



Mass Intentions

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 4, 2020

Saturday– Jan 4th –

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Michelle P. Polchik (B)
by Carolyn Roth Lloyd and Family
7:00PM – Edward Danko (A)
by Family

Sunday – Jan 5th –

8:30AM – Layla Lynn Alleman
by Emma Zansitiz
10:30AM – Paul Levine
by Mom and Dad

Monday – Jan 6th – St Andre Bessette

8:00AM – Carl S. Peckitt
by Kathy Kish and Family

Tuesday – Jan 7th –St Raymond of Penyafort

8:00AM – Memorial Fund Members
by Memorial Fund

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Jan 8th – St Apollinaris

6:00PM Vigil – Mary Louise Wert
by Joe and Aggie Szilezy

Thursday – Jan 9th – St Adrian of Canterbury

8:00AM –Margaret and Charles McCarty
by Kathleen and Peggy

Friday – Jan 10th – St William of Bourges

8:00AM – Larry Krautsack, Sr.
by Jean Strohl

Saturday– Jan 11th – St Theodosius

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

The Baptism of Our Lord

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Leona Zavodny
by Mary Molchany
7:00PM – Elizabeth Arnold (A)
by Cheri Leinberger

Sunday – Jan 12th –

8:30AM – Raymond Bieak (B)
by Theresa and Dennis Bieak
10:30AM – Charles B. O'Donnell (A)
by McCloskey Family



Pray the Rosary Sundays
8:15AM and 10:15AM

PASTOR'S CORNER

Always Aim High; But Don't Let Perfection Get in the Way of Real Improvement!

As we begin a new civil year, I offer words to ponder from Elizabeth Scalia in her post entitled, “Why must we pick up our mats and bring them home?” She writes:

This week, while searching through my Bible for one specific passage in the New Testament, I inadvertently found another that struck me so forcefully, it became my *lectio divina* [holy reading] for several days:

When the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves,

“Who is this who speaks blasphemies?
Who but God alone can forgive sins?”

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply,

“What are you thinking in your hearts?

Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’

Or to say, ‘Rise and walk’?

But that you may know

That the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” –

He said to the one who was paralyzed,

“I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home.”

[Luke 5:21-24]

...I considered a helpless man being lowered through a roof and, mere moments later, walking away healed – not only walking away, but first picking up his mat, after being told to.

“Why would Jesus tell him to do that? I wonder.

“Why burden him with carrying his stretcher, rather than letting him just dance away?” ...Obviously,

Jesus wanted the man to pick up after himself. “Don’t leave that thing her,” I believed [when I was young]

He was saying. ... [But] Reading the story this week, it occurred to me that “pick up your stretcher and go home” was less about tidiness and more about the

man’s taking the indication of his illness, and thus of his healing, with him. Jesus was actually inviting him

to make a testimony of his life and God’s real involvement in it by walking with the evidence of his

past paralysis in his very hands, and then keeping it in his home, always before him.

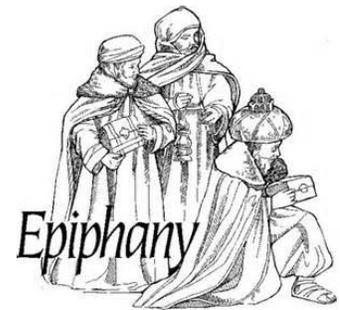
For moderns—particularly for a culture such as ours where we try to dispose of imperfections and any sign

that we'd ever had them—this seems a strange idea. Was the man never supposed to let go of his past?

...And yet that sort of attitude, that instinct to throw away our less-than-perfect pasts, may be precisely why Christ wanted the man to take his stretcher with him. ...Taking his mat with him, keeping it in his presence, means the man would daily have a physical prompt meant to remind him where he had been, where he was, and how he had gotten there. This is important. As our lives move forward, some of their most impactful moments become diminished in our understanding; we forget what surprising event was the catalyst for change, and for our good, and thus we forget to be grateful.

These first few weeks of 2020, then, might best be used to mine the experiences and memories we have of 2019. From which “stretchers” were we released by Jesus last year, from what kind of paralysis were we liberated? What mementos can we keep before our eyes to help us remember where we’ve been, and the freedom into which the Lord has led us? This can be the year we let our imperfections remind us of our need for Jesus and his power to save us.

Fr. Eric.



For many, Christmas is over by December 26th and life has resumed its normal activities. The Church, on the other hand, observes an Octave of Christmas until January 1 (after the Jewish practice of an 8 day celebration) and an extended Christmastime until January 5th, the Feast of the Epiphany. (It is now celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.) The popular Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," is rooted in the festive celebration of Christmastime and a celebration of the Catholic faith, from a time in England and Ireland when Catholics had to disguise their Catholic beliefs.

During Christmastime, there are feasts of three martyrs: St. Stephen on December 26th, who represents those who went to their death willingly; St. John the Evangelist on December 27th, who represents those who were willing to die but were not put to death, and the Holy Innocents on December 28th, representing those who were put to death without their choice.

Epiphany closes the Christmas season with the celebration of the visit of the Magi to the manger. The Messiah is thus shown to have come to all people, not just the Jews. The three kings represent the three major races: Melchior, an old white man with a long white beard, bearing the gift of gold for Christ's royalty; Caspar, young and of darker hue, carrying incenses for Christ's divinity; and Balthasar, a black man, offering myrrh for Christ's suffering and death. The names of the wise men are not given in the Bible, but were supplied by later story tellers to enrich the meaning and celebration of the Epiphany.

A tradition associated with Epiphany is the blessing of homes with holy water and incense. Using blessed chalk, a parent or priest can mark the inside of the main door of the house with the initials of the Magi and a code of the current year connected with crosses: 20+C+M+B+20. Another explanation of the initials (C-M-B) is the first letters of the blessing: Christus mansionem benedicat (Latin, "May Christ bless the house").

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection	\$ 3,137.00
Christmas Collection	\$12,816.00
Solemnity of Mary Collection	\$ 1,373.00

SANTA'S WISH-LIST



HO! HO! HO! We would like to thank **our parishioners, Den and Judy Kish** for their gift of **\$1,200.00**. Any Santa gifts made for ongoing renovations of our parish are greatly appreciated!



Please remember in your prayers **Nadine Eileen (Nalesnik) Yankow and Jean M. (Kokolus) Marth**, who passed away and were recently buried. We pray their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Flowers for the Altar

The **2020 ALTAR FLOWER LIST** is at the parking lot entrance of church. Honor a loved one, or celebrate a special event, by placing flowers on the altar. Simply sign up on the list, and call your florist for delivery.



2019 CONTRIBUTION FORMS

Please fill out this tear-off form to request your 2019 contribution form, and place in the collection basket. All forms will be mailed out by the end of January.

NAME _____ ENV # _____

ADDRESS _____



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	N.Ruda S.Ruda	J.McAllister	Deacon Jack
7:00PM	A.Muschko D.Gorr	J.Englert	Deacon Jack
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	E.Snyder	Deacon Jack
10:30AM	C.Gair D.Gair	B.Petro	Deacon Jack

Thank You

We wish to thank the **Slovak Ladies Foundation** for their Christmas donation of **\$400.00**.



In case of bad weather or last minute cancellations, please check our Parish Website at www.stjohnfisherparish.com.

Thank You!

Thank you for the generous donations to the Annual Giving Tree collection this year. Catholic Charity recipients are blessed with many beautiful items you have donated for the Mothers and Babies. Among the donations were handmade blankets, baby clothing and diapers. The donated items do stay in the Diocese of Allentown to help the needy. God bless you all with a beautiful Christmas season and healthy and happy New Year!

~ Kathy Newhall, Gloria Gontkosky and Diana Rutt

SLOVAK FOUNDATION

Once again our parishioners of Slovak heritage are invited to donate to the Slovak Federation. Envelopes for this collection are at both church entrances and can be placed in any Sunday collection between now and **Sunday, February 9th**.

GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS



Please join the Helpers of God's Precious Infants at the Prayer Pilgrimage for the unborn, and all those involved in abortion on **Saturday, January 11th**. The pilgrimage begins with Mass at 8:00AM at Notre Dame Church, 1861 Catasauqua Road, and continues with The Rosary at the abortion facility located at 31 South Commerce Way. Contact Info: 610-674-4624.