

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6 JANUARY 2019

Readings for Sunday, January 6: 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 13: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22.

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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
7 Jan. MON. 9:00 AM	Sr. Bernadette Anne	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
9 Jan. WED. 9:00 AM	Nicholas Lenhardt	Wife, Mary
10 Jan. THU. 9:00 AM	Patricia Demko	Jeanette & Bill Gatta
11 Jan. FRI. 9:00 AM	Ann Jane Dobry	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
12 Jan. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
13 Jan. SUN. 9:00 AM	Fritz Messer	Jeanette, Bill & Jeanille



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 8 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.

HOAGIE VOUCHERS will go on sale in January after all Masses. 8" hoagie vouchers from Valentino's in Stowe will be \$7.00. When you redeem your voucher at Valentino's, you will have your choice of Italian, Ham and Cheese or Turkey Hoagie. Vouchers will not expire until March 31, 2019 so you can begin using them in January and come back for more until the end of January then use them until March 31.

BAGS AND BAUBLES - Ladies, do you have a purse that you are not in love with any more or jewelry you are just plain tired of? Before sending it all to the thrift store, save them for the Women's Society. We will be hosting a "Bags and Baubles" event during our Pizza and Game night. Drop off details will be announced at a later date but start sorting NOW!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 12/13:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - John Nester

Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, John Bracaglia, Shelly Stockmal

Altar Server - Michael Holmes

Greeters - Marie Hildebrand and Maria DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Tony Vitacco

Extraordinary Ministers - Cindy Nore, Rita Templin, Cristin Buccaglia

Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller

Greeters - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

The Feast of the Epiphany - 2019

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 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 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 North Carolina, Houston, Texas, Seattle, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Cleveland, Holland, Charlottesville and South Philadelphia. At Christmas, families tend to gravitate from all over to be with one another. 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 Church will always be the place where you will find Jesus Christ.

Just a few days ago, we started a new year and 2019 is almost a week old. 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 23, 2018.....	\$3,908
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,828
Parish Giving -	\$80
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,092)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$130,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$104,366
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,014
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$25,634)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$986)

DECEMBER 24, 2017

Deposit.....	\$7,882
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.....	(\$20,329)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$5,305)

Due to an early print schedule, figures from the December 30 collection will be printed in the January 13 bulletin.



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 17 - #534 - unsold
- December 18 - #919 - unsold
- December 19 - #318 - unsold
- December 20 - #804 - Ronnie Yost - \$50.00
- December 21 - #000 - Rev. Gregory J. Hickey - \$50.00
- December 22 - #489 - unsold
- December 23 - #887 - unsold

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 22/23:

4:00 PM Mass - 197
 9:00 AM Mass - 162
 Total Attendance - 359
 Mass Attendance for December 23/24, 2017 - 352

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 24/25:

4:00 PM Mass - 341
 9:00 AM Mass - 134
 Total Attendance - 475
 Mass Attendance for December 24/25, 2017 - 477

WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE

DRAWING to support Religious Education:
 DECEMBER DRAWING - Sharon McCarthy - \$325.00.

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK:

ON THE THIRD DAY
THE MASTER'S MERCANTILE
 610-705-0130

UPCOMING WOMEN'S SOCIETY EVENTS

- January - Hoagie Sale and "Souper" Bowl Sale
 - February 23/24 - Meatball and Sauce Sale
 - March 15 - Pizza and Movie Night
 - April 12 - Pizza and Game Night PLUS "Bags and Baubles"
 - April 28 - Ladies Springtime Tea
- Mark your calendars! More details on all events will be published at a later date.

"CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL." For further information, please call the parish office.



SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY on Sunday, January 13 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and juice and some light pastries. Free will offering accepted.

“Souper” Bowl Sale

1 Qt. Italian Wedding Soup - \$8.00

Amount _____ Total _____

1 Qt. Pulled Chicken BBQ - \$10.00

Amount _____ Total _____

1 Qt. Halusky and 1 lb. Kielbasa - \$8.00

Amount _____ Total _____

Name _____

Phone _____

For pick up after Masses on February 2 and February 3.

Order by January 27.

ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE CENTER EVENTS

January 8 - from 7:00 to 8:00 PM - American Saints:
Blessed Stanley Francis Rother

True Reformers of the Catholic Reformation from 7:00
PM to 8:00 PM

January 15 - St. Ignatius of Loyola

January 22 - St. Thomas More

January 29 - St. Philip Neri

For more details call 215-679-2237 or visit the website
www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com.

HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION AND PETITION

on Sunday, January 13 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia. Confessions will be available beginning at 5:30 PM. Each Holy Hour is followed by 6:30 PM Mass. All Catholics of the greater Philadelphia area are invited to spend time each month before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to ask for His mercy upon His Church in this moment of profound crisis.

We come to make reparation for our own sins and those of our bishops and priests. We come also in confident hope that from Christ’s super-abounding mercy will come the purification, healing and restoration of holiness for which we long. For more information visit www.archphila.org/vigil.

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.

2019 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day during 2019 can be made at the parish office. Mass stipend of \$10.00 for weekday Masses and \$15.00 for weekend Masses must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS on Sunday, January 6 at St. Eleanor Parish, Collegeville at 6:00 PM. The Holy Hour will be followed by Mass at 7:00 PM. Let us unite before the Blessed Sacrament and pray for fortitude, discernment, and attention to God’s call for those men in seminary and those discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Please join us as we pray together for an increase in vocations. Parishes throughout the Archdiocese are praying collectively as a community of faith on this day. “The love of God and neighbor, the greatest commandment, is expressed in, and the fruit of, Eucharistic worship.” –Pope St. John Paul II

METANOIA is an active community of Catholic young adults in Montgomery County who support Catholics in their 20s and 30s who are looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics in the area. Ministry includes: Theology on Tap, Faith based meetings, community service, retreats, and outdoor events. Upcoming events: Tuesday, January 8 - Bible Study at St. Rose of Lima Parish, North Wales at 7:30 PM; Tuesday, January 15 - Theology on Tap at Appalachian Brewing Co., Collegeville. Doors open at 7:00 PM and Talk starts at 7:30 PM; Tuesday, January 22 - Holy Hour at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish, North Wales at 7:30 PM; Saturday, January 26 - Service Project at Cradles to Crayons, Conshohocken. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Contact metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com for more information or visit Facebook Page www.facebook.com/users/matainoiyoungadults or website www.metanoiayoungadults.org.