

# LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

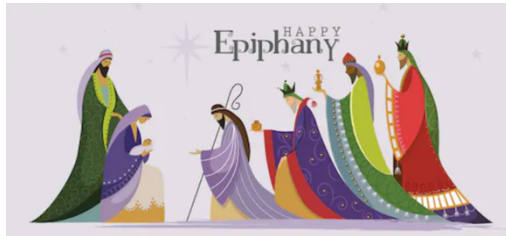
Sunday, January 5, 2020 – Solemnity – The Holy Family  
9:30 AM Holy Mass with the blessing of families,  
and the blessing of incense, charcoal & chalk

Monday, January 6, 2020 – The Epiphany of the Lord  
Tuesday, January 7, 2020 – Within the Octave of the Epiphany  
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 – Within the Octave of the Epiphany  
Thursday, January 9, 2020 – Within the Octave of the Epiphany  
Friday, January 10, 2020 – Within the Octave of the Epiphany  
Saturday, January 11, 2020 – Within the Octave of the Epiphany  
Sunday, January 12, 2020 – Solemnity – The Baptism of the Lord  
9:30 AM Holy Mass

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## FAITH SHARING

The Greek word Epiphany (*επιφάνεια*), means *appearance* or *manifestation*. Multiple revelations of Jesus as God are celebrated in the Feast of the Epiphany. First, the angels revealed Jesus to the shepherds. In the Western Church, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, while in the Eastern Church, the feast is the commemoration of the Baptism of Christ where the Father and the Holy Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus' identity as Son of God. Later, in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed himself as the promised Messiah, and at Cana Jesus revealed his Divinity by transforming water into wine.



Isaiah 60:1-6, is chosen as today's first reading, partly because it mentions non-Jews bringing gifts in homage to the God of Israel. Here the Prophet Isaiah, consoling the people in exile, speaks of the restoration of the New Jerusalem from which the glory of Yahweh becomes visible even to the pagan nations.

Saint Paul reveals God's "secret plan" – that the Gentiles also have a part with the Jews in Divine blessings. Paul explains that this plan includes both Jews and Gentiles.

Today's Gospel teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring Him their hearts. Since the Magi came with joy in their hearts to visit the Christ Child, God allowed them to see wondrous things. At the same time, today's Gospel hints at different reactions to the news of Jesus' birth, foreshadowing his passion and death, as well as the risen Jesus' mandate to make disciples of all nations.

## BLESSING OF YOUR HOUSE

As usually, at this time of the year, I offer the Blessing of the House service for St. Valentine's parishioners and friends. In 2017 nobody asked for it. In 2018 nobody asked neither. In 2019 only one family invited me to come over. Maybe in 2020 there will be at least one righteous family or individual looking for God's blessing?



## CHURCH HALL 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR REPAIR

Tom and Albert started repairing our church hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Due to water damage from the roof earlier, the ceiling collapsed on the staircase, bathroom and hallway. It has to be fixed as soon as possible due to property insurance requirements. We will need volunteering parishioners to clean these areas after the repair is done. That will be only 2 hrs of work for 3-6 people. I cleaned by myself with little of Leon's help the boiler room in the basement. That room was packed with all kind of junk and trash collected there for years. Now it looks nice and clean. I can volunteer to paint the walls **if somebody can donate the paint**. If you can do it, please let me know.

## SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

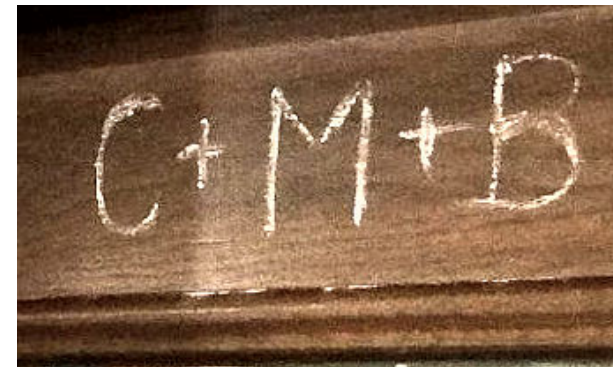
The 2020 Sunday collection envelopes are available already. Please take yours and if you can deliver the envelopes to your relatives or friends please do so.

## HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY AND EPIPHANY

The Solemnity of The Epiphany is this year on Monday, January 6, therefore we can combine this solemnity with The Holy Family and celebrate them both today, on Sunday, January 5.

The Church blesses on that day the Families, the incense, charcoal & chalk. Using the blessed chalk please write on your door the inscription C+M+B 2020 or 20+C+M+B+20. This is a very old Polish custom.

C, M and B **are not** the initials for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar), like many people think, but they are the abbreviation of the Latin blessing **Christus mansionem benedicat**, which means, May Christ bless this house.



**PARISH DUES FOR 2020**

It's time already to think about paying your parish dues for the year 2020. Many parishioners didn't pay dues for 2019 or even earlier. If you didn't pay yet, please do so. Many members don't pay their dues for years at all. Dues are an obligation in the Polish National Catholic Church. Dues are \$225 yearly per adult member (\$100 goes to the General Church, \$25 to the Central Diocese and \$100 to our Parish). This is only ~62 cents/ day.

According to our Constitution of the PNCC, by neglecting paying dues, the individual/family loses the membership in the Parish and the Church, loses the right to vote and participate in Parish meetings, loses the right to burial at St. Valentine's Cemetery, even if he/she has already paid for the plot and his/her relatives are buried there.

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**Parish Meeting  
January 19, 2020**

**10:20 AM**

**(Mass starts at 9:30 AM but it will be shorter)**

**All are invited!**

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**FUNERAL**

† Barnard Minakowski, 60, passed away.

**The viewing** is planned for 4-6 pm on Sunday, January 5, 2020, at George Fitz Patrick Funeral Home, 1500 Old York Road, Abington, PA, 19001. **Prayers** at 5 pm.

**Holy Mass**, on Monday, January 6, 11:00 AM - St. Valentine's PNCC. 2330 Margaret St., Philadelphia, PA 19137.

**Burial:** Hillside Cemetery

*Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.  
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH**

**Polish National Catholic Church**

**2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 535-4978**

**www.stvalentinespncc.org, stvalentinespncc@gmail.com**

**Sunday Mass: 9:30 AM (English)**



**Solemnity – The Holy Family  
Solemnity – The Epiphany**

**Uroczystość Świętej Rodziny  
Uroczystość Objawienia Pańskiego**

**January 5, 2020**