



January 3, 2021
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

ST. JOSEPH IS A TITHING PARISH

God's Plan for Giving

In return for the Lord's generosity, our people returned to God the following:

Sunday Offerings:	\$2,607.00
Christmas Collection:	\$4,525.00
Last Year:	\$4,913.00

The above are bank deposit amounts

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah speaks poetically of the coming of the Lord. He describes how "darkness covers the earth" but light and glory appear over God's chosen people.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul tells the Ephesians that the Jews and Gentiles are now co-heirs of the promises God has made. He explains that both groups are now members of one body through Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus' birth, three astrologers from the east came to Jerusalem and inquired about the newborn king of the Jews. King Herod became greatly angered, and asked the astrologers to bring him more information about the child once they had found him, so that he too could pay homage to the infant. However, Herod's true plan was to kill Jesus. The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to him and they took a different route to return home.

Sat. Jan. 2nd 9:00 AM	First Saturday Claire Wendt
4:00 PM	Nellie Brown (Tom & Marian Lang)
Sun. Jan. 3rd	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8:00 AM	Jacqueline Read Zerbe (Joe & Vickie Youmans)
11:00 AM	People of the Parish
Mon. Jan. 4th 9:00 AM	<i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</i> Lois Schnyder (Tom & Stefanie Shaw)
Tues. Jan. 5th 9:00AM	<i>St. John Neumann</i> Rudy Muscarella (Frank Muscarella Family)
Wed. Jan. 6th 9:00 AM	Matthew Mousley
Thurs. Jan. 7th 9:00 Am	Michael Frederick
Fri. Jan. 8th 9:00 AM	Adam Kelly (Parish Council)
Sat. Jan. 9th 4:00 PM	Lois Schnyder (Mindy Bartholomew)
Sun. Jan. 10th 8:00 AM	Baptism of the Lord Joe Kruper (Daughter, Linda)
11:00 AM	People of the Parish

CCD SCHEDULE

December 27, 2020- No CCD: Christmas Break
 January 3, 2021- No CCD: Christmas Break
 January 10, 2021- CCD Classes Resume

Christmas Blessings to all of our students and their family.

Second Collections

Jan. 3-Our Faith Our Future
 Jan. 10-Aid to the Catholic
 Jan.17-Repair & Maintenance

From your Pastor,

Again and again, Merry Christmas and a very holy happy New Year throughout 2021.

Today is Epiphany, I remember it being celebrated on the 6th of January, and some knew it as Russian Christmas. But it pre-dates our Feast of the Nativity, Dec. 25. The word 'Epiphany' means a manifestation of divine, heavenly enlightenment. It stresses that all Four Holy Gospels are a manifestation of God's light to the world; each Evangelist has his own approach to 'Epiphany' to showing the world the light of Christ.

One this Feast, the Eastern Church would stress all four Gospel's revelation of Christ's light: St. Matthew's, the star guiding the coming of the Kings to Bethlehem, St. Luke's the Angels calling the shepherds to the crib, St. Mark's, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, and St. John's Wedding Feast of Cana, the changing of water into wine. And so the feast has nothing to do with good spacing out of historical events, but rather the gathering together of all four sources of divine light to convert the whole world. It is four of your favorite ice cream flavors all in one dish.

I hope your house shines with lights that proclaim Jesus as Lord and light of the world. Hopefully your outdoor lights are still on and your tree is still up to give your family that needed boost to get over the winter gloom. Christmas Lights help us to understand the mystery of believing in the light of Christ and being the light of Christ to the world.

There are changes before our parish this new year, we say good-bye to Philip Krepps, who has been our music minister for a year, and may the Lord bless him in his new position as music minister at St. Joseph's Danville. He and Maureen will remain as members of our parish, may they be a source of blessing to us and we to them.

We welcome Richard Anthony Cummings, husband and father of four little ones, who will be joining us from Resurrection Parish, Muncy. May he find us to be a joyful singing parish, without hymnals. Quite a challenge! God bless Rich and may his family join our parish family often.

A Happy New Year, and Blessed Epiphany to you.

Fr. John D. Hobbe

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SICK
IN YOUR PRAYERS, ESPECIALLY:**

Jack Wasilewski
Joan Bittler
Evelyn Young
Tresha Sudol
Rita Patynski
Anna Lee Fagnano
Connie Buehler
Jackie Rando
Harriet Moore
Donald Reigel
Dolores Caicco
Beth Onesci
Ed Arndt

Vickie Youman
Kurt Livingston
Dr. Mike Weisner
George Sudol
Rita Prentiss
Abram Koons
Charlotte Farrell
Marie Lindner
Vicki Howell
Ed Zerrenner
Sister Laura
William Cameron

PRAYER IS OUR WAY TO CALL UPON GOD

Year of St. Joseph

Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church. The decree said that Pope Francis had established a Year of St. Joseph so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

The year begins Dec. 8, 2020, and concludes on Dec. 8, 2021, according to a decree authorized by the pope.

Throughout this year please pray

St. Joseph honored by God of the Father, to be the Father of the Son, protector and Savior of our Savior Jesus our Lord, pray for our families and our parish.

Amen

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you would like a contribution statement for 2020, **place your request in a SELF ADDRESSED – STAMPED- BUSINESS SIZE ENVELOPE IN THE COLLECTION BASKET.** Deadline for request will be January 29th. Offerings for 2020 must be processed in our computer system BEFORE we can honor statement requests. *You must request your statement as addressed above.* Thank you.

Diocesan Annual Campaign

Thanks to the many parishioners who have completed their pledges for the Diocesan Annual Campaign 2020.

There is yet \$4,200 in pledges left to be paid.

Please see that any remaining payments are made to the Diocese prior to December 31st.

Lottery Tickets

A few tickets remain! If you have had tickets to sell and are unable, please return as soon as possible. We would like to get these tickets back out in circulation. Tickets will be available after each Mass until we are sold out. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Christmas Giving

No Room at the Inn- We will be collecting monetary donations for No Room at the Inn. **To date, we have collected \$7,104.00.**

The Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger- This year, due to the pandemic they have paused the sale of cookie trays. However, the need to feed starving people in Haiti and the US has grown during the pandemic, so a collection will be taken instead. **To date, we have collected \$1,095.00.**

Thank you so much for your generous giving, especially during a time where there is a lot of giving and gifting.

St. Joseph Parishioner News

Marilyn Geib mailed a Christmas card to Fr. Hoke and St. Joseph Church, she sent an updated address and extended Christmas Blessings.

Memorial Donation was received by the Milton High School Class of 1949 in memory of **Phyllis Musser Melone.** A check in the amount of \$25.00 was deposited into our Love of Neighbor account.

George Sudol tested positive for coronavirus before Christmas, and is improving.

Lew Bogle fell, and upon arrival at hospital was tested for coronavirus. He is now back at the nursing facility where he lives.

Evelyn Smith and her family tested positive for the virus, it has been reported they are fighting through it.

Our very own, **Joe Anchor** was the recipient of the 2020 Honorary County Agent Award from the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents. The recipient is recognized for their support of PA Ag. And the Agents Assoc., and who have befriended the Ag. Community through their own career efforts. Congratulations, Joe!

Anne Chiccino began mailing letters to our parish shut-ins at the onset of Covid-19. Since then, this has led to her and a group who prepare an occasional meal and deliver it, mailing bulletins and keeping them informed of any news by providing a letter. As part of her letter, she includes information regarding parishioners who are not feeling so well and those who are doing well. We thought it would be nice to include these updates in our bulletin. *Anne thank you so much for keeping our shut-ins informed.* Thank you to all of the volunteers who assist with the Shut-ins.

Happy Birthday to all of our parishioners celebrating their birthday during the Month of January. Hoping your day is filled with lots of love, laughter and cake!

Mass Intention Requests

For your convenience, mass intention envelope requests have been placed in the back of the church or you may call the church office. If you take an envelope, please fill out and place in offertory basket. A staff member will be in touch with you regarding your request. Thank you for helping cut back on foot traffic in the church office during this time.

Foster Parents Needed

In Pennsylvania, thousands of children in foster care are in desperate need of a safe and nurturing home. A caring adult can make a huge difference in a child's life forever. If you can provide a loving home, we will provide the support that you need. To find out how to become a foster parent, please contact Catholic Charities Adoption and Specialized Foster Care at (717) 564-7115 or gpfeifer@cchbg.org.

Inclement Weather

Mass Locations may change due to the weather, and at times these changes may occur at the last minute. Please be sure to check your e-mail, facebook and our parish website for change notices. Weekend Mass will be available via livestream as well.

Save-the-Date - Diocesan Men's Conference!

Please mark March 20, 2021 on your calendar for the *Annual Diocese of Harrisburg (Virtual) Men's Conference*.

Theme: Catholic Men: Called to be Defenders of the Faith!

Speakers: Dr. William Donohue - President of the Catholic League, The Most Rev. Ronald Gainer, Fr. Frederick Miller, Fr. John Szada, Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ, and Mr. Tony Devlin.

All registered participants may view the conference at our Parish Center Multi-Purpose room. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$10.00 per person and you need to register at the Church Office.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Lord,

We pray that this New Year will bring us closer to You. May we take the time to get to know You.

Help us to truly celebrate the gifts You have graciously given us

and use them to serve You and spread Your word,

May we also see and love you in all the people we meet, so that in turn, they can see You in us.

We know that all human relations take time if they are to grow and deepen.

This is also true of our relations with You, the Father and the Holy Spirit,

which must grow over the course of our lives.

In this new year,

let us realise that every action of ours

no matter how great or small

enables us to be in touch with You.

Let us accept You in our lives,

in the way it pleases You,

as Truth, to be spoken,

as Life, to be lived,

as Light, to be lighted,

as Love, to be followed,

as Joy, to be given,

as Peace, to be spread about,

as Sacrifice, to be offered among our relatives, friends, neighbours and all people.

Amen.