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at SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCH
320 FIRST AVENUE, JESSUP, PA.

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. **Fax:** 570-489-2527

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First Penance & First Communion
Vicki Nagy
Confirmation Coordinator
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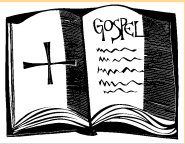
Rev. Gerard M. McGlone
✢
Pastor Emeritus
✢ Rev. William B. Blake ✢
✢
Deacon
Deacon Gerard L. Carpenter
✢
Sacristan
Enzo Angeloni

January 8, 2023 ✢ The Epiphany of the Lord-Solemnity

MASSES FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, January 7th
4:00 P.M. — Joseph Mahalidge, Jr. by Family
Sunday, January 8th
8:00 A.M. — For the People
10:30 A.M. — William Barrett by John Hubal & Family
Monday, January 9th
8:00 A.M.—Mass in Thanksgiving by Barbara Abate
Tuesday, January 10th
No Mass Today
Wednesday, January 11th
5:30 P.M.—Armando Artigiani by His Friends
Thursday, January 12th
5:30 P.M. — Robert T. Kelly by Patty Smith
Friday, January 13th
8:00 A.M.—Special Intentions for Mary
Saturday, January 14th
4:00 P.M. — Joseph Junikka by Pina & Frank Paparelli
Sunday, January 15th
8:00 A.M. — For the People
10:30 A.M. — Carol Simoncelli by J.J. Mancia

✢

SANCTUARY CANDLE

In memory of sisters, Theresa Rinaldi & Anna Mauroschadt

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 14th
4:00 P.M.-Lector-Margaret Conway
Altar Server-Patty Smith
Communion Minister-Maria Ceccacci

January 15th
8:00 A.M.-Lector-Lou Margotta
Altar Server-Paul Szymonski
Communion Minister-Stephen Butash
10:30 A.M.-Lector-Joseph Slish
Altar Server-Owen Slish
Communion Ministers-Teresa Newberry-Tim Munley

"And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

SATURDAY CONFESSION TIMES

Fr. Gerard will be available to hear your confession from 3:00-3:30 P.M. on the following date: January 14th and 28th He will be in his usual place near the sanctuary. As always, confessions are available by appointment, too.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

✢

Msgr. John Esseff J A Adams Shannon Kennedy L.L. P.B.
Lois R. Laurie Bransdorf Pat D. Jerry Fagnani
Gina Taylor Robert Are Kaidence O'Donnell John K.
Mark B. Roseann Caucci Mary Zitts Brunetti P.P. & J.P.
Heather Joe Garrick Marla Marrazzo Dolores D.
Eric K. John P. Jones Mary Ann Zigmont T.B.N.
Jule A. Supplee Joey Berical Debbie Coons & Daughter
Evie Dixon Alicia Rinaldi Greg & Laurie Robert Mazzoni
Ivan W. L.A. and R.A. Eleanor Siniawa M.U. M.S.
Michael C. Tiahna Grace Jackson Donna Frisch Anthony Capasso
Michael D. Mary Munley Richard Williams K. Gault
Maria W. George Shaffer Bill C. Bishop James Timlin
Joseph R. Brendan Mellin Elaine Theresa Ofcharsky
Molly Evans Ava Biancarelli Jacqueline Kosar Blazaskie
Rhonda Wassil Tiffany Fagnani Mary Pat Rudalavage C.M.C.
Nancy V. Brian Zebrowski James Baker Bigi Bob A.
Paul Washko Deacon Jerry Beverly Lepri Gregory Rosetti
David Passeri Michael Passeri Paul Cacciamani, Sr.
Sue Wallace Barbara Marcinko Marie Homentosky J.B. S.J.
Deborah Ann R. Christopher Mortensen All Suffering from COVID-19
All Active Duty Service Men and Women ✢ The People of Ukraine
All Lives Lost to Gun Violence in our Nation

O Lord, Blessed Mother, and All the Saints, hear our prayers for those on our Parish Prayer List.

FAITH FORMATION-2022-2023

January 8-Class in Session
15-Class in Session
22-Class in Session
29-Class in Session-**Confirmation Enrollment**
8th Grade at 10:30 A.M. Mass

February-5-Class in Session
12-Class in Session
19-Class in Session
26-Class in Session

Grades 7&8-Ministries at 10:30 A.M. Mass

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7TH AND 8TH GRADE MASS JOURNALS

Please remember to complete your Monthly Mass Journals and submit them to you either Mrs. Mitchell or Mrs. Rinaldi. They will be placed in the Confirmation folder in the Parish Office in preparation for the Confirmation Masses in the future.

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Our Annual Christmas Collection is one of the largest outpourings of generosity from parishioners throughout the year. Your sacrifices are so appreciated for the viability of the parish and its upkeep and maintenance. God bless you and thank you for what you able to give at Christmastime.

✢

IN LOVING MEMORY

The following Scranton diocesan clergy have entered into eternal rest in 2022: Msgr. Alexander Kulik-January 5, 2022; Rev. Leo McKernan-January 23, 2022; The Most Rev. John M. Dougherty, D.D. -April 16, 2022; Rev. Cyril Rable-June 7, 2022; Rev. Casimir Stanis-June 11, 2022; Rev. Kenneth Kizis-June 28, 2022; and Rev. Stephen Krawontka-July 19, 2022. Remember in your prayers these faithful priests who served our diocese.

ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS

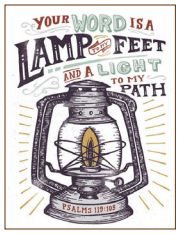
Mary Carnevale, Michael T. Carnevale, Rinaldo Santarelli & Mary Lou Rzeszewski
by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Carnevale
Lena Cavecchia, Eugene Kovaleski, & Evelyn Soares
by Mrs. Mary Kovaleski

✢

YOUR JANUARY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Once again, if your envelopes haven't arrived in a timely manner it is because they do not come as First Class mail. It might take a bit longer to get to you. As in previous months, please be patient. And a reminder, you can use the extra envelope from the previous month and use that for the Sunday Offertory until your new envelopes arrive. Remember to write your name and envelope number on that offering. Thank you.

This week, we begin Winter-Ordinary Time with our daily readings taken from Year-I of the scripture cycle. The Letter to the Hebrews will be our focus for the next few weeks. As early as the second century, this treatise, which is of great rhetorical power and force in its admonition to a faithful pilgrimage under Christ's leadership, bore the title "To the Hebrews." It was assumed to be directed to Jewish Christians. Usually Hebrews was attached in Greek manuscripts to the collection of letters by St. Paul. Although no author is mentioned (for there is no address), a reference to Timothy (Heb 13:23) suggested connections to the circle of Paul and his assistants. Yet the exact audience, the author, and even whether Hebrews is a letter have long been disputed. ✢ As early as the end of the second century, the church of Alexandria in Egypt accepted Hebrews as a letter of Paul, and that became the view commonly held in the East. Pauline authorship was contested in the West into the fourth century, but then accepted. In the sixteenth century, doubts about that position were again raised, and the modern consensus is that the letter was not written by Paul. There is, however, no widespread agreement on any of the other suggested authors, e.g., Barnabas, Apollos, or Priscilla and Aquila. The document itself has no statement about its author. ✢ The principal divisions of the letter to the Hebrews are the following:



1) Introduction (1:1-4);
2) The Son Higher than the Angels (1:5-2:18);
3) Jesus, Faithful and Compassionate High Priest (3:1-5:10);
4) Jesus' Eternal Priesthood and Eternal Sacrifice (5:11-10:39);
5) Examples, Discipline, Disobedience (11:1-12:29); and
6) Final Exhortation, Blessing, Greetings (13:1-25).

[from the USCCB website]

"Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." Psalm 72

Scripture Reflection

Today is a feast of Gospel reversals. Herod had taken the title of "king of the Jews" to himself and perverted it by his ambitious grasp for power. In contrast, Jesus was born a powerless king of the Jews, the title that will be ironically nailed to the humble throne of his cross. Historical controversies aside, the Magi thrill our imagination and bring wonder and excitement to the faith-filled search for Jesus that is the focus of every disciple's journey through life. The Magi are the surprising, seeing ones, guided to Jerusalem by their own drive to seek wisdom and by nature's partial revelation in the star that rises in the east. In that city they learn where they will find the child from the special revelation of God's word and wisdom to Israel. They see through the hypocritical protestations of Herod's wish to go to pay homage himself to the newborn child. Herod and his coterie are blind; they have access to the wisdom of the Scriptures, but they refuse to see the meaning of what the prophets wrote. Herod is frantic at the possible risk of his power, while the Magi, aristocratic scholars from abroad, are almost naively willing to take risks and add to their scholarly wisdom the wisdom of the Hebrew Scriptures in their search for the royal child. In the wolfish company of Herod and his cohorts, Matthew sees the Magi as witnesses to the later call for all disciples to be "shrewd as serpents and simple as doves" (Matthew 10:16). ✢ The beauty of this imaginative narrative encourages us to what poverty encourages: to keen listening, to silent reflection, to transcendence of the ordinary by giving it our full attention. A star, a baby with its mother, human and holy words can lead us with the Magi into and beyond the mystery of Christ in silent homage. In our Christmas crèches, the Magi may seem "odd men out" in humble company of Mary, Joseph and the child. But with their fine gifts and opulent robes they do belong there, for they are symbolic of every nation on earth that, in the words of the Psalm 72, we pray will come to adore God and participate in a kingdom of justice and peace that only God can establish, especially for the poor and needy of the earth. ✢ As we gaze on the Magi and hear their story, are we mindful of strangers who come to our own place, not in rich robes but usually in the poverty of contemporary seekers and stargazers; the refugees and asylum seekers from many nations, those tired of hypocrisy and disillusioned about political power-mongering, the young who want a star that is worth following to rise in their lives, even though the journey may be difficult, the old and middle-aged who still dream of something more to enlighten them? And do we not all, at some time, feel ourselves to be strangers and foreigners seeking to belong to a true home (Ephesians 2:19) that will be the new Jerusalem?

✢

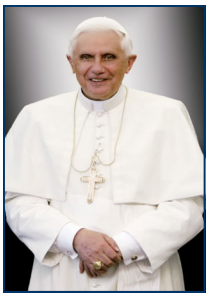
Questions to Ponder

Who is God calling you to be this new year? The Epiphany story points to the many ways God calls each one of us. Like the Magi, we may experience a major moment of clarity when God's calling shines as brightly as a star in the night sky. More likely, we will experience God's calling in the midst of our everyday lives just as the Magi did, in the fields of our homes, schools and workplaces. How will you respond?

✢

The Practice of Faith

God endows us with a variety of gifts and curiosities, not unlike the Magi's fascination with astronomy. The fact that our interests vary is precisely why we are given each other; we each reveal a different facet of God's infinite goodness and beauty. Discover this truth in the new year.



O God, faithful reward of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Benedict XVI, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy forever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Amen.

✢

At the request of Bishop Bambera, a special Mass is scheduled in our parish for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on Sunday, January 22nd at 10:30 A.M. Special prayers and petitions will be incorporated into this Sunday Mass. A photo of Pope Benedict will be displayed in our sanctuary.

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PARISH FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT

Parishes around the diocese were asked to place in this week's bulletin a 5-year report on parish finances to keep parishioners informed about stewardship trends from 2018 to the present. Fr. Gerard will speak about this before all of the Masses this weekend. Fr. Gerard found discrepancies in the printed report that the diocese provided and they are being corrected at this time. Stay tuned.

✢

WINTER-ORDINARY TIME MASS SETTING

We will be using Mass of the Resurrection setting for Winter-Ordinary Time...Holy, Holy-#868, When We Eat This Bread-#870, Amen-#872 and the Lamb of God-#873. This will begin next Sunday, January 15th and continue until Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

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WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, JAN. 18-25, 2023.

The theme for 2023 is "Do Good, Seek Justice." The theme is inspired by Isaiah 1:12-18, which laments a lack of justice among the People of God. Yet it also promises redemption by encouraging acts of justice. Like Isaiah, we hope to inspire a renewed desire and effort for justice among the Christian peoples around the world. ✢ The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began as an eight-day period of prayer called the Church Unity Octave at Graymoor and was established by founders of the Society of the Atonement, Mother Lurana White, SA, and Servant of God, Fr. Paul of Graymoor.

✢

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD ~ MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH

The manifestations of Christ that we celebrate during Christmas Time culminate in the Baptism of the Lord. On the last day of the Christmas season, may we think of how we will be open to allow Christ to be manifested in our lives. Let us resolve to consciously choose to follow Christ more closely and take seriously our baptismal call to live as disciples.

SUNDAY COLLECTION AND MORE

December 25, 2022-$3,030.00
Christmas Collection (to date)-$20,625.00
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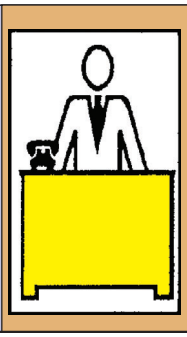

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