

January 3, 2016

Epiphany of the Lord

Solemnity



Magi From The East Follow A Star

Like the magi, every person is born with a call that we must answer, a vision to follow and a goal to be achieved. To respond we must be willing to journey forth from home into an unknown future. On our journeys, we too will encounter Herods. Just as the magi were guided by the shining light of a star, so will our paths be lit and our journeys made easier by the gifts God sends our way.

MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, January 6
6:00 p.m. Welfare of the Parish
Saturday, January 9
4:30 p.m. Allan Wiedemann, Katherine & John Pokluda
Sunday, January 10
8:00 a.m. Gerald Kalina

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

Next weekend is *The Baptism of the Lord*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Responsorial Psalm: 104
Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



BIBLE STUDY

Come join us for a bible study class after Mass on Wednesdays until 7:30 p.m.

**C.C.D. resumes
Wednesday, January 6**

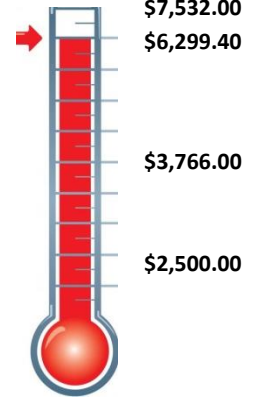
2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2015 Assessment	\$7,532.00
Contributions So Far	\$6,299.40
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$1,232.60

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Jason Bartos
Betty Patalik
Helen Wiedemann
Rosemary & Arthur Klekar*

**We are almost there!
Help us out to meet our
annual financial obligation
to the Bishop.**



Restoring Maticka Praha



Church Restoration Fund Donations

We thank the following for their recent donations:

*Nancy & Thomas Petru - \$209
(pledge payment for pew restoration)*

If you have not done so already, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge in honor of your loved ones. You however, are free to make a one-time donation or pay for an item of your choice.

A *Book of Memory* will be displayed at an appropriate place in the Church to honor all donors in these categories:

- Category I – \$10,000 and above**
- Category II – \$7,500 to \$9,999**
- Category III – \$5,000 to \$7,499**
- Category IV – \$2,500 to \$4,999**

To make a tax deductible donation towards the restoration project: Restoring Maticka Praha contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

2016 Church Support Envelopes

As in the past offertory envelopes have been mailed to parishioners who use them or have expressed the wish to have them. If you feel you have been overlooked and want to support the Church through the Sundays offertory envelope system, do please call the Church office. Many thanks for your continued support. Keep up the good work.

REFLECTION



The Manifestation of Christ to the World

Epiphany means “manifestation,” referring to the appearance of Jesus. The significance of this day is not just the arrival of the magi, but also the coming of Gentiles to adore the coming of the newborn King of the Jews. The event recognizes Jesus’ rule over the entire world.

All the readings for today reveal, in a way, a different manifestation of who Christ is for all who believe. The first reading from Isaiah lays before us the image of light, proclaiming that our light has come, that it shines upon us, and that it is a beacon for all nations. In Saint Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, he speaks of Christ as the one who gathers all to share in the same promise, the same inheritance, making them members of the same body. The gospel recounts the wonderful story of the magi, who recognize the “newborn king,” and who come to worship him.

Led by a star the wise men come in search of the infant king. They represent all who search for truth in wonders of creation and in wisdom of their own cultures of origin. Because they searched with eyes of faith they were able to recognize the gift of God when they found him, even though he did not conform to their initial perception of a royal heir.

They came from the far corners of the earth: Gentiles who followed the light and who found the new king whose reign would bring justice and righteousness into human affairs. They returned home, enlightened by their visit to God’s place of revelation. Their encounter shows that in Christ the light of God is given to all people of goodwill: Jew and non-Jew alike.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 3 – Denise Greive
January 6 – Arthur Klekar
January 7 – Betty Patalik
January 8 – Jeanette Henke

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

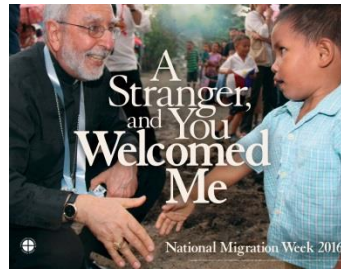


January 6 – Nancy & Thomas Petru
January 8 – Jenelle & Daniel Cerny

The Epiphany of the Lord

Heaven and earth bow down to the newborn Jesus. A star leaves its celestial course to shine above the birthplace of the Lord, foreign sages come to do him homage with rare and expensive gifts, and even King Herod senses that Christ’s true power outshines the importance of his royal throne. One of the first mysteries of our faith is that all this glory and power manifests itself in the simplicity of a stable, in a helpless infant born to two people without rank, traveling on their way to a national census. The glory of the Savior is found in the most common of places, in the most basic surroundings, among the simplest of people. This is Good News, revealing the radical pervasiveness of God’s grace, present to us in the most ordinary and everyday circumstances of our lives. No part of the human experience is too mundane for the presence of God.

National Migration Week – January 3-9



In the Gospel of Matthew (25:35) Jesus tells his disciples, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

The call to welcome the stranger plays an important role in the lives of faithful Christians. The migrant, who moves from one country to another, is truly a stranger in the midst. Often unfamiliar with the local tongue of the new country, not to mention its customs, the migrant needs the support of local communities so that they can better adjust to their new surroundings. We are called to welcome the stranger among us.

The Christmas Season Events

We thank the Altar Society ladies for setting up the manger scene in Church; Pat Masek, Georgie Cerny and Kathleen Svatek for setting up and cleaning up the church for services; Marcus Jasek for helping in the sacristy and for serving at Mass and Martin Svatek for putting up the outdoor manger scene. Special thanks to all parishioners who contributed to the Christmas Flower Fund for the purchase of the poinsettias; the choir for helping with the Christmas liturgy; the ushers for taking up the collection and all those who worked behind the scenes to make everything come together. Lastly, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all who remembered me at Christmas with cards and gifts. When the Christmas season is over I will have the pleasure to open gifts and thank you personally for your kindness.

Once again, it was a beautiful Christmas celebration. I very much appreciate what you do for the Church and for me personally.

God bless,
Fr. Gabriel