

Welcome to St. George Church

A Parish with Spirit and Heart!



St. George Church, 74 Old Glenwood Rd. West Falls, NY 14170-9704

Web: www.stgeorgercchurch.org

Email: stgeorge.wf@gmail.com

Parish Office: (716) 652-3153

Fax: (716) 687-1336

Sr. Lori High, SSMN, Pastoral Administrator

Rev. Msgr. Jim Wall, Sacramental Minister

Week of January 7, 2018

The Epiphany of the Lord

We seem to enjoy marking anniversaries, for the most part. This weekend marks the two thousand eighteenth anniversary of the coming of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus. Our Church has named this Feast the **Epiphany**. This strange word comes from a Greek verb meaning "to appear." *Now in flesh appearing* is even part of a verse in one of our familiar Christmas carols! This appearance of God-with-us is the foundation of Christianity.

Jesus, a Jewish infant born to Jewish parents, would be remembered in Jewish thought as a prophetic Rabbi in the time of the Roman occupation of Israel if His *appearance* had not been recognized and proclaimed! The exotic variety of the foreigners, the Magi who recognize heavenly signs of God's presence, serves to break open the experience of Jesus to all peoples.

God's initiative in showing us love is beyond our ability to understand. All of creation is a sign of God's love, yet, humanity has a difficult time seeing and believing in God's unrelenting love. By uniting humanity and Divinity in the person of Jesus, God has given us the ultimate sign of love. Our God has created us and knows what it is to be human and *still loves us unconditionally!* Let us rejoice!

Sister Lori

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 6	5 pm	Tom and Chris Alabiso, by the Kita Family
Sunday, January 7	8:30 am	Joseph & Eleanor Diggins & children, by the Estate
The Epiphany of the Lord	11:00 am	For our St. George faith community
Monday, January 8, 2018	8 am	For the physical and spiritual wellbeing of Noel Bartlo, by Fr. Jim Wall
Tuesday, January 9	8 am	For the Faithful Departed
Wednesday, January 10	8 am	Communion Service and Novena
Thursday, January 11	8 am	Communion Service
Friday, January 12	8 am	For the Faithful Departed
Saturday, January 13	5 pm	Joseph & Eleanor Diggins & children, by the Estate
Sunday January 14	8:30 am	Joseph & Eleanor Diggins & children, by the Estate
	11 am	Jerry Castiglia, by the St. George Youth Community

Our next First Friday Mass will be on February 2nd at 8:00 am in the Chapel.

Confession: Saturdays from 4:00 - 4:30 pm in the Church.

Join us in praying the Rosary on Saturdays at 4:30 pm in the Church.

LET US PRAY FOR... Doris Ellis, Don Murray, Sally Denesha, Jeanne McIntyre, Joe Arcara, Daniel Sojka, Stan Kociszewski and John Nichter.



Mass Offerings Praying for relatives and friends is an act of faith, hope and charity. One way you can honor your loved one, living or deceased, is to have a Mass offered for them. A \$15 Mass stipend donation for the celebrant is customary. To schedule a Mass, please email stgeorge.wf@gmail.com or call the parish office at **652-3153**.

YOUTH MATTERS: COLLECTING WINTER GEAR

Our Youth Community is collecting **new or gently used gloves, hats, scarves, winter jackets and boots (all sizes)** for the next 2 weekends. In this extreme cold weather, warm clothes are in great demand for our brothers and sisters in need. The Youth will sort and box the donated items at their next session on January 14th. *Please place your donations in the "Youth" can in the Gathering Space. Thanks!*



Thank you for your kind Christmas and New Year wishes and gifts to us! We feel greatly blessed to have your support and your affection, and we pray for your peace, joy, and comfort in God's love, today and throughout the New Year.

Sister Lori, Father Jim and the Parish staff.

OUR EPIPHANY FAITH FEST IS SUNDAY!

Come celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany**, also known as **Three Kings Day**, on **January 7th** from **9:40 - 10:50 am** in the **Parish Hall**. You'll learn more about this feast day and enjoy a pageant performed by the children of our parish. *We look forward to having you with us for our second community Faith Fest of the Church year, and sharing some refreshments as well!*



OUR ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST & THEME BASKET AUCTION IS FEB. 4TH!



Plan to join us on **Superbowl Sunday**, **February 4th**, from **9 am - 1 pm** for a hearty and delicious breakfast of eggs, pancakes, sausage and beverage. **\$6 per adult, \$4 per child (under 10)**. Get your tickets at the door, or online at stgeorgercchurch.weshareonline.org/PancakeBreakfast2018.

We need Theme baskets. Your basket donations may be left at the back of church, or in the tall brown cupboard on the porch of the Parish Office at any time. **Can you help with the breakfast? Volunteer sign-up sheets** for **Servers** and the **Clean-up crew** are at the back of church.

Thank you for the many ways in which you support this parish fundraiser!

SCRIPTURE SHARING WITH FATHER JIM—RESUMES MONDAY

Plan to join Father Jim in sharing the Sunday scripture readings on **Monday, January 8th** at **9 am** in the Parish Office. Using both the scripture readings and the commentary given in ***The Cultural World of Jesus*** book, a forty-minute to one hour-long gathering is planned for **9 am** on the following **Mondays: January 8, 15, 22 and 29**. *No reservation is needed – just show up!*



*There are a few copies of the "Cultural World of Jesus" book available.
Call us at 652-3153 if you want a copy.*

UPCOMING NOTABLE DATES

Jan. 14	12:30 - 3:30 pm Youth Session
Jan. 18	7 pm Parish Council Meeting
Feb. 4	9 am - 1 pm Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast & Basket Auction
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday: 8 am Mass and 7 pm Communion Service

Schedule

The **Lector, Eucharistic Minister** and **Altar Server Schedule** for January and February is now available in the sacristy and [online](#). Please pick up or download your copy today.
Thank you for giving so generously of your time and talent!

YOU HELP US FULFILL OUR MISSION OF MERCY

We are so grateful for you, our St. George parish family, and for the gifts which you share with us. Your generosity enables us to support and expand our community outreach and lifelong faith formation efforts as we journey in faith together.

Sunday and Holy Day offerings last week were \$3,631.09. Initial Offerings for Envelopes totaled **\$130.00.** *Thank you so much!*

RESOLVE TO GIVE GREENER! Are you trying to cut down on the paper you use? Is the offering check that you write for our parish one of the few checks that you write anymore? You can give greener by using our online giving service, **WeShare.**



Simply visit our secure website at stgeorgercchurch.weshareonline.org and sign up in minutes. You decide the amount that you would like to give, one-time or recurring, and whether the donation is drawn from your bank account or your credit card. If you're at all unsure about the service or set up, our parish secretary is happy to answer any questions, and will help you get it set up if you wish. Call **652-3153** today.



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to those in need.

Join us in Praying the Rosary in the Memorare Chapel Monday evenings at 7 pm.

READINGS FOR January 14, 2017

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 (65B)
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
John 1:41, 17b

ALTAR SERVERS ARE NEEDED!!

If you've made your First Holy Communion and you would like to participate at Mass in a whole new way, become an **Altar Server!** *We especially need servers for the Saturday Masses.* Please call the office at **652-3153.**



The **January** Parish Calendar is now available at the Church entrances. Take a copy home with you today, or download it **online.**

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CALLS ALL MEN OF FAITH

Matt Boyle and **Paul Kalinski** invite you to join them and other men of faith **every Saturday morning** from **8:30-9:30 am** in the Parish Hall kitchen, to share some coffee and scripture reading before the *busy-ness* of the day begins. Questions? Email **Paul** at kalinski@gmail.com or **Matt** at his.t.his.victory15@gmail.com.



The readings for the Men's Group meeting on Saturday, January 6, 2018 are below:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Reading 1IS 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds
cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines,
and over you appears his glory.
Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance.
Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and
come to you: your sons come from afar,
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.
Then you shall be radiant at what you see,
your heart shall throb and overflow,
for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before
you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.
Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from
Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense,
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial PsalmPS 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.
R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.
R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.
R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading 11EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6

Brothers and sisters:
You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace
that was given to me for your benefit,
namely, that the mystery was made known to me
by revelation.
It was not made known to people in other
generations as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same
body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus
through the gospel.

AlleluiaMT 2:2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
We saw his star at its rising and have come to do
him homage. R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GospelMT 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
in the days of King Herod,
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,
saying,
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage."
When King Herod heard this,
he was greatly troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him.
Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of
the people, He inquired of them where the Christ
was to be born.
They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea,
for thus it has been written through the prophet:
*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"
Then Herod called the magi secretly
and ascertained from them the time of the star's
appearance.
He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
"Go and search diligently for the child.
When you have found him, bring me word,
that I too may go and do him homage."
After their audience with the king they set out.
And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising
preceded them, until it came and stopped over the
place where the child was.
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.
And having been warned in a dream not to return to
Herod, they departed for their country by another
way.

The Epiphany, A Reminder to Join the Lord in Building his Kingdom

Arise! Shine, for your light has come. (Isaiah 60:1)

What extravagant promises this reading contains! The prophet speaks of "splendor," "glory," "radiance," and overflowing heart, and the "wealth of nations." And who first heard these glowing words? Exiled Jews who had just recently returned to a Jerusalem in ruins. Somehow, the words of the prophet didn't quite match up with the realities on the ground. But that didn't stop these believers from rolling up their sleeves and working to bring about the glory that had been promised to them.

Similarly, how did the Magi recognize an earth-shaking event in the humble stable with Joseph and Mary? Even the religious and political leaders of Israel missed the birth of the Messiah. So how could these pagan foreigners fall to their knees so readily, and offer such valuable treasures to this lowly child? Again, their expectations didn't match up with what they found when they first laid eyes on the Holy Family.

Like the Magi and the returning exiles, we have been given great and precious promises not only about a heavenly kingdom, but also about God's rule breaking into our world here and now. But how will that happen? Much of it depends on God's timing, but a lot depends on us. Every day, God invites us to roll up our sleeves and get to work building his kingdom. Every day, he reassures us that even our smallest acts of love contain within themselves the splendor and glory of heaven.

Today's feast tells us that the glory of God can be present in the most hidden and unlikely people and situations. It tells us that God is there in the everyday rhythms of our lives. May he give us eyes of faith to see him and trusting hearts to build the kingdom with him. The results will be spectacular!

"Thank you, Father, for the way you have traveled with us so far, and for the journey that lies ahead."

(Many thanks to *The Word Among Us* for allowing us to use meditations from their monthly devotional magazine. Used with permission. For more information on how to subscribe to their devotional magazine, go to www.wau.org.)

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Questions for Reflection or Discussion:

1. The first reading should fill us with hope as we contemplate and celebrate what God has accomplished in the coming of Jesus. (Isaiah 60:1-4).
 - How are the words from the first reading fulfilled in Jesus' coming? In what ways do these words and your faith in Jesus, fill you with hope?
 - Are there some areas of your life that may need an increase in faith and hope? If so, what are some steps you can take in those areas in 2018 to increase your faith and hope?

2. The responsorial psalm speaks of a king endowed by God to "govern your people with justice, and your afflicted ones with judgment." In addition, "he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save" (Psalm 72: 2, 12, 13).

- How do these words from the responsorial psalm prophetically speak of the works of Jesus, and the works of us, his people? How would you describe the specific ways Jesus has fulfilled these words?
- In 2018, what are some steps you can take to share in the work of Jesus in order to "rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him" and to "have pity for the lowly and the poor"?

3. In the second reading, we hear of the wonderful revelation to St. Paul that the Gentiles are now "coheirs" and "copartners" with the Jewish people "in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel" (Eph 3:5).

- How would you describe the meaning of these words from the second reading?
- How can we as Christians be a better witness of Christ's love to our Jewish brothers and sisters?
- If someone were to ask, how would you describe "the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel"?

4. In the Gospel reading, we are told that when the magi inquired of the whereabouts of the "newborn king of the Jews," King Herod was "greatly troubled and all Jerusalem with him" (Matthew 2: 2, 3). The magi, on the other hand, "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" (2:11).

- Why do you think King Herod was so troubled by the news of "newborn king of the Jews"? Why do you think the magi's reaction was so different than Herod's? What is your reaction when you reflect on these events?

5. The meditation invites us to "roll up our sleeves and get to work building his kingdom. Every day, he reassures us that even our smallest acts of love contain within themselves the splendor and glory of heaven. Today's feast tells us...that God is there in the everyday rhythms of our lives. May he give us eyes of faith to see him and trusting hearts to build the kingdom with him. The results will be spectacular!"

- What are some new ways you can "roll up" your sleeves and "get to work building" the Lord's kingdom? In order to do this, why is it so important for the Lord to "give us eyes of faith to see him and trusting hearts to build the kingdom with him"?

Take some time now to pray and thank our Heavenly Father for his faithfulness and for guiding us and leading us now and in the future. Use the prayer from the end of the meditation as a starting point.

ST. GEORGE CHURCH

Pancake Breakfast

&

THEME BASKET AUCTION

SUNDAY, February 4, 2018

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

ADULTS: \$6.00 CHILDREN (10 yrs. and under): \$4.00

Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage & beverage

Questions? (716) 652-3153 or stgeorge.wf@gmail.com

ST. GEORGE CHURCH

A PARISH WITH SPIRIT AND HEART!

74 OLD GLENWOOD ROAD

WEST FALLS, NY