

JANUARY 6, 2019

Scripture Reflection

Epiphany is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian calendar, and, as its name suggests, it is a celebration of the manifestation of Christ to the world. The biblical account of the Magi has all the features of a great story: exotic guests, astrological phenomena, gifts, a complicated journey, an evil king, and a prophetic dream. It is also a startlingly clear fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah and Psalm 72 in this Sunday's readings: powerful people from distant lands will recognize the heaven-sent king of Israel and pay their homage with rich gifts.

In much the same way that a movie director shouts "Lights! Camera! Action!" our Epiphany acclamation is "Light! Inclusivity! Epiphany!" Epiphany is a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being. The Epiphany of the Lord Jesus Christ manifests the light that God shines on our world, a loving light that is utterly inclusive. Ephesians proclaims: "the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel" (Ephesians 3:6). A faithful Jew in Jesus' day would find these words unthinkable, but they are not unthinkable to the God whom Jesus revealed.

The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World states: "Respect and love ought to be extended also to those who think or act differently than we do in social, political and even religious matters. In fact, the more deeply we come to understand their ways of thinking through such courtesy and love, the more easily will we be able to enter into dialogue with them" (#27). These words renew the meaning of Epiphany for our day and time. God is utterly inclusive.

Isaiah addresses people who experienced darkness covering the earth. Many would say our day is similar. We celebrate that the light has come to lessen the darkness we experience by turning to the light of Christ. Turn to Christ. Follow his star. Do him homage by letting his light dispel your darkness. Shine with and find his light in all life's situations. Light! Inclusivity! Epiphany!

● **How could we become more inclusive this Epiphany?**

Living the Word, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2018, pg. 36. AT HOME with the WORD 2019, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 31. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "What can we learn from the Wise Men?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., December 14, 2018.

Relic Pilgrimage of Saint John Vianney's Incorrupt Heart

The Shrine of Ars, France, has entrusted to the Knights of Columbus the major relic of Saint Jean Vianney's incorrupt heart for a national tour of the United States from November 2018 through June 2019. The Knights of Columbus will provide this special opportunity to venerate a major relic of the patron of parish priests, whose holiness and integrity is a model for clergy and laity alike.

The **reliquary** holding Father Vianney's heart will be in the **Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament**, Altoona, on **Thursday, January 31st**. Veneration will occur throughout the day from 7:30 A.M. through 7:30 P.M. The regular daily Mass schedule will be observed: Masses at 6:45 A.M., 8:00 A.M., and Noon. Bishop will be the main celebrant at a concelebrated Mass at 5:30 P.M.

Confessors will be available for confessions throughout the day. Father Vianney was renowned for his gift as a confessor in the Sacrament of Penance. This holy priest undertook a life of heroic penance and prayer to draw his people away from sin and closer to God. Known for his wise spiritual counsels and the gift of reading hearts, he soon became a "prisoner" of the confessional, hearing confessions for up to eighteen hours a day. Thousands came from across Europe and beyond to seek this holy confessor. Pilgrimage to the Altoona Cathedral on this day will allow all to seek sacramental forgiveness in Christ.

At Bishop Bartchak's request the Apostolic Penitentiary has granted permission to receive an **Indulgence** attached to the pilgrimage to the relic of Saint John Vianney. An indulgence is the remission of temporal punishment for sin, in response to prayers or good works. It is God, through the Church, who remits the temporal punishment. Receiving the indulgence requires; first, celebrating the Sacrament of Penance leading to a genuine conversion of heart; second, receiving Holy Communion while fully participating at Mass; third, venerating the holy relic of Saint John Vianney; and fourth, praying for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, by reciting the Apostles' Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, school children and adults will be able to venerate this first class relic of Saint John Vianney. The Knights of Columbus will stand as honor guards. Plan to be present this last day of January to venerate the relic of a holy parish priest. It will be an opportunity for grace and a special day to pray for vocations to the priesthood – a particular priority for the Knight of Columbus.

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.

ANOIDING 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.

Charismatic Prayer - Monday 7:00 PM.

Eucharistic Adoration - First Wednesday - 12:30 PM - 8:00 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 afternoon 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Grades 9 thru 12.

WEB: WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

EUCCHARIST:

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, J.C.D., Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar

CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 944-4603

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 944-4603

MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 944-4603

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Web: www.holytrinitycatholic.school

Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011

Hollidaysburg Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 695-6112

Middle School Campus (Grades 5 thru 8) - 942-7835

BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org - 944-4014

DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317

Jean Koury - 9 thru 12 - 949-2777

Religious Education Office: Sundays - 943-7424

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 944-2044

E-mail: lthayer@dioceseaj.org

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 6, 2019

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

MASS INTENTIONS

January 7, Monday: St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest
Readings: *1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mk 4:12-17, 23-35*
6:45 AM Joseph Mangiacame (Janet and Bob Nearhood)
8:00 AM Joseph Knott (Rick and Cammy Pulcino)
12:00 PM M. Virginia Jones (John Conti and Family)

January 8, Tuesday Christmas Weekday
Readings: *1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44*
6:45 AM Bernie J. Joyce (Family)
8:00 AM Rosemary Kwolek (Butch Winkler)
12:00 PM John F. Bettwy (Joan and Bob Lozinak)

January 9, Wednesday: Christmas Weekday
Readings: *1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52*
6:45 AM Lew Fulare (Mr. and Mrs. Francis Dambeck)
8:00 AM Patty Wiedemer, Anniversary (Family)
12:00 PM Myra Mangiacarne (Wes & Patricia Heilman)

January 10, Thursday: Christmas Weekday
Readings: *1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22*
6:45 AM Raymond McCall, Anniv. (Karen Querry)
8:00 AM Kimberly Kokolis Moran, Anniv. (Parents)
12:00 PM Madeline Vogel (Sister Clementine O'Friel)

January 11, Friday: Christmas Weekday
Readings: *1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16*
6:45 AM Kryder and Elizabeth Miller (Irwin Family)
8:00 AM Rose Hart (Daughter, Rose Marie)
12:00 PM Bernadine Garcia (Kathleen Krug)

January 12, Saturday: Christmas Weekday
Readings: *1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30*
8:00 AM Herbert Kutruff (Greg and Kathy Clemens)
12:00 PM Howard Peachman (Mike and Sherry Byrne)
Vigil: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Readings: *Is 40:1-5,9-11; Ti 2:11-14,3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16,21-22*
5:00 PM Frances Pagliaro, Anniversary (Family)

Christmas Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction

On the Sundays of Christmas season, 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.

Calendar of Prizes 2019

Thank you to all who participated in this annual fundraiser for the Parish. The goal was to sell 1000 calendars and to collect \$20,000.00 with half of the monies going to prizes. We have succeeded in reaching our goal. Please note: there are four outstanding calendars that have not been returned. The numbers are **088, 159, 290, and 677**. If you have these numbers, please return them to the Cathedral Office. We do have requests to purchase these calendars. Thank you.

Annual Sponsors for Cathedral Mass

Thank you to the following institutions who have again sponsored the weekly Sunday 10:00 AM Mass from the Cathedral on radio WFBG 1290AM. These donations have made the broadcast available to the homebound and ill who are unable to join us for Mass. The Cathedral Parish has received notes of appreciation from many listeners who tune in every Sunday morning for Mass. Also note that these donations have been a source of revenue for the Parish. We are grateful.

2019	LIVE FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS on radio WFBG 1290 AM	2019
Please support the following sponsors of this weekly broadcast for those unable to attend Sunday Mass		
The Altoona Curve Baseball Club Garvey Manor & Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence ARC Federal Credit Union UPMC Altoona Bettwy Electric, Inc. Irwin Financial/Raymond James ISB Investment Savings Bank Riley Plumbing & Heating Stanley J. Krish Funeral Home Allegheny Glass & Mirror Quality Services McCloskey Builders Jones Funeral Home Kerr's Kreations & Kerr Landscaping Beck's Maintenance Warner's Florist, Gifts, Greenhouses Young, Oakes Brown & Company Anonymous Donor		
2019		2019

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 31, 2018 - \$8,329.00

Christmas Season concludes with the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 13th. The Christmas totals of the Christmas Collection will be provided in the January 20th bulletin as the Cathedral continues to receive your generous gifts.

ARISE

Cathedral Parish will begin a journey of prayer and reflection during the season of Lent. For six weeks you will be invited to gather in small groups to break open scripture and discuss how to live the faith in our daily lives. If you were unable to join the ARISE process in the fall, give some serious thought to joining a small group this Lent.

Basket Bingo Meeting

The first Basket Bingo meeting will be held on January 17, at 6:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall. Contact Lorraine Beck at 942-7774.

Sacrament Preparation

First Communion students and parents will meet in the Seton Suite on Wednesday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM. All students and a parent must attend. Please contact Chris Laraia at 312-7317 if you will not be able to attend this session.

Diocesan Marriage Preparation

Marriage Preparation sessions will be held in the Cathedral Parish Hall on Saturday, January 19th at 9:00 AM. Please call the parish office at 944-4603 for more information.

Liturgical Ministers, Parish Council, Finance Council and Catechists

If you have not already received your Christmas gift, please come up to the ambulatory across from the main sacristy. Thank you for all you do in service to the Cathedral Parish. Your time and talent are acknowledged and appreciated.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.



Liturgical Reflection ...

Today we join the three men from the east who have come to acknowledge the presence of divinity on this earth. The infant child is indeed the Eternal Word of God. And this divine gift is just not for God's holy people Israel. The Savior has arrived on this earth for the redemption of all peoples. These foreign travelers stand for all of us who are not members of God's chosen people Israel. Nonetheless, God has sent his Savior Child for the redemption of all people.

2019, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

Eucharistic Adoration

Plan to take part in next month's Eucharistic Adoration scheduled for **Wednesday, February 6th** from 12:30 P.M. until 8:00 P.M.

Annual March for Life

Again this year there will a bus provided for the March for Life to the nation's capital on Friday, January 18th. The cost is adults: \$15.00, and students: \$10.00. For reservations please call Patricia or Marita Forr at 946-0681; Roxann Blazewicz at 695-8008; Anne Zelnosky at 942-2723.

Annual Prayer Service for Life

The Cathedral will again sponsor a prayer service on the eve of the March for Life. All are invited to prayer on Thursday, January 17th at 7:00 P.M. Bishop will preside at Evening Prayer. There will be a special blessing for the pilgrims going to Washington, D.C. the following day.

F.I.R.E. Classes

F.I.R.E. classes start today, January 6, from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall. Next class is January 27.

Religious Education News PK-8

Classes resume on Sunday, January 6th at 8:30 AM. Until further notice, all classes will be dismissed from the Parish Center lower level alley doors. PK/K parents please continue to go to the classroom to pick up your child.

Memorials for Christmas Flowers

In memory of
Deceased of the Miller and Ball Families
Joseph and Bernice Wahl

Gifting the Cathedral Parish

As wills and insurance policies are established with your attorney, or financial advisor, 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.