

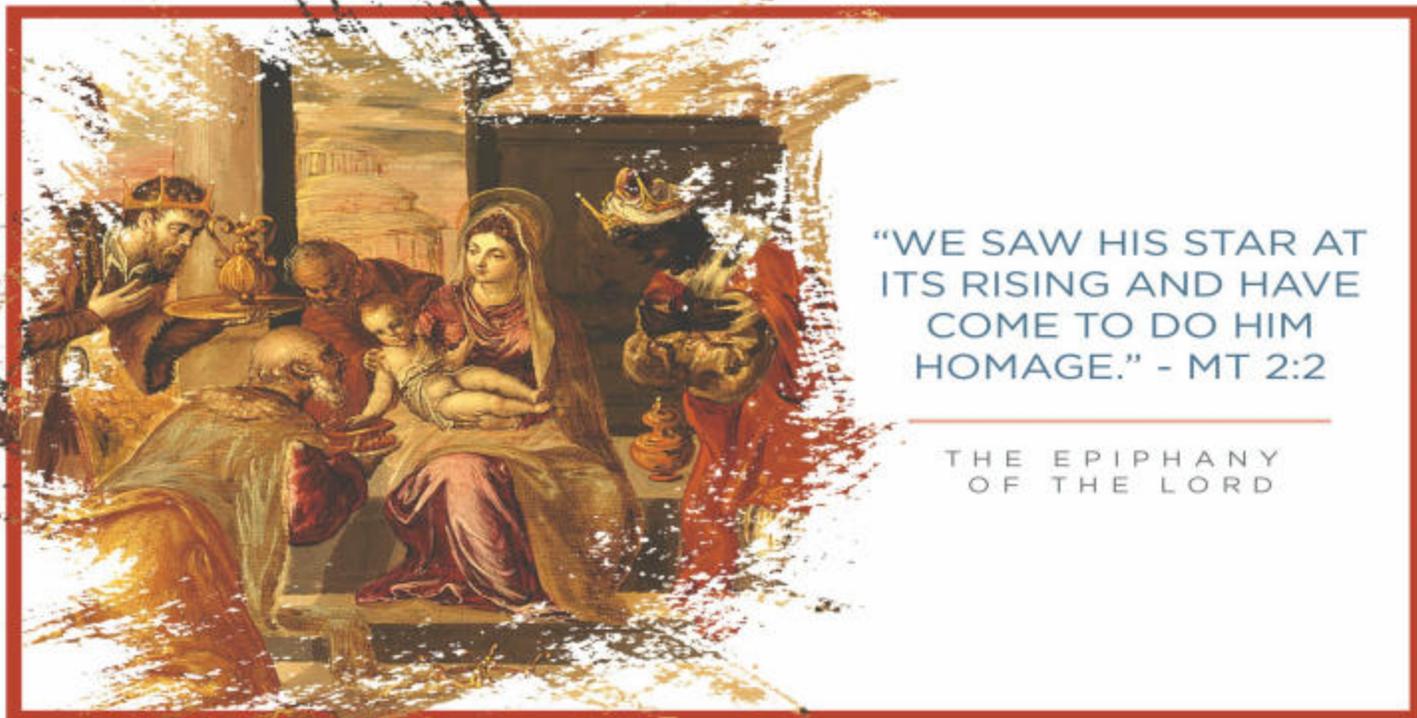
Church of the Beloved Disciple

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

1310 S. Center St. Ext. 724-748-6700

Grove City PA 16127 January 3, 2021

Epiphany of the Lord



“WE SAW HIS STAR AT
ITS RISING AND HAVE
COME TO DO HIM
HOMAGE.” - MT 2:2

THE EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD

STAFF

Rev. V. David Foradori, *Pastor, ext. 111*

Rev. Mr. Owen Wagner, *Deacon, ext. 110*

724-748-6700

www.BelovedDiscipleParish.org

secretary@beloveddiscipleparish.org

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs.

9:00am — 12 Noon, 1:00pm — 4:00pm

Friday: Closed

MISSION STATEMENT

We, The Church of the Beloved Disciple, Are Called By Our
Baptism to Worship God through Liturgy and the Sacraments,
to Serve Others by Ministering to the Community
and to Actively Spread the Gospel.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses:

4:30pm Saturday Evening

8:00am Sunday Morning

11:00am Sunday Morning

Daily Masses: 8:00am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Adoration: Thursday; 2-4pm

Holy Day Masses: As scheduled in the bulletin

God is Good, All the Time.



Our facilities are entirely handicap accessible.

A Message From Deacon Owen

I think it's true that among the many Christmas cards we will receive this year, there will be at least one with the story of the Epiphany colorfully printed. The card will probably depict crowned men riding camels. And of course, the Star will be present overhead. There might be shepherds on the card either at the manger or part of the procession to Bethlehem.

We might consider who is watching the sheep the shepherds left on the hillside to visit Bethlehem. Maybe the sheep are just wandering around the hillside or the angels are possibly keeping watch over the sheep from above.

If you read the Gospel of Matthew carefully some traditional ideas can possibly be called into question. Nothing major, but it is interesting. For example: three gifts – yes, but no mention of how many gift givers. Camels – no mention of them, but the magi had to get to Jerusalem somehow. Maybe they walked. There is a king, King Herod but he is a very bad guy. And of course, the Star the magi have been following suddenly stops over the place where Jesus was staying. How a star can stop suddenly without creating havoc in the heavens, isn't explained; but it's what the evangelist writes.

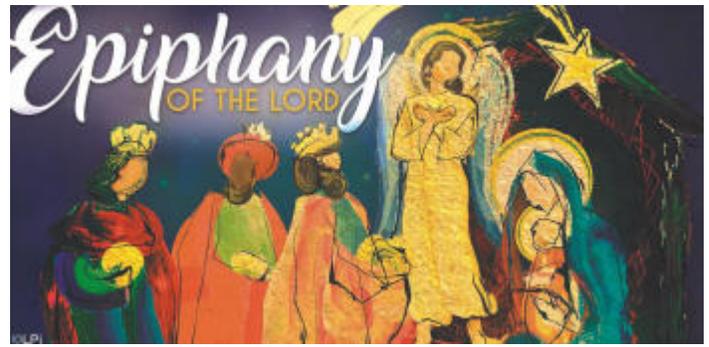
Let's start with the star. Recently we have heard that the "Star of Bethlehem" could be observed around Christmas Day in our own southwestern night sky. Something about the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter. I must say that astronomers and commentators have endlessly discussed the star of Bethlehem. Was it a supernova, a comet, a triple conjunction of the planets or the memory of all three jumbled together, or something else? We don't really know. What Matthew does tell us is that something was observed in the sky by middle eastern wise men that lead them to believe that the birth of a special child was about to occur. They wanted to be part of that moment. Who wouldn't? Their faith points to Jesus as being born as the King of the Jews; the very same title we will see on the cross at Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified and died for our sins.

Matthew tells us there were three gifts given by the Magi: gold, frankincense, myrrh. Naturally, we think three gifts, there must be three gift-bearers. Maybe, maybe not. More importantly, we should consider the gifts that were offered. From at least the late second century, Christian interpretation has been clear: Gold symbolizes that Jesus is a king; frankincense that he is to be worshipped as God; and myrrh showing that Jesus will die. Death is never far away from Jesus throughout his entire life.

Herod's questions make that apparent, even to the magi. Why did Herod desire to kill the baby Jesus? Maybe Herod sees the child as a potential future political rival. Eventually the Holy Innocents will pay the price for Herod's cruelty, sinfulness and ambition. Death is never far from Jesus. During his life, people try to stone him, others plan to kill him. They don't like what they hear and see. The myrrh will be used one day, but not this today. Today the Light of the world is made known to all humanity. The magi represent humanity in all its wisdom, with all its precious gifts and they come to recognize that the Word is made flesh and lives with us.

So, enjoy those Christmas cards depicting the Epiphany. As you enjoy the sentiments of the season, keep in mind that the Epiphany is the revelation that God so loved the world He sent His Son, born of Mary, to save us from our sins.

Peace, Deacon Owen



Parish Prayer Opportunities:

Owen Wagner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CBD Evening Prayer — January 4, January 5, January 6, January 7, January 8

Meeting ID: 838 4901 7963 Passcode: 476850

Topic: Rosary at Noon— January 5, January 6, January 7

Meeting ID: 868 5906 9157 Passcode: 888881

Catholic Topic of the Week: Right to Life — January 6

Meeting ID: 865 9766 6048 Passcode: 933940

Gospel of Mark:

Starting on Tuesday Jan 5th at 6:00 PM, a weekly on line exploration of the Gospel of Mark has been scheduled. The sessions will last about 40 minutes as we study Mark's Gospel which we use during the Liturgical Year B. At least five (5) people will need to sign up for these session for the following 6 (six) weeks.

Meeting ID: 864 8588 4593 Passcode: 878188

Book Club News: Our first book of 2021 will be "When We Believed in Mermaids" by Barbara O'Neal. It is a story of childhood and innocence with long hidden secrets, lies and betrayals for two sisters that both must face so each can become whole persons. The book is available on Amazon, and other on line book sources. The next on line Book Club meeting will be January 27 at 11:00 AM or 7:30 PM. Information will be sent out prior to the next meeting on how to connect. If you have any question, contact Deacon Owen in the Parish Office. Buy the book and join in the interesting discussion and fellowship.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**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

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?

Mass Schedule for the Week**Monday, January 4****8:00am (A) Susie Allison—****Sean and Bernadette Carroll**

11 JN 3: 22—4: 6, MT 4: 12-17, 23-25

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

Tuesday, January 5**8:00am Jan Larish — Bob & Marsha Peck**

1 JN 4: 7-10, MK 6: 34-44

Saint John Neumann, bishop

Wednesday, January 6

1 JN 4: 11-18, MK 6: 45-52

Saint André Bessette, religious

**Thursday, January 7****8:00am Chuck Odatto — Tony and Lucy Sack**

1 JN 4: 19—5: 4, LK 4: 14-22

Saint Raymond of Peñafort, priest

Friday, January 8**8:00am Barb & Jim Husband —****Bernie and Barb Shaffer**

1 JN 5: 5-13, LK 5: 12-16

Saturday, January 9; Vigil: Baptism of the Lord**4:30pm (B) David Boarts — Beth and Mark Filer**

1 JN 5: 14-21, JN 3: 22-30

Sunday, January 10; Baptism of the Lord

IS 55: 1-11, 1 JN 5: 1-9, MK 1: 7-11

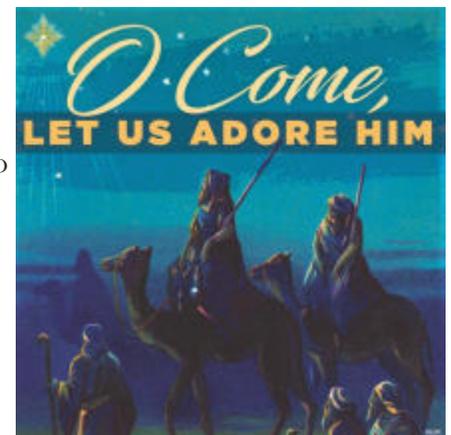
8:00am Rose Johns — Arlene & Lon Borowski**11:00am For the Living and Deceased****Members of Our Parish****GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE****The Epiphany of the Lord**

“Where is that thing?” mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. “I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!” Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, “Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear.” The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

“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.” The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God’s tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God’s salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God’s healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for! ©LPi



Please be reminded of Bishop Persico's guidelines for attending Mass.

- Please sanitize your hands before receiving Communion. You are to continue to wear face masks while in the Communion line. Please step to the side and remove your mask before receiving Eucharist.
- Bishop Persico's words at the Town Hall Meeting: 'I really, really encourage you to receive Communion in the hand, out of consideration for people at this moment it would be best to receive Communion in the hand. This is about charity.'

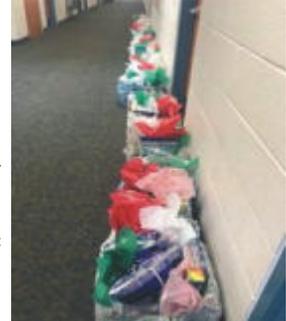


Angel Tree Thank You!

Many thanks to our Beloved Disciple parishioners.

Through your generosity we were able to bring a smile to forty-one children on Christmas morning. Such a beautiful image!! We also put together twenty boxes full of hot chocolate, popcorn, card games, board games, movies, snacks, and drinks for students living in cottages at George Junior. Your contributions to the Christmas dinner fund also allowed us to provide three of our Beloved Disciple families with a one-hundred-dollar gift card to Aldi's.

During this Christmas season you shared the gift of: **HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE** May the New Year bring you peace of mind and continued faith in our Lord!!



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: In late 6th century BC, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed an unimaginable future of glory for Israel in the wake of their return from seventy years of captivity in Babylon. What message of hope does our nation need today? **Second Reading:** Paul speaks of God's "revelation" to include Gentiles as "coheirs" and "copartners" with Jews in the divine promise fulfilled in Christ Jesus. How welcoming are you to those you consider outsiders?

Gospel: The magi's visit to discover the "newborn king of the Jews" caused great anxiety for the religious leaders of Jerusalem, including King Herod. Why do you think some people are not open to the good news of Jesus Christ?

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1) **Second Reading:** 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. (Eph 2:5-6) **Gospel:** 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. (Mt 2:10-11)

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments- January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month: Who are the perpetrators? Traffickers can be anyone who profits from the selling of a child for sex to a buyer, including family members, foster parents, friends, gangs, trusted adults, or "boyfriends." Much of the trafficking of children has moved from street corners and truck stops to the internet where children are sold for sex. Online classified sites allow traffickers and buyers anonymity and accessibility when exploiting children. In some case, there is no identified trafficker, and it is the person buying sex from the child who is exploiting the child's vulnerabilities. A child cannot consent to being bought and sold for sex, and anyone purchasing sex from a child is committing a serious crime. If you suspect a case of Child Sex Trafficking you can call 1-800-THE-LOST or make a report at www.CyberTipline.org . Visit <https://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY/STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E-Mail _____

Please check one: _____

I am new in the parish and wish to register _____

Change of Address _____

Moving out of Parish _____

Joseph Bandi, ext. 113 *Liturgical Music, Weddings*
 Mikey Bancroft, ext. 100 *Parish Secretary, Outreach*
 Angie Felicetty, ext. 112 *LIFT Team, Sacramental Prep*
 Tina Greig, ext. 113, *Director of Liturgical Music*
 Lisa Bablak, 115, *LIFT Secretary*
 Dianne Schleigh, *Liturgical Environment*
 Victoria Wagner, 116, *LIFT Team, Outreach*
 Lorie Wizorek, 724-748-6868 *Little Disciples Pre School*
 Tony Bancroft, *Custodian*
 James Shuey, *Custodian*

Capital Campaign News: 152 Families
 Pledged: \$ 139,200.36 Paid: \$135,364.00 Due: \$8,548.00
Catholic Service Appeal 163 Families
 Pledged: \$93,704.00 Paid: \$83,713.50 Due: \$9990.50

New to our Community? Join our Parish!

Welcome to our parish! Please contact the parish office for an appointment to register. We hope you will become a part of our parish family!

Mission of Friendship/Sister Parish For over thirty years, the Church of the Beloved Disciple has shared its resources with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Colonia, Mexico, which is located within the Archdiocese of Yucatan. We continue to offer them our heartfelt prayers and affection.

Sacramental Preparation For all Sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, Marriage and Holy Orders; or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), please call the parish office for information and assistance.

Pastoral Care of the Sick We are pleased to visit the sick or home-bound and administer the sacraments. Please contact the parish office to make the staff aware of your need. NOTE: Due to privacy laws effecting hospitals and care facilities families are asked to make our parish office aware of an admission so we don't miss visiting the sick.

Stewardship We ask that all families commit to sharing their time, talent and treasure to express their love of the Lord and His Church. All parishioners have something to offer to our Church; every gift is valued and appreciated.

Sacrificial Giving the Week of December 27, 2020

Online Giving is Available
**Call the office, we can help to set up
your online contributions.**

Families in Parish: 390 Envelopes Mailed: 352

Envelopes Used:

Online Givers:

Yearly Budget: 535,176.00

Weekly Budget: 11,149.50

Our Total:

Offertory — Early

Loose—Bulletin

Monthly —Submission

Sister Parish — Data Not

Capital Needs — Available

We have met % of our budget.
Thank you for mailing in your contributions!

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