

## January 3, 2021 Epiphany of the Lord

### Stewardship is a Way of Life.

#### Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income for the week of December 20, 2020:

Regular: \$1,847.00  
Christmas \$1,803.50

Mass Attendance for December 24, 2020

6:00 p.m. 75 8:00 p.m. 9

Mass Attendance for December 25, 2020 14

Mass Attendance for December 26, 2020 21

Mass Attendance for December 27, 2020 49

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2021

“After Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of King Herod, astrologers from the east arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring: ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.’... they were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother.”

The visitors were looking for Jesus. They brought gifts portraying His role as priest, prophet and king. They depended on a star to lead them to their Savior.

The Magi event is so familiar, found in scripture, filled with traditions. Their search ended with a great discovery and blessing. In the gospels the question is asked, ‘what are you looking for?’ or ‘who is it that you seek?’

We are like the wise men, looking for the Lord. Where can we find Him? Right here, right now. Jesus makes Himself known to us, if we bring the gift of ourselves, if we wish to pay Him homage. It requires humility, honesty and sincerity as we recognize Him as savior of all humankind.

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

Isaiah speaks poetically of the coming of the Lord. He describes how “darkness covers the earth” but light and glory appear over God’s chosen people.

#### **Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

Paul tells the Ephesians that the Jews and Gentiles are now co-heirs of the promises God has made. He explains that both groups are now members of one body through Jesus Christ.

#### **Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

After Jesus’ birth, three astrologers from the east came to Jerusalem and inquired about the newborn king of the Jews. King Herod became greatly angered, and asked the astrologers to bring him more information about the child once they had found him, so that he too could pay homage to the infant. However, Herod’s true plan was to kill Jesus. The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to him and they took a different route to return home.



## LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass  for the  
Intentions *for the Week*

*And Weekly Readings*



### Saturday, January 2: Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church (Memorial)

1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 1:19-28  
5:30 PM People of the Parish

### Sunday, January 3: The Epiphany of the Lord

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29;  
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

9:15 AM People of the Parish

### Monday, January 4: St Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious (Memorial)

1 John 3:22-4:6; Psalm 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Matthew 4:12-17,  
23-25

9:00 AM People of the Parish

### Tuesday, January 5: St John Neumann, Bishop (Memorial)

1 John 4:7-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mark 6:34-44

### Wednesday, January 6: Christmas Weekday

1 John 4:11-18; Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mark 6:45-52

### Thursday, January 7: Christmas Weekday

1 John 4:19-5:4; Psalm 72:1-2, 14 & 15bc, 17; Luke 4:14-22a

### Friday, January 8: Christmas Weekday

1 John 5:5-13; Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Luke 5:12-16

### Saturday, January 9: Christmas Weekday

1 John 5:14-21; Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; John 3:22-30

5:30 PM Mary Tonge from Mary O’Day

### Sunday, January 10: The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; 1 John 5:1-9; Mark  
1:7-11

9:15 AM People of the Parish

## LITURGICAL WORSHIP AIDS

### **Entrance Antiphon**

Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

### **Penitential Act**

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you,

my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

### **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

### **Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow) *and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. Amen

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### **(For those who are watching from home)**

#### **A Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

Jesus, really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar, since I cannot now receive thee under the sacramental veil, I beseech thee, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul through the Immaculate Heart of thy most Holy Mother, and to abide with me, thou in me, and I in thee, in time and in eternity. Amen

#### **Communion Antiphon**

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

#### **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

#### **Adoration Date Change**

**First Friday Adoration for January has been moved from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> to Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.**



#### **Announcements for the Bulletin:**

Please have your announcements for the bulletin to the church office by Wednesday afternoon no later than 1:00 p.m.

#### **CCD Teachers and Substitutes:**

CCD Teachers and substitutes are needed. Please speak with Father Bill or Ginger Best.

#### **Fish for Sale! Knights of Columbus**

Anyone interested in purchasing baked fish, the cost is \$20.00 per box. Please write your name and phone number on the sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call Joe Zarnowski at 908-892-0271.

**CCD:** CCD classes will resume January 3, 2021. CCD classes will continue regardless of whether regular school sessions resume. If you have any questions, please contact Ginger Best.

### Retirement:

As many of you know our Sacred Heart Finance Director Sue Parzanese is retiring this month. We would like to thank her for her many years of dedication to our Parish and School. We hope all her years ahead bring her great joy and relaxation.

### New Staff Member

We warmly welcome our new office **Finance Director Kendra Dunmire** to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. Kendra began her new position on December 7. Kendra, a lifelong resident of Mifflin County, lives with her husband Tim in McVeytown. She has 30 years of past experience being a bookkeeper, accounting clerk and office manager. You can also see Kendra during the weekends when she waitresses at Angelo's.



### Volunteers Urgently Needed!

We need new people to volunteer to sanitize after each Mass. We thank those who have been so generous in doing so, but we recognize that they need a break, and they need reinforcements, to keep the effort going. If we don't have sufficient sanitizers, we cannot have Mass in church. With sufficient new volunteers there can be a longer rotation of teams and therefore, less work. Please call the parish office and speak to Jodi, the Parish Secretary and have yourself put on a schedule.

### Guidelines For Mass

- ❖ Masks **must** be worn at all times.
- ❖ Remain 6 ft. apart.
- ❖ Ushers will seat you at the beginning of Mass and dismiss you at the end of Mass.
- ❖ Confessions are heard in the rectory garage on Wed., 6:30-6:45 PM & Sat., 3:00-3:45 PM
- ❖ Only permitted to fill the church to approx. 1/3 capacity. Space is limited; please come early. Sunday Mass obligation is still suspended. You may want to consider attending a weekly Mass in place of Sunday.
- ❖ Doors are locked during Mass for your safety.

- ❖ The restroom is available but **must be sanitized after each use**. Please clean the restroom after use according to the directions posted inside. Children must be accompanied by an adult & the adult must clean the restroom after the child is finished
- ❖ Crying room is closed.
- ❖ Collection basket will not be passed. Place your collection in 1 of the 2 locked collection boxes provided. Collection boxes are located in the Vestibule area or at the front of the church by the handicap door.
- ❖ Votive candles are not accessible at this time. If you would like a candle lit, call the parish office and they will have a sacristan light a candle for you. Your donation may be put in the collection box.
- ❖ Father will distribute Communion at the **end** of Mass from the altar area.
- ❖ Take all belongings with you and go single file up to the altar area. Right before receiving Communion drop one side of your mask and immediately put it back on after the Eucharist is in your mouth. Put one hand on top of the other palm side up. Father will try not to touch your hand. After receiving Communion proceed out the handicap door. If you are not receiving Communion just follow the flow of people as they proceed out the door.

These guidelines are an act of charity and out of concern for your safety and not an infringement upon your personal rights. Thank you for your continued cooperation. Your diligence in adhering to these guidelines helps to prevent further safety concerns for our parishioners. **These guidelines are not optional.**

### Bishop Gainer Addresses Moral Concerns on the COVID Vaccine



My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
As our world continues to suffer due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I ask that you join me in continuing to pray for an end to this pandemic. I also ask that you continue to offer prayers and gratitude for those in medical and emergency response professions. Their efforts have been nothing short of heroic during this year. As we all eagerly await the release of the COVID-19 vaccine, I write to you to clarify concerns on the moral and ethical development of these vaccines. Of most concern is that these vaccines may have been developed in a way that involved the use of cell lines from aborted babies. This is concerning, especially to Catholics, but it is also a very complex matter. Given the complex nature of this situation, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) carefully evaluated each of the expected vaccines as they relate to Catholic Moral Teaching. They stated that: "Neither the Pfizer nor the Moderna vaccine involved the use of cell lines that originated in fetal tissue taken from the body of an aborted baby at any level of design, development, or production. They are not completely free from any connection to abortion, however, as both Pfizer and Moderna made use

of a tainted cell line for one of the confirmatory lab tests of their products. There is thus a connection, but it is relatively remote." I certainly understand the deep desire to avoid vaccines that are in any way connected to abortion. To aid our understanding and clarify teachings regarding vaccines and our Catholic faith, the Holy See has published several documents during the past 15 years to address these concerns. These documents do state that it is immoral to take the tissue from an aborted child for the purpose of making cell lines. However, these documents also state that, "If there is a grave health risk to the child or the person, and if there is no other option, and if the person taking the vaccine or the parent makes their objections known and actively works to see that alternatives are brought to the market, then they may use the vaccines." In short, if there is a serious health concern and there are no other options, then on the level of the recipient, it is morally permissible to accept vaccination. Based on this information, I wish to reassure you, my Catholic brothers and sisters, that once the vaccines are available and if you choose to receive it after considering the information above, it is morally permissible to do so. Some are asserting that if a vaccine is connected in any way with tainted cell lines, then it is immoral to be vaccinated with them. This is an inaccurate portrayal of Catholic moral teaching. I thank each of you for your continued observance of our Diocesan guidelines as we strive to maintain safe worship spaces as well as school and work environments. I also pray for your continued good health and for the health of all those impacted by this pandemic.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer Bishop of Harrisburg*

### **Become a Deacon**

Men interested in joining the next class of those studying to become permanent deacons should contact Fr. Weary for an interview. The deadline to apply to the diocese for this five-year period of study is **March 1, 2021**. May God guide those who are interested in their spiritual discernment journey.



### **SHS Holiday Office Hours**

Sacred Heart School will move to Virtual Learning from **Monday, January 4th, through Friday January 8th**. We will be returning to in person learning on Monday January 11th. If assistance is needed, please leave a message on the school answering machine at 717-248-5351 or in an emergency call the Parish Office at 717-242-2781

### **Substitute Teacher Needed**

A long-term substitute teacher is needed in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at Sacred Heart School. This position will run from



January 2021 through the end of the school year while Mrs. Hardin, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, is on maternity leave. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in a substitute teaching position, please contact one of the co-administrators at Sacred Heart School at 717-248-5351 or email at [principal@sacredheartschool.com](mailto:principal@sacredheartschool.com).

### **Keep Christ in Christmas**

The Knights of Columbus sponsored billboards with the theme "**Keep Christ in Christmas**" may now be viewed on highway 322 West. **One billboard is on the left side of the road by the Electric Ave. exit and the other on the right side by the Clarion Inn exit.** Sacred Heart School 4<sup>th</sup> grade students **Daniel McMonigal** and **George Grove** were the talented winners whose posters were turned into billboards. The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all the students of our parish and Sacred Heart School who are fantastic artists and submitted posters. It's important to remember Christ at Christmas and that he gave us the ultimate gift.

