

January 7, 2018



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The Epiphany of the Lord

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.”

Matthew 2:1-2

Reflecting on God's Word

What are the major attractions in your area? Are they natural wonders, spectacular buildings, engaging activities, powerful people, works of art? We expect people to stream to see rock stars and queens, the Eiffel Tower and the Grand Canyon. In today's scriptures, however, we see "tourists" attracted to two very lowly and humble "sights." Jerusalem was a sorry sight when the scripture from Isaiah was written. The prophet's vision must have seemed impossible to those who heard this message. And yet, today Jerusalem is a major tourist attraction. We also know that through the Jews many other people—Christians and Muslims—have been attracted to the one Lord. Jesus himself must have seemed very weak and insignificant in comparison to the rich and powerful King Herod, and later on compared to the priests and Pharisees. Yet, even from his birth, people streamed to him. Like the "tourists" in today's Gospel, people saw something in him that led them to worship and serve the Lord. And through him they came to understand what God intended for their life journeys.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH January 8 - January 14, 2018

MONDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- CCD - 4:30pm
- S.O.S. Meeting - 6:15pm
- CCD - 6:30pm
- RCIA - 7pm

TUESDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- Prayer Shawl - 9am
- CCD - 4:30pm
- CCD - 6:30pm
- Lectio Divina - 7pm

WEDNESDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- Youth Chorale - 6pm
- Chorale - 7pm
- Pre-Baptism Class - 7pm
- Holy Name Officers Meeting - 7pm

THURSDAY

- Weekday Mass - 12 Noon
- Holy Hour - 12:30pm
- Adoration & Divine Mercy - 3pm
- Pastoral Council Meeting - 7pm
- Contemporary Music Ensemble - 7:30pm

FRIDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am

SATURDAY

- Sacrament of Penance - 5pm - 5:30pm
- Vigil Mass - 6pm

SUNDAY

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Sunday Masses - 8:30am, 10am and 12 Noon
- Holy Name Meeting - 11am

From the Pastor

The **magi** followed the light of the star and can be seen as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy that assures Jerusalem that nations and kingdoms would walk in shining radiance. They are Gentiles seeking the newborn Jewish king. The Gospel of Matthew shows that Jesus fulfills Jewish expectations. Herod had the plan to destroy the child, while the magi continued their search for the child to do him homage. They magi gave gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matthew's Gospel ties the ancient prophecies with the present moment, as well as future aspects of the life of the child as priest, prophet, and king, and as one who would die to set us free. This day of **Epiphany** is also known as **Three Kings Day**, as we remember the 3 kings who visited Jesus as a baby. All 3 gifts prefigured who this Christ child would become for the entire world. After presenting their gifts, they went forth and traveled another way home to bring the good news to the world of their GREAT DISCOVERY, or GREAT MANIFESTATION, which means 'EPIPHANY'.

This coming year will be a time of much anticipation as well as uncertainty, as we consider ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE. Many priests will be moved, parishes will be united, and GRACE OF GOD WILL BE SUPER ABUNDANT. Let us pray for each other that as the will of God be done, God in His most generous and wise way will touch each of our hearts with peace and mercy. The Feast of Epiphany calls us to rejoice at the finding of the New Born Baby King, so let us rejoice in His Divine Presence, His Eucharistic Face, and Eucharistic Heart of love and mercy in our lives.

God bless you. In His love, Fr Al Z+



Magi from the east arrived

**This Week's
Priest's Private Mass Intentions**

Monday - January 8
8:30 am Patricia Foley
(Kay & Jack Quint)

Tuesday - January 9
8:30 am John Pazman
(Pazman Family)

Wednesday - January 10
8:30 am Bill Mahan
(Wife & Children)

Thursday - January 11
12 Noon Tami Allenburg
(Edward Gavalek)

Friday - January 12
8:30 am Vincenza Piccolino

Saturday - January 13
6:00 pm Helen & John Karpinski
(Family)

Sunday - January 14
8:30 am For all the People of the
Parish

10:00 am Mauro Cautela
(Our Lady of Joy CCD
Program)

12 Noon Ronald Bishop
(Terry Kosakowski)

Eastern Star

Fair eastern star, that art ordain'd to
run before the sages, to the rising
Sun, here cease thy course, and won-
der that the cloud Of this poor stable
can thy maker shroud. —Sir John
Beaumont

Sanctuary Candle

Our Sanctuary Candle
burns In Honor of the
Blessed Sacrament and
In Loving Memory of
**Josephine Anne
Peticca.**

Requested by Children and Grand-
children.



PARISH NEWS



Thank You!

Christmas is over, but the love and goodwill
that was spread by our many volunteers at the
Christmas Day Brunch, is sure to last long into
the New Year. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out
to all who served or contributed in any way.
You brought joy to many deserving people.



This year we served over 200 meals, including those delivered to shut-
ins. Guests came from all over the Greater Pittsburgh area and many
churches; others had no church affiliation – but all were blessed!

The *Spirit of Christmas* is alive and well in our local community and be-
yond because of your kindness and open-hearts. "May the Lord richly
reward you for what you have done." (Ruth 2:12)

The Christmas Brunch Planning Committee

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

January is Blood Donors Month! The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a
blood drive in the Father Marchukonis Hall Sunday, January 21 from 8am to
2pm. Please give the gift of life. Your single donation helps as many as three
patients. In addition to supporting life with your donation, you earn points that
can be redeemed for exclusive rewards.

To donate whole blood, you must be at least 17 years old (16 years old with
signed parental consent form) and weigh at least 110 pounds. You
can schedule an appointment by logging on to www.centralbloodbank.org
and using sponsor code G0040018, by calling Bob Parker at 412-795-9247 or con-
tact Bob via email at rparker173@verizon.net.

Chimbote Spaghetti Dinner 10th Anniversary

Once again we are planning our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the
poor of our parish and the poor of Chimbote, Peru. Our ability to continue to
meet the needs of the poor is due in large part to the generous donations and
support of our parish family and local businesses who donate and who believe
in our mission. Please plan on attending on March 11. Bring your neighbors
and friends for a delicious meal and good fellowship. Mark this important date
on your calendar and join in the sharing of a delicious meal and good work of
Our Lady of Joy.

Dear Pastor and Congregation,

We are writing to thank you for your participation in the 2017 Plum Food Pantry
Coat Drive. With your support and generous contributions, we were able to
provide new coats for 128 clients, adults and children. We also thank you for
the contributions of hats, mittens and scarves to compliment the coats as well
as any financial help to purchase coats. Without your generosity and caring,
we would not be able to provide this need. Thank you again and may God con-
tinue to bless you all abundantly.

Sincerely,
Dee Long, Co-Chair
Debbie Cassel, Co-Chair

CCD / RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

No CCD

Monday, January 15 – All Sessions

Tuesday, January 16 – All Sessions

Vocation Awareness/Vocation Cross

Beginning in January the CCD program will begin allowing students to take home the Vocation Cross to pray as a family for vocations. The cross will be taken home for a week. Please join in encouraging your child to sign up for the cross. We have three crosses so several students will be taking the crosses home during the same week.

If you would like to request a specific week in 2018, please phone the Religious Education Office: 412-795-4389.

Prayer for Vocations

Compassionate Heart of Jesus, graciously listen to our prayers. Give this world generous hearts who will respond to your call of a religious vocation. Lift up courageous men and women willing to follow after your heart as priests, sisters, and deacons. Help parents, grandparents and all Catholics to share the faith and to encourage young people to explore religious vocations. Guide all people, Lord, in your ways of compassion, truth, and peace, that we may find happiness in fulfilling our vocation. Amen

First Reconciliation/Second Grade

Mark your Calendar

Those who attend Mondays will celebrate First Reconciliation on Monday March 5 at 4:30pm. Those who attend Tuesday will celebrate First Reconciliation on Tuesday March 6 at 4:30pm.

The sacrament will be celebrated as a Penance Service. We will gather in the Father Marchukonis Hall. Afterward all are invited into the Father Marchukonis Hall for a Reception. Please pray for all our Second Graders.

OTHER NEWS

Retrouvaille

Are you feeling helpless because you think your MARRIAGE is heading downhill? Don't despair. Retrouvaille (French for Rediscovery and pronounced Re-tro-vi) has proved an effective program that is helping hurting marriages rebuild their trust and renew their communication. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on January 19, 2018, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434. More information is available at <http://www.retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org/>

New Year's Eve \$8,000 Super Bingo

Make plans with your friends to attend Bishop Canevin's New Year's Eve \$8,000 Super Bingo. Buffet Dinner, party favors and black light bingo after midnight to rock and roll music. Watch the ball drop on our big

screen TV's and toast with champagne at midnight. What a way to start 2018! Ticket Price \$119 per person. Make your reservation with a \$20 deposit and pay only \$80 at the door! Call Mike at 412 523-2220 to make a reservation. More information at www.bingo-at-bc.com.

SAM – Substance Addiction Ministry

The next Substance Addiction Ministry Rosary for Recovery will be Wednesday, January 17 at Our Lady of Joy Parish. We will meet at 7pm for the Rosary followed by an informal gathering for all who are afflicted or affected by addiction. It will be a safe, confidential place for people to seek education, referral and support. For more information please contact Noreen at 412-296-1709.

Divorced and Separated Support Group

Meetings starting on January 8, 2018 --If you are enduring the acute pain and profound sense of loss associated with separation or divorce, you need not go through this alone! You will find support, comfort, and healing by joining the Separated and Divorced Support Group that is sponsored by Saints John & Paul parish in Wexford. The group meets for 13 weeks on Monday evenings from 7:00–9:00 PM in the lower level of the Cardinal DiNardo (Social) Center. The Separated and Divorced Support Group is grateful for the opportunity to demonstrate that the Church in general does not shun or reject individuals simply because of the failure of their marriages, and in fact, wants to let these folks know that they are cherished and valued members of the Church family, the Body of Christ. If you have questions, please contact Ralph Joy at ralph.r.joy@gmail.com or (412) 741-5456. Sts. John & Paul's address is: 2586 Wexford Bayne Rd., Sewickley, PA.

Pub Theology with Bishop Zubik

Pub Theology is a ministry for young adults (ages 18-30's) in the Eastern Hills of Pittsburgh to discuss Jesus, faith, and the Church. Pub Theology meets every first and third Wednesday at 7pm. at Somma Pizza & Sports Bar, 380 Rte 909, Verona, PA 15147. Other weeks, Matt Scruggs, young adult minister at St. John the Baptist Parish, leads discussions on relevant topics for young adults. Contact Matt, youngadult@stjohnplum.org for more information.

Central Catholic High School

2017-2018 First Quarter Parish High Honors

Matthew Houston - 9 High Honors - OLOJ
Tyler Blake - 11 Honors - OLOJ
Michael Chirumbolo - 11 Honors - OLOJ

Authentic Happiness: Silent Retreat

Have you ever allowed God to speak to you through silence? What does it mean to find Him as the source of your authentic happiness? Find out through Authentic Happiness: A High School Silent Retreat. Father Mike Ackerman will lead this retreat for high school men, February 3-4 at Martina Spiritual Renewal Center. It will include Mass, adoration, dynamic talks, and solid brotherhood. No cost. To register, visit PGHPriest.com by January 22.