

JANUARY 3, 2016

Scripture Reflection

The Solemnity of the Epiphany was once called “Little Christmas,” and the story of the Magi was one of the four “epiphanies” or manifestations that surrounded God’s intervention in human history. The birth of Christ, his baptism, and the miracle of the wedding feast of Cana are the other three. Each of these signs gives a different insight on Christ’s coming. How does Matthew tell his Epiphany story?

The first Gentiles encountered in Matthew’s Gospel are magi from the East who seek the new king of the Jews. The word *magos* originally referred to a member of the Persian priestly class, and later was used of those who engaged in Eastern philosophy and science-hence magicians and astrologers. The magi report seeing a star rising, which, in popular understanding, signaled the birth of a significant person. This star directs the magi to Bethlehem, where they found the “king” in very humble circumstances. The magi pay homage to baby Jesus, presenting him with gifts befitting a king: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Today we celebrate the appearance of Christ to the Gentiles, told in the story of the Magi following the bright star that led to the newborn King. Their story invites us to reflect on their willingness to journey so far to meet Jesus and their reverence for mystery. Matthew tells us the magi receive a warning not to return to Herod--a warning in a dream. In the Bible, dreams alert humans that certain occurrences are not what they seem. The Magi “departed for their country by another way.” Once one encounters an “epiphany” of divine origins, life is changed.

- **Christmas Season continues. What star will you follow this new year? Dare to show forgiveness, and follow the Star of Mercy.**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2016. (C) 2015 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION. [Living the Word](#), Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, 2015, pages 36-37.

More On Moving Forward In Faith
Our Capital Campaign

I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of our *Moving Forward In Faith* campaign. On Monday, December 28, the campaign office reported a new pledge total of \$1,124,208. This represents 94% of our \$1.2 million goal and this total has been generated through the sacrificial generosity of approximately 250 parishioners and families. Once again, we are most grateful to our donors for their commitment and sacrifice to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish and ask that the remainder of our Parish Family join them in this important project.

If you have not had the opportunity to make your gift previously because you were not at home when our volunteers called - or for other reasons - you may do so today. For the convenience of those who may have misplaced their pledge card or confidential return envelope, there is a supply of extra brochures and other material on the table at the Cathedral Square entrance. If you need a pledge envelope or any information about our campaign please take a brochure from the table.

Please remember that every contribution, from the smallest to the largest, is necessary since we are doing this together as a parish family. After determining what you can afford each month, simply multiply it out over 60 months to determine your total pledge amount. Thanks to your sacrifice, we will show that as a parish family we came together in our time of need.

As we can see, the equipment is on site for the demolition of the two buildings.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group
The Charismatic Prayer Group will NOT meet this Monday, January 4th. We will meet again on January 11, 2016. All are welcome to attend.

Collection of Food For The Poor
Baskets are placed at the church doors for donations of non-perishable food items and paper products for the poor.

Rest In Peace - Please remember in prayer, Nancy Lee Wolf who died and was buried this past week. May she and her family be at peace.

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 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM
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: ALT.CATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

EUCHARIST:			
Sunday:	5:00 PM (Vigil) 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 Noon 5:00 PM	Holyday:	5:30 PM (Vigil) 8:00 AM 12:00 Noon 5:30 PM
		Weekday:	6:45 AM 8:00 AM 12:00 Noon
		Saturday:	8:00 AM 12:00 Noon

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael A. Anna

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 3, 2016

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

MASS INTENTIONS

January 4, Monday: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Relig.

Readings: *1 Jn 3:22--4:6; Mt 4:12-17,23-25*

6:45 AM Alberta Weaver, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Family)
8:00 AM No Mass
12:00 PM Pete Rhoads, Birthday (Wife, Pat)

January 5, Tuesday: Saint John Neumann, Bishop

Readings: *1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44*

6:45 AM No Mass
8:00 AM Kimberly Kokolis Moran (Tom & Pat Forr)
12:00 PM Mildred Mauceri (Gary & Janet Roesch)

January 6, Wednesday: Saint Andre Bessette, Relig.

Readings: *1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52*

6:45 AM Joan Hirt (Mike and Sherry Byrne)
8:00 AM No Mass
12:00 PM Barbara Barrett (Diana Fanale)

January 7, Thursday: Saint Raymond of Penafort, Priest

Readings: *1 Jn 4:19--5:4; Lk4:14-22*

6:45 AM No Mass
8:00 AM Bernard J. Joyce (Family)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Audrey Breslin & Ruth Conley)

January 8, Friday: Christmas Weekday

Readings: *1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16*

6:45 AM Timothy Charles Murphy, Ann.(J. & L. Biss)
8:00 AM Rita Kantoski, Birthday (Family)
12:00 PM Margaret L.Dodson (Joe Dzurenko)

January 9, Saturday: Christmas Weekday

Readings: *1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30*

8:00 AM Argenia 'Arg' Sposeto (Kilcoyne Family)
12:00 PM Health of Bob Schmitt (Family)
Vigil: The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: *Is 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16,21-22*

5:00 PM Larry Eastbourn (Madeline Vogel Family)

Note: Mass Schedule - There are only two Masses, Monday through Thursday, this week. Please pass this information along to those who pray with us daily.

First Friday Communion Calls This Month

Because Friday, January 1, was a Holy Day of Obligation our priests will be visiting our shut-ins on Friday, **January 8**. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one. Please also call to let us know if you are admitted to the hospital so Father can visit as soon as possible.

Additional Christmas Flower Memorials

John Byers, Gene and Patty Datri/
Ed and Ruth Weiland, Jeff Sefchok
Dombrowski/Wadwanski, Vogel/Maloney Families
Jennifer and Cory Geishauser
Ben and Christen Jones
Joseph Pagliaro, Rose Kravetz
Connie Tippery

Christmas Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction

On the Sundays of Christmas, January 3 and 10, we gather at 6:30 PM to pray the Hours of the Church. Families are encouraged to make this a part of their Christmas prayer.

Calendar of Prizes 2016

Calendar of Prizes 2016 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all weekend Masses. Like last year, each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$10.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and on Wednesday, September 7, the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral, someone will win our **Grand Prize of \$5,000.00** for a Family Trip or Cash Option. The Calendar of Prizes makes a great Christmas gift that lasts all year! We still have **150** tickets to sell. Please help with this annual fund-raiser. These monies help the Parish support our commitment to Catholic Education.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Regular Classes Resume Today! Pre-K - Grade 8 FIRE Classes for January are on the **10th and 24th**.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

Confirmation Prep Tonight! - 11th Grade Session will begin with attendance at Evening Prayer in the Cathedral at 6:30 PM and Session will follow in the Parish Hall at 7:15 PM. Saint Papers are due at this time and photos will be taken of Candidates for Lent/Easter display.

Marriage Preparation Begins!

Cathedral Parish Marriage Prep Team began one of the diocesan series of Marriage Preparation 2016 on Saturday, January 3. Sessions continue on **Saturdays: January 10, 17 and 24** in Cathedral Hall from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon.* *Snow date: January 31*. Registration is through the Diocesan Family Life Office at familylife@dioceseaj.org or 886-5551. All Cathedral couples are welcome.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 27, 2015 - \$9,149.00

The Christmas Season concludes with the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 10th. Christmas totals - Christmas Collection and Christmas Flower Memorials - will be provided in the January 17th bulletin as the Cathedral continues to receive your generous gifts.

Baptism Congratulations

Cora Marie Stroh was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family at 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday, December 26. Congratulations to parents, Jason and Maria, along with step-sister, Avery, godparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. And on Sunday, December 27 at 10:00 AM Mass, Eric and Amie Koller presented their daughter Jocelyn Angeline for Baptism. Congratulations also to sisters, Emily and Katelyn, godparents, grandparents, family and friends. Cora and Jocelyn will grow in their Christian identity to the degree that family and friends model the faith.

New and Expectant Parents Please Note:

Our next Session of **Baptismal Preparation** is scheduled for this **Wednesday, January 6** at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month and is necessary before a Baptism is scheduled at Cathedral. You do not have to wait until your baby arrives to come to class. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register. Please also note that no Baptisms are scheduled during Lent which this year begins on February 10th. Easter Sunday is March 27th. Next class will be offered early in March.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 will meet on Monday, January 11, in the St. Rose of Lima Social Hall at 6:30 PM for a social followed by a 7:00 PM meeting. New members are welcome!

Liturgical Reflection ...

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

The appearance of the Light of the world leads all to acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the nations. As the Collect for today's Mass prays, "O God who revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we...may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory." Through the mercy of God, believers are brought into the realm of mystery and faith. The Eternal Word is present among us. Wise men and women seek to follow the light of God's Word.

2016, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

2016

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

2016

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

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2016

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Collection for the March for Life

Citizens Concerned for Human Life will be accepting donations at the doors of the Cathedral on the weekend of January 16-17 to offset the costs for the March to Washington, DC on Friday, January 22. Please be generous. Buses will be leaving the Altoona area at 7:00 AM and should return to the area at about 9:30 PM. Cost will be kept at \$15 per person, \$10 for students. Call Patricia Forr at 946-0681 for more information/registration.