



Solemnity- Humble Shepherds

Isaiah 62:11-12
Psalm 98
Titus 3:4-7
John 1:1-18

KEY VERSE: "It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known" (v 18).

READING: John did not record the nativity of our Lord in his gospel. Instead he began his gospel with a mystical hymn (compare Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 2:6-11; and 1 Timothy 3:16, an early creed). John takes us back to the "beginning" (Gn 1:1), to the preexistent Christ, the eternal Word (Greek, Logos). The Word of God was expressed in the creation of the universe, in divine wisdom, in the law revealed on Sinai, and in the word spoken through the prophets. Now God's Word was manifested in the Incarnation of Christ. In his flesh, Jesus embodied and revealed God's Word; he was divine wisdom personified. Through Christ's creative word all things were brought to life (Jn 1:3). He was the great liberator, like Moses, who set men and women free from the restraints of sin (8:32). He was the divine "light" that cast out darkness by the light of truth (12:46). John the Baptist was the herald of God's Word. He came to testify to its truth so that all who believed in Christ might find life through him.

REFLECTING: How can I share the gift of Jesus on this Christmas day?

PRAYING: Thank you Heavenly Father for revealing your Word through your Son, Jesus.



Holy Family Parish
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Solemnity-Humble Shepherds
December 27, 2009

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements, please contact the Parish Office by calling 412. 276.5562 or 412.678.0566. **Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Father by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at BSleczkowski@aol.com

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OPENING HYMN	“Shepherds Heard the Angels Say”	Hymn 21
INTRODUCTORY RITE		Page 63
INTROIT	Wisdom 18:14-15; Psalm 93:2	
P:	For when peaceful stillness compassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent, Your all-powerful Word from heaven’s royal throne bounded, a fierce warrior, into the doomed land.	
R:	Your throne stands firm from of old; You are from everlasting, Lord	
P:	Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.	
R:	As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.	
THE KYRIE		Page 67
GLORIA		Page 68
OPENING PRAYER		
LITURGY OF THE WORD		
First Reading	Isaiah 62:11-12	
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 97	
L:	A light will shine on us this day; the Lord is born for us.	
R:	A light will shine on us this day; the Lord is born for us.	
Second Reading	Titus 3:4-7	
Gospel Acclamations.		
C:	Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.	
R:	Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.	
C:	The Lord is King, robed with majesty; the Lord is robed, girded with might.	
R:	Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 1:1-18	
HOMILY		
NICENE CREED		Page 71
GENERAL INTERCESSION		
R:	Lord, Hear our Prayer	
PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS		
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING		
SANCTUS		Page 76
CANON	Eucharistic Prayer 4	Page 88
THE LORD’S PRAYER		Page 95
LAMB OF GOD		Page 97
COMMUNION		Page 98
POST COMMUNION PRAYER		
BLESSING		Page 100
CLOSING HYMN	“Hear the Glad Tidings ”	Hymn 29

“Glory to God in high heaven, peace on earth to those whom His favor rests.”
Luke 2: 14



Please Note: Winter is a beautiful time of the year and also can be hazardous driving like last Sunday. Safety is a main concern and if such conditions arise again, plan to attend the later Mass at 11:00 A.M. when the road crews have completed their work. Usually, the roads are cleared by that time. Please call Fr. Bruce @ 412.276.5562 (before 7:30 A.M. when Father normally leaves to drive to McKeesport) or Ted Gibala @ 412.678.7347 if in doubt.

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3 :20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
Who you are?



St. John's the Apostle and Evangelist

Although the Solemnity of the Humble Shepherd takes precedence in our Church Calendar today, December 27th is also St. John's Day, a feast day where it is customary to bless and distribute wine to the faithful. As tradition records, those who wanted to kill the Apostle John, gave him poisoned wine to drink. To the amazement of the conspirators, John did not die by the poison intake. The Apostle John lived to a very old age never giving up his mission of preaching Christ. To commemorate the poisoning event, the faithful are invited to receive the blessed wine after the Holy Eucharist is distributed during Mass demonstrating faith and trust in God that He does protect His people as He promised.

Feast of the Epiphany

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with the traditional blessing of incense, charcoal, and chalk during Holy Mass on January 6th at 10:00 A.M. The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the visitation of the Christ Child by the Magi. If you would like your home blessed during the Epiphany Season, please call Fr. Bruce at 412.276.5562 to make arrangements for your blessing.



In Sympathy

Holy Family Parish offers its prayers of comfort and love to the family of Dorothy Donahue, who entered her eternal reward December 24th. Dorothy owned Dorothy's Floral Shop and she was our parish florist for many years. Eternal rest grant to her Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon her.



Looking Ahead

January 10 th	Baptism of the Lord
February 2 nd	Presentation of the Lord
February 13 th	Night at the Races
February 17 th	Ash Wednesday
March 14 th	Institution of PNCC
July 4 th -8 th	Diocesan Youth Retreat
July 26 th -20 th	2010 National Youth Convocation
October 4 th -8 th	General Synod

THEME-Speaking God's Words of Love.

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Humble Shepherd today. Our Church solemnity retells the Christmas Story which is God speaks in all manner of ways, ever unfolding throughout the limitless universe. He speaks in the radiant dawn, the opening bud, the waning moon, and the falling leaf. God's voice is heard in human laughter and tears, in shouts of victory, murmurs of love, and a rattle of death. And God's voice is heard in a baby's cry.

The fullness of God's word is found in Jesus. Jesus' voice is God's voice, speaking words of peace, love, forgiveness, and justice. Not everyone will listen; many ignore these words. Some speak words of hatred and division. Those who welcome Jesus' word become like Jesus-a child of God.

I always speak of mission. God needs our voices too. We must be messengers of good news, speaking healing words, shattering the chains of oppression, and announcing a future of hope. Through our lips the glad tidings of God's saving powers will be heard throughout McKeesport and the surrounding areas. We are much bigger than we realize. When the first words spoken by God to his Son, "You are my child; today I have begotten you" are also spoken to us as well. Believe. If we truly do, nothing can prevail against us. The humble shepherds believed so must we. The mission God has given to us is bigger than we could ever imagine and His gift to us will lead the way. But this cannot be done by just one person or two. Every member of Holy Family must be activated.

Sunday Ministry Schedules

<u>This Week</u>	<u>9:00 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Lectors	Yellow Team	B. Zaucha
Greeters	M. Krusienski	A. Fioravanti
Ushers	T. Tomco & G. Jugan	F. Szatkowski
Acolytes	All Servers	All Servers
<u>Next Week</u>	<u>9:00 A.M.</u>	<u>11:00 A.M.</u>
Lectors	Blue Team	B. Zaucha
Greeter	H. Albeck	A. Fioravanti
Ushers	S. Tadjanski & T. Gibala	F. Szatkowski
Acolytes	All Servers	All Server

This Week

Sunday, December 27, 2009 **Solemnity-Humble Shepherds**
St. John's Feast Day-Distribution of Blessed Wine at Mass
Special Envelope for the Savonarola Seminary

Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.
+Stella Bryla Int Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ryan; +Henrietta Kushner Int Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Palko
Nursery School 9:00 A.M.
Holy Mass 11:00 A.M.
+Edward Ghetian (65th Birthday) Int of wife Janet and Family;
+John & Mary Zaucha Int of Family

Monday, December 28, 2009 **Solemnity-Holy Innocents**
Holy Mass 10:00 A.M.

Thursday December 31, 2009 **New Year Eve**
Mass of Thanksgiving 7:00 P.M.

Friday, January 1, 2010 **Solemnity-Circumcision of the Lord**
Holy Mass 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, January, 2010 **Solemnity-Holy Name of Jesus**
Holy Mass 10:00 A.M.
Monthly Confession 11:00 A.M.

Sunday, January 2, 2010 **Solemnity-Holy Family**
Samb's Monthly Mission Collection
Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.
Installation of the 2010 Parish Council during Mass
Nursery School 9:00 A.M.
School of Christian Living 10:15 A.M.
Fellowship Hour 10:15 A.M.
Holy Mass 11:00 A.M.

The 2009-2010 Christ Candle that was lit on Christmas Eve was a gift from Mrs. Martha Krusienski in memory of her husband Chester Krusienski.

The 2010 Parish Council will be formally installed next Sunday

Christmas Thank You to:

The Samb's and all who helped in this year's Wigilia Dinner making it one of the best and largest Wigilia Dinner to date; to Santa and his helper giving our children Christmas gifts courtesy of the PTO; to the Board Members, YMSR members and Parishioners who decorated the church & hall, the outside Nativity scene and floral arrangements throughout; the TriCounty Institute's Village Singers who presented an afternoon of inspirational Advent Meditations, the Annunciation Bell Choir and Frederic Chopin Choir who inspired the Christmas Masses; The Parish Youth who participated in the Christmas Candle Lighting and Christmas Pageant enhancing the Shepherd's Mass; the Sacristans and Acolytes, Cantors and Lectors at each Mass; our Greeters and Ushers who welcomes us all to worship; to those who extended Christmas Greeting to Father and Marian through their words, cards and gifts; God Bless You All.

FEAST OF HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

The commemoration of the massacre of the "Holy Innocents"—considered by some Christians as the first martyrs for Christ—first appears as a feast of the western church, dating from about 485. On December 28, the Church has celebrated the memory of those children killed because of Herod's rage against Christ (Mt 2:16-17). In our own times, children suffer innumerable forms of violence which threaten their lives, dignity and rights. On this day, it is appropriate to recall the vast host of children not yet born who have been killed under the cover of laws permitting abortion. Mindful of this, popular piety in many places has inspired acts of worship as well as displays of charity which provide assistance to pregnant mothers, encourage adoption, the promotion of the education of children and protection through child labor laws. Holy Mass will be celebrated on Monday, at 10:00 A.M.

2010 Special Mass and Anniversary Requests

If you have special dates for the 2010 year, please contact Fr. Bruce to enter them into the Church Ordo and Calendar. This also includes Hall Rentals. Thank You.

Skipping Church is a sign of spiritual decline