

January 8, 2023 The Epiphany of the Lord

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income for the week of
January 1, 2023

Regular:	\$2,309.00
Hispanic Mass Offering:	\$106.00
Votive Offering:	\$20.00
Capital Improvements:	\$85.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$410.00

FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY

READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2023

"Then shall you be radiant in what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of the nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah, all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense and myrrh, praising the goodness of the Lord."

On this special day, often called 'Little Christmas', we immediately think of kings or magi, 3 in number, a star, bringing three mentioned gifts and discovering the presence of the newborn king. Our traditions, based on the scriptures, call us today to be no different than the travelers from the east. Our journey is to find the Christ today. Our traveling brings us to a church and sacraments. Having been so blessed, we are asked to bring the gift of ourselves to the Lord and share Him with the most in need. I seriously wonder what gift I have to be given to someone else.

In this age of 're-gifting' - we know we have the Lord, and others are waiting to meet Him. Follow the star as He leads you to someone really in need. Jesus thanks you.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is extolled as a place of glory and splendor because the Lord has come to His own city.

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

Paul tells the Ephesians that his special mission is to make the Gentiles co-heirs with the Jews in Christ — "members of the same body and sharers of the promise."

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Herod learns that Wise Men from the East are searching for the newly born Christ Child. He instructs them to find the Child and to report His

whereabouts to him. The Wise Men follow a star to the place where Mary and Jesus are and offer the Child gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They do not return to Herod but follow another route to their own country.



LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass Intentions  for the Week



Saturday, January 7: Christmas Weekday

1 John 5:14-21; Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5, & 6a & 9b;
John 2:1-11

5:30 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, January 8: The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

9:15 AM Charles Ames from Dan Ames

1:30 PM People of the Parish

Monday, January 9: The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10;
Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Tuesday, January 10: Weekday

Hebrews 2:5-12; Psalm 8:2ab & 5, 6-7, 8-9;
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 11: Weekday

Hebrews 2:14-18; Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9;
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday, January 12: Weekday

Hebrews 3:7-14; Psalm 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11;
Mark 1:40-45

Friday, January 13: Weekday

Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Psalm 78:3 & 4bc, 6c-7, 8;
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday, January 14: Weekday

Hebrews 4:12-16; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15;
Mark 2:13-17

5:30 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, January 15: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10;
1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

9:15 AM Bill & Kathy Nash from the Arnolds

1:30 PM People of the Parish



Please continue to pray for the souls of:

Thomas Cargill Robert Burda

COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:

January 8, 2023 ARMSTRONGS
January 15, 2023 LADIES
January 22, 2023 JODI
January 29, 2023 MEGAN

ROSARY

Please join us as we pray the Rosary each Sunday at 8:45 a.m. before the 9:15 a.m. Mass. "The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life.

It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying."
- Pope Leo XIII



Youth Group News

The Youth will begin a 6 Session DVD Series entitled "Christianity, Cults & Religions." The youth will learn about the most common world religions and cults and

how they compare to Christianity. We'll learn what they believe, why and what to say to a friend, neighbor or co-worker of another faith. Plan to attend this interesting & informative series.

January 15: CC&R Study 6:00-8:00 PM/church basement

February 5: CC&R Study 6:00-8:00 PM/church basement

February 19: Movie Night 6:00-8:00 PM/church basement, bring a snack to share.

SHS GALA!

SHS Gala, "Let's Fiesta", will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at the Lewistown Country Club. Tickets are now available at the Parish Office. Prices are \$60 per person



Saturday, January 7, 2023

Lector: T. Kromel
Cantor: M. Kerchusky
Altar Servers: A. Armstrong
J. Armstrong

Usher:

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Lector: James Hazard
Cantor: M. Miller
Altar Servers: C. Schall, J. Schall
& E. Miller

Usher: D. Ames, P. Ames

Saturday, January 14, 2023

Lector: C. Fitzgerald
Cantor: M. Kerchusky
Altar Servers: J. Zarnowski
Usher:

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Lector: J. Fitzgerald
Cantor: A. Arnold
Altar Servers: D. Miller, E. Miller
C. Schall

Usher: S. Arnold, L. Bastian



CHURCH CALENDARS!

Church Calendars for the 2023 year are now available at the back of the church!



HOUSE BLESSING!

Our annual House Blessing cards are available at the back of the church. Please take one for your home and share in this special blessing!

UPDATE REQUEST

If you have moved, changed phone numbers or have any other changes you would like made to your information at the parish office, please contact the office at 717-436-6722 on Thursdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. or email the office at rectory@stjudemiffintown.org.

EMERGENCY EXITS

Designated emergency exits are found in the front of the church to the left and right of the altar, and in the back of the church through the main entrance and the hallway by the restrooms.

We request in case of emergency you select the closest exit to your seat.

Those sitting in the front half of the church should exit using exits found on their respective side. Those sitting back half of the church should exit through the center doors and the doors to the right of the main entry door of the church.

Those in the cry room or the restrooms should exit through the hallway and to the exit door at the end of the hallway.

RCIA Classes

Sharing is the basis for our religion—sharing God's love with those around us, but most of all, sharing the Body & Blood of Jesus Christ and becoming One with Him. Paul tells us that we don't get into heaven alone. What could be more rewarding than to know that you took the initiative to ask and **someone accepted** the invitation to share our faith? Your mission is to love and serve the Lord. That "**someone**" is waiting to be asked! **If you know anyone who would be interested in Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes, please contact Dan Swigart at 717-446-5099 or the Parish Office at 717-242-2781.** RCIA is a program of 1



time per week classes, usually for about 9 months, for those interested in entering the Catholic faith. Also, Catholics who have been "away", for whatever reason, are invited to attend and find answers in these sessions to re-establish their receiving of the Sacraments. **A new class is set to begin on Thursday, September 22nd at 7 PM.**

FORMED – ON-LINE RESOURCES

We are pleased to provide all Parishioners a FREE subscription to formed.org Discover all the best Catholic content in one place, Enlighten programs, entertaining movies, inspiring talks and a great selection of popular e-books

for everyone in the family all just a click away.

To sign up for free visit: signup.formed.org

Enter our parish zip code: **17059**

Select: **St. Jude and Sacred Heart and Next**

Enter your **Name** and your **email address**

and select **Sign Up After you sign up all the content is available through PC through FORMED.ORG, and Smart TVS, Roku, I-Phone or Android with the FORMED App.**

SAVE the DATE:

MOUNT2000-

"Kenosis: Make Room for God" Retreat will be February 3-5, 2023

at Mount St. Mary's University.

You must pre-register to attend. Please contact Adrienne Zannino if interested.

Year-End Tax Statements

Please contact the Parish Office at 717-436-6722 or email at rectory@stjudemiffintown.org if you are in need of a year-end tax statement. In addition, the Office of Stewardship and Development at the Diocese will be happy to send, via email, a donor's record of giving if it is requested. The Diocese will no longer automatically send statements and their preference is to send statements electronically via email if requested. If you need a statement, please call the Office of Stewardship and Development at (717) 657-4804 ext. 245.

STARTING OVER

If one chooses to celebrate the (optional) commemoration of St. Sylvester, pope, on Dec. 31, then you would read one of my favorite second readings for the Office of Readings from the Liturgy of the Hours (the official daily prayers of the Church).

That second reading is from the first church history book, written in the late 4th century, by Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea. In it, he describes the joy with the legalization of Christianity after some 250 years of on again, off again Roman Empire persecution. With a stroke of the pen, Emperor Constantine basically said, “the Christians are ok. Leave them alone. They can worship as they please, even publicly.” It didn’t hurt that his mother, St. Helena, was Christian, nor that he had seen a vision in the sky, before a decisive battle (which he won), endorsing Christianity.

Well, for those early Christians, this was fabulous. We’re starting over. No more being thrown to the lions, no more hiding out and worshipping in the underground catacombs. We’re legit now, above ground.

Eusebius writes, “Churches were once again rising from the ground high into the air, far surpassing in splendor and magnificence the ones that had previously been stormed and destroyed. Then came the spectacle that we had prayed and hoped for: dedication festivals throughout the cities, and the consecration of the newly erected houses of worship. For this there were convocations of bishops, gatherings of pilgrims from far distant lands, warm and loving contact between the different communities...”

The dark days were over. No more huddling in private homes or basements. No more middle of the night knocks at the door, arrests, imprisonments, executions. And note here how the liturgy played significantly into the celebrations: “Yes, and our bishops

performed religious rites with full ceremonial, priests officiated at the liturgy, the solemn ritual of the Church, chanting psalms, proclaiming the other parts of our God-given Scriptures, and celebrating the divine mysteries.”

Here, the Church was starting over, renewing herself, and that’s what makes this a good reading for inaugurating the New Year. In 2023, can we capture the joy that those early Christians felt? Can we come out of the catacombs, into the light, and worship like we really mean it? Can we consider that many fellow Christians today are virtually in the Roman Empire even now, with their faith rendered illegal, their status exposing them to arrest, imprisonment, execution, their worship relegated to the underground? Think China, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, etc. What would it be for Christians there to experience the freedoms we enjoy here? Well, as the expression goes, died and gone to Heaven.

New Year’s resolution? At Mass, start over this year. First of all, get there every weekend. It still is mortal sin to deliberately miss weekend Mass without a good reason. But beyond that, get excited about it, like those first Christian did. Pick up a hymn book, sing loudly, make the responses boldly. Listen attentively to the readings. No mumbled “Amens” either, not at communion nor from the pew but loud and forthright.

Let Eusebius finish it: “Without the slightest distraction, men and women of all ages united in prayer and thanksgiving, their minds and hearts full of joy as they gave glory to God the giver of all good gifts.” This year, start over.

Fr. Bill