

**JANUARY 5, 2019**

*Scripture Reflection*

The prophet Isaiah contrasts a picture of the living darkness with “glory of the Lord” shining on Jerusalem. The nations of the world are drawn towards this light. Isaiah proclaims a profound truth: God’s love and salvation, first offered to Israel, is meant to be shared with all nations. This message calls for joy: “your heart shall throb and overflow.

Paul stresses the theme of God’s salvation is intended for all people. This mystery, hidden beforehand, has now been revealed to Paul through the inspiration of the Spirit: all human beings are called to become “coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Our Gospel narrative expresses this same mystery. On the day of Christ’s birth, the first to receive the Good News were Jewish shepherds in the fields. Now, at the Epiphany, pagan astrologers, wise men from the East, the Magi, come searching for the “newborn King of the Jews” by following the light of a star. This event fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy announced in the First Reading. The contrast of King Herod to the Magi is remarkable: the leader of the Jewish people refuses to accept the news of the Jewish king’s birth and plan to kill him, while these pagan Magi have traveled far searching for the king and prostrate themselves in worship before him. Their gifts symbolize their belief: gold, the most precious of metals, is a suitable gift for a king. Frankincense, used in worship, symbolizes the child’s divinity. Myrrh, used in preparing a body for burial, symbolizes Jesus’ humanity. We recall how after Jesus’ death his body was anointed with “myrrh and aloes” (John 19:38-42)

Our readings remind us of the powerful truth that God’s love is for everyone. Like the Magi, we are called to open our hearts to accept that love.

- **How would you explain the “mystery” that St. Paul speaks about in the Second Reading?**

**Prayer Shawls**

If anyone feels that they need some comfort in their troubled times, please feel free to contact Lorraine Beck at 814-942-7774 for one of our Prayer Shawls. These shawls have been Blessed and may bring you the comfort that you need.

**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.

**March for Life Bus Trip**

Buses will be leaving the Altoona area at 7:00 A.M. and should return to this area about 9:30 P.M. each of the participants will be requested to bring their lunch with them and enough money to cover the cost of their supper. Once again we will be requesting donations to support the March For Life and other pro-life activities. We will be offering pro-life stickers, ribbons, and precious feet in exchange for and donation. We are collecting the weekend of January 18th & 19th after all masses and at all doors.

**When: Friday January 24, 2020**

**Where: Washington D.C.**

**Costs: Adults- \$15.00; Students- \$10.00**

**For Reservations call:**

**Patricia or Marita Forr- 946-0681**

**Roxann Blazewicz- 695-8008**

**Jesse Ickes- 660-1052**

**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 the service of the Cathedral Parish. Your time and talent are acknowledged and appreciated.

**Christmas Season** concludes with the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 12th. The Christmas totals of the Christmas Collection will be provided in the January 19th bulletin as the Cathedral continues to receive your generous gifts.

**Additional Christmas Flowers**

Plutko’s, Bettwy, Todd, Rose & Mike and Brenna’s Families

**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-

Charismatic Prayer - Monday 7:00 PM.

Eucharistic Adoration - First Wednesday - 12:30 PM-8:00 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-8:15 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  
12:00 Noon  
Saturday: 8:00 AM  
12:00 Noon

**Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop**

**Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Administrator**

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)

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

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 5, 2020

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

January 6, Monday: St. Andre' Bessette, Religious  
Readings: 1 Jn 3:12-22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
6:45 AM + Alberta Weaver, Ann. (M/M Jim Weaver)  
12:00 PM + M. Virginia Jones (Mary Ann Bell)

January 7, Tuesday: St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest  
Readings: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44  
6:45 AM + David Petrak (Kathleen Winter)  
12:00 PM + Joe Tomlinson (Mark & Diane Moschella)

January 8, Wednesday: Christmas Weekday  
Readings: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52  
6:45 AM + Bernard J. Joyce (Family)  
12:00 PM + Jim Davidson (Frances Hallinan)

January 9, Thursday: Christmas Weekday  
Readings: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22  
6:45 AM + Hilda Conrad (Daughter Mary)  
12:00 PM + Patty Wiedemer, Ann. (Family)

January 10, Friday: Christmas Weekday  
Readings: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16  
6:45 AM + Msgr Paul Panza (Mona Henck)  
12:00 PM + Dick, Rick, & Karen Cowan (Family)

January 11, Saturday: Christmas Weekday  
Readings: 1 Jn 5:14-2; Jn 3:22-30  
8:00 AM +Patty & David Weaver, Ann.(M/M Jim Weaver)  
12:00 PM +Barry & Brian Elmers (Skip Cowan & Nancy Elmers)  
Vigil: BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
Readings: Is 42: 1-4,6-7; Acts 10: 34-3; Mt 3:13-17  
5:00 PM + Frances Pagliaro, Ann. (Family)

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

### Catholic Ministry Drive

We are most grateful to those who have so generously responded to the 2019 Catholic Ministries Drive. As of the end of October we have pledges totaling **\$40,308.14**. Our goal for 2019 is **\$50,706.00**. Thank you for your generosity. It is most important that we receive your response as soon as possible. Monies received over our diocesan goal will help us to complete Charity Hall in The Cathedral Parish Center.

### Holy Name Church News

**Tony Melendez Concert** - Tuesday January 21, 2020, world renowned Catholic Musician and Speaker Tony Melendez will be performing a concert at 7:00 PM at Holy Catholic Church, Ebensburg, PA. Tony was born with no arms, but he learned to play the guitar with his feet from a young age. In 1987 in Los Angeles, CA, he famously performed in front of Pope John Paul II. The concert is free, but a free will offering will be taken for the parish and then for Tony.

**Holy Name in Hawaii** - Holy Name Home and School Association is sponsoring Holy Name in Hawaii on Saturday, January 25, 2020 starting at 5:00 PM in the Holy Name Church Hall, Ebensburg. Tickets are on sale at Holy Name School at a cost of \$25.00 per person (advance tickets only). For tickets or for more information, please call Holy Name School at 814-472-8817. Aloha!

### For Sale

Mausoleum Crypt M1275/F, located at Calvary Cemetary/Chapel Crypt. Includes: Pre-Paid, open and close. Crypt Front Lettering, C47 Silver Rose Casket. Cost:8,500.00. Please contact Margaret at 814-935-1717.

### Eucharistic Adoration

There will be adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition on **Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** from 12:30PM until 8:00PM. The Monstrance is located in front of the tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All are invited to make time in our schedules to spend quality prayer time before the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic Adoration has seemed to enhance vocations to the priesthood and religious life. As you pray before the Sacrament, remember to ask God to bless our Diocese with vocations.



### OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, December 29, 2019 - \$8,629.00

### Confirmation Prep

Sunday January 5th, 6:15-7:30 PM. 11th Grade Confirmation Prep Session II Candidate/Parent/Sponsor, must be present.

### Gluten Sensitivity

There may be parishioners who have found that they have physical disorders related to gluten intolerance. The spectrum of illnesses includes celiac disorder, wheat allergy, bloating, abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, muscular disturbances, and bone or joint pain. The ordinary hosts distributed at Communion contain gluten. If you have found that you are gluten sensitive, special bread is available that possess a very low gluten content. Please tell the priest before Mass, and he will consecrate the low-gluten host for you to receive at that Mass.

### Praise and Worship

Monday, **January 6th**, at 7:00 PM, there will be a Praise & Worship with the Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group, here at the Cathedral Church the guest speakers are Bob & Marci Sutton.

### Stewardship Reflection Epiphany of the Lord

Many Christian disciples have experienced conversion, and life-shaping changes of mind and heart. They commit their very selves as a mature person of faith to the Lord.

Just as the magi who traveled afar, Christian stewards make an extra effort to return gifts of time, abilities, and wages to God by sharing them ingratitudes with others in need. "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).



**Pray For Our Sick** - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness in your prayers. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

### Calendar of Prizes 2020 Are Here!

Calendar of prizes 2020 are being sold at the Cathedral Square Door after all masses starting this weekend. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$20.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$1,500.00. Due to the states regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that we sell all one thousand tickets, otherwise the parish will lose money on unsold tickets. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office at 814-944-4603 weekdays between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM to check for availability or stop by the Cathedral door after Mass on the weekends. These make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

### The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is a process (a journey) through which people enter the Catholic Church. This includes people who have not been baptized (called catechumens) and people who have been baptized in another Christian Church now seeking full Communion with the Catholic Church (referred to as candidates). If you are interested in learning more about RCIA, join us Sunday from 11:00am - Noon in the Seton Suite. Please reach out to Tammy Datri, Director of RCIA at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. We look forward to you joining us!

### Ministry to the Elderly, Seriously Ill and Grieving

Thank you for to every one who has donated stamps for this ministry.

Please continue to call the office with the names and addresses of a family member or friend who you know would appreciate a kind word and a prayer through the mail. We would like to be able to reach out to as many people as we can . If you would like to join this ministry call the office 814-944-4603 or Jeanne Thompson at 814-317-2672.

### Think Basket Bingo

Our next Basket Bingo meeting will be held on Thursday January 9th, at 6:30 in the Cathedral Hall. All are welcome! If you have any questions please call Lorraine Beck.

### Did You Remember?

Did you remember to bring non-perishable food items and paper products for the needy of our community? Bins are located at the three doors of the Cathedral.