

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**JANUARY 6, 2019**

**From Pastor's Desk**

Falling twelve days after Christmas, this was regarded as enough time for the visitation by the magi to travel to Bethlehem from foreign lands. After Jesus was born, Wise Men came to look for Him, probably from an area which is now in either Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia or the Yemen. Although they are often called the 'Three Kings', the Bible does not say how many there were, or that they were kings. Legend from the pseudo-gospels claims there were three based upon the number of gifts presented to the Christ. However there could have been more or the size of each king's retinue would account for large numbers. Legend also claims their names to be:

- Gaspar or Caspar who has brown hair and a brown beard and wears a green cloak and a gold crown with green jewels on it. He is the King of Sheba. Gaspar represents the Frankincense brought to Jesus.
- Melchior, who has long white hair and a white beard and wears a gold cloak. He is the King of Arabia. Melchior represents the Gold brought to Jesus.

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**St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church**  
**216 Valley Street, Port Carbon PA 17965**  
**Phone: 570-622-6600 FAX: 570-429-0630**  
**E-mail Address – saintstephen2@verizon.net**  
**Website - <http://saintstephen2.com>**

**MAIL TO:**

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

**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](mailto:SCAssisi@ptd.net) or [saintstephen2@verizon.net](mailto: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**

**4PM Saturday (January 12)** - People of the Parish

**4PM Saturday (January 19)** - People of the Parish

**Masses at St. Stephen**

**Sunday (January 6) The Epiphany of the Lord**

**9:30 AM**—Rita Matsko (Charlies, Chris and Chad Snukis)

**Sunday (January 13) The Baptism of the Lord**

**9:30 AM**—William Kalymun (Bill & Grace Guers)

**Sunday (January 20) Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:30 AM**—Eva Stanus (Lillian McBreen & Daughters)

**Sunday, December 30 Attendance**

**109 at St. Stephen; 40 at St. Clare**

**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**January 13: Cemetery Upkeep**

**January 20: Fuel & Heat**

**January 27: Catholic Relief Services**

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 12/30 **Will be posted next week.** Thank you to those parishioners who mailed their yearly donations. Please also note our posting of collection information to make budget, we are in the red for fiscal year 2018-2019.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

<b>2016-2017 Budget</b>	\$170,800.00
<b>2018/2019 Budget</b>	
<b>(All Funds)</b>	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
<b>Collection December 30</b>	\$
<b>Cemetery \$</b>	-----
Needed to Date <b>(27th week)</b>	\$77,988.42
Collected to Date <b>(27th week)</b>	\$
Over/(Under) Budget	\$

**LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

<b>January 6</b> Karen Kuperavage/Lisa Gasper
<b>January 13</b> Maureen Challenger/Judy Johnson
<b>January 20</b> Ed Tray/Maureen Challenger
<b>January 27</b> Judy Johnson/Mary Ann Lubinsky



<b>Sunday, January 6</b> Aiden Brennan
<b>Sunday, January 13</b> Annabella Chaklos
<b>Sunday, January 20</b> Jacob Challenger
<b>Sunday, January 27</b> Ciara Gilbert/Charissa Gilbert
<b>Sunday, February 3</b> Emily Gasper

**Sanctuary Candles are available In Memory Of or In Honor Of or Special Intentions. The cost is \$15 for the 7-day candle. Call the rectory if you would like to schedule a candle for yourself or your intention. Thank you.**

**Do not place loose checks in the collection basket. Always use an envelope with your name and the amount recorded on it.**

**Grateful for Saying our Sunday Masses. Today we welcome our Celebrant,  
January 6 — Father Connolly  
  
January 13 — Father Reiley  
January 20 — Father Connolly  
January 27 — Father Bill**

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- Balthazar, who has black skin and a black beard and wears a purple cloak. He is the King of Tarse and Egypt. Balthazar represents the gift of Myrrh that was brought to Jesus.

Their gifts also have significance whether they were genuinely kings or just astronomers and wise men. Myrrh being commonly used as an anointing oil, frankincense as a perfume, and gold as a valuable. The three gifts had a spiritual meaning: gold as a symbol of kingship on earth. Legend also claims the amount of gold was just enough to purchase a burial plot. Frankincense was an incense as a symbol of deity; Frankincense was often used to mask the stench of the burial tomb. And myrrh which was an embalming oil as a symbol of death.

With the arrival of the Magi, Jesus is now manifest to the outside world. Just as the Star in the East symbolized the Light of Christ shining for the whole world to see, we are called to manifest Christ in our lives so others can realize the Good News wherever we go.

### Communion Calls

**There will be no Communion Calls in January due to Father Bill's Christmas calls.**

### Knights of Columbus Keeping Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Our St. John Neumann Regional Council 14009 of the Knights of Columbus wishes to announce the winners of the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest who are our parishioners. Great artwork kids! The Baby Jesus is smiling upon you!

Age 5-7 Category: Danny Trezise and Emma Womer both of St. Clare of Assisi

Age 11-14 Category: **Annabella Chaklos from St. Stephen's. Congratulations Annabella!!!**

Winners are asked to come to the St. Clare of Assisi Church Hall on January 10th, 2019 at 6:00PM to be presented with their awards (\$25.00 )and have them fill out the forms their so their entries may be passed on to the State level for additional judging.

### ICC All You Can Eat Breakfast

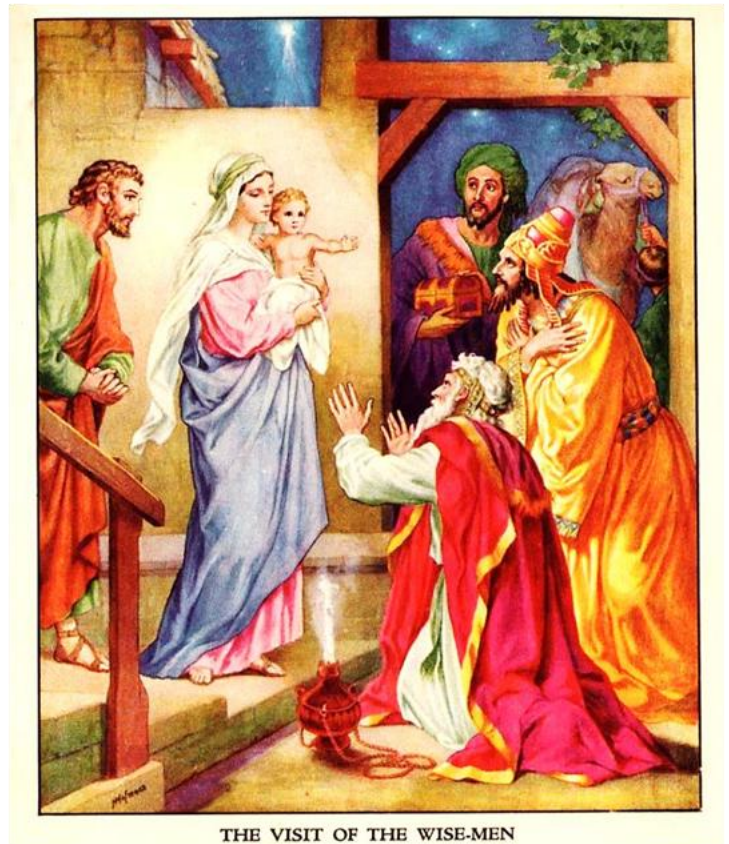
This Sunday January 6, 8-11:30 at ICC Hall. \$7 adults, \$3 children under 8. Benefits St. Clare of Assisi Parish.

## Upcoming Parish Events for St. Clare of Assisi and St. Stephen

- March 16 First Penance
- March 24, 25, 26 St. Clare Parish Mission
- April 30—Confirmation
- May 5 St. Stephen First Holy Communion
- May 18-19 St. Clare of Assisi Chinese Auction
- May 19 St. Clare First Holy Communion

### Prayer of the Wisemen

Dear Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You. Amen.



### 2019 Mass Requests

We are now taking St. Stephen Mass requests for 2019. Please visit the rectory at St. Clare of Assisi Tues through Fri 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm to schedule your Masses. We also have a St. Stephen's intention at every 4PM Mass at St. Clare. If you wish to have your intention there, call our rectory number during business hours.

## Retreat

All Confirmandi in the Diocese of Allentown are invited to the **Confirming Faithful Families Retreat!** Registration is still open for the following rallies: **February 2, 2019 at St. Ambrose Parish, Schuylkill Haven**

### **New Events for Teens in the Schuylkill Region**

#### **SCHUYLKILL CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY**

Teens are invited to participate in the upcoming "Alpha" series, which includes free dinner. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and meaning. Know a teen with questions about life? Invite them to Alpha. Please RSVP: [annie@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:annie@allentowndiocese.org).

Alpha will be held on Sundays from 6-8pm at the Frackville Youth Center (7 S. Broad Mountain Ave, Frackville) from January 27 through March 24.

The series is free of charge. Dinner is included.

If you would like to attend a parent meeting to learn more about "Alpha," to offer input on the new youth ministry in the county and to learn about the plans for the coming year(s), please email Annie Sarlo, the Director of Youth Ministry for Schuylkill County: [annie@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:annie@allentowndiocese.org). She will then contact those interested to set up a meeting.

#### **PARENTS AND TEENS**

You are invited to a special event "The Master Craftsman: God's Amazing Plan for Teens (and their Parents)" co-sponsored by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry and St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church. Join us for a faith-filled evening with nationally-recognized speaker Scott Anthony, as he helps us see the Truth of God's guiding hand in our lives. We encourage teens in grades 9-12 and their parents to attend! After this evening, you and your youth will look toward the future with a newfound sense of hope.

The event will take place on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM, at St. Thomas More Church Family Center (1040 Flexer Ave, Allentown, PA 18103).

This event is free of charge. Light refreshments will be provided.

To register for this event, please visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/craftsman](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/craftsman) For questions call (610) 289-8900, ext. 2021 or email Thea Aclo at [taclo@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:taclo@allentowndiocese.org).

## Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™

An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion, March 22-24, 2019. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations, and activities flowing from the meditations you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness. For \*registration information contact: Sr. Meg Cole, 1-866-3 RACHEL (Toll Free) 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019

[projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org)

\* Deadline for Registration is March 14th. For information about the retreat experience visit the national website: [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)

### **Open House**

**Nativity High School** is conducting an Open House and Registration this Sunday, January 13 beginning at 1PM. Tours are available and discussion of financial aid. Contact Jenn for more information 570-622-8110.

**Assumption BVM School** is accepting registrations for grades K – 8. Open House is scheduled for Sunday, January 27, 2019 from 11:30 until 2pm. Tours are also available at any time by contacting the office 570-622-0106.

**All You Can Eat Homemade Spaghetti Dinner**  
Sponsored by St. Patrick Church, Sunday, January 6, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. St. Patrick Parish Center, 319 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville. Eat in or Take out, Adults: \$8; Children: \$3.50.

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION! Make 2018 the year you resolve to improve your marriage! Attend a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend and learn how. For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit [www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org](http://www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org)

### **Store Gift Cards that benefits our Catholic Schools**

Both Assumption and Nativity can sell gift cards for local grocery stores, department stores in Schuylkill County as well as Berks County and the Lehigh Valley, gasoline gift cards, etc. The school receives a percentage of the sale of these gift cards. Why not use these gifts cards to purchase your groceries, gas, restaurants, etc and help either our Catholic grade school or high school in the process? Contact the school office for more information.