



St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
134 South Washington Street—Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
570-823-4168

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022

THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 60:1-6

EPHESIANS 3:2-3a, 5-6

MATTHEW 2:1-12

MIGHTY, DEATHLESS GOD,

YOU MADE KNOWN

THE MYSTERY

OF YOUR WORD MADE FLESH

(second reading)

WITH THE WITNESS

OF A BLAZING STAR,

SEEING IT,

MAGI WORSHIPPED

YOUR MAJESTY

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9-11

ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7

LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

(gospel reading)

AND OFFERED GIFTS.

(responsorial psalm)

MAY YOUR HOLINESS

SHINE FOREVER

IN OUR HEART

THAT WE MAY FIND TREASURE

IN OFFERING YOU OUR PRAISE.

(first reading)



"They departed for their country by another way." Things were different now. An encounter with the baby Jesus changed the Magi. Before finding the child, they had made a secret alliance with a worldly king, Herod. But after seeing this infant resting in the arms of Mary, their allegiance shifted. Now they became servants of the little Lord Jesus. They had a kind of conversion through their encounter with Christ, and they knew that they could no longer serve the whims of a wicked ruler.



We call this **Sunday "Epiphany"** because that's what the three wise men had: an epiphany, a moment of realizing the truth about God. In this moment these three men--kings that they were--"prostrated themselves and did homage" to the King of Kings. Then they went home by a different route, undoubtedly as different men. Now, their own authority as worldly leaders took on a new character. Now, they were men who served a power greater than themselves. As it was prophesied in the Old Testament reading from Isaiah, even kings would walk by the "shining radiance" of the Lord.



Let us ask ourselves today how the Epiphany of the Lord can redirect us. What worldly allegiances have we made that need to be changed? Are we servants of our neighbors' good opinion or of the power of money? Are we secretly aligned with popularity or prestige? No matter what

"rules" our hearts, we are invited to change our direction. We are invited to encounter the little Lord Jesus and offer ourselves to his gentle and loving guidance. After all, his is a kingship of concern for us. As today's psalm says, this King "shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him."

GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 2, 2022 — The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "**Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.**" Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



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Immaculate Conception-Plate	\$	529.00
Immaculate Conception-Loose	\$	171.00
Catholic Education	\$	52.00
Diocesan Priest Health	\$	116.00
Human Services	\$	111.00
Insurance	\$	30.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	208.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	70.00
Retired Religious	\$	414.00
Thanksgiving	\$	78.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$	16.00
Christmas	\$	627.00
TOTAL	\$	8,216.50

Mass Count
 4PM—104 10AM—80
 12:10PM—118 7PM—80
 Weekend Total—382

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Sunday Offering	\$	2,373.00
Sunday Loose	\$	358.00
12:10 Masses	\$	73.00
Parish Membership	\$	358.00
Diocesan Charity	\$	281.00
Christmas	\$	470.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	175.00
Catholic Education	\$	201.00
Diocesan Priest Health	\$	10.00
Human Services	\$	85.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	50.00
Retired Religious	\$	12.00
TOTAL	\$	4,446.00

Mass Count
 4PM—126 10AM—90
 12:10PM—110 7PM—98
 Weekend Total—424



A special Thank you to our Knights of Columbus for their Christmas Flower donation, and for the donation of new winter coats to the Human Services/Social Commission. As the families picked up their children's Christmas gifts and their Schiel's Gift Card, they were also offered winter jackets if their families needed them. Thank you again!

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address

Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington

MISSION STATEMENT

WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR*FOLD MISSION:

- TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;
- TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;
- TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;
- TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Masses For The Week

MONDAY— JANUARY 3 (CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Marie Harding*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *William and Rita Kettrick*

TUESDAY— 4 (ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Frank Castrigiano*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Rosemary Farrell*

WEDNESDAY— 5 (ST. JOHN NEUMANN)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Stephen Rosiak*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *John Burns*

THURSDAY— 6 (CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Robert J. Stavish, Sr.*
St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Norma Prenga*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Joan Cross*

FRIDAY— 7 (CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY/

ST. RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Francis J. Norkunas*
St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Willard Miller*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Lillian Yenchak*

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SATURDAY— JANUARY 8

St. Mary's 4:00PM *Vigil Mass*
St. Nicholas 5:00PM *Jeanne T. McGinley*

SUNDAY— JANUARY 9

St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Anthony & Anna Pasone*
St. Mary's 10:00AM *Mass*
St. Nicholas 10:00AM *David Krasucki*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Mass*
St. Nicholas 12:15PM *Living and Deceased*
Members of the Parish
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Mass*
St. Mary's 7:00PM *Mass*

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

At St. Nicholas Church—Mondays: 5PM—6PM.
For Confessions in Spanish,
please call Father Fidel at 570-823-7736.

REST IN PEACE

This past week our Parish Community celebrated one funeral

Ronald Johnson

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family.
Please remember him and all the faithful departed in your prayers.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

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Phone No. _____

Please check one:

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Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to
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ST. NICHOLAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUEST

Please make your requests by filling out this form below and returning it. Thank you.

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What is a Synod?



Like many of the words that we use in our Catholic tradition, Synod is an ancient Greek word that means assembling to determine the path forward. A Synod is a Process that gathers Christ's disciples so that their voices can be heard. It is the Church's belief that each and everyone's voice is that of Christ.

And when two or three of Christ's Faithful are gathered, he is present and alive in their midst.

The history of the Church also shows us that the model of Synodality was a critical tool at times of crisis and challenge. A particular 'synod' was called to address various crises in the life of the Church and history tells us that, in those moments, the presence of the Holy Spirit was alive in their midst, leading the Church forward. The model of a Synod allows the presence of Christ to be given voice at this moment in our history.

What is the 2021-2023 Synod about?

On March 7, 2020, Pope Francis announced that a Synod of Bishops would convene at the Vatican in October 2023, the theme of which will be For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission. As a vital first step in the Synod process, the Holy Father has invited each diocese around the world to listen to the voices of its people including those who are marginalized or may have fallen away from the Church.

By virtue of our Baptism, all of us are called to be active participants in the life of the Church through discernment, participation and co-responsibility. Through a process of careful listening, our participation in the Synod process will enable us to better understand how the Christian community participates in the life of our Church in the Diocese of Scranton today and how that shared participation among our members might grow in the future.

Please check the Diocesan Website to take a survey concerning the Synod.

Your input is very important.

Dioceseofscranton.org



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