



ST. PAUL CHURCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and 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. - Mt 2:10-11

*Dear Parishioners,
May the graces that come
through the birth of Christ Jesus
bring you blessings, strength and
hope during the Christmas season
and through the New Year.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

*Reverend Monsignor
Neil J. Van Loon, V.F.
& Deacon John A. Hanni*



**Solemnity of Mary
The Holy Mother of God**

Vigil: Friday, December 31

4:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 1

9:00 a.m. (No 4:30 Mass)

St. Paul Church

Corner of Penn Avenue and Marion Street, Scranton

St. Paul Rectory

1510 Penn Ave., Scranton, PA

Phone: 570-961-1549 ~ Fax: 570-961-0335

Office Hours ~ Monday thru Friday

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

E-Mail ~ info@stpaulscranton.org

Facebook ~ Saint Paul's Parish

Website ~ www.stpaulscranton.org

St. Clare Church

2235 North Washington Avenue

Adoration and Rosary

Monday ~ Friday

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ~ Rosary at 4:30 p.m.

Food Pantry

**School Year: Fridays from 3:00 p.m. ~ 4:30 p.m.
St. Clare Church Basement**

Rev. Mon. Neil J. Van Loon, V.F., Pastor
Deacon John A. Hanni

St. Paul Staff

Rita Cicco - Director of Religious Education

Robert Fitzsimmons - Sacristan

Eugene Mentz - Director of Liturgical Music

Marci Stevens - Scanlon - Administrative Assistant

Phoebe Wilson - Operations Manager

Sacrament of Baptism

All first time parents are asked to attend
a baptismal preparation meeting prior
to the Baptism.

Please call the parish office to schedule dates.

Sacrament of Matrimony

A meeting with the parish priest should precede all
other wedding plans. Contact the parish
office at least six months before
date of the intended marriage.

Sacrament of Holy Anointing

All who are seriously sick, hospitalized,
or having surgery can receive this sacrament.

Please call the parish office
if you wish to be anointed.

Sponsor Cards

Sponsor cards for Baptism or Confirmation will be
issued to parishioners who attend Mass regularly;
are Baptized and Confirmed Catholics;
are married in conformity with the
laws of the Church.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you
are present in the Most Holy
Sacrament. I love you above
all things, And I desire to
receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this
moment receive you
sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as already
there and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.





Offertory: 12/19- \$6,120

Online: 12/19- \$3,065

**12/26 totals will be posted in
next week's bulletin.**

***Need help setting up your
online account?***

Please call us for assistance! 570-961-1549

Catholic Diocese

Annual Appeal

St. Paul Parish Goal:

2021 Goal: \$66,000.00

Total Raised: \$36,650.00

Over(Under): (\$29,350.00)

Please consider donating to the
Diocesan Annual Appeal to help us reach our
goal this year!

Listening Phase of Synod Begins Online survey now available on Diocese of Scranton website

Do you believe the Diocese of Scranton listens to its parishioners? Are you challenged to use your gifts and talents to better the life of your parish and the whole Church? Do you believe the Church is transparent and accountable in its decision-making processes?

The Diocese of Scranton invites everyone to answer these three questions and more as part of the local listening phase of the 2023 Synod of Bishops, which is now underway.

The word "synod" is an ancient Greek word. While unfamiliar to many, a synod is a journey of discernment, in which the people of God are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church.

Pope Francis has asked every diocese in the world to develop a process to listen to the faithful of parishes, religious orders and Catholic movements and prayerfully consider the ways in which they currently experience the church as "synodal," that is, as a community that walks together and to suggest ways to strengthen that in practice.

The Diocese of Scranton will be taking a three-pronged approach to the local listening phase of the synod. That includes the online survey (and phone line for those without internet access), parish and community gatherings, and a pre-synodal meeting hosted by Bishop.

To participate go to:

www.dioceseofscranton.org/synod-on-synodality/

Leave Voicemail comments at (570) 591-5024

ADORATION AND ROSARY



**St. Clare Church from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru
Friday with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.**

**Special intentions for our country and our
world include:**

- A return to God and the Ten Commandments
- An end to violence, public, private and in the womb
- Any other intentions



YEARLY STATEMENT

All registered parishioners will receive a yearly statement of giving in January 2022. Many people enjoy using Christmas and Year's End as a special time to give to their favorite Catholic institutions and also positively impact their Federal and State Income taxes. Christmas and Year End giving provides many advantages to you, the donor.

- All gifts made on or before December 31st are tax deductible for the tax year 2021
- A year end donation can be used to memorialize a loved one for the holidays.
- If you itemize, your gift will lessen your tax liability for 2021.
- If you do not itemize, your Christmas gift may be just the right decision to allow you to itemize and lower your tax bill (check with your tax advisor).

If you would like your tax deductible contributions to show on your 2021 statement, we must receive the money by JANUARY 14, 2022.

JANUARY IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

As St. Paul wrote in Philippians 2, "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Very early on, Christians came to understand that the very name of Jesus had great power, and the recitation of His Name was itself a form of prayer.

This short prayer is a combination of that early Christian practice and the prayer offered by the publican in the parable of the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:9-14). It is perhaps the most popular prayer among Eastern Christians, both Orthodox and Catholic, who recite it using prayer ropes that are similar to Western rosaries.

St. Paul urges us to "pray without ceasing," and this prayer is one of the best ways to start doing so. It takes only a few minutes to memorize, after which we can recite it whenever we remember to do so. If we fill the otherwise wasted moments of our day with the Holy Name of Jesus, we'll keep our thoughts focused on Him and grow in His grace.

The Jesus Prayer

"O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

This month, why not take a few minutes to memorize the Jesus Prayer, and pray it during those moments of the day when you are between activities, or traveling, or simply taking a rest? Keeping Christ's Name always on our lips is a good way to ensure that we draw ever nearer to Him.

~Scott P . Richert



Support your Parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal directly from your IRA

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your required minimum distribution to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

For more information, please contact Jim Bebla,
Diocesan Secretary of Development at
Jim-Bebbla@DioceseofScranton.org
or (570) 207-2250

A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

O gracious and holy God,
Give us wisdom to perceive you, Intelligence to understand you, Diligence to seek you, Patience to wait for you, Eyes to see you, A heart to meditate on you, And a life to proclaim you, Through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION -
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING
OF SCRIPTURE**

The Epiphany of the Lord

We may walk many roads when we search for God, and He leads us all the while. The men we honor today were not Jews. The Messiah wasn't coming for them, not in the minds of Jesus' contemporaries. These men were astrologers. They were adept at reading portents in the sky, a practice condemned in the Mosaic covenant. Still, to the best of their knowledge and awareness, they were seeking the truth. This truth led them to journey from their own homeland to honor a king they'd never met, one they couldn't be sure truly existed. "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Who do you know seeks God so tenaciously?

"Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem," the Gospel tells us. Who are the seekers in your own life? Maybe it's your cautiously curious co-worker, the neighbor who unexpectedly found peace on a yoga retreat, or your desperately angry child who has chosen, for now, to go their own way. Perhaps they're not overtly headed for Jesus now, not yet. But they may well be seekers of truth in ways we didn't expect. Our invitation is to listen, inquire, and give directions when appropriate. The magi and modern-day seekers can inspire us as well. When is the last time you sought God's truth so tenaciously? As believers, it can perhaps be easy to become desensitized to the Christmas season and to the miraculous reality we recently celebrated. Mass may have been lovely, but so was the succulent roast beef, the crisp smell of evergreen, and the warm glow of family. Consider asking yourself, "God, do I know you as well as I should? Would I journey as far as the magi to meet You, if I could? Do I journey to meet You daily in prayer? What do those answer say about me, and about our relationship?"

Perhaps we, like the magi, can once again be "overjoyed" at seeing the Light of the World. ©LPi