

January 7, 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Saviour. The Greek word, "epiphania", means "manifestation". We celebrate God showing Himself in our human flesh—first to the three Magi; second at the Baptism of Jesus at the Jordan River; third, at the wedding feast at Cana and all the miracles of Jesus. We rejoice for we are all searching, like the Magi, for the One who can answer our hopes and dreams. We too, follow the Star of Faith and we too, offer our God and Saviour gifts: the gold of our love, the frankincense of our worship and the myrrh of our suffering.

This year, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord will be celebrated on Monday, January 8th. With this Feast the Christmas-Epiphany Season is completed. But you will note the strong Epiphany themes in the scriptures over the next few weeks.

2018 PARISH CALENDARS

*Are available at all the exits of church.
We ask one calendar per family. Thank you!*

HELP IS NEEDED!! TODAY, January 7 the decorations will be removed from the church and stored away for another year. The more people who help out, the faster this job may be completed. Come to the church at 12:30 and bring a friend! We thank you in advance for any help you may be able to give.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF LAY TRUSTEES
TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018

The annual election of Lay Trustees will be held after the 9:00am Mass in the Church TODAY! This election is required by the laws of the State of Delaware. All adult members of the parish are eligible to participate.

The Offertory Collection for 12/24 was \$6,618.00 and on-line collection was \$1,549.50 for a total of \$8,365.50. The Christmas Offering was \$19,710! Thank you for your sacrifice!

INCENSE AND THE CHURCH: Since ancient times, the church has used incense as part of its sacred rituals. Sometimes the church uses incense to remind us that 'our prayers rise like incense' before the Lord. Sometimes the church uses incense to honor the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament; to honor the altar upon which we celebrate the Eucharist; to honor a sacred image such as a statue of the Blessed Mother and to honor the human body (the temple of the Holy Spirit) at a funeral. A few of our parishioners have mentioned that incense presents certain difficulties for them because of asthma, allergies, etc. We now use a non-allergenic type of incense. Incense will be used all the Masses this weekend.

MARCH FOR LIFE BUS INFO

St. Thomas the Apostle Knights of Columbus has chartered a bus for people of all ages, weather permitting for the March for Life held on Friday, January 19, 2018. There will be a stop at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for those unable to make the March. Seats are first come, first served. The only cost is the tip for the driver. Contact Theresa, 302-322-2929 or 12374Columbiettes@gmail.com. The Church of the Holy Child is sponsoring a bus leaving the Church parking lot at 7:30am. The cost is \$25. Please contact Pat Radell for reservations, 302-723-9254.

REMEMBER! **NEVER** leave your pocketbook or anything valuable in sight in your car. Recently thieves have hit our parish as well as the Methodist and Episcopal Churches. Items donated for the poor can be left in church or the porch during regular Mass times or rectory office hours.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 13

5:00pm - Chernekoff

Sunday, January 14

7:00am - Joyce

9:00am - John Paul, Cullen

11:00am - Connor, Isabella

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 6

5:00 pm(SR) Mary Ann and Leonard Kelleher

Sunday, January 7-Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 am(SR) Joe Swarter

9:00 am(SR) Helen Tancredi

11:00 am(KN) Florence Pluta

Monday, January 8-Baptism of the Lord

7:00am(WR) Samuel and Marie Emmi

9:00am(SR)

Tuesday, January 9

7:00am(WR)

9:00am(SR)

Wednesday, January 10

7:00am(WR)

9:00am(SR)

Thursday, January 11

7:00am(SR) John and Barbara Grow

Living Intention

9:00 am(WK)

Friday, January 12

7:00am(Cap)

9:00 am(SR)

Saturday, January 13

9:00 am(SR) Stanley J. Russell, Sr.

5:00 pm(SR) People of the Parish

Sunday, January 14

7:00 am(WR) Deceased Members of the

Blaska and Lutcavage Families

9:00 am(WK) Paul Perettie

11:00 am(SR) Andy Denis

Please Pray For Our Sick Parishioners

Anne Ambagis, Ruth Bower, Joan Callaghan, Joseph Campanella, Jean Capodanno, Debbie Cole, Tony Cutrona, Patricia Darmanin, Jayne Davenport, Bob Davis, Julia Davis, Gerri Episcopo, Sara Garrison, Mary Ann Irelan, Levi & Ellie Jernigan, Ella Kirksey, James Lafferty, Sue McLaughlin, Edward Mebs, Gay Meriggi, Dan Moley, Dora Pacitti, Fr. Roy Pollard, Terri Reed, Dorothy Rich, Helen Rupnicki, Joseph Sacher, Kathleen Schaubert, Irma Shock, Caitlin Soper, Frank Sullivan, George Theiss, William Thomas, Catherine Thomson, James Whisker, Ann Wilson, Cindy Zych

YOUNG AT HEART

Our Young at Heart members welcome the New Year with joy, hope, love and peace for the future to one and all!

Our first general meeting of 2018 will be held on Monday evening, January 15th, from 7pm to 9pm in Masci Hall and will feature BINGO, followed by tasty refreshments. Come and join us and bring family and friends for fellowship and fun. In case of inclement weather, contact Carmela on 302-584-7892 for an update!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our members meet in the Convent every month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7pm Each meeting begins with recitation of the Chaplet of Mercy or the Rosary. Our members and parishioners create shawls and other lovely items which are blessed and brought to so many in need of comfort and caring. Materials are given freely and items can be made at home. Joining our dedicated ministry will make your life even more meaningful. Call Carmela on 762-9057 for more information or for questions about inclement weather.

YOUNG AT HEART CRAFTS

Craft meetings will be held every Monday evening in January 2018 from 7-9pm in the Convent.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Classes resumes TOMORROW night, January 8th at 6:30pm. Welcome back to the New Year!

Adult Scripture resumes TOMORROW night in the Religious Education Office at 6:30pm.

Youth Group meets TONIGHT (Sunday) at 7pm in the Religious Education Office.

CATECHISTS will gather TOMORROW night, after classes for an after-Christmas Party.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

The next Parish Social Ministry meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 from 10:00am-3:00pm at a parishioner's home.

These excerpts are from two Pastoral Letters on *The Racial Divide in the U.S.*, and on *The Catholic Church and Black Lives Matter*, by His Excellency, Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton, Bishop of Belleville, IL, published in 2015 and 2016.

Excerpts: "The Racial Divide..." Part IV, #53-61. (Bishop Braxton selects "Brothers and Sisters to Us." [1979] by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.)

"Racism is an evil which endures in our society and in our Church. Despite apparent and even significant changes in the last two decades, the reality of racism remains...Racism is a sin: a sin that divides the human family. Blots out the image of God among specific members of that family and violates the human dignity of those called to be children of the same Father. Racism is the sin that says some human beings are inherently superior and others essentially inferior because of race. It is the sin that make racial characteristics the determining factor for the exercise of human rights. It mocks the words of Jesus: 'Treat others the way you would have them treat you' ...it is a denial of the truth of the dignity of each human being revealed by the mystery of the Incarnation..."

"We recognize and applaud the readiness of many Americans to make new strides forward in reducing and eliminating prejudice against minorities. We are convinced that the majority of Americans realize that racial discrimination is both unjust and unworthy of this nation..."

"The structures of our society are subtly racist for these structures reflect the values which society upholds. Members of both groups give unwitting approval by accepting things as they are...The sin is social in nature in that each of us, in varying degrees, is responsible. All of us in some measure are accomplices..." [More coming in February. The entire document of "Brothers and Sisters to Us" is found online in usccb.org.]

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 7-The Epiphany of the Lord

The 2nd Collection: Maintenance and Repair
All Masses: Food Collection-Church
11:00am Child. Liturgy/Word-Church

Monday, January 8-Baptism of the Lord

5:30pm Youth Choir-Church
6:30pm Religious Ed Classes-School
6:30pm Adult Scripture Study-Rel. Ed. Office

Tuesday, January 9

7:00pm Finance Council-Rectory
7:00pm Book Club-Convent

Wednesday, January 10

7:00pm Parish Council Exe. Mtg-Rectory
7:00pm Prayer Shawl Mtg.-Convent

Thursday, January 11

5:30pm Bingo-Masci Hall
7:30pm Adult Choir-Church

THURSDAY NIGHT BINGO

Are you looking for a way to become more involved at St. Helena's? We need people to serve food, sell Bingo materials and monitor games. Or...try your hand at playing Bingo! Don't know anything about Bingo? That's ok. There are lots of friendly folks to show you how. To volunteer or for more information, please call 764-0325. To play Bingo, just show up (18 or older). Masci Hall doors open on at 5:30pm for food. Games begin at 7pm. All are invited to join the fun!

Christmas Flower Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Adams
Mrs. Delores Albanese
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Altamuro
Ms. Theresa Amoroso
Mrs. Janet Angeline
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ashton
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Austin
Mrs. Rosalie Barbera
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Barrett, Jr.
The Bilinski Family
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Blahusch
Mrs. Susan Breckenridge
Mrs. Joan Callaghan
Mr. & Mrs. James Campion, Jr.

Mrs. Catherine Canna
Mr. Lawrence Carosino
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Chlada
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Colucci
Dr. & Mrs. John Connolly
Mr. Michele Coppola
Mr. & Mrs. William D'Amato
Mr. & Mrs. William Doll, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Dorsey
Mrs. Elizabeth Dorsey
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Dunn
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Easter
Mr. Edward Emmi
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Fath
Mr. & Mrs. James Fedena, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Peter Fella
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Finocchiaro
Mr. & Mrs. John Fitzpatrick
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Flores
Mr. Charles Fox
Mr. & Mrs. James Gallagher
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Garrett
Mrs. Carl Gibson
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Grandizio
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Grimes
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Groves
Mrs. Margaret Ann Hammond
Mr. Leo Hannon
Ms. Margaret Harris
Ms. Nancy Hill
Mrs. Ruth Hossler
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Humphries
Mr. Robert Ickes & Mrs. Heida Boga
Mrs. Mary Jernoske
Ms. Patricia Julian
Ms. Frances Kelleher
Mrs. Gertrude Kelleher
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Kelleher
Mrs. Catherine Knight
Mrs. Mary Kok
Ms. Carina Konitzer
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kramer, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Lacombe
Ms. Patricia Langford
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lauer
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Lazar
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lennon, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Lotsis
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Loudon
Mrs. Marie Luzzo
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Masci

Mrs. Kathaline Mauro
J. Mazeika
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McDonough
Mr. Kevin McFadden
Mr. & Mrs. Roy McIntyre
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Miller
Mr. Robert Moley
The Morris Family
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Moyer
Mrs. Anna Muldowney
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Mulvihill
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. David Nemeth
Mrs. Elizabeth O'Connor
Ms. Christine Olenik
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas O'Shea
Ms. Cynthia Paponette
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Penna
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Piccirilli
Mary Ann Pierce
Mr. & Mrs. John Quinn
Mrs. Nathan Ragan
Mr. Paul Rapposelli
Mr. Stanley Reese
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Renner
Mr. & Mrs. Jun Romero
Miss Lilia Romero
Mrs. Nilda Romero
Ms. Kathleen Rowan
Mrs. Marie Rule
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Soper
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Salvatore
Ms. Katherine Seitz
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Serrano
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Shoemaker
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Smith
Mr. & Mrs. John Smith, Jr.
Patricia Smith
Mr. Joseph M. Taggart
Ms. Janice Tigani
Elaine Titus
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Tomasetti, Jr.
Mrs. Rose Marie Turcol
Ms. Eugenia Vanover
Mrs. Mary Ann Vari
Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Velez
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Westman
Mr. & Mrs. Vaughn Whisker
Mrs. Hardy Wilbank
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Williams
Mr. & Mrs. James Zdimal