

# Church of the Holy Family

## Parish Rectory

234 Hermitage Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19127

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Parish e-mail:

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Website: [www.HolyFamilyPhilly.org](http://www.HolyFamilyPhilly.org)

Pastor e-mail: [MsgrSweeney@gmail.com](mailto:MsgrSweeney@gmail.com)

## Pastor

Rev. Monsignor Patrick E. Sweeney

## Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Francis X. McKee

## Sunday Visitor

Rev. John P. Collins

## Pastoral Service Director

and

## Permanent Deacon

Mr. James Browne

## Day Care & Summer Camp

Ages: Infant (6 weeks) through PreK-4

Hours: 6:00am to 6:00pm,  
year round care

Director: Cyndi Manley

Day Care: 215-483-7740

Director's Cellphone: 215-298-4971

E-mail: [ictrouble63@gmail.com](mailto:ictrouble63@gmail.com)

## Welcome

We welcome all who join us for worship and we invite you to become part of our parish family. You may register as a parishioner in the rectory on any Sunday morning after the 8:00am or 11:00am Masses or any time in the rectory.



## CHURCH SERVICES

Saturday Evening Mass 4:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:00 and 11:00am

Weekday Mass: 8:00am

Holy Day Vigil Mass: 7:00pm

Holy Day Mass: 8:00am

## BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated on the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00am Mass. Please contact the rectory for details about the Pre-Jordan program which is held on the first Sunday of the month at 12:00pm in the rectory.

## CONFESSION

Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45pm

After Stations on Wednesday evenings during Lent and any time upon request.

## MARRIAGE

Couples must make arrangements with one of the priests at Holy Family at least 6 months prior to the wedding. Call the rectory at 215-482-0450 for an appointment.

## MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND ELDERLY

We visit the homes of those unable to attend Mass due to sickness or age on the first Monday of each month from 11:00am to 12:30pm and every Sunday after the 8:00am Mass.

**Holy Hour:** second Sunday of each month after the 11:00am Mass

**Miraculous Medal Novena:** every Friday after 8:00am Mass

**Alter Servers:** serve at Mass

**Cantors:** lead singing at Mass

**Choir:** sings at Mass & Liturgical Services

**Extraordinary Ministers:** bring Holy Communion to the sick

**Guitar Group:** sings at the 11:00am Mass once a month

**Lectors:** read at Mass each Sunday

**RCIA:** prepares and instructs converts to enter the church and for Catholics not yet Confirmed; Wednesday at 7:00pm

**PREP:** teaches students' not attending Catholic school; Sundays from 9:30 to 10:45am

**Pre-Cana Team:** workshop for engaged couples

**Ajax Committee:** cleans sanctuary and church twice each month

**ALPHA:** discuss religious matters in a relaxed setting

**Finance Committee:** meets six times per year to advise the Pastor

**Liturgy Committee:** plan religious services

**Parish Pastoral Council:** meets several times per year to confer on Pastoral planning

**Women's Club:** meets six times per year and sponsors social activities

**Seniors:** meets twice each month in the convent

\* **Please note:** if you are interested in participating any of these activities, please contact the rectory at 215-482-0450

# EPIPHANY



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# OF THE LORD

**JANUARY 5, 2020**



**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 PM**

**Mary Firth**, requested by Harry and Eileen Mullen

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am**

**Our Parishioners**

**11:00am**

**James Gerard**, requested by Joe and Mary Ellen Aylmer

**MONDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am**

**Francis P. Thomas, III**, requested by Amanda Gerten

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am**

**Alexander Montanez**, requested by Maryann Zeislof

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am**

**Juanita Vilches**, requested by Elias and Elba Figueroa

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am**

**James Gerard**, requested by Betty and Jim O'Brien

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am**

**Special Intention**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 PM**

**McNABB and CAPELLA FAMILIES**, requested by their family

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am**

**Bill and Rita D'Ettore**, requested by Mitch and Irene Yanak

**11:00am**

**Our Parishioners**

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

Our bulletin publisher required our bulletins for December 22<sup>nd</sup> to be submitted to them by December 13<sup>th</sup>. The bulletin for December 29<sup>th</sup> be submitted to them by December 19<sup>th</sup> and the bulletin for January 5<sup>th</sup> be submitted by December 26<sup>th</sup>. The weekly collections for December 15<sup>th</sup>, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup> will be in the January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 bulletin.



In your prayers, you are asked to pray for all the sick of the parish and those who care for them especially, Anna Marie Barry, Theresa Barthold, Robert Brecht, Jr., Linda Brown, Christopher Browne, Ed Cameron, Christina Dougherty Gailey, Daniel Evans, Terry Flanagan, Jackie Jordan, Anne Marie Kearns, Lisa Long, Erin McFarlane, Megan McHugh, Helen Nagle, Ronald Rigler, Ava Snick, Ed Speece, Frances Sprenkle, Eileen and Joe Szewczak, Fran Thomas and Roy (Toysie) Turvey, Jr..



Please pray for the happy repose of all the faithful departed.



LCPL. Shane Canavan, A1C Matt Dandrea, Nicholas DiCicco, PFC Michael D'Intino, PFC Tyler Manigly, Sr. Master Sergeant Jason Otto, Captain Zach Schwatka, Col. Scott Shore, and Cpl. Christopher Starrett.



**SATURDAY – JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup> – 4:00pm**

Grace Welsh - Jocelyn Welsh

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am**

Frances Arturo - Joseph Arturo

**11:00am**

Michael Torna - Charlotte Welsh

**ORGANIST**

4:00pm - Joseph O'Brien

8:00 – 11:00am Isaac Young



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup> - 4:00pm**

Grace Torna

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am - 11:00am**

Julia Bokunewicz



**SATURDAY – JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup> - 4:00pm**

Mark Jennings – Jim Parrella

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am**

Louise Mancuso

**11:00am**

John Naab



**Lectors**

**SATURDAY – JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup> - 4:00pm**

Walt Wood

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am**

Mitch Yanak

**11:00am**

John Delaney

**\*\*\*CHURCH PARKING LOT\*\*\***

If you find that the church parking lot is filled there is additional parking down at the Day Care Center.



The distribution day is the Fourth Sunday of the month. The Distribution day for January is January 26<sup>th</sup> after the 11:00 am Mass. Food can be picked up at the convent. Our Food Cupboard needs to be stocked. Some suggestions for donations : boxes of cereal, pancake mix/syrup, cake mixes/frostings, crackers, jellies/jam, peanut butter, cookies, tune fish or canned meats, rice, noodles, cans of juice or juice packs, tea bags, salt/pepper. **NO BABY FOOD IS NEEDED.** We hope this action will help someone in need.



**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Our Eucharistic Adoration will be on the second Sunday of every month after the 11:00 A.M. Mass until 1:00 P.M. We are praying for a holier church despite the scandal. Please make every effort to attend this parish celebration.

## **THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

As the familiar 18<sup>th</sup> century English Christmas carol reminds us, the Christmas Season, also known as Christmastide, extends far longer than just the day of Christmas. In the Church year Christmas day is the first of the 12 days of Christmas. The last night, twelfth night, is January 5, the eve of the feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 6. Today, the final Sunday of the Christmas Season celebrates the Baptism of Jesus. Clearly, Christmas is meant to be not just a celebration of the baby Jesus or Jesus' birthday but a summary of our lives in relation to God's intimate, incarnate presence with us today.

In the early Eastern Church, the Epiphany was the primary celebration of both Jesus' birth and his manifestation to the world. It was associated with the winter solstice when the sun's light began to be renewed for another year. In the Roman West in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century the celebration of Jesus' birth was shifted to December 25 to compete with the pagan festival of the "unconquered sun" (*natalis solis invicti*) and the time until Epiphany became the Christmas Season.

From the 4<sup>th</sup> century on, Christmas, with its focus on Christ's incarnation as a truly human person like ourselves, grew in popularity until today it often surpasses Easter in the popular imagination. During this blessed season, then, we are constantly reminded of God's love and desire to be with us and for us to share in the divine life.

## **THE COMPANIONS OF CHRIST**

Over the centuries as the Christmas Season was celebrated, the Church gradually drew together a series of feasts following Christmas Day that by the Middle Ages were often referred to as the "Companions of Christ" (*Comites Christi*), a kind of royal entourage to accompany the newborn king. In their various ways, they represent different forms of witness to Christ or some aspect of our Christian faith.

**December 26:** St. Stephen, the first martyr, who was filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaimed that salvation came through Christ and was stoned by angry Jewish (Acts 6:8-8:1).

**December 27:** St. John, apostle and evangelist, who followed Christ during his earthly ministry and then wrote his Gospel to reveal the meaning of Christ's words and actions (Mt 4:18-21, Jn 21:24-25).

**December 28:** The Holy Innocents were the children who were murdered by King Herod the Great in his attempt to eliminate Jesus as a threat to his royal power (Mt 2:16-18).

**Sunday between Christmas and Epiphany:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph who show how our own families might reflect a right relationship to God and one another.

**December 29:** St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the English Church, who was murdered by King Henry II's knights for opposing the king's attempts to control the Church.

**December 31:** Pope St. Sylvester, who oversaw the transition of the church from an illegal to a legal religion under Roman emperor Constantine and invited the world's bishops to the first Ecumenical Council at Nicea (325).

**January 1:** (the Octave Day of Christmas): Mary the Mother of God, whose "yes" to God models our willingness to bring Jesus to birth in ourselves and our world (Lk 1:26-38).

**January 6:** the Epiphany, when God in the incarnate child Jesus is revealed to all the world in the persons of the Gentle Magi (Mt. 2:1-12)

**The Sunday after the Epiphany:** The Baptism of Jesus. This feast now ends the Christmas Season by celebrating Jesus' commitment to God's saving activity and God's commissioning him with the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish it.

## THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

**On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11**

“Epiphany” means manifestation. And the “Epiphany of the Lord” is Jesus’ manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it’s also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were “wise men” who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the “star” that God is using to call you. It’s closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way.

Reflect, today, upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. What is God using to call you to Himself? When you discover Him, do not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

*Lord, I love You and adore You. I lay my life before You and surrender all. You are my Divine King and Savior. My life is Yours. (Pray three times and then prostrate yourself before the Lord) Jesus, I trust in You.*

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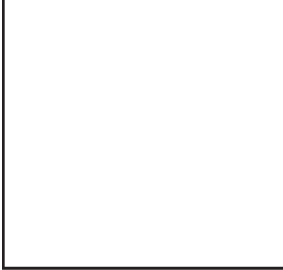



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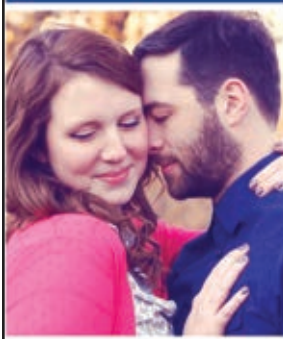
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 In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson



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