



The Parish Community of

# St. John the Evangelist

January 3, 2021

Epiphany of the Lord

## Weekend Masses

Saturday: 4:30pm

Sunday: 9:00am

Sunday: 11:30am

*Reservations Needed*

## Weekday Masses

Mon. - Fri. : 7:30am

*All Masses in  
St. John's Chapel*

## Miraculous Medal

Suspended until  
further notice

## Reconciliation

3:45pm-4:15pm

In Church

## Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

*St. Joseph Marelllo*

Holy Day Mass:

7:30am

*St. John the Evangelist*

11:30am

*St. Joseph Marelllo*

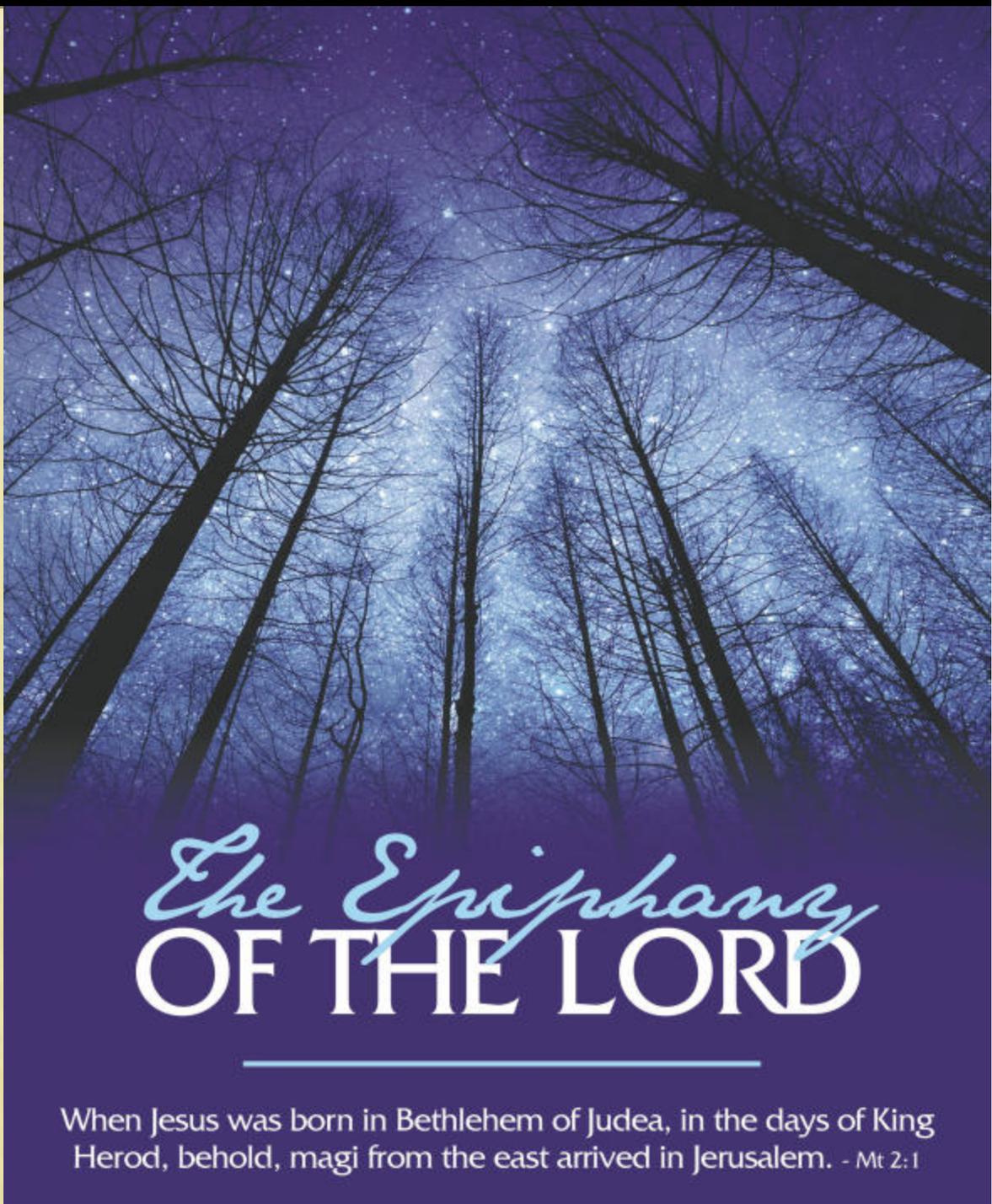
7:00pm

*St. John the Evangelist*

## Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00am -4:00pm



## The Epiphany OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem. - Mt 2:1

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

35 William St, Pittston PA 18640 Phone: 570.654.0053 Fax: 570.654.3751 Web: [stjohnspittston.com](http://stjohnspittston.com)

## MASS RESERVATIONS UPDATES

*There will not be a need to make reservations for Masses effective immediately! Seating will now be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors for Masses will open a half-hour prior to the start.*

*We will still be taking names at the doors and you will still be led to your seat by an usher, however you WILL NOT need to call for reservations at this time. Please note that these policies are subject to change, so keep an eye on our bulletin and/or parish websites and social media accounts for updates. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!*

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Our parish will earn 40% of sales!

*Kitchen gadgets, seasonings, soup and sauce mixes, easy-to-make comfort food, party dips, no-bake cheesecakes, cheeseballs, marinades, cookbooks, and baking pans!*

### **A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Loving God and Father, we pray that the light of Your Son, newly present with us in His birth, remains in our lives and warms our hearts as we reach the excitement of a new year. May His presence within us continue to grant us peace, humble hearts, and the faith to carry out Your will without fear and hesitation, but only with the love of God to guide us through each day. May we never lose the hope that Your holy arms will enfold us and Your loving hands will guide us from all evil, illness, disease, virus, and pain.

We pray for peace and calm to soothe the hearts of all who sorrow as we enter this new year. We pray for those who are sick, especially those suffering from COVID-19. We pray that they may be healed and granted health under your care. Remember those who have died from this virus, and may they find their reward in Your eternity. Remember, also, all who we have lost in 2020. May they rest peacefully in the mansions of Your dwelling place, as they continue to live in us and pray for us as we carry on in Your earthly kingdom.

May the coming days, weeks, and months, bring us closer to You and closer to each other through our shared faith. May our beliefs and our desires align with Your will, knowing that You are God and that our strength comes in the Newborn King, who is come to rid the world of all darkness. We ask this and all things through Christ. Amen!

*Written by Brandon Jopling*

### **A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

Fr. Jackson, myself and our entire parish staff wish all of you a very Blessed and Happy New Year! There is a custom among some for a HOUSE BLESSING on or around the Feast of the Epiphany. Anyone in the home can pray this blessing prayer and mark the front door of the house with the letters and symbols shown below. I encourage you to do this. It will remind all who enter and leave your home that the blessing of God resides within and among those who live there! Simply find a piece of chalk and write the blessing above the door. Pray the prayer as a family gathered at the door. May this new year bring many blessings to you and your family!

#### ***Blessing Prayer***

*Lord God of Heaven and Earth, You revealed Your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live here and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of Your law. Fill us with the Light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen!*

+ 20 C M B 20 +



# From the Pastor



## Dear Parishioners,

The Feast of the Epiphany has many meanings and much symbolism behind it. The visit of the wise men, "magi", astrologers, whatever they may have been and their unusual gifts for a baby, captivate our celebration of Christmas. We are intrigued by the efforts these visitors went to find the child, whose birth seemed to have been signaled by the appearance of a star, and believing that that star would lead them to the place where the child, the newborn king of the Jews was. Normally, the birth of a child does not instill a sense of "trouble" or fear in the hearts of kings. But when the visitors asked King Herod where this child might be; he was certainly frightened! A rival king would certainly trouble any sitting king, but a baby? How much of a problem could a baby be? Enough it turns out, to want to find out the exact location of this child-king as well, but certainly not for adoration or homage. These foreign visitors have long represented the whole of humanity. They went to reasonably great lengths to find this child. It is clear that they found in him something beyond this world. We seek God every day of our lives and would like nothing better than to find him in all we do and in all we are. We don't have to go on such an elaborate or lengthy journey to find him. God has come to us! He has visited us, and decided to stay! He has always been with us, and always will be. God, our creator never leaves us but calls us to a deeper relationship with him every day. The Christmas season has so much to offer us. And in reality, we already possess what it gives us. We need only to recognize Christ in one another and in ourselves and live in that manner of life that reflects God's eternal and unconditional love, and our appreciation of it. Our daily lives, our daily prayer, reflects the presence of God in Jesus Christ to all we meet. Certainly, that is part of the beauty and miracle of Christmas. The challenge is to keep that alive in our hearts and minds and communicate it by how we live. The world has already begun to put Christmas behind them. but we can't do that. We must keep it before us every day. In that, we remind ourselves and give thanks always for the many realities and gifts from God we celebrate so vividly at this time of year. Let is not just be a "time of year", but indeed be a way of life!

*Fr. Elston*

## E MAIL ADDRESSES

Soon you will receive a letter in the mail requesting your e mail address. If you DON'T receive a letter, that means we ALREADY HAVE your e mail address and you may have been getting some communication lately through that address. This is a quick, free, and easy way for us to inform you of upcoming events, schedules, changes in schedules and a great many things that can be communicated to you quickly and safely. When (and if) you get this letter, please return it as soon as possible with your e mail address on it. You can mail it, drop it off or put it in the collection basket. We will **NOT SHARE THESE EMAIL ADDRESSES WITH ANYONE!** Many parishes use this as a great way to keep in touch. If you DON'T HAVE an email address simply write that on your letter and return it . We will think of a different way to offer communication with those of you who might not have e mail. Thank You!

## REMEMBER

The dispensation from attending Mass is still in effect and will be for some time. This dispensation means there is no obligation to attend Mass each week. For the duration of the pandemic, Bishop Bambera has said that safety of parishioners is of the utmost importance during this time. If you feel uncomfortable in any way, please do not feel it is necessary to come to Mass. It is still completely acceptable to participate in Mass virtually, either through the Masses we provide online through YouTube and our media pages, or through televised Masses on EWTN or CTV. If you are uncomfortable attending confession, the prayer of Perfect Contrition will be more than adequate during this time. For reference the rite is reprinted below. **With the increasing difficulty for individuals to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation due to the current health crisis, the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded that by having perfect contrition one can receive the forgiveness of sins, apart from going to confession.**

Perfect contrition requires the following three things:

-A love of God above all else -A sincere desire for the forgiveness from sin-The resolution to go to confession as soon as possible when this health crisis subsides

## *Welcome to St. John the Evangelist!*

We are glad that you chose to join us here this weekend for the celebration of the Eucharist!

Whether you are currently a parishioner or are interested in becoming one, we love having you here! Choosing your church can be as vital to your family as it is selecting the town in which you live. Registration is the first step toward active participation in a parish. To register, you can call us at the parish office

(570) 654-0053 or complete the form below and drop it in the collection basket so we can contact you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Pastoral Team

*Pastor*

**Rev. Joseph Elston**

*Assistant Pastor*

**Rev. Jackson Pinhero**

*Pastor Emeritus*

**Msgr. John J. Bendik**

*Deacon*

**Deacon David Marx  
Deacon James Cortegerone**

*Director of Religious Formation*

**JoAnne McHale**

*joannemchale@stjohnspittston.com*

*Director of Music Ministry*

**Dr. Charles Stevens**

*Associate Director of Music/  
Youth and Young Adult Ministry*

**Michael Sowa**

*Office Staff*

**Marian Fearick  
Cathy Rusnok  
Theresa Schubel**

*Sacristan*

**Joseph Jones  
Michael Gorski**

*Grounds and Maintenance*

**Bob Ayre  
Rick Rinish  
Jason Roche  
Don Werkheiser**

*Rectory & Household Staff*

**Jane Roche  
Midge Butsavage**

### Mission Statement

We are a Eucharistic Community, a people diverse in background united together as Catholic Christians around the altar of the Lord. We are nurtured by the Sacraments and sustained by prayer. Our mission is to fulfill our Baptismal promises by proclaiming the message of the Gospel in our lives by our commitment to faithfully love and serve the Lord and one another.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

	Time	Intention	Requested By
<b>Monday</b> 1/4	7:30 AM	Elizabeth Evitts	Donna Vitale
<b>Tuesday</b> 1/5	7:30 AM	Joseph "Jody" Newcomb	Parish Community
<b>Wednesday</b> 1/6	7:30 AM	Bonnie Battista Morreale	Marriggi and DePhillips Family
<b>Thursday</b> 1/7	7:30 AM	Lani Jo Allega	Charlotte Para
<b>Friday</b> 1/8	7:30 AM	John Gavigan	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Randall
<b>Saturday</b> 1/9	4:30 PM	Frances and George Stiliha	Daughter Ann Marie
<b>Sunday</b> 1/10	9:00 AM	Mary McCawley	Jack, Donald McCawley and Mary Lou Kowalczyk
	11:30 AM	Genevieve Barosky	Family

### Memorial Honor Candles

#### MONTH OF JANUARY

**In memory of Mary O'Malley Reedy:**  
by Reedy Family

#### Chapel

**In memory of Billy Burns:** by Family

### May They Rest in Peace

*Eternal Rest Grant unto  
Them, O Lord*

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends of the parish who have recently died.

**Stewardship: Your Gift of Time, Talent & Treasure**

Sunday Collection for the  
Weekend Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>  
\$ 6,150.00

#### Early Printing

**Offertory:** \$ 4,889.00  
**Children:** \$ 11.00  
**Loose:** \$ 22.00  
**Dues:** \$ 1,228.00

#### Total Envelopes Used:(260)

Thank you once again for your generosity in these very difficult times. Our prayers are with you all!

**ONLINE** *giving*

**Online Giving** is now available for all of our parish collections, including dues, Sunday Offertory, special collections, and Holy Days. The ability to make memorial donations, contributions for holiday flowers, and capital campaign is also available. With Christmas approaching, the option to donate online to this collection will be made in the very near future. Thank you so much for all your support and generosity as we navigate these challenges together!

## *We pray...*

### *For an end to Coronavirus ~*

Come Holy Spirit destroy the power of Coronavirus with Your Divine Fire. Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on us and cover us and our families with your Most precious Blood. Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ, protect us Your children, under Your mantle of mercy and intercede to your beloved Son Jesus Christ for US. 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 host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits and disease wandering throughout the world. Amen.

### *For essential workers ~*

Pray for First Responders, Essential Workers, Healthcare Workers, and Nurses.

### *For pastoral ministers ~*

We ask you to pray for your priests, deacons, and religious. We pray also for our Seminarians: William Asinari, Michael Boris, Thomas Dzwonczy, Andrew McCarroll, Jan Carlo Perez, Mark Phillips, David Pirolli also Rev. Mr. Mark DeCelles. We also pray for Newly Professed Sister Elizabeth De Merchant, IHM, Novices Sister Giovana Fuentes IHM, Sister Elizabeth McGill.

## From the Parish Office

### **SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS**

Mass intentions are currently being accepted for February, March and April, 2021. Mass intentions are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. In order to ensure that Masses are available to all parishioners, a Mass intention for a particular person/family can only be scheduled twice per year. Also, Mass Intentions may be changed based on the availability of a priest or if there are any unforeseen changes in the daily Mass.

### **LECTOR WORKBOOKS AVAILABLE**

Lector workbooks for 2020-21 are now available. Lectors are asked to stop in the Parish Office (between 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) and pick up their workbook. Thank you again for your willingness to serve around the Table of the Lord in this important ministry.

### **INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

If you would like a financial statement please call the Parish Office at 570-654-0053. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the parish and its many ministries. You can "catch up" on your 2020 offerings until the weekend of January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

## Parish News and Updates

### **THANK YOU**

Your ongoing generosity has been so very much appreciated and has sustained the parish through these difficult months. Your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated! Christmas is one of those times when we depend on the kindness and financial gifts you provide to your parish. It is certainly not too late to make a Christmas gift to the parish. We are still very much in the Christmas season! Also, your gifts to us, Fr. Jackson and myself are also very much appreciated! Cards, and "goodies" are always welcome and in season! You are a generous parish and we are very grateful to be here sharing God's love with one another all year long! Pray for us during these trying times as we pray for you every day! Thank you!

### **HOLY NAME SOCIETY LOTTERY TICKETS**

Tickets are now available at the Parish Center for February 2021, Monday through Friday 10:00 a. m.-3:00 p. m. lottery tickets are \$10 each. Proceeds benefit the Holy Name Society projects and our Parish. Returns must be in before January 29, 2021 in order to register all tickets. Thank you for your support.

### **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE PLEDGED**

With grateful hearts, we thank the **families** from our parish who have already made a gift or pledge to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. As of Friday, December 18 a total of \$34,002.78 has been pledged from our parish community. Thank you for your generosity! Our goal is \$56,000.00. The next report will be January, 2021.

### **NOTICE REGARDING REPORTING OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee, or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313, or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). It is also the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (570) 862-7551 or any Diocesan official.

# Care and Concern Ministries

Important Updates for our Ministries

## FOOD PANTRY—NOW OPEN!

Free food is given, **by appointment**, to qualifying households in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts (excluding citizens of Avoca and Duryea, as they have their own Community Food Pantries). Households may receive food once per month from September through May.

**Pre-qualification** is done by phone at **570-654-9923**. Proof of address (recent utility bill) is required at your first appointment **each year**. Food Pantry appointments are made for the **First and Second Wednesdays** of each month. This ministry is closed from June through August.

## KID'S CLOSET—NOW OPEN

The Kid's Closet offers new and gently used clothing for free to children (sizes newborn through 16) to families in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts.

**Photo ID** is required to participate in this ministry. Families are able to visit the Kid's Closet every **6 weeks**.

This ministry is open the **First and Second Wednesdays** of each month from **9am to 11:30am** with **no evening hours**.

## TOY AND BOOK CORNER—NOW OPEN

The "Corner" offers new and gently used toys and books for free to children and families in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts. **Photo ID** is required to participate in this ministry. Families are able to visit the Toy and Book Corner every **6 weeks**.

This ministry is open the **First and Second Wednesdays** of each month from **9am to 11:30am** with **no evening hours**.

## PEDIATRIC HEALTH CLINIC

The Pediatric Clinic offers basic health care for children ages newborn through 11. Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Call **570-855-6035** for more information.

**Information about the Free Health Clinic is forthcoming.**

## Memorial Donations

We are most grateful for the following donations made to the many ministries of the Church and deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness.

### CLINIC

2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church, Pittston, Mission Committee; Church of St. Maria Goretti; (**In memory of Anthony, Sam and Brittany Berto**) by Mike and Jackie Scalzo; (**In memory of Jody Newcomb**) by Barbara and Salvatore Sciandra; (**In memory of Nancy Dessoye**) by Joe and Deborah Walsh, Ralph and Connie Toole.

### KID'S CLOSET

(**In memory of Eileen Hines**) Thomas and Theresa Hines.

### FOOD PANTRY

Helene Gerskey, Lilian Bryk; (**In memory of Robert and Kundrat**) by Paul and Sheila Kern, (**In memory of Mary Doran**) by Karen Nocera, (**In memory of Robert and Rosemary Kundrat**) by JoAnn McHale.

### CARE AND CONCERN MINISTRIES

Al and Aileen Melone; (**In memory of Nancy Dessoye**) by Richard and Richelle Reed; (**In memory of Fr. John Kulavich**) by Rich and Cathy Rusnok.

### WHAT IS ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS?

The Orthodox Church is divided into two groups when it comes to determining the dates on which to celebrate certain feast days. One group (e.g. Bulgarian and Cypriot Orthodox churches) generally uses the Gregorian calendar, which is the same calendar used by the Roman Catholic Church and most other churches in the West. But this group also uses the old Julian calendar (which is about 13 days behind the newer Gregorian calendar) for movable feasts such as Easter. The other Orthodox group (e.g. the Coptic Church, Russian, and Serbian Orthodox, and most Orthodox churches in the Middle East) only uses the Julian calendar. This Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> is Orthodox Christmas for churches that use the old Julian calendar. The appearance of the evening star yesterday (Orthodox Christmas Eve) ended their daylong fast before Christmas. The Serbian Orthodox celebrate Christmas by burning a yule log. While the log is burning, participants sing a song hoping that blessings in the new year rise up to heaven like the sparks of the log. The Orthodox Church separated from the Catholic Church in 1054 A.D. *Copyright Little Books, published by the Diocese of Saginaw, 2008.*

## Epiphany of Our Lord

### JANUARY 10, 2021

First Reading:

Isaiah (55:1-11)

Isaiah (42:1-4, 6-7)

Second Reading:

1John (5:1-9)

Acts of the Apostles (10:34-38)

Gospel:

Mark (1:7-11)



## A PRAYER FOR OUR TIME

*Written by Brandon Jopling*

Loving God and Father, in our need, You never fail to answer our call. When pain fills our heart we lay our burdens in Your care - knowing that Your light and love will fill us with peace and calm.

In these times, we find ourselves in the midst of chaos and stress, unsettled by the doubts of a nation in unrest: Heal the wounds that grow with injustice. Mend the bridges that keep us apart. Send to us Your Holy Spirit that we may be granted humility, wisdom, and grace. Change our hearts so as to reflect Your love toward all people, regardless of race, color, and creed. Allow us not to live in fear but live in Your service, secure in the knowledge that by striving to love and respect our neighbor, we will know Your favor.

Reach out Your hands that we may know safety and health in the face of virus and disease. Bring an end to this pandemic and the pain of those who have suffered; especially those we have lost because of COVID-19. Prepare a place in Your kingdom for those who died alone in body and mind, yet joined in spirit to their Creator. May God in His love and grace, hold close to Him all who give of themselves to care for those in need - to doctors, physicians, nurses, caregivers, first responders and all who deny themselves in order to bear Your cross and live in service. Inspire us to do all that we can to be the instruments of change, as told to us by the Word of Christ. May we find the courage to dissolve our differences and unite our hearts in the hope that this too shall pass, and will do so once we become one body in One Christ.

Lord, may not our will be done but Yours as we ask this and all things through Christ, our Lord.

**Amen**

**Wishing all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!**



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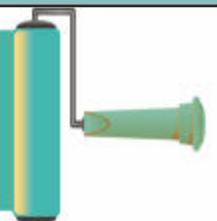
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