

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 7, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

As a Catholic Church, we conclude our Christmas Season with the Feast of the Epiphany or the Theophany of Our Lord. Theophany is a fancy word for "great revealing." Traditionally we of the Roman or Western Rite of the Catholic Church associate this theophany with the Visitation of the Wise Men. Jesus is revealed to the world with their visit.

Despite the fact, we as a Church conclude the Christmas Season today, in many countries the giving of gifts is the focal point of today. The three Wise Men presented gifts to the newborn king and so in places like Mexico, Spain, Puerto Rico gifts are exchanged to family and loved ones. These places still celebrate December 25th as Christmas or the Nativity of the Lord but it is strictly a religious holy day and holiday!

Our combining both the Birth of Jesus and the arrival of Santa Claus all in one day has the tendency to rush the true meaning of Christmas. In our hustle and bustle, fast-paced lives we need to savor and take time with our God, family, and loved ones.

(Continued on page 3)

St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church

218 Valley Street

Port Carbon PA 17965

Phone: 570-622-6600 FAX: 570-429-0630

OFFICE HOURS: At St. Clare of Assisi

250 E. Hancock St., St. Clair, PA 17970

**Monday through Friday 9AM—4 PM, closed holidays
and day after the holiday**

Rev. Msgr. William F. Glosser, V.F., M.A., M.Div.

Administrator

570-429-0701

Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm

SCAssisi@ptd.net or saintstephen2@verizon.net

Website - <http://saintstephen2.com>

E-mail Address - saintstephen2@verizon.net

Mass Schedule

Sundays: 9:30 AM

****Please consult weekly Schedule inside for Holy-
days and changes. We are
handicap-accessible**



CHANGES OF ADDRESS Please notify us as soon as you are aware that you will be moving. Our deadline to change a mailing address for envelopes is the last weekday of the month prior to delivery. Envelopes are non-profit rate and are not allowed to be forwarded by the U. S. P. S. They must be returned to us and then we must pay postage **again** on the returned mail. Thank you for your cooperation.

MARRIAGES: Couples planning to be married must **contact the pastor at least 1 year prior** to the desired date of the marriage.

BAPTISMS: Call the Rectory to Schedule

CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY to act as a Confirmation Sponsor, Godparent, Marriage Witness, etc., will only be issued to parishioners who are actually registered in the parish and attend Mass on a regular basis. **If you are not receiving and using weekly envelopes, you are NOT REGISTERED.**

PREP/CCD: A child preparing to receive any Sacrament must be a practicing Catholic and in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving the Sacrament. **CCD/PREP families must be registered parishioners. See <http://svrep.weebly.com/> for more information.**

The Rosary is prayed before each Mass on weekends and weekdays. (Please join us about 30 minutes before each Mass)

St. Vincent de Paul Society – Second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Rectory

**NOTE: Diocesan Policies on the Protection of Youth can be found at
<http://www.allentowndiocese.org/the-diocese/youth-protection/>**

Mary Ann Lubinsky—Local Safe Environment Coordinator— Phone—570-622-6600

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak— Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator— **Direct Line—800-791-9209**

Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT— Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator— **Phone—610-332-0442, Ext. 2019**



SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION

Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4 PM Saturday (January 13) - People of St. Stephen Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (January 7) The Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 AM— Dolores Barnes (John Barnes) and
Mary Jane Gately (Vince Gately)
Father Connolly

Sunday (January 14) Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Eva Stanus (Lillian McBreen & Daughters) and
John J. McGovern (Joe Pilo)
Father Bill

Sunday (January 21) Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Patricia Quinn Hovan (Family) and
Helen Bitterlich (Dolores Zemantauski)
Father Connolly

**St. Stephen Attendance
Sunday, Dec. 31**

at St. Clare 31 people; at St. Stephen 94 people

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

**January 14: Cemetery Fund
January 21: Fuel and Heat**

Collections: Weekly and Cash \$1,677.00; Fuel & Heat \$373.00— Thank you for your generosity! Please also note our posting of collection information to make budget, we are \$3,821.00 in the red for fiscal year 2017-2018.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2016-2017 Budget	\$200,000.00
2017/2018 Budget (All Funds)	\$170,800.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$3,285.00
Collection December 31 Cemetery \$ 688.00	-----
Needed to Date (27th week)	\$88,695.00
Collected to Date (27th week)	\$84,874.00
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(3,821.00)

**LECTORS AND
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

January 14
Lisa Gasper/Ed Tray
January 21 and 28
Judy Johnson/Maureen Challenger



Sunday, January 14
9:30 AM—Taylor Lazarchick
Sunday, January 21
9:30 AM—Emily Yordy
Saturday, January 28
9:30 AM—Aiden Brennan

Grateful for Saying our Sunday Masses. This week we welcome Father Connolly as our Celebrant

**January 7 — Father Connolly
January 14 — Father Bill
January 21 — Father Connolly
January 28 — Father Bill
February 4 — Father Connolly
February 11 — Father Bill
February 18 — Father Connolly
February 25 — Father Bill**

Breakfast this Weekend
ICC Caterers will sponsor a AYCE breakfast this weekend to benefit St. Clare of Assisi parish from 8AM to 11:30AM.

Bible School Resumes
Bible study group will meet this Thursday following the 8AM in the daily Mass chapel. Participants are asked to look over the readings for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time found on page 36 of the At Home with the Word book.

Upcoming Events for both Parishes
March 10 – First Penance for both Parishes
April 25 – Confirmation location TBA
May 6 – St. Stephen First Holy Communion
May 6 – Chinese Auction at St. Clare of Assisi
May 13 – Mothers Day
May 20 – St. Clare of Assisi First Holy Communion

The Three Kings

BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Three Kings came riding from far away,
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar;
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,
And they travelled by night and they slept by day,
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.
The star was so beautiful, large and clear,
That all the other stars of the sky
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,
And by this they knew that the coming was near
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.
Three caskets they bore on their saddle-bows,
Three caskets of gold with golden keys;
Their robes were of crimson silk with rows
Of bells and pomegranates and furbelows,
Their turbans like blossoming almond-trees.
And so the Three Kings rode into the West,
Through the dusk of the night, over hill and dell,
And sometimes they nodded with beard on breast,
And sometimes talked, as they paused to rest,
With the people they met at some wayside well.
"Of the child that is born," said Baltasar,
"Good people, I pray you, tell us the news;
For we in the East have seen his star,
And have ridden fast, and have ridden far,
To find and worship the King of the Jews."
And the people answered, "You ask in vain;
We know of no King but Herod the Great!"
They thought the Wise Men were men insane,
As they spurred their horses across the plain,
Like riders in haste, who cannot wait.
And when they came to Jerusalem,
Herod the Great, who had heard this thing,
Sent for the Wise Men and questioned them;
And said, "Go down unto Bethlehem,

And bring me tidings of this new king."

So they rode away; and the star stood still,
The only one in the grey of morn;
Yes, it stopped—it stood still of its own free will,
Right over Bethlehem on the hill,
The city of David, where Christ was born.
And the Three Kings rode through the gate and the guard,
Through the silent street, till their horses turned
And neighed as they entered the great inn-yard;
But the windows were closed, and the doors were barred,
And only a light in the stable burned.
And cradled there in the scented hay,
In the air made sweet by the breath of kine,
The little child in the manger lay,
The child, that would be king one day
Of a kingdom not human, but divine.
His mother Mary of Nazareth
Sat watching beside his place of rest,
Watching the even flow of his breath,
For the joy of life and the terror of death
Were mingled together in her breast.
They laid their offerings at his feet:
The gold was their tribute to a King,
The frankincense, with its odor sweet,
Was for the Priest, the Paraclete,
The myrrh for the body's burying.
And the mother wondered and bowed her head,
And sat as still as a statue of stone,
Her heart was troubled yet comforted,
Remembering what the Angel had said
Of an endless reign and of David's throne.
Then the Kings rode out of the city gate,
With a clatter of hoofs in proud array;
But they went not back to Herod the Great,
For they knew his malice and feared his hate,
And returned to their homes by another way.



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