**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**January 5, 2020**

 **Roads** There seems to be no end of biographies and autobiographies and memoirs. We love to read of life journeys, of the paths people followed or the trails they blazed. We compare their stories to ours, their journeys to ours, their roads taken and not taken to ours, Epiphany is the story of the road taken by astrologers, passing strangers, wonderful and just about exotic, but not quite. For this story is also ours.

**The Epiphany of the Lord**: The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh portend the universal significance of the child Jesus. Myrrh, a perfume used for burial, foreshadows his death. Gold is a gift for royalty, and frankincense signifies holiness. The indicate that, through his suffering and death, Jesus will become both the afflicted King, in whose service we are to offer our gifts to the afflicted, and the eternal Priest, whose sacrifice is the source of atonement (at-one-ment) for all humanity.

 The authors of today’s Scriptures seem to be super-sanitized to the harmony in the world, and certain of the goodness and oneness of all humanity. All nations are depicted as gathering as “members of the same body” (Ephesians 3:6) to serve the one and only Lord and King. No longer do the magi feel obligated to Herod or any power that would separate them from the true Source of at-one-ment----Christ Jesus.

**PARISH NEWS**

**Saturday Mass:** January Masses will be held at St. Michael

(SJP & SMP) **Parish website**: stjoseph-stmichaelparishes.org

**Funerals**: If there is a funeral during the week the Morning mass will be cancelled.

**Office:** Contact the office at St. Joseph with any questions or concerns you may have from either Parish. (814)226-7288. Thank you!

**Rosary**: The rosary elevates minds to the truth is revealed by God and shows us Heaven opened. The Virgin Mary herself has insistently recommended this manner of praying. All graces are conceded to us by God through the hands of Mary. Pope Pius XI

**Holy Hour For Life:** Pray to end abortion. St. Charles Parish in New Betlehem will hold a Holy Hour for Life on the first Saturday of each month beginning at 9 am. The Holy Hour will include; Expostion of the Blessed Dacrament, Rosary, Homily, Litany, Holy Communion and Bendediction. Everyone is Welcome!

 Dates: Jan. 5th, Feb, 1st, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th, August 1st, Sept 5th, Oct 3rd, Nov 7th and Dec 5th.

**Vocations Intercessions:** January;

 Let us pray that those called to parenthood may be inspired by the strong and humble heart of Mary.

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**PARISH NEWS**

**Rediscover the Saints: By: Matthew Kelly**

 *Loving Father;* Help us to know deep in our hearts that you are ready to remove today whatever obstacles we have placed between ourselves and you in the past. Open our hearts, minds, and souls to see the future you have imagined for us, and give us the courage to embrace your plans even when we feel inadequate and insecure. Amen.

 *Father of all Creation;* Show us the power of your love in new and specail ways. Open our hearts and minds to receive your love in all the ways you want to share it with us. And allow your love to flow through us to others, so that by knowing us they might come to know you and your love a little more. Amen.

 *Father of all Life;* Teach us how to live life to the fullest. Give us the courage to choose the -best-version-of-ourselves in each and every moment of our days. And allow our friendship and example to lead others to experience what it means to be fully alive. Amen.

 *Loving Father;* The tides come in and go out to a thythm, our hearts pump blood through our bodies to a rhythm, and the sun rises and sets to a thythm. Help me to recognize the genius of rhythm in the dyas of my life by celebrating strong daily routnes and rituals. Amen.

 *Father;* Thank you for all the ways you bless me, those I am aware of and all those I am still oblivious to. The Scriptures show me that from the beginning you have desired friendship with humanity. Help me to know and believe that just as you yearned for friendship with Adam and Eve; Abraham, Moses and Noah; Ruth, Esther, Rachel, and Mary; you desire a powerful friendship with me. Give me the wisdom to make prayer a priority in my life so together we can foster a beautiful friendship. Amen.

**Mass Schedule January 6th - January 12th**

**Tuesday, January 7th**

**8:30 a.m. - (SJP) Morris Aaron by Peg Weaver**

**Wednesday, January 8th**

**7:45 a.m. - (SJP)Bud Lander by Mike O’Neill**

**Thursday, January 9th**

**8:00 a.m. - (SMP)Madeline Ditz by Brad Eisenman**

**Friday, January 10th**

**8:00 a.m. - (SMP) Dorothy Schupp by Lynne Fleisher**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**Saturday, January 11th**

**Confession at St. Michael, 3:00 p.m.**

**4:00 p.m. — (SMP) Parish Family**

**Sunday, January 12th**

**7:30 a.m. — (SJP) Diane Ochs by Ted Wolbert**

**10:00 a.m.–(SMP) Regina Kelly by Anna Rose & Family**

**Collection Counters**

**SJP: Ken Lander, Annette & Robert Wielock**

**SMP: Eric Schmader, Ray Beichner, Jen Detar**

**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE burning in memory of**

**SJP: Sylvester & Lorene Schmader & Deceased**

**SMP: Diane Schettler**

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

**Parish Family, All Special Intentions**

**Service People on Active Duty**

Slugger Wagner, Bill & Steve Phillips, Jayleigh Ochs, Brendan & Terry George, Punkie & Joe Griebel, Jim Pfaff, Cathy Reed, Barb Wigton, Traci Kumer, and a special intention

All victims of disasters and violence

If you’d like to add someone, call the office or drop a note in the collection basket.

**School News (814) 226-8018**

**—You can register your children now for the ‘19-’20 school year. Call the school for more information. (814) 226-8018.**

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

**Special Thanks to all who sacrifice to support St. Joseph’s**

**DATE: December, 22nd**

Sunday Collection: $2,588

Loose Collection: $459

**Special Thanks to all who sacrifice to support St. Michael’s DATE: December, 22nd**

Sunday Collection: $2,302

Loose Collection: $193

**CSA:** St. Joseph assessment to Diocese: $30,699

 Parishioners Pledged: $45,567

 Parishioners Paid to Date: $44,252

 Balance Due to Diocese of Erie: $0

 Monies towards Church Doors ($15,000):$13,553

 Donations to Doors: $3,850

**CSA:** St. Michael assessment to Diocese: $34,150

 Parishioners Pledged: $41,150

 Parishioners Paid to Date: $38,840

 Balance Due to Diocese of Erie: $0

 Roof: $4,690

 Donations to Steeple/Roof:$114,678.43

**Liturgy Schedule January 11th & 12th**

**4:00 p.m.**

 **St. Michael Church**

**Lector: Theresa Seitz**

**Euch Min: Darla Smerkar**

**Altar Server: Jamie Bauer**

**Ushers: Bill Barklow, John Weaver Jr. Michael Beichner**

**Rosary: Mary Caye Stecki**

**7:30 a.m.**

**St. Joseph Church**

**Lector: Anne Ochs**

**Euch Min: Annette & Robert Wielock, Rob Gatesman**

**Altar Server: Melia Baumcratz, Eliza Datko**

**Ushers: Dale Gatesman, Brad, Dana & Luke Ochs**

**10:00 a.m.**

**St. Michael Church**

**Sacristan: Jody Guth**

**Lector: Dave Smerkar Jr.**

**Euch Min: Jane Schmader, Mark Beichner**

**Altar Server: Braxton Cyphert, Mason Hooper**

**Ushers: Tom Cyphert, Clarence Siegel, Tim Gilara**

**Rosary: Cathy Longacre**

**R.S. Cleaner: Tip Lutz & Morgan**

***January 4th***

**I WANT YOU TO LEARN A NEW HABIT.** Try saying, “I trust You, Jesus,” in response to whatever happens to you. If there is time, think about who I am in all My Power and Glory; ponder also the depth and breadth of My Love for you.

 This simple practice will help you see Me in every situation, acknowledging My sovereign control over the universe. When you view events from this perspective--through the Light of My universal Presence--fear loses its grip on you. Adverse circumstances become growth opportunities when you affirm your trust in Me no matter what. You receive blessings gratefully, realizing they flow directly from My hand of grace. Your continual assertion of trusting Me will strengthen our relationship and keep you close to Me.

***January 5th***

**YOU CAN ACHIEVE THE VICTORIOUS LIFE** THROUGH LIVING IN DEEP DEPENDENCE ON Me. People usually associate victory with success; not falling or stumbling, not making mistakes. But those who are successful in their own strength tend to go their own way, forgetting about Me. It is through problems and failure, weakness and neediness that you learn to rely on Me.

 True dependence is not simply asking Me to bless what you have decided to do. It is coming to Me with an open mind and heart, inviting Me to pant My desire within you. I may infuse within you a dream that seems far beyond your reach. You know that in yourself you cannot achieve such a goal. Thus begins your journey of profound reliance on Me. It is a faith-walk, taken one step at a time, leaning on Me as much as you need. This is not a path of continual success but of multiply failures. However, each failure is followed by a growths spurt, nourished by increased reliance on Me. Enjoy the blessedness of victorious life, through deepening your dependence on Me.

FROM JESUS CALLING; Enjoying Peace in His Presence

by; Sarah Young

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**The Baptism of the Lord**

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

 **(Lec. 21)**

1. **Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**
2. **Acts 10:34-38**
3. **Matthew 3:13-17**

**Liturgy of the Word**

 Isaiah shares the Lord’s promise of a servant of the Lord who will come forth and *bring justice to the nations.*

 In the second reading, Pete tells those gathered that God shows no partiality. All who fear him and act uprightly are acceptable to him.

 In the Gospel, Jesus is baptized by John, and the Spirit of God descends upon him.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Catholic Rural Ministry** (814) 677-2032

7 Pulaski St., Oil City, PA 16301

Sister Tina Geiger, RSM ~~ Sister Marian Wehler, OSB

srtinag@gmail.com or marianwehler@yahoo.com

**24 Hour Emergency**

Pregnancy (814) 459-3103

Community Counseling (814) 793-6602

Borland Memorial, Inc.