



The Parish Community of

St. John the Evangelist

January 2, 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.

DAILY MASSES

Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.
(Lower Level Chapel)

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Mondays immediately
after the 7:30 a.m. Mass

RECONCILIATION

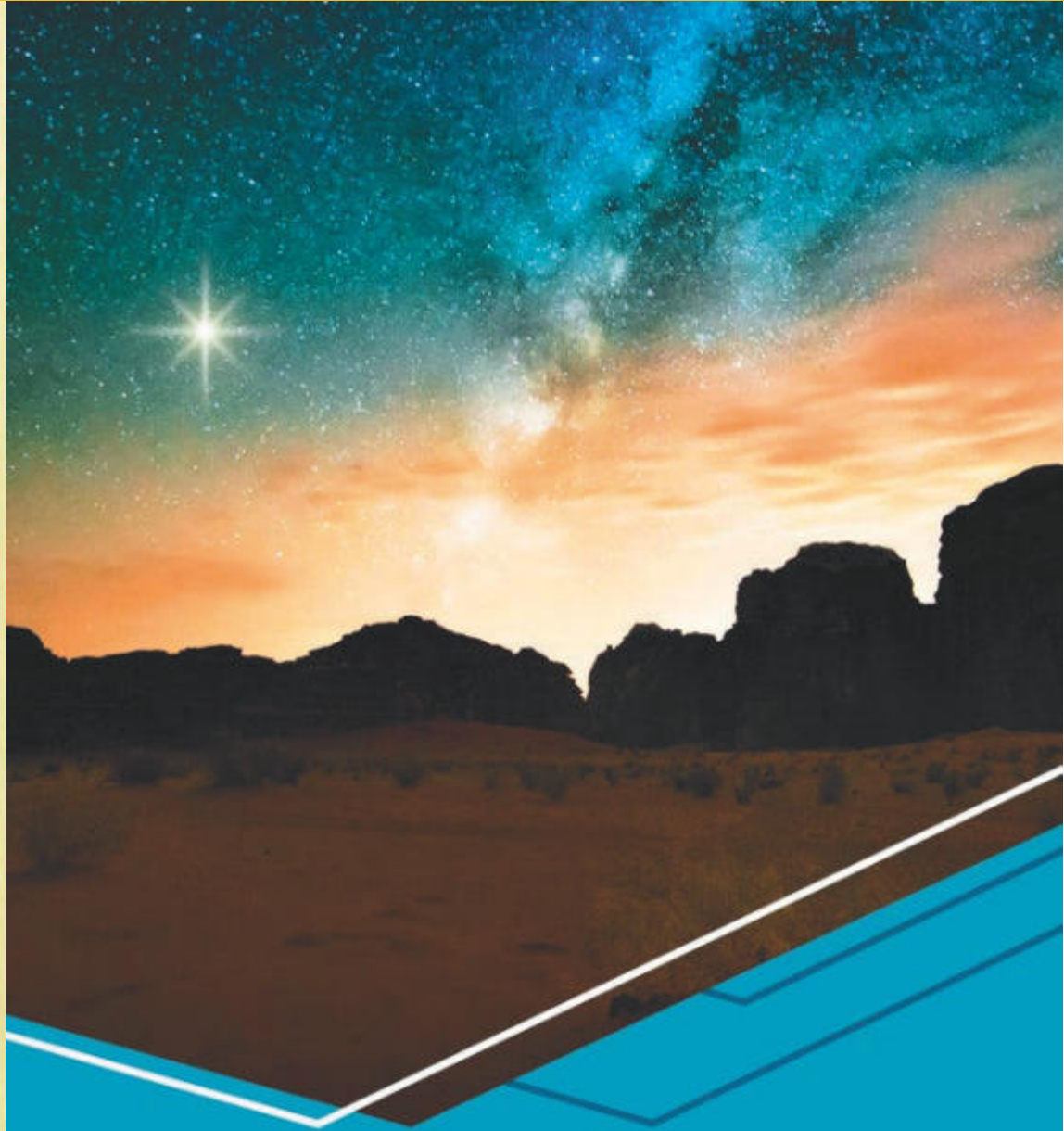
Saturdays
3:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

HOLY DAYS

As indicated in bulletin

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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

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35 William Street, Pittston PA 18640

Phone: 570.654.0053

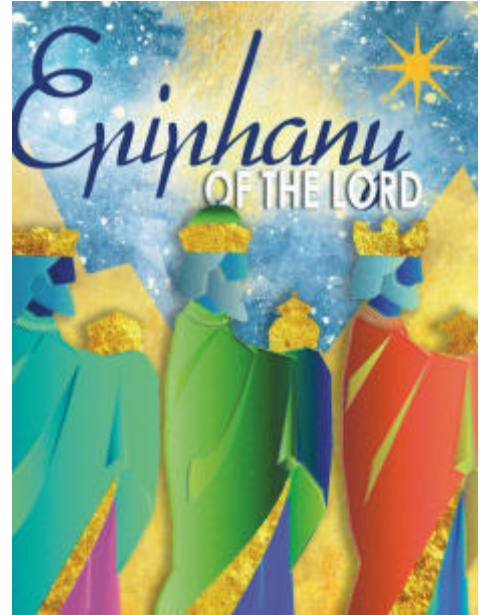
Fax: 570.654.3751

Web: stjohnspittston.com

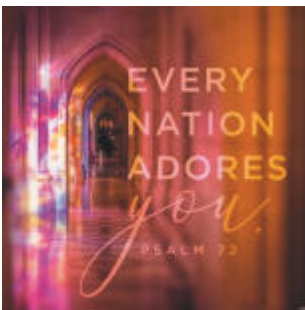
FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Even though the magi may be historically controversial, there is no doubt that they are indeed very popular, and their visit to the child is surrounded by majesty and awe. It wasn't until the eighth century that names were given to them, as is believed by the Bishop and English historian Bede. He numbered and named them as three: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar. Since then, they have been the object of artwork, history, veneration, and folklore. These visitors to the child proclaim that the "whole world" entered into the homage of this long-awaited newborn King. These learned men soon learned that their quest, which involved following a star and seeking the one who bears truth and light, could and would lead them into an eventual political minefield. Nervous at any threat to his power, Herod summons his "yes" men to find out where this "King" was to be born. Bringing the magi to him, he suggests that they return after they have found the child to inform him of the child's location so he too can pay him homage. Thankfully, the magi listened to their dream, and found another way to return to their country. Homage and veneration were not what Herod had in mind. This amazing event fills us with a particular sense of the Christmas story. It is a beautiful, heartwarming story that has been embraced by many cultures. Depictions of the magi often adorn homes throughout the year, not only during the Christmas season. Their initials are used when blessing a home by imprinting with chalk above the main door: **20+C+M+B+22**. The most important gift we can offer Christ is the gift of our love and our readiness to accept what this new year brings. We have many blessings, and we experience trials and difficulties as well. Life in Christ means accepting both and living in the midst of the gift of God's son every day, all year long. Can we promise God to bring a welcoming attitude into our lives this new year? Can we avoid the sin of hatred and anger towards others? We see such an increase of this in our world. It is not to be part of who we are. It is contrary to the message of peace and joy we are still in the midst of celebrating this Christmas season. Starting off this new year with the blessing of these holy men who risked everything to make this difficult journey because they *just had to see the newborn Christ* begs each of us to truly see Him every day in the people we encounter. This magnificent event invites us to imitate the love of God we celebrate at the dawn of this new year with all we do. A Happy and Blessed New Year to all! May God's fullest blessings fill your homes and lives with joy and peace this year and always.



HOME BLESSING KIT



At the doors of the Church, you will find a piece of blessed chalk and a blessing and instruction to bless your home this Epiphany. Gather your family at the main door of your Church, pray the prayer of blessing, and inscribe the formula of blessing on the lintel of your front door. Let us pray that God's fullest blessing fills our homes this new year and always. Please take a kit home with you.

20 + C + M + B + 22

LECTIO DIVINA

Suggested verse: *"They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh"*. Pray about and reflect upon what gifts *you* bring to Christ this Christmas and every day in gratitude for the many gifts you have and continue to receive.

*Thank
You.*

**Thank you for all your Christmas cards, gifts, and “goodies”!
They are all very much appreciated!**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Regular parish office hours of 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday resume tomorrow, **Monday, January 3.**

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Congratulations to **Katie Kugler and John Ignatovich**, who were married in our church on Saturday, December 18, 2021. We ask God’s blessings upon them!



DAILY MASS



On winter weather days when the Pittston Area School District is closed, delayed, or having a virtual instruction day, our 7:30 a.m. Mass will be cancelled. The 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Marelo will still take place. Also, please note that on days when we have inclement weather, our parish offices may be closed.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

The Care & Concern Ministries are accepting donations of new or gently used adult winter coats. Also needed are hats, gloves, and scarves. No suits, sport coats, clothing, or shoes will be accepted. Coats will be made available to low-income households in the Pittston/Wyoming Area School Districts. Donations may be dropped off at St. John’s Parish Office 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon-Fri.



HOLY NAME SOCIETY LOTTERY TICKETS

Tickets are now available at the Parish Office for February 2022, every 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 28, 2022 in order to register all tickets. Thank you for your support.

CONCERT SERIES

Exciting news from St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph Marelo Parishes! We are in the process of planning a concert series that we hope to begin this spring. Both of our churches will host concerts by our own parish musicians, as well as other musicians from near and far, including collegiate musical ensembles, renowned liturgical composers, and world-class concert organists. A complete schedule will be available later this winter, but we just wanted to give you a heads-up about something we will all be able to look forward to in the New Year!



Lessons and Carols

On Wednesday, December 15,
a Lessons and Carols Service
for our combined parishes was hosted by
St. Joseph Marelo Parish. Pictured
from left to right are Robert O’Boyle
(instrumentalist), Father Elston,
Brandon Jopling (pianist/vocalist), Mike
Sowa (organist), and Father Jackson.



PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Elston

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Jackson Pinheiro, OSJ

Pastor Emeritus

Msgr. John J. Bendik

Deacon

Deacon David Marx

Director of Religious Formation

JoAnne McHale

joannemchale@stjohnspittston.com

Director of Music Ministry

Dr. Charles Stevens

Pastoral Associate, Organist,

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Michael Sowa

msowa@stjohnspittston.com

Office Staff

Cathy Rusnok

Theresa Schubel

Sacristans

Michael Brown

Jack Riley

Grounds & Maintenance

Bob Ayre

Rick Rinish

Jason Roche

Don Werkheiser

Rectory & Household Staff

Jane Roche

Midge Butsavage



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Jan. 3

7:30 a.m.

Monday after Epiphany

Frances Gilvickas

by Roth Family

Tuesday, Jan. 4

7:30 a.m.

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Missy Newcomb

by Mother

Wednesday, Jan. 5

7:30 a.m.

Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop

Sophie Novabilski

by Margaret Piskorik & Family

Thursday, Jan. 6

7:30 a.m.

Thursday after Epiphany

Jean Riccetti

by Mary McNulty

Friday, Jan. 7

7:30 a.m.

Friday after Epiphany

Bernard Kurtinitis

by Donna Vitale

Saturday, Jan. 8

4:30 p.m.

The Baptism of the Lord (Vigil)

Mary O'Malley Reedy

by Family

Sunday, Jan. 9

9:00 a.m.

The Baptism of the Lord

Frances and George Stiliha

by Daughter Ann Marie

11:30 a.m.

Kathleen A. Loftus

by Parish Community

**MEMORIAL HONOR CANDLES
MONTH OF JANUARY**

In memory of Mary O'Malley Reedy
By Family

In memory of Anna Koenig
*by daughters, Elizabeth, Louise, and
Grandchildren*

**ETERNAL REST GRANT
UNTO THEM, O LORD**

Please remember in your prayers
our parishioners and friends who
have recently passed.

Sister Tomasa Fernandez, IHM

STEWARDSHIP: YOUR GIFT OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

**Offertory totals will be provided
in next weekend's bulletin.**

**It is necessary for us to submit
our bulletins to the publisher
ahead of time
around the Christmas holiday.**



CARE AND CONCERN MINISTRIES

Important Updates for Our Ministries

FOOD PANTRY

Free food is given, **by appointment**, to qualifying households in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts. 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.

KIDS CLOSET

The Kids 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 Kids Closet every **six weeks**.

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

TOY AND BOOK CORNER

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 **six weeks**.

This ministry is open the **First and Second Wednesdays** of each month from **9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. 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.

CARE AND CONCERN CLINIC

Mission Committee of Second Presbyterian Church
Mary Catherine Zapko
(In memory of Michael Musto) by Frances Musto

FOOD PANTRY

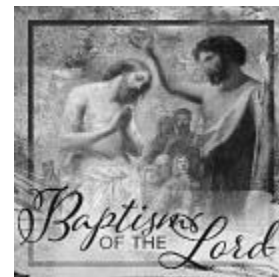
Anonymous

KIDS CLOSET

(In memory of Colleen Conlon)
by Mary Lou and Michael Fereck
(In memory of Clare Kane)
by Mary Lou and Michael Fereck
(In memory of Mary Ann McHale)
by Mary Lou and Michael Fereck
(In memory of Missy Turco)
by Mary Lou and Michael Fereck
(In memory of Carol McCarthy)
by Rich and Cathy Rusnok

HEALTH CLINIC UPDATE

We are working to re-establish our Care and Concern Ministry, especially the resumption of service of our Free Health Clinic. The process is going well, but we are very much in need of nurses. If you are an RN (active or retired) or an LPN (active or retired) and feel you can volunteer one night per week (even occasionally), *please call the office in either rectory* to let Father Elston know. So far, it seems that we will return to Wednesday nights. Thank you!



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

January 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Second Reading	Acts 10:34-38
Gospel	Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



Wishing you
a *blessed*

New Year

Saint John the Evangelist Parish
Take-Out

Pasta Dinner



Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Pickup from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center

Donation: \$15.00 per dinner

**Menu includes Pasta with Homemade Meatballs,
Salad, Bread, and Dessert.**

Please call Jane Roche at 570-905-0325 by Monday, January 17 to place your order.



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