Welcome to . . .

Triumph of the Holy Cross Parish

With Homes at:

Saint Clare of Assisi Church
460 Reed Street
Clairton, PA 15025

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church
1 Grove Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Holy Spirit Church
2603 Old Elizabeth Road
West Mifflin, PA 15122

Saint Thomas à Becket Church
139 Gill Hall Road
Jefferson Hills, PA 15025

Called to Love, Learn and Live Jesus

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

January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord

From Father Zywan ...

The Most Important Journey in Our Lives

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, popularly known as the Feast of the Three Kings. Not only do we celebrate the gift of God made Man—Jesus, the finding of the Christ Child by the magi, but their journey to find where and what the brilliant star in the sky was calling to them. We are invited to make their pilgrimage our own—to seek the Christ above all else and to allow Him to, as with them, to transform our lives.

As astronomers, learned men, affluent members of the communities they came from, they set out on a journey that would change their lives forever! They took with them to Bethlehem some earthly treasure, and upon leaving, left it behind when they returned home. However, they did not leave emptyhanded, but with something far richer. They took with them their encounter with the Son of the Living God—Jesus.

Like them, we are to be open to the signs of hope in the midst of our world and our want (especially in this time of worldwide pandemic), that God is with us! There is nothing in this world that will totally fulfill us; not a relationship, not our homes, our accumulation of things, our careers, *nothing*—other than God Himself. That is because He made us for heaven—for Himself, and only He can fill that place in us where He desires to dwell.

Friends, like the magi, we need to be open to the signs in our lives, and follow where the Lord is leading us, and that is to Himself. We need to be looking for the Lord each day—being attentive, for He is here in our midst like that brilliant star over Bethlehem. He, and our personal relationship with Him, is the pearl beyond all price. He is where our hearts find rest, our brokenness healed, where peace in the midst of the storms of life will be found—and there alone.

Our celebration of the Christmas season continues. It began with the Nativity of the Lord, the Holy Family, Mary Mother of God on December 31 - January 1, today, the Epiphany of the Lord, and next Sunday with the Baptism of the Lord. May all these events demonstrate to us the Lord's love for each of us, and His desire to bring renewal and new life to our hearts, and His Church. *Never* underestimate the Lord's desire to use YOU to bring others closer to Him.

Let us be attentive to the Lord, seek the signs, respond with openness to God's grace, be transformed, and herald the good news—that God is with us, and He continues to make all things new! It is by our response—our faithfulness in embracing the mission the Lord entrusted to us, that His Church will be healthy—and flourish! All good things to you and yours in this New Year.

In Jesus' love, *Fr. Zywan*

RESPECT LIFE

respect · love · protect

RESPECT LIFE MONTH – JANUARY 2021

January is often designated as Respect Life Month because it was on January 22, 1973 that the Supreme Court legalized abortion. Throughout the month of January, we will focus on the dignity and sacredness of life from conception to natural death. In 1995, Pope John Paul II, wrote the prophetic Encyclical**, *Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life)*,** which beautifully affirms the value and inviolability of every human life.

Likewise, "last November, the U.S. bishops reaffirmed that 'the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed.' While we noted not to 'dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty, and the death penalty,' we renewed our commitment to protect the most fundamental of all human rights – the right to live." - *Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Chairman of the USCCB Pro-Life Committee*

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE A BRIEF SUMMARY

The Gospel of life is at the *heart* of Jesus' saving message to the world.

Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. For this reason, direct attacks on human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, are always unacceptable.

As Christians, we have received the full truth about human life as proclaimed by the very person of Jesus. In sharing in the lowliest and most vulnerable conditions of human life—even death on a cross—Jesus shows us that life is *always good.* By making human life the instrument of our salvation, the Son of God shows us the priceless value of human life.

Our modern world is now suffering under a culture of death. Scientific and technological advances and an increasingly secularized world have led to an eclipse of the value of human life. However, respect for life requires that science and technology should always be at the service of the human person and his integral development.

Governments and international institutions promote abortion and euthanasia as marks of progress and freedom. But this is a false and perverse understanding in which freedom is equated with absolute individualism. True freedom is inherently relational, recognizing that God has entrusted us to one another. As cultures and societies fail to recognize these objective truths, everything becomes relative, and all principles are called into question-even the fundamental right to life. However, the blood of Christ's sacrifice remains our constant hope.

Each life is a gift from God and ultimately belongs to Him. We are therefore called to reverence and love every human person, loving our neighbors as ourselves. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of life to the world. ***To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself.*** Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society. In every child which is born, and in every person who lives or dies, we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ.

Adapted from *The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary:* https://www.usccb.org/resources/rlp-20-bulletin-insert-ev-summary_0.pdf

TRIUMPH OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH

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Father William R. Terza, Senior Parochial Vicar
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Father Kenneth E. Kezmarsky, Senior Parochial Vicar
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Father Michael J. Faix, Parochial Vicar
Email: mfaix@diopitt.org

Deacon: **Gerard A. Como**
Email: gcomo@diopitt.org

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SAINT THOMAS À BECKET
Phone: 412-655-2885 • Fax: 412-655-0615
Email: becketst@comcast.net

HOURS for Private Prayer at each Church:
11:00AM – 2:00PM, Monday thru Friday.

In addition to daily cleaning and sanitizing, the use of masks and social distancing (maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet) is required. Restrooms remain locked. You must sign-in upon entering the Church.

VIGIL LIGHTS

The Vigil Light at the Tabernacle
at **Saint Thomas à Becket Church** will burn this week
In Loving Memory of Rod Kushner
from Wife, Rita

JOIN US FOR ONLINE MASS

Go to YouTube and search … **parishgrouping225**

The Saturday Vigil Mass is broadcast on YouTube at 6:00PM and available to view anytime afterwards.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3

Sunday:	The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday:	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Tuesday:	St. John Neumann, Bishop
Wednesday:	St. André Bessette, Religious
Thursday:	St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Next Sunday:	The Baptism of the Lord

SACRAMENTS DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Mondays: 6:30-7:30PM at St. Elizabeth of Hungary—Inside the lobby (narthex of the church). Drive your vehicle up to the handicap ramp at the front of the Church. Stop your vehicle at the ramp and walk into the lobby for Confession. Return to your vehicle after Confession and drive away. The next person in line will pull up to the ramp.
Saturdays from 10:30-11:30AM at St. Thomas à Becket — Inside the building in both the office entryway and the lobby of the Church. At the top of the driveway, immediately turn right to the far right lane. Form a line at the stop sign. When there is a car parked at one of the entrances, this indicates someone is in confession. When a car at either entrance pulls away, then the next person in line pulls up to that entrance and goes inside for confession. DO NOT park in a parking lot space and walk into the building. Stay in line until it's your turn, then drive up to the doors. Anonymous or face-to-face confessions are available.

The celebration of **Baptisms** (one family at a time) can be scheduled and are limited to only 25 people in attendance. The use of masks and social distancing is required.

Limited **Weddings**, expanding to groups of no more than 25% capacity of the Church building. The use of masks and social distancing is required.

Anointing of the Sick & Communion to the Homebound is to be reserved for extreme circumstances only. Please call the Parish Office at 412-655-2885 if you are in need of these sacraments, or have questions.

Limited **Funerals**, expanding to groups of no more than 25% capacity of the Church building. The use of masks and social distancing is required.

Readings for Next Weekend — January 9/10

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b] /Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3)]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

PARISH SUPPORT

Weekend of December 19/20
(*Includes Online Giving Donations)*

Offertory ..... $ 16,667.80

Due to early printing submission deadlines, the contribution totals for Christmas, December 26/27, Children & Youth, the Solemnity of Mary, second collections and January 2/3 will be in next week's bulletin.

REST IN PEACE

Remember our faithful departed in your prayers …

Ronald Mallozzi ~ Joan McKeevert
Margaret (Niebert) Shafer

Diocese of Pittsburgh Abuse Hotline: 1-800-932-0313 Victim Assistance Hotline: 1-888-808-1235

A Prayer for Hope After A Hard Year

Dear Lord, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year. You have carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through trials, and the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you—your grace, your strength, and your power working through even the toughest days.

Help us to keep our focus first on you this season. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you for coming into the world to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Emmanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with the joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you.

Thank you for the reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. We choose to be close to you today, and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new year ahead. We look forward to all that you still have in store. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Please note: Our annual bus trip to participate in the March for Life has unfortunately been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Please continue to pray for the sacredness of human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

The Life of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Feastday — Monday, January 4

Elizabeth Bayley was the daughter of a distinguished physician. She married William M. Seton in 1794, a wealthy business owner. Elizabeth devoted a good deal of time to working among the poor, and in 1797 she joined others in founding the first charitable institution in New York City, the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children. In 1803 Elizabeth, William and the eldest of their five children traveled to Italy because of William's ill health. He had gone bankrupt three years earlier. Sadly, he died there of tuberculosis shortly after their sea voyage.

As a result of her experiences and acquaintances in Italy, Seton joined the Roman Catholic Church in New York City in 1805. As a widow with small children, she found it difficult to earn a living, and many friends and relatives shunned her after her conversion (the various anti-Catholic laws of the colonial era had only recently been lifted). For a time she operated a small school for boys. In 1808 Seton accepted an invitation from a priest, to open a school for Catholic girls in that city. Several young women joined in her work, and in 1809 her long-held hope to found a religious community was realized when she and her companions took vows before Archbishop John Carroll and became the Sisters of St. Joseph, the first American-based Catholic sisterhood.

A few months later Mother Seton and the sisters moved their home and school to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where they provided free education for the poor girls of the parish—an act later considered by many to be *the beginning of Catholic parochial education in the United States*. Mother Seton continued to teach and work for the community until her death in 1821, by which time the order had 20 communities. She was canonized a saint in September 1975.

The ancient Christian tradition of marking doorways with blessed chalk on the Feast of the Epiphany will carry new meaning for many Catholics in 2021. Following a year that saw families shaken by the coronavirus pandemic, the traditional home blessing will serve as a special symbol of hope and a visible reminder of faith. The number 21 represents the New Year and C+M+B, the Magi (Caspar, Melchoir & Balthasar). The plus sign represents the cross.

The chalk, along with other symbols, will be an even stronger reminder of how important God is to us and of what an important factor Jesus is in our daily lives. This blessing takes place on the liturgical feast marking the visitation of the Magi to the Christ Child and the revelation that Jesus is the son of God.

—by George P. Matysek Jr., *Catholic Review*, 12/23/20

Using chalk, write on the outside of your house or inside above the front main entrance, above or next to an entrance:

21 + C + M + B + 21

Pray: 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 2, 2021

8:00 AM Saint Thomas	Larry Haywiser by Cathy Priano
4:00 PM Vigil Saint Thomas	Dr. Gary Cannon by Mel Droppa
5:00 PM Vigil Saint Elizabeth	Robert Wosko by Donna & Blair Mahoney

Sunday, January 3

8:00 AM Saint Elizabeth	In Loving Memory of Mel & Rita Vlha
9:00 AM Saint Clare	For the People of the Parish
9:00 AM Saint Thomas	Margaret (Maggie) Toretti by the Grandinetti Family
11:00 AM Holy Spirit	Ferdinand Ernest Sauer by Tom & Rose Natali

Monday, January 4

7:30 AM Saint Elizabeth	Michael Zeto by the Art Schiebel Family
8:00 AM Saint Thomas	Ann Lachowicz by George & Lisa Steinmiller

Tuesday, January 5

7:30 AM Saint Clare	Neil Brown by Daughter, Dorothy Romanelli
8:00 AM Saint Thomas	Sister Betty Stock, SC by Sister, Alberta Sherman

Wednesday, January 6

7:30 AM Saint Elizabeth	Alex Viecili by the Senior Citizens Group
8:00 AM Holy Spirit	Rosemarie M. Dusi by James J. Hornfeck

Thursday, January 7

7:30AM Saint Clare	Joan Jaskolski by Roy Grant
8:00AM Saint Thomas	Terry Soffa by Patrick Yekich

Friday, January 8

7:30 AM Saint Elizabeth	Richard Joyce by Dennis & Sylvia Livi
8:00AM Holy Spirit	Mary Durkosh by Tony & Patty Gyke
9:15AM Saint Elizabeth	NO SCHOOL MASS ON THIS DAY

Saturday, January 9

8:00 AM Saint Thomas	John Macri by Family
4:00 PM Vigil Saint Thomas	Rod Kushner by Wife, Rita
5:00 PM Vigil Saint Elizabeth	Mary Putaro by Family

Sunday, January 10

8:00 AM Saint Elizabeth	Michael Zeto, Jr. by Judy, Tim & Michelle Zeto
9:00 AM Saint Clare	Sherry & Jonny Rukas by Phyllis Rukas
9:00 AM Saint Thomas	Richard Wojnar by Family
11:00 AM Holy Spirit	For the People of the Parish

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY Mass Schedule:

Mondays:	7:30 AM	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
	8:00 AM	Saint Thomas à Becket
Tuesdays:	7:30 AM	Saint Clare of Assisi
	8:00 AM	Saint Thomas à Becket
Wednesdays:	7:30 AM	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
	8:00 AM	Holy Spirit
Thursdays:	7:30 AM	Saint Clare of Assisi
	8:00 AM	Saint Thomas à Becket
Fridays:	7:30 AM	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
	8:00 AM	Holy Spirit
	9:15 AM	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary*
		*(School Mass)
Saturdays:	8:00 AM	Saint Thomas à Becket

WEEKEND Mass Schedule:

4:00 PM Vigil Mass	Saint Thomas à Becket
5:00 PM Vigil Mass	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
8:00 AM Mass	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
9:00 AM Mass	Saint Clare of Assisi
9:00 AM Mass	Saint Thomas à Becket
11:00 AM Mass	Holy Spirit

The Mass Book is open for 2021. You can schedule two weekend Masses and three weekday Masses per household. Please call 412-655-2885 to schedule a Mass.

EPIPHANY — AT HOME

We often hear of our search for God, but seldom, if ever hear of God's search for us – or at least we do not think we do. But, the truth is that God first seeks us out, so that we might seek Him. He thirsts for us, so that we might thirst for Him (cf. CCC nos. 2560-2567).

God has come into the world to find you… to rescue you… to save you… to lead you back home to Him. He loves you so much that He became one of us, born into a human family. Pray the Holy Spirit to allow this truth to soak into your very core… to refresh and renew your heart. And then, get to it. Begin seeking God and His will for your life in earnest. There is no time to waste!

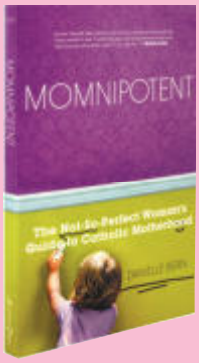
In our first reading on this Solemnity of the Epiphany, we hear, "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). Jesus is that light and He now shines upon each of us.

Each of us can consider our own life, in one sense, as the journey of the magi to find and give homage to the new king who is revealed to them – and to us – as the Savior of the world. So during the remaining week of Christmastide, let's jump-start our prayer lives by reflecting on this passage and our lives.

- How seriously do I seek God? Do I place Him first in my life? What is my most important goal in life?
- Do I give Jesus Christ, my Savior and King, the homage He is due?
- What gifts and talents do I offer to my King? What am I willing to sacrifice to know and love my Lord?
- Do I surrender to my King no matter what doing so costs me?

Rise up, Christians, rise up in splendor for your King… obey His Holy Will, for He has been revealed to the world this day.

Hey Moms …
Are you feeling stressed or run down?
Is your cup empty?



Join Jen and Dana on Zoom to strengthen our sisterly connection and find peace, balance and joy in our vocation as a mother. We will be using the book, MOMNIPOTENT by Danielle Bean as our guide.

Begins Tuesday, January 19
at 8:00PM for 8 weeks

To register contact the Faith Formation office
412-882-5023,
or email faithformationtohc@gmail.com

A BIG THANK YOU to all the families who made Ornaments for both the Chrismon Giving Trees and for the residents of our local assisted living facilities and home-bound.. The work of your hands and the care that was shown in the ornaments blessed many. We are grateful for your efforts and willingness to give of your time and talent.

Youth & Teen Opportunities

♦ This Sunday, January 3, we will be meeting virtually from 6:00-8:00PM to talk about the Epiphany and the Christmas Season. Make sure you are getting emails from Dana and the Life Teen Group on Flocknote.

Are you excited about sharing your faith with others? Do you like a challenge? Do you want to be a world changer? ... Then why not become a part of the Life Teen Core Group who will help shape a generation of Christ's disciples.

For more information, contact
Dana Mahr, Youth Minister at 412-882-5023,
or email: dmahr@st-elizabeth.org.

BECOME A YOUTH AMBASSADOR!

We are looking for upbeat student volunteers who will act in kind ways as a representative of the Faith Formation Program providing outreach to our parish members who are homebound. The role of the Youth Ambassador will be to "adopt" one of the parish homebound and provide contact-free:

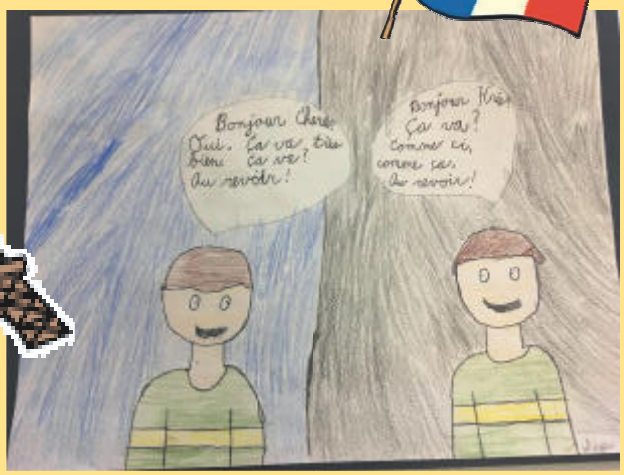
- One to four-time monthly delivery of the Triumph of the Holy Cross bulletin to their home with a monthly note of good cheer
- Occasional services such as raking leaves or shoveling a snow-covered walkway
- Offering a weekly prayer for your "adopted Homebound"

To volunteer to be a Youth Ambassador
and **Make a Difference** in Someone's Life
call the Faith Formation Office at 412-882-5023,
or email: kcentinaro@st-elizabeth.org.

Bonjour, mes amis, et bienvenue au collège français!

(Hello, my friends, and welcome to middle school French!)

The eighth grade students are studying how to conjugate verbs in French. They created drawings which depict the translation of a sentence that contains the correct form of a French pronoun and verb.



The sixth grade students are practicing their French conversational skills. Their drawings illustrate a dialogue between two people who greet and respond to each other.

In seventh grade, the students are reinforcing their knowledge of French vocabulary. They drew pictures that show the meaning of a sentence that includes a preference (I like…, I love…, I hate…) with two nouns joined by a preposition or conjunction.

Merci!

SCIENCE FAIR

JUDGES NEEDED!

The Middle School Science Department is looking for judges for the Saint Elizabeth Elementary Science Fair, which begins on Monday of Catholic Schools Week ... (February 1, 2021). The fair is **virtual** this year and you will not even need to leave your house. You will be sent the projects to evaluate, and then send the scores and projects back to Mrs. Morgan. Alumni always welcome!

If you are interested in helping out, email: smorgan@st-elizabeth.org.

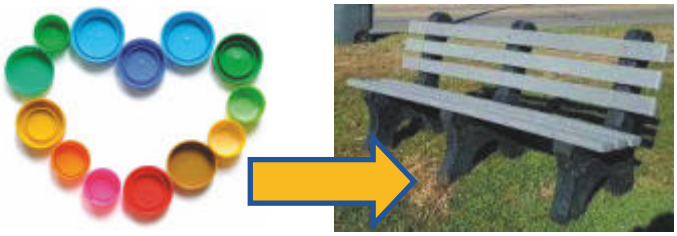
Help Saint Elizabeth Elementary School Students Make a Difference by Recycling!

BOTTLE CAPS TO BENCHES

… is a program to encourage students to become better stewards of our environment. Bottle caps and lids will be collected and recycled, finally transforming them into benches, which will be sent to Saint Elizabeth School.

"Every cap or lid that goes into a bench does NOT become a part of a landfill."

Green Tree Plastics of Evansville, Indiana, started this amazing program called ABC Promise Partnership, which allows kids to recycle plastic bottle caps and lids into benches that will last a lifetime. Our students can see, sit on, and donate to their community from the results of their work … a perfect real-life example of sustainability!



What to collect:
Any plastic cap/lid with a recycle number of:

2 4 5

CAPS MUST BE CLEAN AND DRY

EXAMPLES

Any Drink Bottle Caps
Baby Food Caps
Deodorant Caps
Detergent Caps
Flip-top Caps
Hair Spray Caps
Milk Jug Caps
Medicine Bottle Caps
Spray Paint Caps
Toothpaste Tube Caps
Coffee Can Lids
Yogurt Lids
Pringles Lids
Shampoo Caps

See more examples by visiting:
www.greentreeplastics.com/abc-program/

DROP OFF LIDS AT ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL, IN THE CONTAINER OUTSIDE OF DOOR 7
(Blue Awning)

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

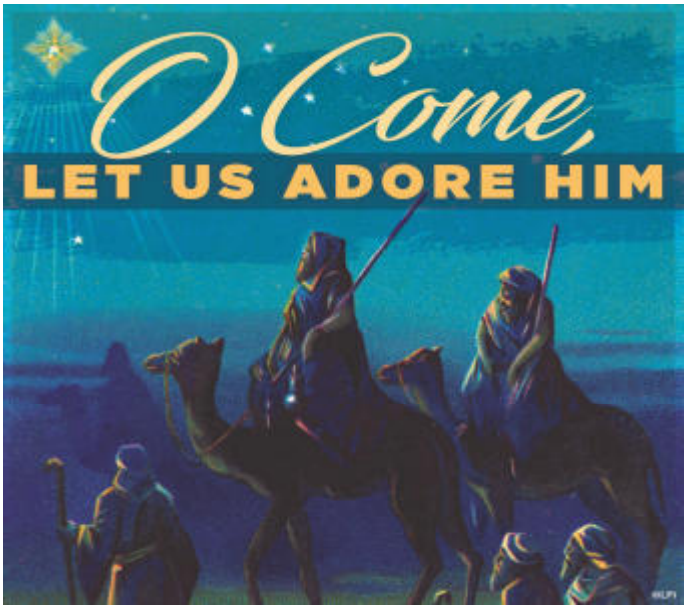
If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

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.



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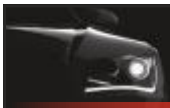

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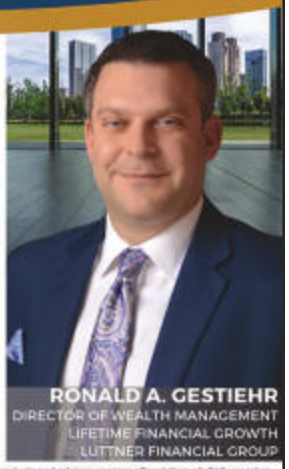

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