
HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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RISING



“We saw his star at its
rising and have come to
do him homage.”

MATTHEW 2:2

Mass Intentions

January 3, 2021 Epiphany of the Lord

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>INTENTION</u>
Monday, January 4	8:30 AM	St. Adalbert	John A. Farrell, by A Friend
Tuesday, January 5	8:30 AM	St. Martha	For the People
Wednesday, January 6	8:30 AM	St. Adalbert	Leonard Paczkowski Sr., by Stanley Lazarski & Family
Thursday, January 7	8:30 AM	St. Adalbert	NO MASS
Friday, January 8	8:30 AM	St. Adalbert	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, January 9	4:15 PM	St. Mary	Seth Zimolzak, by Mom & Dad
Sunday, January 10	8:00 AM	St. Adalbert	Eleanor Larson, by The Selecky Family
	9:45 AM	St. Martha	Bertha Baluta, by Max & Eugenia Herman

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: At St. Martha every Tuesday after the 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass until 9:00 p.m. Assigned Eucharistic adorers and substitutes are needed for all hours. Please contact Rebecca at 570-256-7329 to sign up for a specific hour or to be a substitute. **HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS** on **January 18th**, 9 - 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to participate in this prayer ministry for the sanctity of priests and for an increase of holy vocations.

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP: Meetings are held the First Monday of each month unless noted. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 4th**, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Church. Please submit names of those suffering from serious illness who are homebound, in hospitals or in nursing homes to Gloria Handzelek 570-542-5694, Ann McElligott 570-864-2331 or Mary Lou Zaleski 570-736-6336. All members of Holy Spirit Parish are encouraged to pray for those whose names are on our Prayer List, to pray for Pope Francis and the healing of Holy Mother Church, and to attend our prayer meetings. The Scribe is Barbara Yacoboski 570-542-7447 and the Prayer Group Leader is Paulette Monchak 570-542-7242. Social distancing guidelines will be enforced.

CANDLES/FLOWER REMEMBRANCE

St. Adalbert Candle for Mary: Keep Safe CDR Holly Yudisky, by Nana

St. Adalbert Candle for Joseph: In Loving Memory of John Krupinski, by Wife, Norma

HOLY SPIRIT OFFERTORY—

December 20, 2020 \$ 3,706.00

Thank you to everyone who continues to send in their offertory weekly/monthly.

HAPPENINGS

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, There are 400 Lottery Calendars remaining to sell. Please consider purchasing another calendar for yourself or to give as a gift. Each calendar is \$20.00 and good for 4 months, beginning January 2021.

SMMA SCHOLARSHIP: The SMMA 2020 "Memorial Scholarship Award" is available for eligible St. Martha students. Our Scholarship Selection Committee will accept applications (available in the Sacristy) from current year eligible students until January 31, 2021. The Committee will decide the winner(s) before our February meeting. The decision of the Committee is final. The scholarship checks for \$500.00 will be awarded no later than the graduation of the student(s). If you have any questions please see any member of the Selection Committee. Thank you to everyone who supports our SMMA fundraisers. Without your help we couldn't help these deserving young people of our Parish. If you would like to donate money to increase the scholarships, please see President Jim Howanitz.

2021 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES & calendars are available in all 3 Worship Sites. If you see envelopes for someone you know can not make it to church, please be kind and deliver them for us. Please contact the parish office if there are any problems. We would like to thank The Mayo & George Strish Funeral Homes for donating the 2021 calendars.

WEEKEND MASSES: There are **Sunday** Masses available for 2021. If you would like to schedule a Mass for a loved one on the weekend, (even if you already scheduled masses for 2021) please call the Parish Office. These masses will be on a first come first serve basis. Thank you!

Every donation counts!! If you have not yet pledged, please... Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal!

(2800.00) OUR PARISH IS AT \$10,755.00 (\$17,245.00) We are grateful to the 91 parishioners who supported the 2020 Annual Appeal to date. If you have not yet given your support, please: 1) Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a pledge or give a gift by credit card. 2) Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office at 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503, or give online at DioceseofScranton.org. **Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts made to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal goal.**

WISE MEN SEE GOD IN THE SIMPLE THINGS

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest

and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHASTISEMENT AND A PUNISHMENT?

The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to

draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an

opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.



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