

STAR OF WONDER

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022

Epiphany: A sudden manifestation, insight, revelation, or understanding

The Feast of the Epiphany is one of the most fascinating parts of the Christian narrative for a number of reasons. Put this in perspective:

The Jews have waited thousands of years in their little pocket of the world for their promised Messiah. Once he finally arrives, however, the only Jewish people he is revealed to are the Holy Family and some low-rent shepherds.

Shockingly, he is then sought out by and manifested to gentiles (non-Jews). Think about that: The long-awaited Jewish savior is presented to people that aren't even Jewish. That's **HUGE!**

This very act actually foreshadows Pentecost, when the apostles are told to go out to all the world to proclaim the Good News. Not just to other Jews. Not just in the confines of Judea. But to **EVERYONE** throughout the entire **WORLD**.

Obviously, God is pretty inclusive. But are we, as God's children, the same? Do we shun people that look different, talk different, or have a different belief than us? The feast of the Epiphany is a celebration that God became man to save **everyone** in the world. Everyone. We may have borders, languages, customs, and traditions that divide us, but in the end, we're really all in it together... With each person having their own special gifts to give.

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FROM FR. STEVE...

Dear Family,

Merry Christmas!! Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord. Prophecies are once again fulfilled with the arrival of people from the East, that is non-Jewish people, who have come to honor the newborn King. Last week on Christmas Day some heard the story of the angel's message to the shepherds. Isn't it interesting that the first to hear of the arrival of the Messiah were simple, uneducated shepherds and not the elite of the day? Today, however, we see the arrival of the educated. These magi were highly educated and intelligent! They were able to deduce from their reading of Scripture, even though they themselves were not Jewish, that the arrival of the Messiah would happen in their lifetime. They were able to understand that the supernatural phenomenon that we refer to as the 'star' was the sign that they were awaiting. They dropped everything, packaged up their belongings along with expensive gifts, and traveled a long distance following this star to encounter the long-awaited Savior King! When they arrived and encountered this Child, they offered their gifts and knelt in homage before Him! They recognized that the One in whose presence they were, was far greater than their own knowledge and wisdom! They were filled with great joy! They also were able to understand the battle into which they found themselves. They understood that Good and evil were at odds here. Herod was the evil darkness that was in battle against the Eternal Good, the Light that was this Child, God Himself. They chose the Good and avoided the evil Herod at the direction of the message they received in a dream. May we, all these years later, come to understand our need to kneel before the Newborn King! May we understand that we owe everything to Him. May we who just last week exchanged gifts with one another in His honor, remember to bring our gifts to Him who is the source of all gifts!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!
Praised Be Our Newborn King...Now and Forever!!!

Father Steve

POT O' GOLD IS BACK!

Saturday, March 12, 2022 (Party Info TBD)



Top Prize: \$10,000
(10) \$500 Prizes

Early Bird Drawings:
New Year Drawing (Jan. 3): \$200
Sweetheart Drawing (Feb. 14): \$250



Tickets are \$30 each or (2) for \$50 - (Each ticket admits one to the party drawing.)

Tickets on sale after all Masses, at the parish office (260 Okell Street), or mail in ticket requests.

Please make sure name, address, and phone number are included. Please send to Our Lady of Charity Parish • 260 Okell Street • Buffalo, NY 14220. Adding a self-addressed stamped envelope will get you entered into a mystery drawing! If you are interested in selling tickets, please see one of the ticket sellers or pick some up at the office.

Tickets make great Christmas gifts, stocking stuffers, exchange gifts, hostess gifts, etc.!

DISCIPLES STAY ACTIVE

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Monday, January 3rd

St. Ambrose Site
Yoga, 6:00pm, Parish Center

Tuesday, January 4th

Holy Family Site
Cub Scouts, 6:00pm, Hall

St. Ambrose Site
Parish Council, 7:00pm, Parish Center

Wednesday, January 5th

St. Ambrose Site
Baptism Class, 6:30pm, Parish Meeting Room

Thursday, January 6th

Holy Family Site
Yoga, 6:00pm, Hall

St. Ambrose Site
Boy Scouts Troup #256, 6:00pm

Friday, January 7th

Holy Family Site
Community Dinner, 4:30pm, Hall

Saturday, January 8th

St. Ambrose Site
Confessions, 3:15pm, Church

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

January 10th, 6:30pm - 7:45pm, Holy Family Site
Faith Formation Grades 1-8

January 24th, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, St. Ambrose Site
Confirmation Class Grades 9-10

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

December 18th/19th

Collection: \$7,108.00

Renovation: \$370.00

Flowers: \$170.00

Immaculate Conception: \$102.00

Religious Retirement: \$915.00

Due to the deadline of this bulletin, the collections for Christmas have yet to be counted.

Thank you for financially supporting us!

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE

An 8-Part Bible Study Featuring Jeff Cavins
You're invited to get in touch with our faith.

Our Mother of Good Counsel
3688 South Park, Blasdell
(Parish Activity Center)

Tuesdays: Jan. 4 - Feb. 22

10:30am - 11:45am OR 6:30pm - 7:45pm

Registration is FREE (but required). Workbook is \$25 (recommended, but optional).

For more information and to register, contact Deacon Michael Dulak at (716) 913-0476.

THANK YOU!

'On behalf of the Clients of the St. Brigid Food Pantry, please accept my sincere gratitude for the food collection you did on Thanksgiving Day. Your kindness and generosity provided for many families.'

-William T. Larsen, Outreach Coordinator

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Happy New Year! Is giving back on your to-do list for 2022? If so, consider becoming a Catholic Charities volunteer. View all current opportunities at ccwny.org and become a beacon of HOPE right here in Western New York. Thank you for your support throughout the year! Join us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. If someone you know needs help, go to ccwny.org or call our Helpline at 716-218-1419.



CHECK THIS OUT

Want to support Our Lady of Charity Parish while doing your online shopping?

1. Go to Smile.Amazon.com
2. Type in Our Lady of Charity
3. Choose Our Lady of Charity - Buffalo, NY
4. Check the box
5. Start shopping!

A portion of your purchase will go right back to our parish!



FUN FACT:

Historically, the magi are believed to be from Persia. In our modern day, that would be the country of Iran. Also the word 'orient' comes from the Latin 'orientem' which simply means 'east.'

DISCIPLES STAY IN THE KNOW

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

Dear Parish Family,
The Bishop Kmiec Food Pantry and the So. Bflo Community Table are in need of some food items this winter. Supply is low or unavailable through the Food Bank so if you just put a few items in the grocery carts each week, we'll make sure they get them. Thank you for your generosity and God bless!

- Grape/Strawberry Jam
- Cream of mushroom, etc. soup
- Chicken and beef broth
 - Canned fruits
- Disposable salt & pepper shakers

A VOCATION VIEW

The greatest gift we can place before the newborn Jesus is the gift of our life's work. What is He calling you to accomplish in your life? If God is calling you to a Church vocation,, contact Fr. Dave Baker at (716) 847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org.

WEATHER CLOSINGS

If Buffalo Public Schools are closed – morning Mass at St. Ambrose will be cancelled. Fr. Steve will celebrate Mass at 8:00am for the intention for that day at Holy Family. People are welcomed to the Mass at Holy Family, however please use an abundance of caution when making that decision.

MASK MANDATE UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESE

A reminder that masks should be worn not only when entering and exiting churches and worship spaces, but throughout the duration of the liturgy, even when seated. While we want to build places of worship that foster the welcome of all, particularly at this beautiful time of year, part of our pastoral outreach in this extraordinary time should be to ensure the safety of all of our congregants.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Steve Jekielek
Fr.Steve@olcp.org

Administrative Assistant

Diana Deck
d.deck@olcp.org

Deacons

Deacon Tim Maloney
Deacon Steve Schumer

Sacramental Preparation

Maureen Brown
Kathleen Mulqueen

Business Manager

Elaine Williams
E.Williams@olcp.org

Weekend/Weekday Help

Fr. Robert (Bob) Hora

Prayer Link

768-4022
823-2067

Director of Music & Worship

Brian Meyer
music@olcp.org

COMMUNITY DINNERS

If you are interested or would like some more information please contact the parish office at 822-5962 or Mary Anne at 822-1837. Thank you!

Sponsors for the coming weeks include:

January 7: DuBois-Delano Family

January 14: Cub Scouts

January 21: Boy Scout Troop #256

January 28: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

February 4: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

February 11: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

February 18: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE

Looking to start the New Year off with an adventure to help those who's lives were destroyed by the recent tornado in Mayfield, Kentucky? Eight Days of Hope is a Christian, nonprofit organization that exists to love and serve those in need. You will be able to assist with clean-up, relief efforts, and food & water distribution. Food and lodging will be provided. Our own parishioner, Joe Gattie, will be going January 2 - January 9. He is currently looking for someone to travel with him. Must be at least 18 years old.

For more information, contact Joe Gattie at (716)

479-0118 or visit EightDaysOfHope.com.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

4:00pm (St. Ambrose Site)

Sunday

8:30am (Holy Family Site)

10:00am (St. Ambrose Site)

11:30am (Holy Family Site)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

(Office will be closed 12:00pm - 12:30pm for lunch)

Friday, closed

(716) 822-5962

Please consider remembering our parish community in your will.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

First Reading

Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R/. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment **R/.**

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. **R/.**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. **R/.**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. **R/.**

Second Reading

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCIPLES PRAY TOGETHER

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Let us remember all those who have gone before us:
May they rest in the peace of Christ.

The Epiphany of our Lord + Order of Mass +

- **Processional:** We Three Kings of Orient Are (#463)
- **Gloria:** German Mass
- **Readings and Responsorial Psalm:** #1011
- **Offertory:** What Child Is This (#466)
- **Mass Parts:** Community Mass (#370, #373, #372)
- **Communion:** The First Nowell (#460)
- **Recessional:** God Rest You Merry, Gentle... (#435)

OUR LADY OF CHARITY, PRAY FOR US!

TIDINGS OF COMFORT & JOY

On behalf of our entire parish staff at Our Lady of Charity, have a joyous, blessed, and safe holiday season. May the miracle of our Lord's Incarnation fill your hearts with love, light, and music.

Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

“MASTER, THE ONE YOU LOVE IS ILL.” (JOHN 11:1-2)

Edna Albert, Irene Andrzejewski, Irene Barrett, Louise Beamish, Teresa Beamish, Lillian Beyers, Ann Alvira-Buchnowski, Patricia Cajak, Maureen Canney, Cheryl Clontz, Patricia Colern, Caroline Dominesey, MaryAnn Forsyth, Vara Jones, Madisyn Ledder, Janet Murray, Karen O’Neill, Mary Pilon, Maryann Rigby, Sandy Riley, Jane Rozek, June Stebbins, Ruth White

Daniel Barry, Michael Beyers, Leon Bolick, Owen Chase, Eric Crawford, Vincent Crawford, Frank Czapezyk, Francis Davis, Larry Deskiewicz, Richard Dinnocenzo, Paul Fitzpatrick Sr., Jason Florea, Eric G., Jacob Heberling, Emmett Jakubowski, Rob Karr, Andrew Kuper, Gabe Lopez, Robert Maggio, George Rodriguez, Josean Rodriguez, The family of Coach Frank Rossi, Jeremiah Smith, Jim Sweeney, Tom Walsh, Christopher Zuercher

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. Jan. 2 - The Epiphany of our Lord

- HF • 8:30am
Stan Zak (req. by the Ushers of the 8:30am Mass)
- SA • 10:00am
Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Jacqueline Betti (req. by the Fisher Family)
- HF • 11:30am
Jane Sanders (req. by Charles & Barbara Danielson)

Mon., Jan. 3 - Weekday in Christmas

- SA • 8:00am - **People of the Parish** (req. by Fr. Steve)

Tues., Jan. 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

- SA • 8:00am - **Albert “Tipper” Steiner** (req. by “the club girls”)

Wed., Jan. 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop

- SA • 8:00am - **Sr. Patsy Collins, RSM** (req. by Cathy Geary)

Thurs., Jan. 6 - Weekday in Christmas

- SA • 8:00am - **Road to Renewal**

Fri., Jan. 7 - Weekday in Christmas

- SA • 8:00am - **Donovan Miller** (req. by Jack Driscoll)

Sat./Sun., Jan. 8/9 - Baptism of our Lord

- SA • 4:00pm
Living & Deceased Members of the Driscoll Family
(req. by Jack Driscoll)
- HF • 8:30am
Peg Hammond (req. by Colleen Higgins)
- SA • 10:00am
John Godwin (req. by Carolyn Nenni)
- HF • 11:30am
Robert Strianese, Sr. (Birth. Rem., req. by his family)

ENVELOPE UPDATE

Please note: Collection envelopes have been mailed to your house. If you did not receive 2022 envelopes, please call the office. If you are not registered and would like to join our parish community, simply stop by for a registration form or download one from our parish website. (OurLadyOfCharityParish.com)

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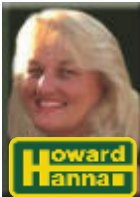
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