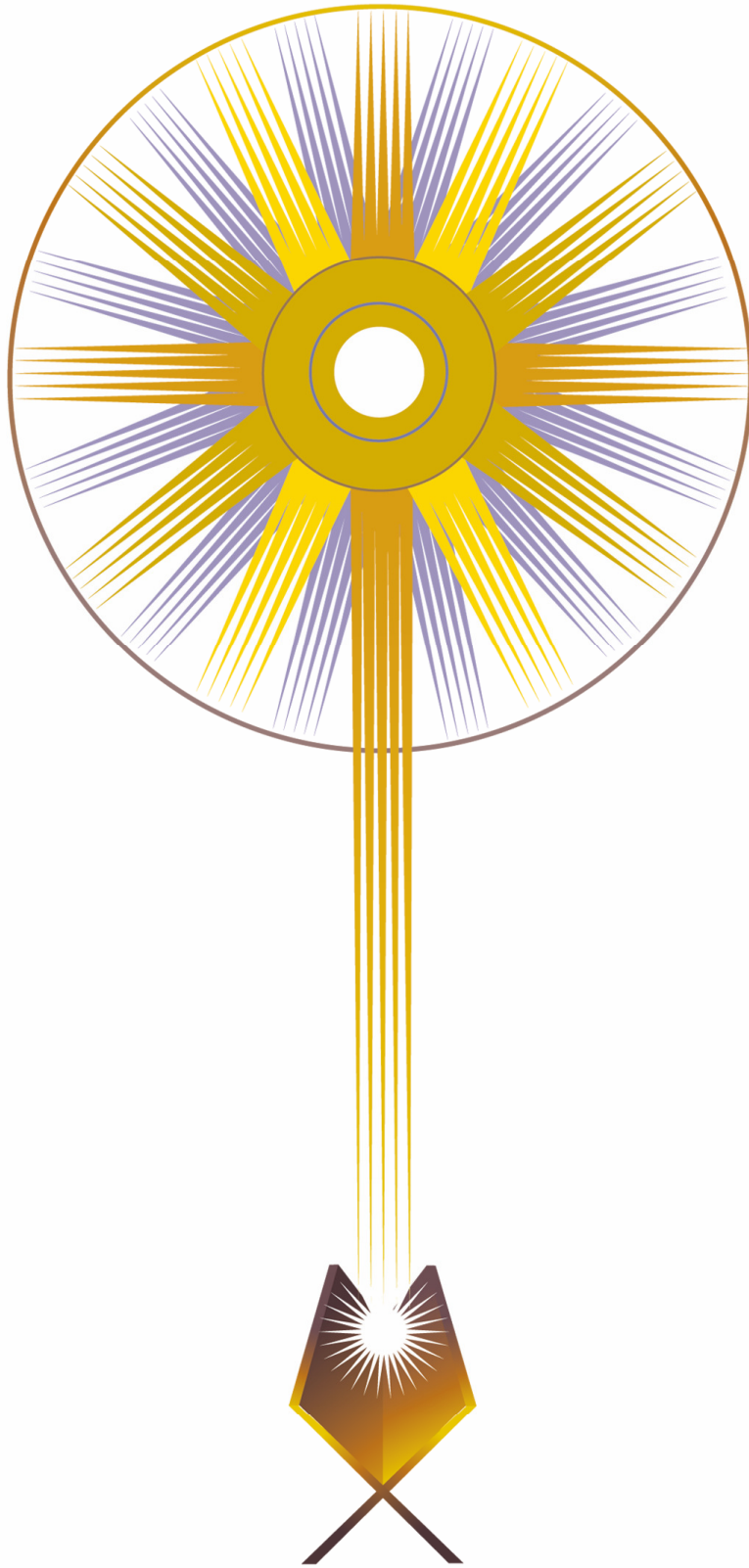


December 25, 2016

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C H R I S T M A S

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### MAIN CHURCH

#### Saturday, December 24—Vigil

4:00 pm Parish Family

#### Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day

12:00 Midnight Parish Family

#### Monday, December 26

8:00 am No Mass Today

#### Tuesday, December 27

8:00 am + James Elias by wife, Jackie

#### Wednesday, December 28

No Mass Today

#### Thursday, December 29

8:00 am + Anthony Manderino by wife, Tara

#### Friday, December 30 —Feast of the Holy Family

8:00 am +Ann Miller by CDA #776

#### Saturday, December 31—Vigil

4:00 pm +Mike Maisano by Mr & Mrs Fred Naccarato

#### Sunday, January 1 — Solemnity of Mary

10:30 am Parish Family

### CHAPEL

#### Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day

10:00 am Parish Family

#### Sunday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary

8:30 am Parish Family

*Due to the timing of the bulletin submission, this week's collection will be in next week's bulletin.*

The office will be closed on Monday, December 26.

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**Parish Office: 724-684-7661 • Fax: 724-684-8981**

**Church Hall: 724-684-9199 • Chapel Hall: 724-684-5512**

**Religious Education: 724-929-9300**

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday –Thursday: 8:30 a.m. –12; 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.**

### Ministry Schedule — Sat. Dec. 31 & Sun. January 1

Time	Lector	Eucharistic	Altar Servers
4:00 p.m.	M. Sersen	J. Dudas R. Croushore J. Todd Volunteer	T. Todd Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	R. Godla	K. Imbrescia S. Stein L. DeFelices	M. Blatnik S. Billy
10:30 a.m.	J. Sepesky  LWC– P. Alcorn	R. Sassak J. Elias T. Billick K. Byron	A. Blatnik C. Blatnik

### Money Counters - Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Team # 4

J. Petritis —Finance Committee Member

## A Message of Christmas Joy

As the parish family of The Epiphany of Our Lord, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus once again, and looking back over the



past year, we have a great many things to be thankful for. I am grateful to all of you for the many ways that you have given of yourselves to one another, to our community and to our church. We have even shared the joy of our blessings with many people around the world and for that we should be grateful. As a community of God's people we have prayed together which brings God's presence to each one of us.

As you celebrate this Christmas with those who are in your life, be aware of the gifts that count the most for they are worth more than any material possession or wealth. When we are able to open our hearts to one another and share who we are from within, we share what the joy of Christmas is all about. If you are able, even for a little minute, try to escape all of the trappings that this season puts upon us and open yourself to the silence of what the real gift is all about. As we become more aware of what Christ can be for us, we are better prepared to be that presence to those in our world. As individuals as well as a parish family, we ought to look and appreciate who God made us to be and what our God has blessed us with. Only then can the joy of this season bring the real message of Peace on Earth and Good Will to all. My prayer for you all is that this Season may touch your hearts with the gentle presence of Christ's love, and that you may find the reserve to do the same to others. **A Blessed Christmas to you all!**

### Religious Education

There will be no Religious Education classes on Monday, December 26 or Monday, January 2. Classes will resume on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 6:15 p.m.

Also, if you are marking your calendars, the Sacrament Prep Workshop for First Holy Communicants will be held on Saturday, February 25 from 9—11 a.m. in St. Sebastian Parish Hall.

**Thank You**

### Knights of Columbus

We have received phone calls and comments at the office, praising the Knights of Columbus and Holy Name Society not only for their wonderful sausage but for their amazing customer service. We have heard that the packaging is always right and that the men are consistently good natured. Know that we at Epiphany parish are grateful for all that you do.

### Children's Nativity

Last week, the children of Epiphany Parish put on a Christmas vignette. As usual, they did a marvelous job under the direction of **Patty Alcorn**. When you see Patty, be sure to thank her, as we do. Sharing Christmas through the eyes of a child is always precious.

**A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST  
A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG**



## Another Blessed Christmas!

Once again this year as I look back over the season of Advent and Christmas it is wonderful to be able to recognize the many blessings of God's love that we have been given. The generosity of all our parishioners is overwhelming. I cannot begin to thank you enough for the many gifts and cards that you gave to me; I am both humbled and blessed!

As we watch the news on television or read it in the newspapers we are always shown how people don't seem to care what happens around them. The stories of how people ignore the hardships of others and not want to get involved are sometimes all we hear. However, as I look at what wonderful and kind people that makes up our parish, this is hardly the truth. Your generosity of not only your treasure but also of your time and talent speak for themselves. It is good to clearly see that we do get the message Jesus was born to teach us!

I would like to recognize and thank you all for what you do for your church. During this busy time of the year the way you shared your precious time speaks so well of God's grace in our midst. I would like to recognize and thank in a special way the following:

- All of our Liturgical ministers: Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Ushers, you showed us all what a gift it is to serve in the Lord's service.
- Our adult choir, for all of the many hours put into practicing to make our Liturgies so memorable.
- Toni Salvino for the direction she has given to our choir and Jeff Olup for accompanying.
- For our decorating committee and the "many" people who came to help decorate the church; without your presence it wouldn't have happened!
- And most important of all I want to thank our parishioners for helping to make this season one to remember!

## Anniversary Events

### Final Anniversary Celebration

On **January 8** we will wrap up our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. In looking back over this past year, we certainly had a wonderful Jubilee Year. Throughout the year with all of the celebrations there were many people who came and enjoyed themselves. This will be the last Hurrah!

We will celebrate a 'Little Family Christmas' after the 10:30 liturgy. I am asking that while you bake all of your delicious **Holiday Cookies**, if you could save some and bring them on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Or, if you would like to bring an **appetizer** that would be appreciated as well. I hope that our Little Family Christmas will be the best part of this year's celebrations. **Remember to save the date!**

### Tax Statements

Since we are beginning a new year, it is time to start thinking about those dreaded "Taxes." As you prepare all of your paperwork necessary to file this year, know that you will be getting a statement from the church listing all of your contributions. We will have this mailing go out about the third week of January. If you would need a copy sooner, please give us a call and we will get one to you.

## Feast of the Holy Family

This Friday (December 30) we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, and the day focuses on the "Holiness of all of our families." Holiness is not a misty-eyed, otherworldly mode of living. Rather it is a realistic engagement in the difficulties, struggles, and tensions of human life and relating. Our own modern families are like the Holy Family in that, as they did, we too all face challenges in responding to God faithfully and obediently. The holiness of a family is not dependent upon perfection or an easy road. As Mary and Joseph showed us, holiness is dependent on faithfulness and obedience to God's message. What makes Jesus, Mary, and Joseph a holy family is their faithful, obedient response to God's message. Our families (and the family of the church) are also holy in our responding faithfully to God's will for us.

Today it is difficult to define what a family should be; in fact I believe that family life today is beyond defining. None of us can be completely free from assumptions about families and a "well intended" list of family values that we should follow. Sometimes these values are sincere but sometime they are cynical. When we look at the holy family we do not look at them for the sociological model that they provide, rather they become a model of faith for us. So, the issue on this day is not that we should try to read into this feast a proposal for how to live as a family, but how each of us should remain open and obedient to the word of God.

Family life in our society has gone through so many drastic changes that none of us fit very well into a defined role, and I don't think that is such a bad thing. If we are honest with each other, we all live with some sort of dysfunction in life, there is simply no such thing as a perfect family. On this feast day we are reminded that we ought to be grateful for the people we have in life and most especially our families. Whether we are a traditional family or a single parent family, whether we have

biological or adopted or foster children or no children, whether we live in an expensive home or a subsidized rental unit makes no difference for living as a holy family. What does make a difference is hearing God's message and doing God's will. Hearing God's message and responding to God's will made the Holy Family holy, it makes our families holy, too!



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### OFFICE HOURS

**Mon. -Thurs.:** 8:30 a.m.-12; 1 p.m.-3 p.m. **Fri.:** 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**MASS TIMES:** Saturday: 4:00 pm (*Main Church*)

Sunday: 8:30 am (*Chapel Site*); 10:30 am (*Main Church*)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00 am (*Main Church*)