

The Work of the People
The Epiphany of the Lord

Today we celebrate the fact that the child born in the darkness of night in a lowly manger is revealed as the manifestation (the meaning of *epiphany*) of God. Christ is revealed in many ways: as Lord, as King, as the one in whom God is present and acts. All of these manifestations are "lights" that shine on Christ, revealing a deeper understanding of who he is. All the readings for today reveal, in a way, a different manifestation of who Christ is for all who believe. Traditionally, four events in the life of Christ are remembered today as manifestations of God's presence and action through Christ: the announcement to the shepherds, the visit of the Magi, the wedding feast at Cana, and the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River.

In today's first reading Isaiah addresses Jerusalem, a symbol of the chosen people of Israel. He calls them to "rise up in splendor" because the light, the salvation of God has arrived. They will now be a light for the nations; they will be the messengers of the wondrous deeds of God.

In Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus, the issue of whether the Gentiles should inherit salvation without first becoming Jewish appears as a contentious one for the early Church. Paul, who came to be known as the Apostle of the Gentiles, makes it clear that God always intended that the Gentiles receive the grace of salvation.

Today's Gospel is from the Infancy Narrative of Matthew. The importance of this story within the Christmas narrative lies in its theological meaning. Jesus' birth has significance far beyond the religious boundaries and expectations of his ancestors. The intervention of God in human history will have universal repercussions and people of every time and nation will be drawn to the Son of God.

Today's reflection is from *Enter the Story* by Sr. Fran Ferder who is a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and a clinical psychologist.

The Magi's search takes them through places both unfamiliar and dangerous. Driven to carry on through unknown terrain, they are guided only by a mysterious light and their own interior trust that a momentous meeting awaits.

The journey of the Magi has all of the elements of any vision quest or spiritual search:

Changing light in an otherwise dark sky. Unrelenting persistence toward an uncertain destination. Detours and altered paths. Bewildering dreams. Moments of overpowering joy. Meeting the holy. Offering the gifts of the journey. Going home again—to wherever it is that the inner landscape of our souls calls us.

According to Matthew, Jesus had his very own star, a bright globe in the sky that guided those who wanted to meet him. Stars are glimmers in the darkness, shimmering bits of radiance that draw others forward. The same light that helped the Magi find Jesus is part of a mystery that illuminates all significant relationships. Over the course of our lives many people will come our way, sometimes led by curiosity, sometimes by happenstance. But often, attraction will beckon them, a light inside that is hard to explain—a brightness that can only be followed by those willing to make a journey and offer their gifts. We do the same in relationship to them. As sons and daughters of God we too have our very own star—our personal appeal, our individual influence, our unique way of incarnating the holy. We have gifts to offer. Some of us travel a long way to find the reception that the Magi found.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is. 55:1-11/Mk. 1:7-11
 Tuesday: 1 Sm. 1:9-20/Mk. 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm. 3:1-10, 19-20/Mk. 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Sm. 4:1-11/Mk. 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Sm. 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk. 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Sm. 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Mk. 2:13-17
 Sunday: 1 Sm. 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor. 6:13c-15a, 17-20,
 Jn. 1:35-42

"Lord,
 thank you for your great mercy!
 Help me to never take it for granted."

MARCH FOR LIFE, WASHINGTON, D.C. **JANUARY 19, 2024**

Early reservations recommended
 \$65/seat
 Questions - please call 814 459-1333
 or 814 882-1333
 reservations can be made at
<https://conta.cc/3uvRkbH>

Please check poster on bulletin board for information.

WORSHIP

Monday, January 8
8:00 am + Robert A. Adams (Family)

Tuesday, January 9
8:00 am + Patricia Semrad (Josie Osiecki)

Wednesday, January 10
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, January 11
8:00 am + Living & Deceased Members
(David & Christine Ochs Family)

Friday, January 12
8:00 am + Joseph Parlak
(Fredric & Christina Thomas)

Saturday, January 13
4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, January 14
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
John Weagraff (Joan Rembielak)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Robert Beuth (Janet Quinn)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, January 7
10:30 am - Faith Formation Class

Tuesday, January 9
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, January 13
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, January 14
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession

Monday, January 16
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

PARENTING POINTERS

The feast of the Epiphany is when the three wise men visited the Holy Family. Think of a wise thing that your child has done or something that he/she has taught you? Affirm this wisdom in your child. Learn from each other.

ENGAGEMENT ENCOUNTER

Engagement Encounter still has openings for its January 19-21 weekend at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. Prepare for your wedding with a weekend you'll never forget. For information call 814 824-1261 or email familylife@erieRCD.org. Visit <https://www.erieRCD.org/familylifeoffice/> to register. Remember, "A wedding is one day, but marriage is for a lifetime."

HAM DINNER

On January 15, 2024 starting at 5:00 pm a Ham Dinner will be served in the Parish Center. Dinner includes ham, vegetable, potato, home-made rolls, and a slice of cake. Cost is \$7 and take outs are available.

ST. HIPPOLYTE PARISH

St. Hippolyte Parish is conducting a raffle to benefit the Stained-Glass Window Restoration project.

- First Prize: Whole Pig (fully processed)
- Second Prize: Blackstone 28: Tabletop Griddle
- Third Prize: \$150 GetGo Gift Card

Tickets are \$5 each and the drawings will be held on February 10, 2024, at the parish Mardi Gras Party. Tickets are available after the 11:00 am Sunday Mass at St. Hippolyte by contacting the church office at 814 789-2022.

K OF C FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

The K of C Free Throw Championship will be held at Our Lady of the Lake Social Center on Sunday, January 14 at 1:00 pm. Registration & warm-ups begin at 12:00 pm. All boys and girls ages 9 - 14 are invited to participate. Sign-up forms are available in the Social Center Lobby at Our Lady of the Lake or participants may register on the day of the event. Proof of age (birth certificate) and parent/guardian signature are required. Contact Neil Burkell with questions at 814 734-4865.

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$403.00
Maintenance	10.00
Initial	40.00
Christmas	10.00
Solemnity of Mary	139.00
Candles	3.00
Catholic Communication	10.00
Oplatki	10.00
TOTAL	\$625.00

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,417.00
Maintenance	213.00
Initial Offering	45.00
Solemnity of Mary	165.00
Candles	26.00
Oplatki	15.00
Christmas	30.00
Missionary	25.00
Special Offering	5.00
CSA	30.00
TOTAL	\$1,971.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$35,118.33 Paid: \$34,374.33

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
