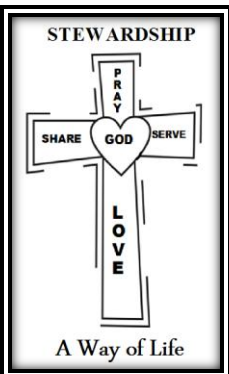


**THE SOLEMNITY OF
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD,
JANUARY 6, 2019**



GOSPEL REFLECTION: The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives. // In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds—some of the lowest of the low—as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasize the “kingship” of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king. // The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unraveled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.



“...the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.” (Ephesians 3:6) Today we celebrate that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He has given each of us unique gifts. We all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. Pray

daily and ask God how He wants you to use your gifts so that we may all “be one”. Last Week You contributed: Sunday: \$2,486; Holy Day: \$908 (282 Parishioners attended Sunday Mass; 198 attended Solemnity of Mary Mass). Thank You! Expenses: \$4,785.38 (Salaries, Equipment Maint. Utilities, Insurance). **Please pray that all Parishioners will attend Mass and receive the Sacraments weekly!**

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH
MINERSVILLE, PA**

www.StMatthewTheEvangelistParish.org

Rectory Office Hours: Monday to Friday 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Phone: (570) 544-2211 Fax: (570) 544-2317 E-Mail: ssk1905@verizon.net

SAINT MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST WELCOMES ALL

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church; no matter what your current family or marital situation; no matter what your past or present religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, ethnicity, etc.; you are Invited, Welcomed, Accepted, Loved and Respected at Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish!

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR: Sr. Meg Cole (610-332-0442 x2019)
VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR: Wendy S. Krisak (Direct:1-800-791-9209)

WEEKDAY MASS AT 8:00 AM (unless indicated otherwise)

- MON – Joseph and Elizabeth Gucwa by Daughter, Susan Gucwa-Bucasas
- TUE – Catherine Drazenovich (Estate)
- WED – Julia and Tony Stabinsky by Family
- THU – Helen O'Connor by Molly and Helene
- FRI – Gary Renninger by Theresa and Frank Grigalonis
- SAT – 4:00 PM – Joseph Czwarc by Edward Butler
- SUN – 8:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners
10:30 AM – Jill Kuehn by Kuehn Family

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING MASSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019

III BANS OF MARRIAGE: Kayla A. Stickell (St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish) and Devin Heckman (St. Patrick Parish)

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: May Jesus, the Word Made Flesh, take unto Himself **PATRICIA A. CONSUGAR**, a former member of the former St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, and a member of our Parish Family, who died Wednesday, January 2, and who will be buried from our church Monday, January 7. May Mary, Mother of Our Savior, comfort Patricia's family and friends.

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, SUNDAY,

JANUARY 6: “The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the King of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that ‘the full number of the nations’ now takes its ‘place in the family of the patriarchs,’ and acquires Israelitica dignitas (is made ‘worthy of the heritage of Israel’).” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 528) // Packets containing the gifts of the Magi to the Christ Child, Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh (and chalk for the traditional Epiphany Home Blessing) will be blessed at all masses. The offering is \$1.00 per pack. **Take an Epiphany Home Blessing pamphlet!**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM

FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): Jesus told us to ask the Harvest Master to send laborers into his harvest. May the prayers of our participating families bear fruit. **TERESA MILLER** will host the FPC for vocations this week. Sign up for March and April in Church vestibule.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by “another way.” What in your family needs to be done “another way?” Do you need “another way” to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection? This is a new year, time to change what isn't working. Take a tip from some wise men, there's always “another way.”

CHRISTMAS SEASON CHARITIES: 1) ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY: We need ALL TYPES OF HAMBURGER HELPER to feed the needy of our area. Call 570-544-2739. **Volunteers, especially men, are needed for God's Bountiful Table. 2) ANNUAL MINERSVILLE AREA HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE:** Donations, both monetary and non-perishable goods, can be made in care of: Ed Butler, 529 Lytle Street, Minersville. Call Ed (570-449-2739) for more information. **Helping the disadvantaged is truly the spirit of the season! THANK YOU!**

PRO-LIFE REFLECTION: Ronald Reagan once said: “Let's keep our faith in God and country strong! Let's build this nation back up to what it was 60 years ago and make it the greatest in the world again.” Our country will never become great again while we continue to support Planned Parenthood with our tax dollars and allow them to continue killing babies and selling their body parts. We must stop abortion and euthanasia so America can become great again. Join pro-life today!

CHRISTMAS SEASON VOTIVES: (1) SANCTUARY: IMO Stiney Sakvinsky (Birthday) by Family. **(2) ALTARS: BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** Special Intention by Stan and Sally Gober; Special Intention by Alicia; IMO Donald and Aldona Butler by Edward; IMO Edna Leister by Dolores Leister. **DIVINE MERCY:** For the Health of Sr. Doris by Alicia; IMO Adolph and Eileen Poslosky by Alicia. **(3) BEFORE: ST. JOSEPH:** Special Intention; IMO Joseph Dallago by Family. **ST. ANNE:** IMO Pat Consugar by Alicia Poslosky. **ST. FRANCIS:** Special Intention; IMO David Montello by Daughter, Gloria Dutcavich. **Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) to memorialize votives.**

ALL-YOU-CAN EAT HOMEMADE SPAGHETTI DINNER: 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, St. Patrick Parish Center, Pottsville. Adult: \$8; Children: \$3.50. Eat-in or take-out. Call 570-622-1802 for information.

MONDAY, JANUARY 7 – BIBLE STUDY MEETING: 2:00 PM, Parish Center. Discussing Liturgy for January 12, 13: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7; Luke 3: 15-16; 21-22. Call Arlene (570-385-0248) for more information. Everyone welcome!
RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE: 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Good Shepherd Cafeteria.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 – ST. MATTHEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: 1) 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Good Shepherd Building 2) Parents, remember to bring your children to Mass; take them to Confession! 3) Mass attendance cards are in the Church Vestibule. 4) Our Coordinator of Religious Education is Miss Novack (570-544-2211).

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 – DEVOTIONS TO ST. PEREGRINE: 8:00 AM Mass. St. Peregrine, help cancer patients and caregivers!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10 – MONTHLY ROSARY: 6:15 PM in our Church. Rosary is second Thursday of each month.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 7:45 AM. MAKE CONFESSION A REGULARITY IN THE NEW YEAR!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 3:30 PM. BEGIN THE NEW YEAR BY GOING TO CONFESSION!

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: May Jesus, who blessed the Wedding Feast at Cana with the performance of His first Public Miracle, abundantly bless KAYLA A. STICKELL of our Parish and DEVIN M. HECKMAN, St. Patrick Parish, who will be married here at 1:00 PM today! MAY THE GOD WHO IS LOVE ALWAYS BE WITH YOU! MAY HIS LOVE ENVELOPE YOU AND MAY YOU SHARE IT WITH ALL YOU MEET!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 – THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – ORIENTATION: This Feast proclaims a *theophany*, a revelation and manifestation of the divine Sonship of Jesus by his anointing and appointing to his Messianic office. It is the feast that proclaims the BAPTISM that elevates believers to the status of sons and daughters of God. THE RITE OF BLESSING AND SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER will be celebrated in commemoration of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. **Pastoral Note: Today officially ends the Christmas Season.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM.

THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): JOE AND JOANN AUCKER (8:30 AM) will host the FPC this week. Call 570-399-5056 or the Rectory (570-544-2211). We need volunteers for March and April! THANK YOU!

FOOD PREPARATION: 9:30 AM, Parish Center. Help us prepare potatoes. Can you sacrifice an hour or two?

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: School tours, presentations, and displays will begin at 1:00 PM. Members of the entire Nativity community will be available to answer your questions. No pre-registration is required. All are welcome! Call the school (570-622-8110) or e-mail jldaubert@nativitybvm.net with any questions.

SECOND COLLECTION ENVELOPE: (1) GENERAL REPAIR: Your contribution will help defray the cost of general maintenance. (2) Please catch up with any missed envelopes. Consistent support helps your church meet its financial obligations! **Catch up deadline for 2018 envelopes is January 31, 2019.**

MINISTERS AT MASS FOR BAPTISM OF THE LORD

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 4:00 PM	Czwarz Family	Al Boris	Deacon Henninger	Eades Family
SUN 8:30 AM	Parishioners	Brandon Aucker	Deacon Henninger	Jordan Berdanier
				Eric Andruczek
10:30 AM	Kuehn Family	Abigail Adams	Deacon Henninger	Bella Kuehn
				Gabriel Kuehn

COMING EVENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JANUARY 14 – FOOD PREPARATION: 9:00 AM, Parish Center. Help us make PIEROGI.

January 26, 27 – DIOCESAN COLLECTION: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: Today, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people here at home and abroad. Today please give generously to the CRSC and **help Jesus in disguise.** Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief. **Use the CRS Envelope found in your box.**

JANUARY 27 – ASSUMPTION BVM OPEN HOUSE : 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Faculty members, administration, available to answer questions. Registrations for the 2019-2020 school year have started. All are welcome! Call 570-622-0106 for information and tours anytime.

JANUARY 27 – FOOD PREPARATION: 9:30 AM, Parish Center. Help us prepare potatoes.

JANUARY 28 – FOOD PREPARATION: 9:00 AM, Parish Center. Help us make PIEROGI.

JANUARY 29 – SUPER BOWL PARTY PACKAGE: Tickets cost \$10 each. Winning ticket will receive: 50 inch TV, Gift Cards to Tony's Market, Craft Haus, and Write Craft. **DRAWING IS TODAY!** Call Vince Genovese (570-544-4149) for tickets. Benefits Minersville Public Library.

FEBRUARY 13 – GOD'S BOUNTIFUL TABLE: The Parish St. Vincent De Paul Society prepares and serves a walk-in meal from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Fr. Anthony J. Ricipito Annex for those who are in need. **Delivered meals are available for people with disabilities ONLY.** For additional information call Edward Butler (570-544-2739) or the Annex (570-544-6484).

FEBRUARY 14 – MONTHLY ROSARY: 6:15 PM in our Church. Rosary is second Thursday of each month.

ST. MATTHEW'S TRAVELERS' ADVENTURES! YOUR PAYMENT IS YOUR RESERVATION! JULIE(570-544-5231), MILLIE(570-628-5413).

MAY 13-17, 2019 – CAPE COD AND BOSTON: 5 days, 4 nights, \$659 per person, double occupancy includes: 4 Nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners, National Shrine of Divine Mercy, evening of entertainment, Tours of Provincetown, Chatham, Boston and Quincy Market, Plymouth and Plymouth Rock, Historic Sandwich, Hyannis area, including Kennedy Memorial and Main Street, Hyannis Harbor Cruise with view of Kennedy Compound, Cape Cod Canal visitor's center, Foxwoods Casino, Souvenir Gift, Luggage Handling, All taxes and meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation.

2018 CHURCH CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: Should you need one, kindly call the Rectory (570-544-2211).

2019 ADULT AND CHILDREN CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES: All remaining 2019 ADULT and CHILDREN envelopes can be found in the Church vestibule Please take yours and help us deliver those of our shut-in (homebound) parishioners. If there are any concerns, please call 570-544-2211.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS: We gratefully acknowledge your kindness and generosity which allowed us to decorate our church so beautifully during the Christmas Holidays (Unless otherwise noted each donation was \$10): IMO John P. Weachock and Clementine R. Weachock by Niece, Maryann Weachock (\$20); IMO Jozef Wojcik and Ewa Wojcik from Granddaughter, Maryann Weachock (\$20); IMO Skibiel/ Sumoski Family by Rose Marie Skibiel (\$20); Intentions of M/M Robert Mestishen; Intentions of Jean Albertini; IMO Andruczek and Orlosky Families; IMO Michael and Catherine Gober, Deceased Family Members, Husband Stephen Chelak by Katherine Chelak (\$30); IMO Jack Kopinetz, Jesse Stickell by Mrs. Jack Kopinetz (\$20); IMO Charles Matz, M/M Valentine Zelinsky, M/M Felix Costic, Leonard Kostek, by Jerome Kotsek and Darlene Matz (\$40); IMO John Ondisco, Mary Ondisco, Adele Hatter by Mary Ann Ondisco (\$20); Intentions of M/M Thomas Quinn; Intentions of Cyril Rushanan; IMO M/M Anthony Kushmanick, Father Stephen Sheetz, Kevin Smith, Mary Sabadish, Lester Smith, M/M Herman Smith by M/M George Smith; IMO John and Annie Socko, Theresa (Socko) Sweat, John and Mary Szekeres by Ann Marie Socko (\$50); IMO Julia and Anthony Stabinsky by Stabinsky Family; Paclawski Lineage, Deployed Military, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Living Souls over 100 Years of Life by Alicia Poslosky (\$50); Intentions of Dougherty Family; IMO John and Anna Scarbinsky, Betty Scarbinsky by Elanore Skarbinski (\$20); Intentions of Joan and Ernest Pizzico (\$50); IMO Stiney and Anna Gober, M/M Francis Tracey by Stan and Sally Gober (\$20); IMO Deceased Buffington Family; by Mary Lou Bainbridge; IMO David Moore by Wife, Evelyn Moore (\$45); IMO Joseph and Frances Sumoski by Daughter, Bertha Warcola; IMO Anthony T. Warcola by Wife, Bertha; IMO Diane Warcola by Mother, Bertha; IMO Mary Walters by Daughter, Ann Butcavage. (T.B.C.)