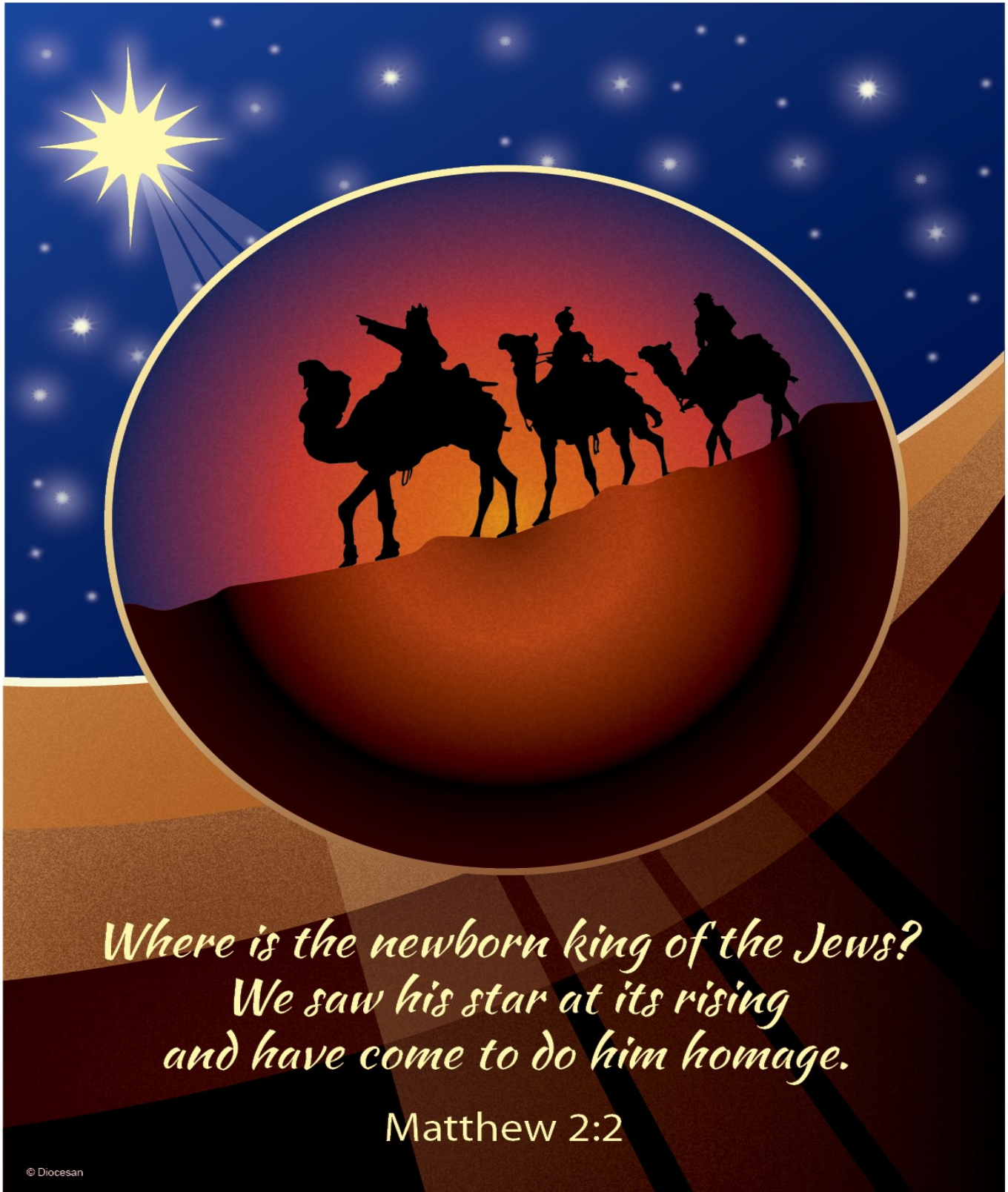


# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

January 4, 2026 • The Epiphany of the Lord



*Where is the newborn king of the Jews?  
We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage.*

Matthew 2:2

**Pastor**..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon**.....*Robert A. Reiley*  
**Parish Council President** ..... *John Crane*  
**E-mail**.....johncrane1@mac.com  
**Choir Director/Organist** .....*David Derbes*  
**CCD Coordinator**..... *Tina Seiger*  
**Rectory** ..... (570) 622-5470  
**Rectory Fax** ..... (570) 622-4589  
**E-mail**.....stjbparish@comcast.net  
**Nativity BVM High School** ..... (570) 622-8110  
**Assumption BVM Elementary**..... (570) 622-0106  
**St. Joseph Center**..... (570) 622-4638

**Cemetery Information**..... (570) 622-5470

#### C.C.D.

All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

#### Certificates of Eligibility

Certificates to act as sponsors, Godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

#### Bulletin Deadline

Monday prior to publication

#### New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

#### Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays..... 4:15 to 4:45 p.m..  
 Sundays ..... 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m..  
 or by appointment

#### Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.  
 Baptismal Preparation for Parents must precede the Baptism.  
 Please contact Father Bobbin for an appointment.

#### Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., N.C.C.,L.P.C. .... (800) 791-9209

#### Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.  
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services  
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538  
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204  
 prusso@allentowndiocese.org

#### Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562      www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

#### Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



## Eucharistic Adoration

We offer opportunities to spend time in prayer with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament ...

- ◆ A holy hour in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This is a simple holy hour without any formal prayer or Benediction. It is not necessary to come for the entire hour. Just stop by as you desire.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

## Communion for the Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion` on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.



## Pray

We remember in prayer those who are ill or recently deceased. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those **residing in nursing homes.**

**For our Sick:** *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Doug Broughton, Kathy Vicic, Joanne Kitsock, Jane Baker, Brenda Helt, Beth Ann Clark*

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 3

5:00 p.m. Tony Kochol  
(Mary Porter)

### Sunday, January 4

8:15 a.m. Jerry Hudock, 2nd Anniv.  
(Diane Hudock & Children)

### Sunday, January 4

10:30 a.m. John Gerace  
(Paul & Bernie Gombola)

### Monday, January 5

6:30 p.m. John Fredericks  
(Dan & Hermine Murphy)

### Tuesday, January 6

9:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Wednesday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Dorothy Iannola  
(Tony Marasco)

### Thursday, January 8

9:00 a.m. George & Mary Connors  
(Larry Steficek)

### Friday, January 9

9:00 a.m. Andrew Walcott  
(Barbara Kasper)

### Saturday, January 10

5:00 p.m. Edward J.&Leona A. Buber  
(Paul & Joanna Buber)

### Sunday, January 11

8:15 a.m. Jane Doyne Sunday  
& Robert Doyne  
(Don & Joanne Doyne)

### Sunday, January 11

10:30 a.m. Dominic & Josephine  
Pileggi  
(Janet Daubert)

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

In this new year I would like to devote the weekly bulletin message to the seven sacraments. The sacraments are at the heart of Catholic life because it is through the sacraments that we encounter the presence and saving work of the risen Jesus in our lives today.

The sacraments are no mere rituals or symbols. Jesus has risen. He is alive. He is not confined to history. He is present among us today. There are many ways we encounter the presence of Jesus, such as through prayer. The sacraments are particularly special ways of meeting Jesus. Because God gave us bodies with five senses, He chooses to come to us in ways that engage the senses: through material substances like water, oil, bread and wine; through words like wedding vows or the confession and absolution of sins; through gestures like the laying on of hands. Each sacrament takes something tangible and uses its natural meaning to communicate a supernatural meaning. For example, water is used to cleanse and to support life. Baptism cleanses us from sin and imparts divine life to us.

In the coming months we will look at each of the sacraments – Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders: what they mean, how we celebrate them, and how they are relevant to our lives.

In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin

## Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 12, 19, 26, April 9, 23, and May 7, 14. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (\*Please email Father for the Zoom link: [kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org)).

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome.

## 2026 Calendars

Church calendars for the New Year are available at the church exits. Please feel free to take one, but please make sure they are not wasted. We wish to thank the James E. Humphrey Funeral Home for taking care of this expense.

## Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayers and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to your call. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## Next Week's Readings

### Baptism of the Lord

(January 10/11)

Reading I: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Reading II: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

## Upcoming Events

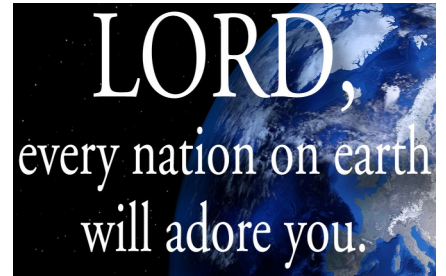
### January

4	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class .....	Chapel/LH
4	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
4	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
11	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class .....	Chapel/L.H.
11	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
25	TBD	CCD Class—All Grades .....	Providence Place

### February

1	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
8	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class .....	Chapel/L.H.
8	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
12	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
22	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
22	9:00 a.m.	Blessing Blankets .....	L.H.
22	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Children's Liturgy .....	L.H.
26	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory R.B. = Russell Building



## Candles

### BVM

1. IMO Paul Filiac  
by Mary Ann Filiac & Family
2. IMO Pat Mason Sr.  
by Maria Mason

### St. Joseph

- 1.&2. IMO Pat Mason Sr.  
by Maria Mason

### Sanctuary

IMO Hannah Sterling Lisowski  
by Rita Tamalavage

### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Caleb Shaner  
by Jennifer, Dirk, Rex Berger
2. IMO Pat Mason Sr.  
by Maria Mason
3. Grabowski Family  
by Stanley & Germaine Grabowski
4. Sninsky Family  
by Stanley & Germaine Grabowski

## Epiphany of the Lord

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek epiphainen, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

### A New Year's Wish

May your Guardian Angel forever be near  
to guide and protect you throughout the New Year.  
May your blessings be many, your failures be few,  
as you embrace the future with hope born anew.  
May you live day to day with nothing to fear.  
God bless you and keep you throughout the New Year.

## Baptismal Preparation

Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.



*When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the Days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do Him homage." .... Mt. 2:1-2*

## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### Baptism of the Lord

#### January 10 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Sean Crane  
**EM:** Frank Murphy, Sharon Snyder  
**Server:** Frank Murphy  
**Cantor:** Lucilla Kochol

#### January 11 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Bob Bechtel  
**EM:** Ann Blankenhorn, Jeff Naffin  
**Servers:** Callie & Cooper Felty  
**Cantor:** Tina Seiger

#### January 11 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Vincent Balulis  
**EM:** Heidi Gorski, Ray Petrilla  
**Servers:** Luke Lieberman  
Gabriel Scheidel  
**Cantor:** Marianne Wollyung

**Weekend Sacristan:** Ryan Grabowski

## Summer Festival Pot Luck Stand —YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

As far off as it seems, we are already gathering plans for our Summer Festival! After holiday sales are the perfect place to grab great prizes for our Potluck Stand! It is so important for our Potluck Stand's success to start early, we will need lots of donated prizes! A tote will be placed in the back of church in January, or please tryout our super easy Amazon wish list which will send prizes to us directly! We also are in need of gift cards of any denomination to any of your favorite places, shops and restaurants! They can be placed in the collection baskets in a labeled envelope for Potluck. Any committee member can assist you or please call Shanna Deibert (570)617-4769.

We are in need of some volunteers to help organize and run our Potluck stand, we have guidance and help to assist you, just need some extra hands! Our **first meeting** for Summer Festival 2026 is **Thursday January 22nd at 7:30pm in Longinus Hall** (weather permitting) We need you!!!! We of course welcome anyone to join our festival planning committee always, however, we also need thoughts, opinions, suggestions and concerns of our parish family! You do not need to be a committee member to help us improve our Summer Festival! We want to hear ideas, and also things you think could be better, please feel free to let us know. Any committee member can relay this information or you can call or text Shanna Deibert.

**Summer Festival dates** are **July 17 & 18**. Mark your calendars! We are so excited to kick off planning such a huge event for our church and hopefully make it our best year yet! Thank you again for your support!

## Nativity Happenings

Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. Individual meetings, school tours and shadow days are being scheduled for possible enrollment. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Daubert in the Development Office with any enrollment questions.

**Open House & Registration** for the 2026-2027 school year at Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, January 25, 2026 from 1 to 3 pm at the school. Faculty, staff, administration and coaches will be available to answer questions. Tours will be given and tuition assistance drawings will be available for those who register. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Daubert @ 570-622-1810 with any questions.

## Cemetery Burial Plots & Regulations

### Burial Plots

Because tragedy can strike at anytime ... when clear thinking and action can be sacrificed to the moment's need ... we want to remind our parishioners and friends that St. John the Baptist Cemetery offers its services whenever that need occurs.

**Grave Lots \$ 600.00 each which includes Perpetual Care**

### Regulations / Guidelines

The following are guidelines established by St. John's Cemetery Committee ...

- \* Shrubs are **not** permitted on cemetery grounds
- \* Flowers or plants may be planted in the ground, but must remain within 12 inches of base of memorial. **NO Perennials** are permitted.
- \* All artificial decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4, Christmas, etc.
- \* **Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden — doing this creates many problems during cutting season.**
- \* All rubbish is to be taken with you or placed in available receptacles located at top of cemetery
- \* Please refrain from placing any tombstone in or on the grounds for one year after a death to allow the ground to settle back to its natural state.

## We Remember

The following are the names of parishioners, former parishioners and those who have been laid to rest during the past year. Please take a moment and remember them and their surviving families as we pass through to a New Year.

*Leona Buber  
Laurita Buehler  
Joseph F. Burns Sr.  
Robert Doyle  
Brian Eckley  
John R. Fredericks  
John Gerace  
Martha Golden  
Helen Heimbaugh  
Anthony Kochol  
Carolyn L. Leinheiser  
Thomas McPhillips Jr.  
James J. Minchhoff Sr.  
William Pugh  
Mary Zambo*

## PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for us, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew our commitment to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing, a time to cherish our family and friends.

May it be a time to renew our efforts at work, as we embrace our faith more fully.

Walk with us, please, in every day and every hour of this New Year, that the light of Christ might shine through us, in spite of our weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may we remember this year that we are pilgrims on the sacred path to You.

Amen.

## St. John's Choir



St. John's Choir is welcoming new and current members to the choir to sing Saturday 5:00 p.m. Masses and special Masses. This is a very rewarding experience for anyone seeking to become more involved in our Parish Family. No prior singing experience or reading of music is required. Contact St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 for more information.

## St. John's Ensemble

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

We invite **ANYONE** in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart.

Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. This is a great way to participate in parish life and have fun with only a small commitment of your time.

Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you? If interested please call the rectory 570-622-5470.



## Mustard Seedlings

Beginning in 2026, we invite all moms from the newly pregnant to pre-k parenting stage to join us in Longinus Hall for fellowship and faith formation. Our first meeting is Thursday January 8, 9:30am-11:00am. We will provide activities for kids and coffee for the moms! Email [mgreen-lundcontent@gmail.com](mailto:mgreen-lundcontent@gmail.com) for the full 2026 schedule or if you have questions.

## Toys and Crafts supplies needed!

A ministry for new mothers is coming to our parish in 2026, and we need help making the startup successful! If you have used or new toys for children age 0-5, please donate them to the drop off location at Farlow's Deli down the road. Or, scan the QR code to access the ministry's Amazon Registry featuring needed craft supplies.



## HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I suffer from a nerve disease that requires treatments for me to stay functional. My treatments are out of town in places such as Allentown, West Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Wyomissing. I'm looking for drivers who can help me get to these treatments. Doctors will not allow me to drive myself to and from treatments. If anyone is interested in driving me, please contact the church rectory. I'll be very grateful for your help!

**Thank you** to everyone who has come forward to help me with transportation to my medical appointments. Your help is so very appreciated. I am truly grateful. Thank you again!

## Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew  
 IMO Harold Bartholomew  
 IMO James J. Bartholomew  
 IMO Robert Berger  
 IMO Rita Bartholomew Foley  
 John & Mildred Fredericks  
 Fr. Don Henry  
 IMO M/M Herbert Henry  
 IMO Joanne Hepler  
 IMO Clare & Linda Houser  
 IMO Charles Lorenz  
 IMO Charles & Matilda Schaeffer  
 IMO Charlie & Catherine Schaeffer  
 IMO Erika Stangl Seasock  
 IMO Theresa Bartholomew Sencak  
 IMO Janet Bartholomew Whitaker  
 IMO Margaret & Guy Zelinsky  
 Living & Deceased of St. John's  
 CYO Program

*Thank you for supporting our  
 bulletin this month!*

## Attention — All Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, and Servers

Please let us know your plans for **February & March**, so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please email or call the rectory by **January 12th**. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

## Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome! If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

## Moving? Relocating? Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, please contact the Rectory Office at 570-622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update our records!

## The Epiphany of the Lord The Star of Bethlehem

Almost every year at Christmastime, you can find an article or documentary about the star of Bethlehem. Astronomers give various theories about whether the magi saw a new star, perhaps a supernova, or a comet, or a conjunction of two or more planets. Since the magi are generally believed to be astrologers, the conjunction seems most likely.

But more important is the meaning of the star. In Matthew's Gospel, light is used as a symbol of the good news of Jesus coming into the world. Jesus is the light of the world, so the magi follow that light to get to Jesus. That's why verse 9 of the Gospel has the image of the star preceding the wise men and stopping over the house where Jesus was. By following the star, they become followers of Christ. So what do the magi show us about following Jesus?

First, they take the initiative. They saw the star, figured out what it meant, and made their journey. As followers of Jesus, we can look for what needs to be done (in our family, parish, or community) and do it. We don't have to wait for the pastor to call us and beg for help—there are probably articles in this bulletin asking for help.

Second, they expressed their faith in Jesus by the gifts they brought: gold—a gift for a king, who is worthy to be followed; frankincense—Jesus is worthy to be worshiped as Son of God; and myrrh—Jesus becomes king by dying for us all. We can express our faith in many ways. We can volunteer to help the poor, the elderly, or the disabled. We can teach our children how to pray and tell them about all that God has done for us.

Third, they were not afraid to take risks for Jesus. When they went back home without telling Herod where they found the child, Herod was furious (Matthew 2:16). For all they knew, he could have come after them. How often do we take risks for the Lord, by openly speaking about our faith or giving God credit for the good that we do? Let the star of Bethlehem remind us that Jesus is the star of our lives.

## Epiphany of the Lord

K	I	N	G	T	U	K	X	S	F
K	C	K	R	R	D	C	S	C	B
O	I	P	U	E	P	H	H	R	P
W	J	T	L	A	R	I	E	I	N
L	P	F	E	S	I	L	P	B	G
A	S	N	R	U	E	D	H	E	E
N	B	T	L	R	S	X	E	S	J
D	O	A	A	E	T	A	R	D	A
F	R	A	D	R	S	J	D	M	E
U	N	X	L	H	B	S	E	H	W

Born  
King  
Star  
Priests  
Scribes  
Land  
Ruler  
Shepherd  
Child  
Treasure



**SUNDAYKIDZ**