

# Humble Shepherds Epiphany / Three Kings

**Friday – Jan 6, 2017 Epiphany of our Lord/Three Kings**

**Sunday– Jan 8, 2017 Solemnity Humble Shepherds  
and Epiphany of our Lord / Three Kings**

**9:30 – High Mass with blessing of Incense and chalk from Epiphany  
of our Lord / Three Kings**

**Monday – Jan 9, 2017 Solemnity Baptism of the Lord**

**Sunday–Jan 15, 2017 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**9:30 – High Mass Welcome Mass for Fr. Mariusz Mularczyk**

Fr Mariusz has been appointed as our new Priest-Administrator  
Following Mass: **Catechism for Children and Fellowship Hour** at the  
Parish Hall with refreshments provided, everyone invited.

**Sunday–Jan 22, 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**9:30 – High Mass**

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## **Bible Readings for Epiphany / Three Kings – Year A**

**1<sup>st</sup> reading: Book of Isaiah 60:1-6**

**Psalm 72: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> reading from Letter of St Paul to Ephesians 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.

**Alleluia verse from Gospel St Matthew 2:2**

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

**Holy Gospel according to St Matthew 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.

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## **Catechism Study for this week:**

**About Prayer:** Descriptions of prayer are abundant throughout Christian history. "True prayer," wrote St. Augustine, "is nothing but love." Prayer should arise from the heart. "Prayer," said St. John Vianney, "is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself." "Every one of us needs half an hour of prayer each day," remarked St. Francis de Sales, "except when we are busy—then we need an hour." Definitions of prayer are important, but insufficient. There is a huge difference between knowing about prayer and praying. On this issue, the Rule of St. Benedict is clear, "If a man wants to pray, let him go and pray." St. John Damascene gave a classic definition of prayer: "**Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God**", citing St. John Damascene. The *Catechism* clearly defines prayer as a "vital and personal relationship with the living and true God". **Prayer is Christian "insofar as it is communion with Christ and a covenant relationship between God and man in Christ"**

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## **Adult Bible Study for this week:**

**About Faith in GOD:** from 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of St John 3:22 "Beloved: We receive from (God) him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit whom he gave us."

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**PARISH BLESSINGS and GRATITUDE** *We are grateful to everyone who gives Time, Talents and Treasure of your prayer and donations. GODS BLESSINGS to all, for your FAITH and labor of*

**LOVE in taking care, repairing and restoring out Parish Church!** In the 1 ½ years, together have done a tremendous amount of work: New Church roof; fixed ceiling and Church interior, repaired and painted Church interior and outside windows, repaired Church entrance bulletin board, fixed Parish Hall roof, repainted Parish Hall entrance and bathroom, repainted Parish Hall, fixed roof over rectory, repaired and painted rectory interior, new fence at the cemetery, landscaping at the Cemetery and Pulaski Park, repaired caretaker house at the Cemetery, repaired heating pump and furnace at the Parish Hall, new professional zero turn grass cutting mower, new 6ft wide pull behind tractor mower, Fellowship dinners, brunches, cook outs, bake sales, etc, etc... *May God bless you all for your wonderful work!!!*

**ATTEND HOLY MASS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS PARTICIPATE IN LIFE OF YOUR CHURCH AND WORSHIP DAILY**

*Liturgy is "the participation of the People of God in 'the work of God'"; it is the "exercise of the priestly office of Jesus" in which God is worshiped and adored and people are made holy. God begins the work of sanctifying people in time and space and brings that work to completion. Those who respond to God in worship and in service are given the privilege of becoming co-workers in the divine plan. Please come and join us as Community of faith for Sunday Holy Mass weekly! Feel always welcomed and at home in our Church!*

*Our Church is a home for all believers, from all ethnic and national backgrounds. We are one family of Jesus Christ, come and join us!*

For those with gluten allergy Gluten free Communion is available

**PARISH CALENDAR**

-Polish Language Mass – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

-Valentine's Day Brunch and Parish Yearly Meeting – we are inviting every one to attend Valentine's Day Brunch and Parish Yearly meeting that is planned on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> after Holy Mass.

**Blessing for the beginning of the New Year.**

*Every good gift comes from the Father of light.*

*May He grant you His peace and every blessing, and keep you safe throughout the coming year. R. Amen*

*May He grant you unwavering faith, constant hope, and love that endures to the end. R. Amen*

*May he order your days and work in his peace, hear your every prayer, and lead you to everlasting life and joy. R. Amen*

*May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.*

# ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH

**Polish National Catholic Church**

**2330 Margaret Street**

**Philadelphia, PA 19137**

**(215) 535-4978**



*The angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Gospel St Luke 2*

**Humble Shepherds  
Epiphany / Three Kings  
January 8, 2017**