

**JANUARY 4, 2015**

*Scripture Reflection*

We tend to think of the magi as three kings arriving a few days behind the shepherds at the Christmas cave. Matthew would be charmed but would likely remind us that magi are not kings but eastern astrologers and interpreters of dreams. That the number three, a good guess from the number of gifts, is not really part of the story, and that the location is not a cave but the house where the Holy Family is living in Bethlehem. The star, no real help to pinpoint a local address, recalls the prophecy of the astrologers Balaam in Numbers 24:17 and highlights the significance of Jesus's birth within the whole sweep of the story of Israel. Other elements of Matthew 2 recall Israel's story: travel into and out of Egypt, escape from an abusive ruler, and the vocation to be Isaiah's light for the nations (Isaiah 60:1-6; 49:6).

This highly symbolic narrative turns out to be a brilliant way of telling real history. Herod the Great was indeed a contemporary pharaoh (recalling Israel's slavery in Egypt)--famous for his great building projects and a murderous ruler. In the end, Jesus truly does turn out to be a king, whose nonviolent power challenged abusive secular power. Jesus was indeed rejected by the religious leadership of this day ("chief priests and scribes"). And Jesus would be accepted, indeed done homage, more widely by Gentiles than by the historic people of Israel. He would prove to be a new Moses leading his people on a new Exodus. This descendant of David will, as risen Lord, turn out to be everything suggested by the words Matthew quotes from Micah 5:1 (ruler from Bethlehem) and 2 Samuel 5:3 (shepherd of God's people Israel). "God's people Israel" entails all twelve tribes, the restoration of Israel expected in the Messianic age, the Church.

This Sunday we give thanks that Christ came for all people throughout history. Jesus is Lord of all nations and peoples. As believers, we must make the light shine in the darkness so everyone can walk in God's own light. As Christians, we must make certain that Christ the light shines brightly bringing hope, compassion, understanding, patience, forgiveness, and love among all people.

• **How do I make the light of Christ shine in my life? When people see me, do they see Christ?**

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2015 **LIVE FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** 2015  
**10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS**  
 on radio  
**WFBG 1290 AM**

Please support the following sponsors of this weekly broadcast for those unable to get to Sunday Mass

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**CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Sunday, January 4**, classes resume at 11:15 PM in Cathedral Hall for pre-k through grade 8.

**F.I.R.E. - Sunday, January 11**, 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM. for students in grades 9-11.

**Gifting the Cathedral Parish**

As wills and insurance policies are established with your attorney, remember the Cathedral Parish as a beneficiary of your estate. Perhaps you would like to direct your gift to a particular ministry or project at the Parish. Please realize that Mass Stipends go directly to fulfilling that canonical wish and do not aid the financial life of the Parish.

**OUTREACH TO OUR HOMEBOUND**

Training sessions for parishioners participating in our newly formed Ministry to Our Homebound and Elderly Parishioners is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27. Members may attend from 12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM or in the evening 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM.

**THE CHURCH OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN**  
**THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315**  
**Church Office: 814-944-4603**

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:**

The process of formation for those seeking God through membership in the Catholic Christian community.

**INFANT BAPTISM:**

Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

**CONFIRMATION:**

Ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students are invited to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Process.

**RECONCILIATION:**

Wednesday: 7:00 PM, Saturday: 12:30 PM.  
Communal Penance Services: Advent and Lent.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**

Communal celebration Easter Season.

**MARRIAGE:**

Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program.

**DEVOTIONS:**

Novena of the Miraculous Medal - Monday 7:45 AM.  
Rosary - Wednesday 6:00 PM.  
Charismatic Prayer - Monday 7:00 PM.  
Evening Prayer within Eucharistic Exposition - Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter Seasons - Sunday 6:30 PM.  
Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12.  
Sunday morning 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM  
Pre-Kindergarten thru 8.  
Sunday evening 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM  
Grades 9 thru 12.

**WEB: WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG**

**FAX: 814-942-4337**

**E-MAIL: ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG**

**EUCCHARIST:**

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>5:00 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Holyday:</b>	<b>5:30 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Weekday:</b>	<b>6:45 AM</b>
	<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>8:00 AM</b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>
	<b>12:00 Noon</b>		<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
	<b>5:00 PM</b>				<b>12:00 Noon</b>

**Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop**

**Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector**

**Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar**

**Reverend Father John J. Slovickovski, In Residence**

**Deacon John E. Rys**

**Deacon James F. Leap, Senior Deacon**

**Deacon John J. Szwarc, Senior Deacon**

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 944-4603**

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 944-4603**

**ALTOONA CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
**Web: www.altoonacentralcatholic.com**  
**Elementary - Pre-K thru Grade 5 - 381-7011**

**BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org - 944-4014**

**DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**  
**Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 8 - 946-3475**  
**Jean Koury - 9 thru 12 - 949-2777**  
**Religious Education Office: Sundays - 943-7424**

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

**Nina M. Tedeschi**  
**Choir Director and Head Organist - 944-2044**  
**Kevin J. Luke - E-mail: kluke@dioceseaj.org**  
**Administrative Duties and Organist - 944-2044**

**SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851**



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 4, 2015

Readings: *iS 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12*

### MASS INTENTIONS

- January 5, Monday: Saint John Neumann, Bishop  
*Readings: 1 Jn 3:22--4:6; Mt 4:12-17,23-25*  
6:45 AM Alberta Weaver, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Fam.)  
8:00 AM Mike Smith (Kathy Fraundorfer)  
12:00 PM Jack Leiden (Tom and Patricia Forr)
- January 6, Tuesday: Saint Andre Bessette, Religious  
*Readings: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44*  
6:45 AM Deceased Relatives of Sisters, IHM  
8:00 AM Vi Franchio (Robert and Donna Hall)  
12:00 PM Jennie Calabrese, Anniversary (Family)
- January 7, Wednesday: Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest  
*Readings: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52*  
6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)  
8:00 AM Margaret McConnell (John & Mary Conte)  
12:00 PM Sandy Calabrese, Anniversary (Family)
- January 8, Thursday: Christmas Weekday  
*Readings: 1 Jn 4: 19--5:4; Lk 4:14-22*  
6:45 AM Joseph Keirn (Mom and Dad)  
8:00 AM Bernard J. Joyce (Family)  
12:00 PM Mildred Flick (Daughters)
- January 9, Friday: Christmas Weekday  
*Readings: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16*  
6:45 AM Maureen Wolf (Husband and Daughters)  
8:00 AM Jim and Peggy Mullan (Nancy and Skip)  
12:00 PM Patty Wiedemer, Anniv. (Husband & Family)
- January 10, Saturday: Christmas Weekday  
*Readings: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30*  
8:00 AM Health of Jake Jackiewicz (Dombrowskis)  
12:00 PM Robert Smithmyer (Don & Diane Carnell)  
Vigil: The Baptism of the Lord  
*Readings: Is 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mk 1:7-11*  
5:00 PM Chuck Roberts (Wife, Marian)

**Please remember our sick in your prayers.**

### PARISH MEETINGS

**Finance Council Meeting** - Wednesday, January 7 at 3:00 PM in the Saint John Room. Christopher Ringkamp, Director of the Diocesan Office of Development, will be present.

**Basket Bingo Planning Meeting** - Wednesday, January 7 at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite.

**Parish Council Meeting** - Monday, January 12 at 7:00 PM in the Saint John Room.

### Cathedral Parish in Midst of Decision Making

There is a need to provide a permanent space for Religious Education for the Parish. Last winter the furnace broke in the former school building. Since that time religious education classes have been occurring in the Cathedral Hall on a temporary basis. Renovation and upgrades to meet building codes for either the former convent building or school building have been estimated by engineers at \$1.7 million for each building. A three story building is presently for sale next to the rectory. This building could provide: (1) office space on the first floor for the parish (moving the office from the rectory into a site separate from the residency for the clergy); (2) Religious Education on the second floor for Pre-K through eighth grade along with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd; (3) the third floor (lower level) could be an activities center with a kitchen and open area to seat a large number of people. The cost of purchase and renovation of this possible building is estimated to be half of the cost to upgrade either of the two other buildings. We realize this decision will involve seeking gifts from parishioners to make this project possible. Councils from the parish continue to meet to discuss the possibility of this project. Please pray with us as we review and discuss the facts surrounding this decision.

### Christmas Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction

On these Sundays of the Christmas Season, **January 4 and 11**, we will gather at **6:30 PM** to pray the Hours of the Church. Families are encouraged to make this a part of their Christmas prayer. We are the Parish Family of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, and all those with a deep love of the Eucharist are invited to be present before the Sacrament in exposition on the altar. Evening Prayer and Benediction go about forty minutes.

### Liturgical Ministers, Parish Council, Finance Council and Catechists

You are invited to come to the Main Sacristy after Mass to receive a Christmas gift in the name of the parish. Thank you for all you do in service to the Cathedral Parish.

**Charismatic Prayer Group** - The Charismatic Prayer Group resumes regular weekly meetings at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 5, 2015.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, December 28 - \$8,586.00

The Christmas Season concludes with the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 11th. Christmas totals - Christmas Collection and Christmas Flower Memorials - will be provided in the January 18th bulletin as the Cathedral continues to receive your generous gifts.

### NOTE OF APPRECIATION

*The priests, deacons and staff are most appreciative of your cards, gifts, baked goods, fruits and assortments. Your taking the time to be especially kind is affirmative to our ministry here at Cathedral Parish. Your generosity to us has added to the delight of the holy season. Thank you for taking the time to remember.*

### BASKET BINGO PREPARATIONS BEGIN!

The next Basket Bingo meeting will be held Wednesday, January 7 at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. Anyone interested in helping out with this special event on Sunday, April 26 at 1:00 PM is encouraged to attend. We need all willing parishioners to please volunteer their time toward this Church fundraiser. If you are unable to attend this meeting and would like to help, please contact Paula Truby at 814-941-2838 or Roberta Burns at 201-741-6467. Tickets are now available at the Parish Office and would make nice Birthday gifts for friends or family members now through April. The \$25.00 entry ticket includes 15 games of Basket Bingo and complimentary food and beverages. For \$30.00 more you can purchase the additional Value Pack which includes: 108 door prize tickets, 6 walk-around tickets, 4 raffle tickets, a dobber and Bingo cards for Special Games #1, #2, and #3.

### Additional Christmas Flower Memorials

John and Mary Louise Butler  
Deceased Members of Davidson Families  
Ruth Jones, William Conrad  
Patrick and Diane Himes  
Justin and Carlee McCaulley, Connie Tippery

### CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Following the Prayer of the Faithful at 10:00 AM Mass each Sunday, our Catechumens and Candidates are dismissed to reflect on the Scriptures proclaimed and to learn more about our Catholic faith and tradition. Please remember these individuals in your Christmas prayers.

### Calendar of Prizes 2015 - Missing Tickets

Our 2015 Calendar of Prizes is underway but we have numbers missing. We also still have individuals asking for tickets. Would the holders of numbers **220, 286, 376, 566** and **678** please return them to the Parish Office as soon as possible? Prizes cannot be awarded for these numbers until we have all stubs turned in and properly recorded in the computer.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION** - Our next Baptismal Preparation Class will be held on **Monday, February 9**, at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month. You need not wait until your child is born to attend class. Sponsors are encouraged to attend also. To register, please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 weekdays between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM.

**Winter Coat Drive** - Our donations will be distributed to local families. Place items on the clothes rack to the far left as you enter the body of Cathedral through the front doors. Drive ends January 11.

### Liturgical Reflection ...

**General  
Instruction  
of the  
Roman Missal  
Third Edition**

The Roman Missal is promulgated to the universal Church throughout the world. It is the official book of Catholic worship at Mass for over 1.3 billion believers. On this Epiphany Sunday, we recall that Jesus Christ is revealed as Lord of all peoples and nations. Jesus Christ is Savior and Redeemer of all the earth. The prayers contained in the Roman Missal are translated into every tongue on the globe. The Missal gives witness to the sacrificial nature of the Mass, the ministerial Priesthood, and the real and perpetual presence of Christ under the Eucharistic species. We enter into the paschal mystery at every Mass. We die and rise with our Lord in the celebration of the Eucharist. Today we celebrate Christ as the Light of the world.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Numbers 2 and 7.

2015, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.