

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## 7 JANUARY 2018

**Readings for Sunday, January 7:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12.

All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

**Readings for Sunday, January 14:** 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42.

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**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.**  
**Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Chapel.**

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### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
8 Jan.	MON. 9:00 AM	Nicholas Lenhardt	Wife, Mary
10 Jan.	WED. 9:00 AM	Steven Roth	Frank Roth
11 Jan.	THU. 9:00 AM	Stephen Pinder Family	Francis J. Czeiner Family
12 Jan.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Marcella Vitacco	Jack & Lori Carr
13 Jan.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Robert & Joan Sabo	Cliff & Barb Keller
14 Jan.	SUN. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



**ETERNAL REST** grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING** of the parish especially those in homes and hospitals.

**REMEMBER OUR TROOPS:** Pray that God will bless and protect our young men and women in the military.

**SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING** on Tuesday, January 9 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.



**SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY** on Sunday, January 14 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and juice along with some light pastries. Free will offering accepted.

**CLEAN-UP PROJECT** to begin on Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 AM and if needed on Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 AM. Men and women needed to sort through items all over the church (kitchen, stage, work room, etc.) including the 8 foot tables and chairs. Due to the uncertainty of the weather, sale of items will be in the spring. Details of the sale to be released in upcoming bulletins.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 13/14:

#### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Phyllis Villano  
Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, John Nester, Shelly Stockmal  
Altar Servers - Michael Holmes  
Greeters - Marie Hildebrand and Ginger Scheidt

#### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Sylvia Marcheskie  
Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, George Siver  
Altar Server - Thomas Miller and Madelyn Miller  
Greeter - Jack and Lori Carr

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

### *The Feast of the Epiphany – 2018*

God's people were conquered and enslaved by the Babylonians and taken to Babylon which is in the vicinity of modern day Baghdad. This occurred 587 years before Christ was born. Fifty years later, the Persians, the people who lived in what is today Iran, conquered the Babylonians and they allowed the Jews to return to their homeland. In our first reading the prophet enthusiastically proclaims this return: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come..." The prophet, however, sees in this event something much more wonderful than the Jews returning from captivity. He sees Jerusalem becoming the center of spirituality and light for the entire world. People would come from all over to visit Jerusalem and to be nourished by the spiritual light and life radiating from it. The vision of the prophet begins to be fulfilled in Jesus' death and resurrection in Jerusalem. As described so beautifully in the book of Revelation, those who follow Christ's light will enter into a new and eternal Jerusalem.

On Christmas we celebrated the Son of God taking on our human nature which is a mystery called the Incarnation. Today, the heavenly bodies themselves proclaim to all the world that God is living among us in human form.

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek Language and means an appearance, a manifestation or a showing forth. The Greek Church celebrates Epiphany in a big way. It is their celebration of Christmas. The Roman Church, after celebrating Jesus' birth, tends to focus primarily on the coming of the Magi after Christ is born. The news is getting out.

In antiquity it was a general belief that the stars and planets in some significant way announced the birth of a great person. Magi is the plural form for the Greek word Magus. A magus was a Persian or Babylonian wise man and priest who was an expert in Astrology, interpretation of dreams, and who possessed various other magical or occult powers. The Scriptures do not tell us how many Magi came, but they traveled some distance, somewhere between 500 and 1,000 miles. Travel was dangerous in those days and not very comfortable. There is a delightful mini-opera (in English) named *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. The opera takes as its theme three magi (in the opera they are kings) losing their way in their search for Christ and stopping at the home of a poor mother and child to spend the night. I'm sure you found it delightful if you ever had a chance to hear or see it.

Reflecting on the theme of the Magi's long journey from Iraq or Iran to Jerusalem, I thought of how we all are on a journey, whether we are aware of it or not, as we pass through life. On this journey we encounter pleasant or unpleasant events and surprises. Sometimes it moves along happily, sometimes it gets very difficult, sometimes we meet wonderful people along the way and sometimes not, but day by day we keep moving. Whether that journey leads to Christ or not depends on us. As the Magi found the Scriptures helpful in their travels, so that same Scripture can and will guide us.

From Christmas Eve until today many have come from local areas such as Stowe, Pottstown, Coventry, Douglassville, Birdsboro, and Boyertown. We have had visitors from Portland, Annapolis, Alexandria, Boise, San Francisco, Palm Beach, Dallas, and Charleston. I'm sure there were more but they were the ones I met during that time. Some were visiting family, others were traveling, and others came from other parishes. Just like the wise men, they came from near and far to find the Christ child. I hope and pray that St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish will always be the place where you will find Jesus Christ.

Just a few days ago, we celebrated and rang in another New Year as we said goodbye to 2017 and with much fanfare welcomed 2018. One author described the beginning of a new year as a book with 365 blank pages. Each day we will fill one page with the story of our journey. I pray when all 365 pages are filled, your story will be a good one, and it will be if you keep moving in the direction of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Happy Epiphany and Happy New Year!

Fr. Hickey

*Parish Support*

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 24, 2017.....	\$7,882
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$7,797
Parish Giving -	\$85
WEEKLY SURPLUS.....	\$2,882
Year to Date Budget.....	\$130,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$109,671
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,218
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$20,329)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$782)

*DECEMBER 25, 2016*

Deposit.....	\$12,031
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$14,717)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$5,612)

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 31, 2017.....	\$11,022
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,178
Parish Giving -	\$90
Christmas Collection -	\$7,754
WEEKLY SURPLUS.....	\$6,022
Year to Date Budget.....	\$135,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$120,693
Average per week Collections.....	\$4,470
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$14,307)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$530)

*JANUARY 1, 2017*

Deposit.....	\$4,691
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$15,026)
Difference from previous year.....	\$719

**“CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL!”** For further information, please call the parish office.

**“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”**

**WARKER-TROUTMAN FUNERAL HOME**

610-326-1510

**MASS ATTENDANCE for December 23/24:**

4:00 PM Mass - 206  
 9:00 AM Mass - 146  
 Total Attendance - 352

**MASS ATTENDANCE for December 24/25:**

5:00 PM Mass - 375  
 9:00 AM Mass - 102  
 Total Attendance - 477  
 Mass Attendance for December 24/25, 2016 - 585

**MASS ATTENDANCE for December 30/31:**

4:00 PM Mass - 176  
 9:00 AM Mass - 139  
 Total Attendance - 315  
 Mass Attendance for Dec. 31, 2016/Jan. 1, 2017 - 367



**Raffle Drawing**

**PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET** based

on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Winning ticket number must be the exact number drawn for the PA Pick 3 Evening

Number. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are sold on a monthly basis. The prize for the winning ticket is \$50.00 on weekdays and \$100.00 on Sundays and one specially-designated weekday. Tickets are available after the Masses on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. **This is our major fund raiser for the parish. We encourage each family to purchase at least one ticket each month. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

**LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS**

- December 18 - #698 - Mary Ann Dailey - \$50.00
  - December 19 - #135 - unsold
  - December 20 - #182 - unsold
  - December 21 - #531 - Gerry Murgia - \$50.00
  - December 22 - #222 - Fr. Gregory J. Hickey - \$50.00
  - December 23 - #881 - unsold
  - December 24 - #180 - unsold
  - December 25 - #867 - unsold
  - December 26 - #554 - unsold
  - December 27 - #549 - Cathy Keck - \$50.00
  - December 28 - #463 - Karen Levan - \$50.00
  - December 29 - #375 - Sandy Smith - \$50.00
  - December 30 - #790 - unsold
  - December 31 - #107 - Fred Kemmerle - \$100.00
- DECEMBER FIGURES: 337 tickets sold - \$1,685.00.  
 Payout to winners - \$750.00. Printing of tickets - \$100.00. December profit - \$835.00. Thank you for your support of the December Lottery Ticket sales.

**WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE**

**DRAWING to support Religious Education:**

DECEMBER DRAWING - M/M Gary Huster - \$314.00.

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH**

**MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:**

ANGELINE TESTA from Mary F. Rebeck, Ronald DiGiosia, Phil & John Bracaglia, Tony & Olivia Testa.

**2018 MASS BOOK** - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day during 2018 can be made at the parish office during regular business hours. The Mass stipend of \$10.00 must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.

**THE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP** leads the recitation of the Rosary every Sunday before the 9:00 AM Mass. They also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses. All are welcome to join in these special Marian devotions.

**REDNER'S REGISTER TAPES** - Thank you to everyone for collecting the Redner's register tapes for our parish. Money we receive from this rebate program are put towards our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP). Just a reminder that the Redner's tapes only count when you use a Save-A-Tape card and that information prints out at the bottom of your receipt. If you do not use a card, we cannot use the tapes. You can obtain a Save-A-Tape card at any Redner's Customer Service Desk. A container for the register tapes is in the vestibule of church. You can also drop off your tapes at the parish office.

**MOO MONEY FUND RAISING PROGRAM** - Our parish is a participant in the Moo Money Fund Raising Program offered by Turkey Hill. For every 500 milk lids turned in with the Moo Money label, the parish will receive \$25 from Turkey Hill. Money the parish receives from Moo Money will be used to offset our PREP expenses. A container for the Moo Money lids is in the vestibule of church. You can also drop off your Moo Money lids at the parish office. Thank you for supporting this fund raiser.

**OFFERTORY GIFT BEARERS** - All parishioners are encouraged to be Offertory Gift Bearers for the Masses on Saturdays, Sundays and Holydays. Please call Kathy at the parish office to volunteer.

**HAND-MADE BABY BLANKETS** are available for purchase. The blankets make a very nice gift for a new baby or as an additional something when giving a gift card. The blankets cost \$10.00 and are available at the parish office. Sponsored by the Women's Society.

**HALUSKY SALE**

**Saturday, January 20**

**Pick-up after 4:00 PM Mass in Social Hall**

**PRE-ORDERS ONLY**

**Payment due at time of pick-up**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Halusky (quart) - \$8.00**

**Deadline for orders is Sunday, January 14. Please place orders in collection basket or call Kathy at the parish office (610-326-5127).**

**Sponsored by the Women's Society.**

**AUDITIONS** will be held for the Archdiocesan Girl and Boy Choir on January 13 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All auditions are by appointment only. Please contact [archdioceseangirlandboychoir@gmail.com](mailto:archdioceseangirlandboychoir@gmail.com) to schedule your appointment.

**ARCHDIOCESAN ADULT CHOIR** - This group of Archdiocesan Liturgical Musicians comes together each year to sing for all major Archdiocesan Masses including Chrim Mass, Priesthood and Diaconate Ordination, and our Annual Christmas Concert. Please contact [cangelini@archphila.org](mailto:cangelini@archphila.org) for an audition time.

**WOMEN'S HEART ATTACK & DISEASE SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP** - Monthly meeting at St. Ignatius School - Room "C", West Lawn. Starting January 11 at 7:00 PM and every second Thursday thereafter. For more information email [HeartSisters111@gmail.com](mailto:HeartSisters111@gmail.com) or call Chrissy (484-955-4372) or Bev (610-781-5557).

**GRIEF TO GRACE - HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABUSE** - Our upcoming Philadelphia area program retreat will be held February 18-23. This is a fully integrated spiritual and psychological program for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual, or spiritual abuse. For more information for yourself or a loved one, contact Jeanne (610-203-2002 or [info@griefftoGrace.org](mailto:info@griefftoGrace.org)). You can also visit the website [www.griefftoGrace.org](http://www.griefftoGrace.org).