

Clergy Corner

Beloved,

It is the Epiphany of the Lord. We celebrate Christ as Light and Savior of all peoples. It is truly a joyous occasion. In fact, St Matthew tells us that when the magi received the news of the birth of Christ through the appearance of a star, they "were overjoyed." We do realize that the magi were not the only ones who rejoiced at the birth of Christ. The Angels rejoiced as well, and sang the greatest hymn of all times: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.* We also remember the shepherds, who, after receiving the good news, went in haste to Bethlehem, their hearts filled with wonder and praise.

But not everybody was happy. St. Matthew narrates that when the magi arrived in Jerusalem they asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" At this, King Herod "was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Now, pause for a moment and think about this: why was Herod troubled at heart? And why were the people of Jerusalem also troubled?

Let us begin with Herod. The magi described Jesus as "the newborn king of the Jews". Was Herod afraid he might lose his kingship, his crown of glory? Was he afraid he would lose the power he had over the people? Did he fear that the people would "see through" him, that he was not a "true" king? Perhaps even a usurper? Or was he simply not ready to share what he might have considered his "platform of popularity"? It might be that in Herod's mind everything revolved around him, and the thought of losing that focus on himself tore his heart apart.

Now, let us take a look at the people. Were they troubled because of Herod? Certainly, the fact that Herod was "greatly troubled" was not the best of situations for the people. The reason was that Herod was a violent man, who would stop at nothing in his desire to secure his kingship. But is it also possible that there were things in people's lives that they were afraid to lose? Fame? Favor? Sense of security? Riches? Think about the fact that it was in Jerusalem that Jesus was crucified. Think about the chief priests, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees and all those who cried aloud "Crucify him, crucify." What was it about Jesus that challenged them and, therefore, troubled them so much?

And think about all of us - Church leaders, priests, parents, children, politicians, economists, lawyers, and people of all walks of life. Is there anything about Jesus that challenges us? Any aspect of His teaching in and though the Church that unsettles us? What are we afraid to lose? On this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, let us beg Jesus to let His light shine in the depth of our souls and heal all "troubled" spots in us, for deep down in all of us, we desire to be truly joyful.

Merry Christmas and Happy and Joyful New Year!
Fr. Tony

Parish Administrative Assistants on Leave

Karen Bryant and Diane DiLauro, our parish office administrative Assistants, are both on extended leave. Assistance will be provided by the parish office of Good Shepherd Church until we can establish a more stable solution to this temporary loss of personnel. We thank you for your patience during this time of transition.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 7	5:30pm	Myrtle C. Hartig
Sunday, January 8	9:00am	Alan Connell
	11:30am	James A. Wilbourne
Saturday, January 14	5:30pm	Catherine Cieri
Sunday, January 15	9:00am	Reginald Shacklock
	11:30am	Parishioners

Feast Days of the Week

Monday -The Baptism of the Lord
Friday - Saint Hilary, Bishop and doctor of the Church

Effective January 2, 2012
New Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday thru Friday	6:30am	Holy Trinity
Monday thru Saturday	8:30am	Holy Trinity
Monday & Tuesday	6:30pm	St. Philip Neri
Wednesday	7:00pm	Holy Trinity (Sp)
Thursday & Friday	6:30pm	St. Philip Neri

FUSION YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Group of Crucifixion, Good Shepherd and Holy Trinity will host Adoration in the chapel at Good Shepherd on Monday, January 9th at 7:00pm. Adoration is open to all who would like to participate, but, especially any teens looking for somewhere to go to make new friends and learn more about the Catholic faith . Please encourage your teen to participate. The Teens meet **every Monday** at 7pm in the hall at Good Shepherd.

Kings Men Fellowship

The Kings Men Fellowship will meet on Monday, January 9th at 6:30pm in Room 7 in the Good Shepherd Religion Center. All men ages 18 and older are invited and encouraged to participate.

Family Ministry Potluck

Friday, January 13th at the Holy Trinity Parish Center from 6pm to 8:30pm. Consider joining us for an evening of family activities, a puppet skit and great food! For information and to RSVP please contact Catalina at CDShorkey@comcast.net or Dineyli Diaz-Dean at dineyliandkids@comcast.net. We ask you to contact us to coordinate our potluck. We look forward to seeing you!

The bulletin deadline is Mondays at noon.

March for Life 2012

The Respect Life Committee of Good Shepherd, Crucifixion and Holy Trinity is sponsoring a bus to go to Washington, DC for the 2012 March for Life. The March for Life is on January 23, 2012. The bus will leave Good Shepherd parking lot promptly at 9:30am. Fr. Jesse Bolger will celebrate Mass for us at 11:00am in the Crypt Church. Following Mass we will lunch on the bus (you provide) and then we will join the March at 1:00pm. We will depart DC between 3:30 and 4:00pm and arrive back at Good Shepherd at approximately 5:30pm.

Please call

410-761-4607 to reserve your seat on the bus. Please plan to join us for this ever-so-important event.

Whatever we can do to help people understand the importance of the Right to Life; it is our duty as humans to do.

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Entrusted with a Stewardship (1 Corinthians 9:17)

The **Archbishop's Annual Appeal** is now underway. Many of our parishioners have received a mailing from Archbishop O'Brien. He has asked that you make a pledge to the 2012 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. The Appeal not only funds the operations of the Archdiocese, it funds services that are of great help to the ministries here in our parish. This year, the theme of the Appeal is, "Entrusted With a Stewardship." we have been entrusted with a stewardship to care for the less fortunate members of our community. Let us act as our Savior Jesus Christ and touch their lives with compassion. Let us share the many blessings that God has bestowed on us and give generously to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. We pray to the Lord..." your gift will enable archdiocesan support of ministry, education, and service that touch thousands of lives not only in our Archdiocese but throughout the world. Our parish receives 25% of each dollar contributed up to our goal. Then, we receive 50% of the additional funds received. Please answer the Archbishop's request and make a generous pledge. All pledges can be billed in ten monthly installments. Thank you in advance for your support.

Thought for the Week

By the practice of your religion you are called to give witness to your faith. And because actions speak louder than words, you are called to proclaim, by the conduct of your daily lives, that you really do believe that Jesus Christ is Lord!

-Blessed Pope John Paul II

Winter Relief

This year, the Church of the Good Shepherd will **not** be hosting Winter Relief. The weeks were chosen last year while we were having Winter Relief and there were no weeks left when we got to pick a week. However, for those of you who might still be interested in helping with this ministry;

The Church of the Crucifixion will be hosting the homeless this year from Feb. 13th through 19th. Food and shelter will be provided for 30 homeless men and they need the support of all of us.

- * Food items are needed to provide bag lunches for the men to take with them for the day
- * Certain foods are needed for in house meals so that they can provide a hot breakfast and dinner for the guests
- * Volunteers are needed to help transport the guests to Marley Middle school for showers on Tuesday and Thursday evenings
- * Drivers are needed to transport the guests to and from church in the morning and evenings every day with the exception of Sunday.
- * Also, monetary donations are needed to help provide for additional costs of non-perishables and needs as they occur during the week.

Please consider volunteering for one or more of the many ways in which your support is needed to make this a successful week.

Questions or concerns, or to volunteer, please contact Alma Grossman @ 410-766-3458

"Above all clothe yourself in love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Colossians

3:14

Monsignor Slade Catholic School

Invites you to our

OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday, January 29, 2012 from 9:00am to 12noon in celebration of Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools. Faith. Academics. Service." Applications will be available for the 2012-2013 school year and tours will be conducted. If you or someone you know is considering a Catholic School education for their child, don't miss this important event! Please contact the school registrar at 410-766-7130, ext. 108 for further information or to schedule a tour.

Mass Intentions

With the upcoming changes to the weekday Mass schedule, we can no longer schedule Mass Intentions for Daily Masses here at Good Shepherd. When a Mass Intention is received at the office, the Mass will be automatically scheduled for the next available weekend Mass. If you would like a Mass Intention for a specific date that falls on a weekday, contact Joan at Holy Trinity at 410-766-5070 to get your intention placed there. The earlier you can schedule these Masses, the better. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.