

Blessed Sacrament Church

1626 W. 26th Street • Erie, PA 16508
814-454-0171 • www.bsparisherie.org
January 3, 2021



The Epiphany **OF THE LORD**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem. - Mt 2:1

Blessed Sacrament Parish Mission Statement

To nourish our love of God through Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Centered in the Eucharist, we are developing a faith community through prayer, education, worship and Christian fellowship. As stewards of God's love, we strive to share our gifts and talents for the service of God and all His people.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office 814-454-0171
 Parish Office Hours
 Monday—Friday 8am—4:00pm
 Closed for Lunch 12:00-12:30pm
 E-mail dfisher@bserie.org
 Website www.bsparisherie.org
 School 814-455-1387
 Cafeteria 814-455-7113
 Gym Scheduling Mark Kloecker 881-1016
 Prayer Requests 860-6211
 Bulletin Deadline Monday at noon

Pete Sala pjsalaw@yahoo.com
 President of Ushers
 Mary Jo Fulton mjfulton@roadrunner.com
 Chairperson of Pastoral Council
 Carmen Phillips carmp2020@outlook.com
 Chairperson of Finance Council
 Al Smith allen.smith@wabtec.com
 Knights of Columbus
 Jim Theisen webmaster@bserie.org
 Webmaster for the parish www.bsparisherie.org
 Melissa Baldwin mbaldwin@ericatholic.org
 Webmaster for the school www.bsschoolerie.org
 Michael Scalise twintek@velocity.net
 Parish Foodbank Coordinator

If child abuse is suspected call:
 PA Child Line: 1-800-932-0313

PASTORAL STAFF

Father Philip Pinczewski ~ Pastor
 pastorphil@bserie.org
 Kevin Kunik ~ Permanent Deacon
 kevinkunik@hotmail.com
 Jane Wagner ~ School Principal
 jwagner@ericatholic.org
 Jennifer Durney ~
 Facilitator of Religious Education
 jdurney@bserie.org
 Kathy Golden ~ Director of Music
 kgolden@bserie.org
 Joyce Wickles ~ Business Manager
 jwickles@bserie.org
 Diane Fisher ~ Parish Secretary
 dfisher@bserie.org



♯ HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE
 & HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

CHURCH SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Church Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in loving memory of Jean Santone from Judy Husted.

CHAPEL SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Church Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in loving memory of the People of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

"Behold, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem." (Mt 2:2). The feast of the Epiphany reminds us that the wise still seek Jesus. What gifts of wisdom do you possess? A lesson learned from your childhood? A proverb that steers your life? A virtue to which you've struggled to be true?

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart, as though you have already come. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.

AMEN



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 +James Johnston / Ed Balliett

Tuesday, January 5—St. John Newmann

8:00 + Nila & Tullio Petri / Estate

Wednesday, January 6—Christmas Weekday

8:00 +James Reitz / Mike MacWhirter

Thursday, January 7—Christmas Weekday

8:00 +Richard Hughes / Family

Friday, January 8—Christmas Weekday

NO 8:00 MASS

Saturday, January 9—Baptism of the Lord

4:00 +Vincent Facchiano / John, Dede, Roy & Florence

Sunday, January 10—Baptism of the Lord

8:30 +Barb Gagnon / Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ciesielski

11:00 *People of Blessed Sacrament Parish

7:30 +Francis Madalena / Sister, Angie Madalena

* Living Daily Mass in the Church @ 8am

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass in the Church: 8am (Mon—Fri)

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm

*Sunday: 8:30am**, 11:00am and 7:30pm***

****these Masses will be livestreamed on our parish website & Facebook page**

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00—3:45pm

LECTOR SCHEDULE

January 9 @ 4:00pm Lisa Dietrich

January 10 @ 8:30am Jim & Janine Calabrese

January 10 @ 11:00am Jim Ackman

Effective January 1, 2021

8:00am Daily Mass will be held in the Church Monday—Thursday only. There will be 8:00am Mass on the first Friday of the month only.

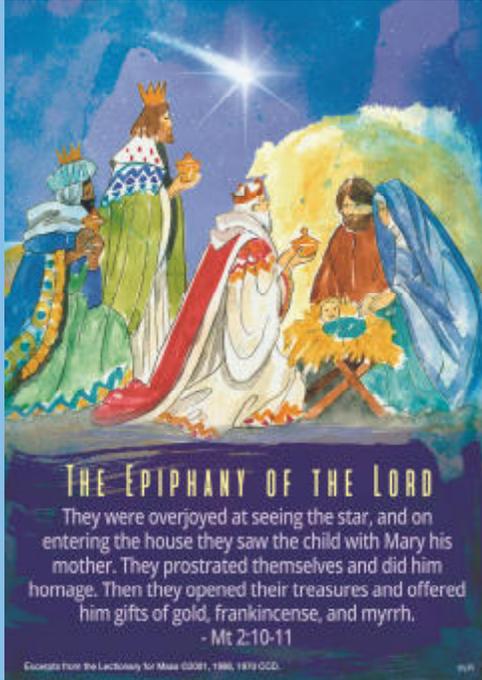
???QUESTION OF THE WEEK???

Question for Children: In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

Question for Youth: The star guided the Magi to Jesus. What are the people or events who have guided you in your relationship with Jesus?

Question for Adults: How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?

From Our Pastor



The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced in Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem. Jesus is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith. Formerly the Epiphany was a day for baptisms.

Jesus came for all people, freely giving salvation. The early Church struggles to understand what it would mean for the non-Jewish, Gentile, to be a part of the way of Jesus. As the Church struggles with this it eventually came down on the side that Gentiles were to be a part of the Church because of God's mercy. Jesus as our King and Savior would not be limited to only Israel.

This question of membership in the early church also speaks to us in our time. How often does it seem people seem to want to belong to a group but are put out? The student who is bullied and mocked for whatever reason is on the fringes. The person with disabilities is ignored or forgotten or simply can't join in with the typical group because of his/her disability. The immigrant because they look different or have different customs is shunned. If our early faith ancestors made a deliberate effort to change their thinking in order to welcome people different from themselves are we willing to follow in these footsteps? Are we creating a parish of inclusion and welcome to the stranger? Jesus's kingship and salvation is for all the world!

I want to thank so many people who have stopped by the Parish Office and offered Season's Greetings, Christmas goodies and gifts to myself and the staff. We are grateful for your warm wishes. Blessed Sacrament is a close knit group of tremendously giving people, a reflection of your love of the Lord and realization of your blessings!

Be Safe!

Peace,
Fr. Phil

BLESSING OF THE FAMILY HOME 20 C + M + B 21



In many places it is custom to celebrate the blessing of the home by writing the numerals of the new year in chalk over the front door, as well as the initials C, M, and B, representing the traditional names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

Gather the family outside the front door or main entrance of your home.

Begin by singing “We Three Kings” and by praying together the Sign of the Cross. Then offer the following prayer of blessing:

Loving God,
the doors of our hearts and the doors of our home are open to you
and to all who need warmth and welcome.

(Write the year and the initials C, M, and B in chalk over the front door or main entrance of your home.)

We give you thanks for our home, for the gift of family, and for the blessing of friends.

Keep us safe as we come in and as we go out each and every day.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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 cases, 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.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

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? ©LPi

MARCH FOR LIFE 2021

Erie March for Life, sponsored by People for Life, will be held January 23 beginning at 11 a.m. Participants should gather at the pavilion in Perry Square by 10:45 a.m. The march will conclude with a brief program of speakers. The entire event will take approximately one hour.

March for Life Bus Trip People for Life is sending one or more buses to the annual March for Life event in Washington, D.C., on January 29. Bus(es) will leave Erie at 11 p.m. on January 28, and return about 1:30 a.m. on January 30. Seats are \$55. Inquiries about financial sponsorship are welcome. For complete information and updates, visit www.peopleforlife.life/january2021, e-mail office@peopleforlife.org, or call 814-882-1333.

Sunday, January 03, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Bless this new year of grace

Some things are worth taking the time to do. After enduring the manifold burdens of this past year, few of us will need persuading that the annual Epiphany Blessing of the Home is a ritual worth investing in. Gather your housemates if living with others. Download a home blessing ritual or create one yourself, using symbols especially meaningful to your participants. Which household items became especially significant during the pandemic and call for a special blessing? A cloth mask, a bar of soap, and Netflix may be featured as items of peculiar yet holy purpose in this year's rites everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."*

Monday, January 04, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON,

RELIGIOUS Preserve the legacy

Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first U.S.-born saint, started the country's first Catholic girls' school in Maryland, where she also founded the first American women's religious community, the Sisters of Charity. All those "firsts" multiplied into an incredible legacy of parochial education and religious life benefiting women that ripples to today. At Seton's beatification, Pope John XXIII said, "she sowed a seed in America which by Divine Grace grew into a tree." Perhaps you yourself are a beneficiary of her legacy. In the words of Pope Paul VI at her canonization, "Rejoice for your glorious daughter. Be proud of her. And know how to preserve her fruitful heritage."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). "He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom."*

Tuesday, January 05, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

Parishes for the people

What would U.S. parishes look like without John Neumann, the first naturalized U.S. citizen and bishop who was canonized? As a seminarian in his native Bohemia, John cherished Saint Paul's missionary epistles from the Bible and longed to serve the United States as a missionary. His wish was granted. After John's 1835 ordination he began to set up parishes and a network of parochial schools in New York. He served Germans and Native Americans and also learned Gaelic and Italian to better serve parishioners in Baltimore and Philadelphia. He introduced the Forty Hours devotion and set up parish missions for Lent. Ask John to pray for your parish today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). "They were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things."*

Wednesday, January 06, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

Open the door to new life

So many have said that 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, marked by a pandemic that has taken lives and so much more, and a national election that challenged the U.S. belief in a united nation with liberty and justice for all. Though a new year is only the turn of a calendar page, it allows and encourages new life, new perspective, new hope, and new energy. Let the life of the gentle

and humble Saint André Bessette—who spent many years as a doorman for his monastic community—be our inspiration. May compassion and love of neighbor guide us into this new year.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). "If God so loved us, we also must love one another."*

Thursday, January 07, 2021

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

And now for an announcement...

Even in an age when people are bombarded with messages, announcements can have particular cachet. They appear over and over in the gospels, from angels announcing Christ's birth to Jesus' announcement in today's gospel that he came to fulfill the words of Isaiah. The church continues to make plenty of announcements, from the calendar items announced at Mass to "announcements" in the form of pastoral letters and encyclicals about how to live contemporary Christian life. You probably announced your faith in a formal way at your Confirmation. How can you "announce" Christ today through your words and actions?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22a (215). "He said to them, 'Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.'"*

Friday, January 08, 2021

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Out of stillness, creation

As the Christmas season draws to a close, some treasure its highlights, others dread the January "blahs," and all of us could do well to follow Jesus' model in the gospel. After he cures a leper, the crowds and the demands on him increase. Many of us would plough into the need, then the adulation. Instead, he withdraws and retreats. This wintry season offers a time to withdraw and reflect. Think, for example, of the solitude necessary to create the kind of sacred art that Giotto was known for. He died on this day in 1337, so perhaps you can bring him to mind as you channel your own inner artist in the winter stillness. Create something new today!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). "But he would withdraw to deserted places to pray."*

Saturday, January 09, 2021

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Make space for Christ

This is the final day of the Christmas season. But it's always Christmas, every day of the year. Christ comes in our humanity, born into our human flesh. We are always united with Christ in a communion of divinity and humanity, realized in Jesus, shared with us. We celebrate that communion in the central act of our worship: We eat and drink the Real Presence of Christ in us. But like John the Baptist proclaims in today's gospel, that presence of Christ must increase in us as our own egos decrease. This is the way to fulfillment. Let Christ lead you today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). "He must increase; I must decrease."*



*Daily renewal for busy Catholics.
Invest just five minutes a day,
and your faith will deepen and grow
a day at a time.*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
 Next 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

IMPORTANT



Reminder: Face masks must be properly fitted and worn over both nose and mouth at all times in Blessed Sacrament buildings. Also, please remember to keep a six foot distance from those in households other than your own when seated for Mass. We want to keep all of you safe.

Comfort In God's Arms Prayer Shawl Ministry Please keep in mind that we have shawls available to take to your loved ones who need to feel the comfort of God's arms around them. If you or someone you know would like a prayer shawl or would like to join our group, please contact Linda at (814) 490-8022. There is no charge for the shawls. Our Ministry is glad to provide comfort and prayers for your loved ones in need.

GREETING CARD MINISTRY We had a glitch in our Parish Data System that inactivated some of our Ministries. If you were on the Greeting Card Ministry (or would like to be), please send us your name and contact info so that we can get that Ministry back up and running. You can call the Parish Office or email us at dfisher@bserie.org. We apologize to anyone that had a December birthday or wedding anniversary and didn't receive a card.

CARD DONATIONS If you have any Birthday, Anniversary or Sympathy cards that you would like to donate to our Greeting Card Ministry, you can drop them off at the Parish Office. Thank you in advance for your donations.

2021 CALENDARS

Calendars are now available. There are three designs to pick from. Thank you to the Francis V. Kloecker Funeral Home for providing the calendars for us every year.



PARISH PRAYER LINE

If you, a family member or friend are in need of prayers, please call the prayer line with your request (860-6211). If no one answers, leave a message with your prayer request. First names only are used when the request is passed through the prayer chain.

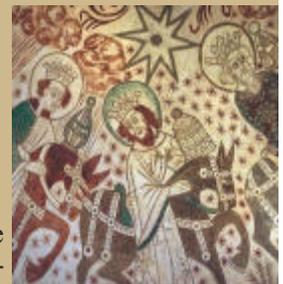
The Three Wise Men

Question:
Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men...who were they?

Answer:

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There's a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men *magoi*. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean "magician," but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We're not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says "the east." History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts "from afar" at the prompting of their astronomical calculations. ©LPi



GOLD
 FRANKINCENSE
 MYRRH



\$\$\$\$ RAISE THE ROOF LOTTERY \$\$\$\$

12/18 #287...#288 no winners...#286 Mary Jo Fulton \$10

12/19 #835 no winner...#836 John Greiner \$10...

#834 no winner

12/20 #505 Holly MacKenzie \$100...#506 no winner...

#504 Bonnie Dombrowski \$10

12/21 #479...#480...#478 no winners

12/22 #862...#863...#861 no winners

12/23 #042...#043...#041 no winners

12/24 #712...#713...#711 no winners

12/25 #459...#460...#458 no winners

12/26 #998...#999...#997 no winners

12/27 #235...#236...#234 no winners

JANUARY TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

\$5 per ticket 93 chances to win this month

If you want tickets, call Diane in the Parish Office (454-0171) or send an email dfisher@bserie.org and leave a message with your choice of lottery numbers and we will mail them to you. You can mail back your stubs and money or drop off at the office. We appreciate your support.

31 CLUB

Pray for vocations

January 04 Carol Delo
January 05 Marianne Zimmerman
January 06 Mary Lou Peterson
January 07 Bob Fulton
January 08 Richard Moore
January 09 Carolyn Johnston
January 10 Patty Palermo

Members of the 31 Club agree to go to daily Mass and /or offer prayers on a particular day every month for an increase of vocations to the Church. One of the best ways to increase vocations is through prayers, and the greatest prayer we have is the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Please call the Parish Office if you want to be in the 31 Club and experience the satisfaction that comes from helping to fulfill a great need in the Church.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE: ARE THERE HMOS IN HEAVEN?

A doctor, a nurse, and the top executive of an HMO died and were in line together at the pearly gates. St. Peter asked each one what good they had done in their lives.

The doctor said, "I have devoted my life to the sick and needy and have had a part in caring for and healing thousands of people." St. Peter replied, "That's great. Go ahead into heaven."

The nurse chimed in, "I have supported the doctor and his patients my entire life as an adult, have taken time to explain things to patients, and have helped them lead healthy lives." "Wonderful," says St. Peter. "Please proceed in with the doctor."

Then the executive said, "I was the president of a very large health maintenance organization. I was responsible for the healthcare of millions of people all over the country." St. Peter says, "Oh, I see. Please go on in ... but you can only stay two nights!"

**"KNIGHTS CORNER"**

Thank you to all parishioners who continue to support the Food Pantry with your generous donations. With your donations we were able to help our families have a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas too. The food is not only helping our Food Bank families but we have been helping families at a local Erie school whose families have been very hard hit by the economic impact of COVID. Thank you so much for your continued support and we hope you will continue your generosity in the coming months.

Erie Council 278 will pray the Rosary on the **first Sunday of each month** through Sunday March 3rd, 2021. Please plan to attend or participate online. This will be livestreamed on the parish website and facebook page followed by the 8:30am Mass. Please join us.

As always, we invite all practicing Catholic Men to join the Knights of Columbus.

**USHERS' CORNER**

As we begin a new year, let us be committed to strengthening our Parish and School. This begins by attending as many Usher meetings as you can. This is a small step but will yield great rewards. Everyone can give input and will be informed of events at school and church going forward. It is easier now than ever since we will be holding our meetings on-line for the near future. So please reserve the time each month to make the Ushers the best organization it can be.

Secondly, we also need to commit to attending mass either in person or virtually. This is the essence of who we are as Christians and the Ushers must set the example for everyone else that no matter what is happening in our world, we are devoted to our faith. It is what will carry us through life and make us better people.

I look forward to working with everyone in 2021.

Happy New Year! Pete Sala





USE THE
Light of God

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

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

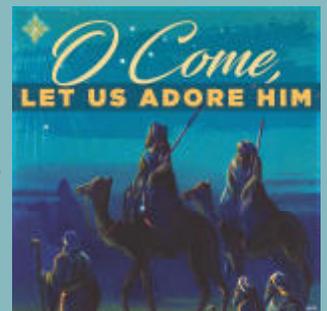
If you’re on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: “God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace.”

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 ©LPi



PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for those in our Parish Family who are hospitalized, ill, homebound and in nursing facilities, as well as those who care for them.

Pray for all those suffering from COVID-19, the healthcare workers who are caring for them and all the service providers who are working everyday.

Pray for all members of the military.

Pray for those who have suffered the experience of abuse, may they find through Christ's presence, deep healing and peace.

PRAY FOR PEACE IN OUR COUNTRY

*Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for
ED LEPKOWSKI
The prayers and sympathy of the Parish Family were extended to his wife Lorraine and family.
May Ed rest in peace.*

SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

	12/20/2020	12/27/2020
Adult Offering:	\$ 5,736.00	\$ 4,462.00
Loose:	\$ 196.00	\$ 199.00
Online:	\$ 1,208.00	\$ 1,135.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$ 245.00	\$ 35.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$ n/a	\$ 35.00
Christmas:	\$ 648.00	\$ 3,906.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ n/a	\$ 3.00
Youth Offering:	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00
Total:	\$ 8,070.00	\$ 9,822.00

2020 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Pledged to Date:	\$ 69,056.00 [225]
Paid To Date:	\$ 65,935.00
Assessment:	\$ 65,283.00
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