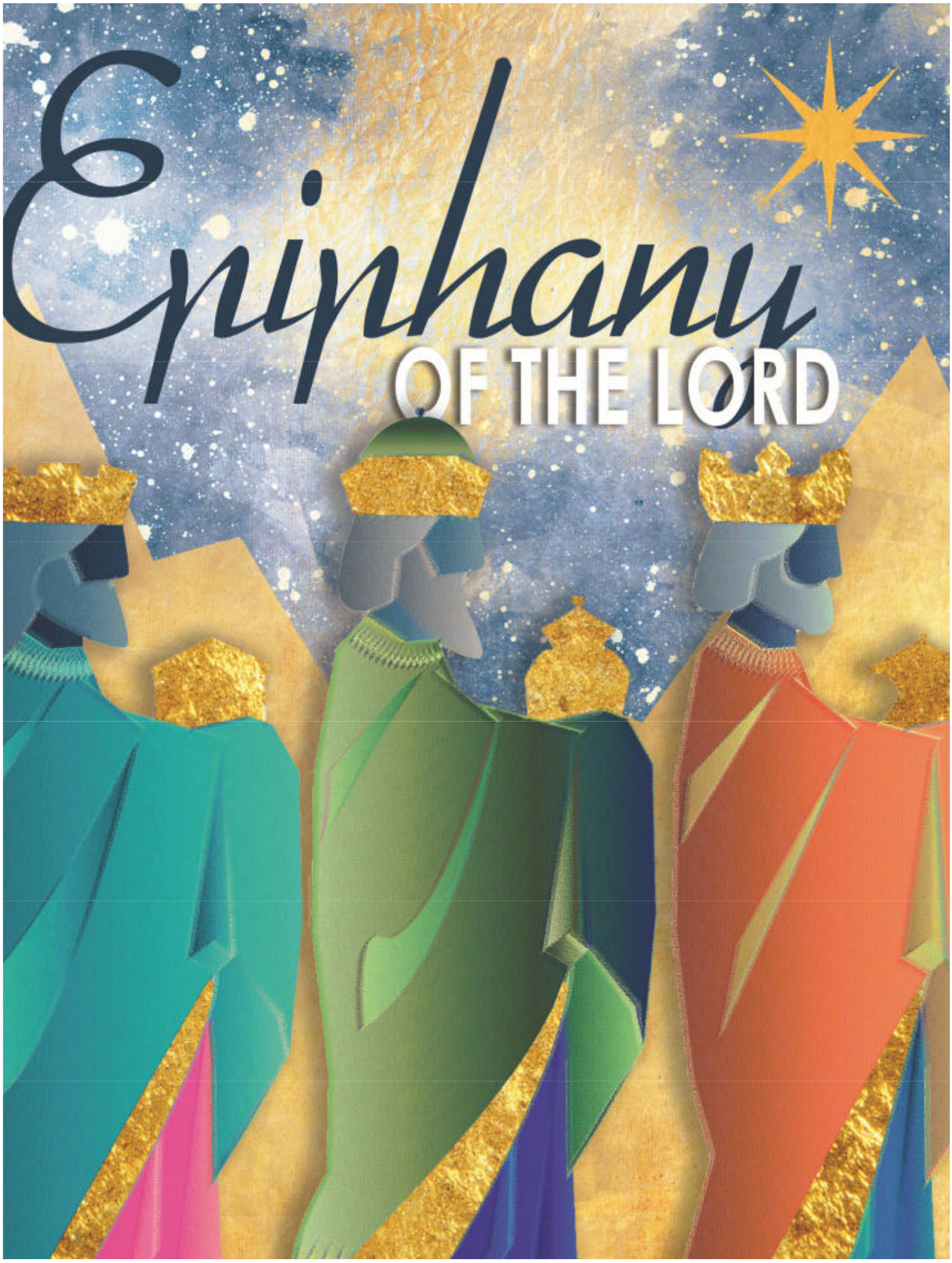
Epiphany
OF THE LORD

PARISH *INFORMATION*

JANUARY 3, 2021

Welcome to St. Christopher Parish

FORMING A FAMILY OF FAITH

United in Spirit | Sharing our gifts | Revealing Christ by our love

In our Catholic tradition, St. Christopher represents a Christ-bearer, one who carries Christ. Our community strives to bring this image to life as we unite to share Jesus' Good News and love our neighbor. Whether you are a first-time or returning visitor, we are glad you are here! If you are called to join us, online registration is available through our website home page. If you prefer to register in person, please contact the Parish Office or stop by during business hours. Together as the Body of Christ we will celebrate God's presence among us with hope and joy.

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. – Matthew 18:20

435 E. NATIONAL ROAD | VANDALIA, OH 45377 | 937.898.3542

church.stchristopheronline.com | **Parish Office Hours:** *Mon.- Fri. 10:00am - 3:30pm*

PARISH STAFF

Fr. John Tonkin — *Pastor*
jtonkin@scpchurch.org
ext. 103

Fr. Andrew Smith — *Parochial Vicar*
asmith@stjohntippcity.org
937.667.3419

Charles Wright — *Deacon*
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937.667.3419 | 937.890.2366

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ext. 109

Mary Lauterbach — *Pastoral Associate*
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Elise Sas — *GIFT | DRE | VIRTUS*
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ext. 105

Elena Pope — *YM | Bulletin | Comm.*
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ext. 104

Kelly Schmitmeyer — *Dir. Worship & Music*
kschmitmeyer@scpchurch.org
937.538.1762

myParish *Stay Connected!*

UPDATES | DAILY READINGS | LIVE MASS
ONLINE GIVING | LISTEN TO HOMILIES

ST. CHRISTOPHER CENTER FOR CHILDREN

AGE 3—PRE-K | CHILD CARE
401 E. National Rd.
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w: stchristopherchildcare.com
Administrator
Judy Shoup — *937.890.5805*

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

K-8TH GRADE
405 E. National Rd.
Vandalia, Ohio 45377
w: school.stchristopheronline.com
School Principal
Tim O'Loughlin — *937.898.5104*
Cafeteria — *937.898.6203*

ST. CHRISTOPHER CCD

G.I.F.T. GRADES 1-12
435 E. National Rd.
Vandalia, Ohio 45377
w: church.stchristopheronline.com
Dir. Of Religious Ed
Elise Sas — *937.898.3542, ext. 105*

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM
Class on 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
Pre-registration required; contact the parish office. ***Baptism is at 12:15 p.m. on the first and third Sundays.***

RCIA (Catholic Faith Initiation)
Joan Dunn, 937.898.3542 ext. 107

RECONCILIATION
Saturdays 4:15pm-4:45pm

MATRIMONY
Arrangements are to be made no less than six months in advance. Call Fr. John for an appointment.

CONFIRMATION (Grade 10)
Elise Sas, 937.898.3542 ext. 105
Confirmation for Adults, call Parish Office

PASTORAL REGION #3

In Dayton Deanery with
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
753 S. Hyatt St., Tipp City, OH
937.667.3419
Pastor, Fr. John Tonkin
Weekday: T/TH: 8:30a | W: 7p
Weekend: SA: 5p | SU: 8a, 10:30a.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

		WEEK 26
2020/2021 Fiscal Year Goal		$1,216,000
MONTH GIVING	**ACTUAL**	**WEEKLY GOAL**
*Giving Tuesday***	*$84,000*	**$50,000**
12/06	*$33,289*	*$27,500*
12/13	*$19,771*	*$27,500*
12/20	*$33,805*	*$27,500*
*Christmas**	***TBA***	
*12/27**	***TBA***	*$27,500*
Actual YTD		**$582,004**
Goal YTD		**$532,500**
Difference		**$49,504**

**** Due to parish office being closed, we currently do not have this figure. Will update once the office is reopened. **Giving Tuesday income is included with the annual support totals, but not included in the budgeted weekly support goals.***

MASS ATTENDANCE *LAST WEEKEND*

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	SUN
n/a	7pm	9am	5pm/11pm	9am	5pm	9am	11am
--	*60*	*67*	*167/140*	*118*	*97*	*138*	*168*

MASS & PRESIDER SCHEDULE

		St. Christopher		St. John the Baptist	
S	01|02	5 pm	*Fr. Smith*	5 pm	*Fr. John*
SU	01|03	9 am	*Fr. Smith*	8 am	*Fr. John*
		11 am	*Fr. Smith*	10:30 am	*Fr. John*
M	01|04	*No Mass/Comm. Service*		*No Mass/Comm. Service*	
T	01|05	7 pm	*Fr. John*	8:30 am	*Fr. Smith*
W	01|06	9 am	*Fr. John*	7 pm	*Fr. Smith*
TH	01|07	7 pm	*Fr. John*	8:30 am	*Fr. Smith*
F	01|08	9 am	*Fr. John*	*No Mass/Comm. Service*	
S	01|09	5 pm	*Fr. John*	5 pm	*Fr. Smith*
SU	01|10	9 am	*Fr. John*	8 am	*Fr. Smith*
		11 am	*Fr. John*	10:30 am	*Fr. Smith*

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST CHRISTOPHER

T	01|05	7 pm	*Jim Joyce*
W	01|06	9 am	*Michael Roselle*
TH	01|07	7 pm	*James Buchanan*
F	01|08	9 am	*Paul Bendik*
S	01|09	5 pm	*Valdez Family*
SU	01|10	9 am	*St Christopher Parish*
		11 am	*Ken Severt*

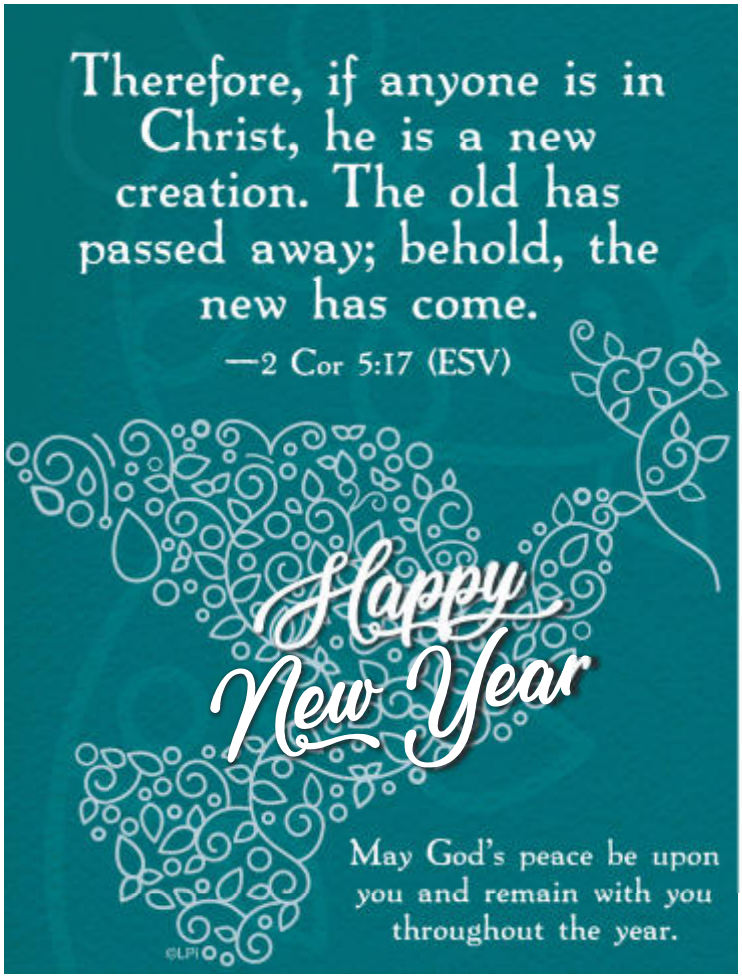
PARISH SACRAMENTS
Recently Celebrated

BAPTISM

GARRETT WENDELL LARGER
Son of Blake Wendell Fox & Laura Ann Larger
December 13 2020

EVELYN GRACE VAN LEEUWEN
Daughter of Joseph & Jacquelyn (Harris) Van Leeuwen
December 20, 2020

EDWIN MICHAEL JOHNS
Son of Allan & Carrie (McAtee) Johns
December 29, 2020



WEEKLY *READINGS & OBSERVANCES*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021

SUN **1/03** The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week
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

MON **1/04** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, *Religious*
1 Jn 3:22—4:6
Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

TUE **1/05** St. John Neumann, *Bishop*
1 Jn 4:7-10
Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]
Mk 6:34-44

WED **1/06** St. André Bessette, *Religious*
1 Jn 4:11-18
Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]
Mk 6:45-52

THU **1/07** St. Raymond of Penyafort, *Priest*
1 Jn 4:19—5:4
Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]
Lk 4:14-22a

FRI **1/08** -----
1 Jn 5:5-13
Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]
Lk 5:12-16

SAT **1/09** -----
1 Jn 5:14-21
Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]
Jn 3:22-30

SUN **1/10** The Baptism of the Lord
Is 42:1-4, 6-7 OR *Is 55:1-11*
Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b] OR *Is 12:2-3,4,5-6*
Acts 10:34-38 OR *1 Jn 5:1-9*
Mk 1:7-11

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church.stchristopheronline.com
Thank you for your generosity!

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

CATHOLIC LIFE *EXPLAINED*

Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

©LPi

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

GOSPEL *MEDITATION*

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"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

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

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

GOSPEL

PRE - 1ST

God wants these gifts from you: love, forgiveness, and sharing. The wise men took Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. You may not have these to give to God. You can give God gifts more valuable than gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Forgive someone. It is worth more than a piece of gold. Say NO to bad ways. This is worth more than frankincense. Share with others. This is worth more than myrrh.

2ND - 3RD

Jigsaw puzzles are fun. Solve a puzzle with your whole family, and it comes together even faster. God helped the wise men solve a puzzle. They wanted to find the newborn king. Together the wise men read God's promises, did their homework, and followed the star. When all of their answers fit, they found baby Jesus.

PRAYER

PRE - 1ST

Lord, help me do things worth more than gold for you.

2ND - 3RD

God, thank you for all the people who helped me find Jesus.

MISSION

PRE - 1ST

I will straighten my room, clean my closet, and dust my furniture.

2ND - 3RD

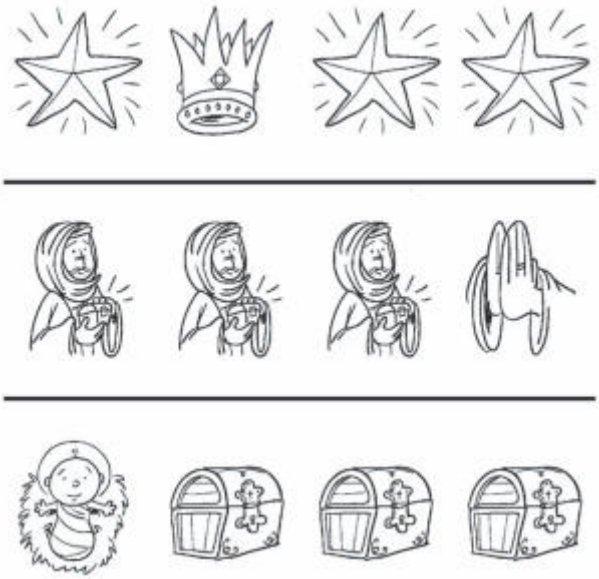
Solve a puzzle together with your family. Work together like the wise men did.

GROWING WITH THE Gospel CYCLE A

LPi BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

PUZZLE

Circle the picture that is different. Then color all of the pictures.



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

~~WISE MEN~~ STAR HEROD

MESSIAH WORSHIP EXCITED

GIFTS WARNED DREAM

U	W	A	R	N	E	D	E	K	O	E
J	I	N	E	G	A	J	W	I	N	G
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W	N	A	H	R	T	Y	H	R	S	F
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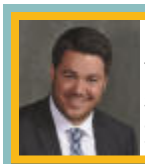

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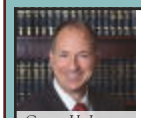

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