so strange to us that Matthew would point out one of those incomprehensible entities in the night sky as the signifier of the One who is beyond all human understanding. What is remarkable is that One came to be one of us so that we could understand him.



JANUARY 3, 2010



Blessing of Homes for Epiphany

The Sunday after New Year's Day is the feast of the Epiphany. In imitation of the magi, who, according to Matthew's Gospel, came to the home of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we ask Christ to visit our home and to bless all who dwell there. Come join us at church on the Epiphany and pick up a blessing prayer and a piece of chalk to inscribe above the door: 20+C+M+B+10 for the year and the Latin words "Christus mansionem benedicat," May Christ bless this house.

Don't forget....Quest Bible Study continues on Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 PM and Thursday evening at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to come and pray the scriptures for the upcoming weekend liturgy. If you have any questions, please call Sister Dorothy or Bess at the office.

We will begin a new session on Wednesday, January 6th. Everyone is invited to attend.

37th Annual MARCH FOR LIFE

St. Joseph Church will sponsor a bus to Washington, DC for the annual **March for Life**

Friday, January 22, 2010

If you are interested, contact St. Joseph Church Office at 412-795-5114 to make your reservation. Seating is limited.

The cost of the trip is

\$20.00 for an Adult

\$15.00 for a Student

\$45.00 per Family (immediate)

Reservations and money are due by Monday, January 11, 2010

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

10:00 AM Maureen Thoman (Jim & Helen Damp)

TUESDAY, January 5, Saint John Neumann

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

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

WEDNESDAY, January 6 Christmas Weekday

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

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

1:30 PM Quest Bible Study

7:00 PM Holy Hour

THURSDAY, January 7, Christmas Weekday

10:00 PM Antonio Piccolino (Wife Josephine & Children)

6:30 PM Quest Bible Study

FRIDAY, January 8, 2010 Christmas Weekday

10:00 AM Madeline Mannella (Mary Satira)

SATURDAY January, 9 Vigil of the Baptism of the Lord

5:00 PM Deceased Members of the Jack Laffey Family (Cheryl & Ray Byrnes)

SUNDAY January 10, Baptism of the Lord

8:00 AM Nicholas Fratangelo (Barbara, Julianna, Steve Fratangelo)

10:30 AM People of the Parish

2nd Collection Next week for St. Anthony School and DePaul School



Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of our Parish.

The Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in memory of

Gary Stephen Matts from the Matts Family