



SOLEMNITY OF THE HUMBLE SHEPHERDS

(Isaiah 62:11-12;
Psalm 97; Titus
3:4-7; Luke 2:15-
20)

KEY VERSE: "It
is God the only
Son, who is close to
the Father's heart,
who has made him

known" . The Shepherds knew.

READING: As we read the Gospels accounts of Matthew and Luke, 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 11:43). He was the great liberator, like Moses, who and 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.

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December 28, 2008
Solemnity-Humble Shepherds

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 12:00 P.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”	Hymnal Song 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 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.	
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
Alleluia Verse		
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		Luke 2:15-20
NICENE CREED		Page 71
HOMILY		
GENERAL INTERCESSION		
R:	Lord, Hear our Prayer	
PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS		
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING		
SANCTUS		Page 76
CANON	Eucharistic Prayer 5	Page 92
THE LORD’S PRAYER	All Sing	Page 95
LAMB OF GOD		Page 97
COMMUNION		Page 98
POST COMMUNION PRAYER		
BLESSING		Page 100
CLOSING HYMN	“Hear the Glad Tidings”	Hymnal Song 29

That Midnight Hour

The Virgin Mother kneels upon the floor
And holds her baby in her arm,
Her heart is gladder than her lips can say,
To keep her new born baby snug and warm,
A babe more sweet and fair and dear
Than any rose bud in the bright sunshine,
Whose little eyes look straight into her own,
O, blessed maid, God's son is also thine.
Twas holy midnight, when He came to earth:
As pours a sun ray through a limpid glass,
Not leaving any mark upon its face;
A drop of dew upon the fresh green grass,
A little star that fell upon her lap,
A cooing babe, that seeks her virgin breast.
The hopes of all the sin-cursed world
Upon this baby's eyelids rest.
And ever since the midnight hour is holy,
And millions of human hearts are stirred
To wonderment and love for Him who came,
To save the world, God's own incarnate Word.
He came in darkness, He who was The Light,
His godhead shone from clear blue baby eyes,
The curse of earth's first sin was lifted then,
That midnight hour reopened paradise.



“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son,
born of a woman, born under the law.”

Galatians 4:4

New Year Eve Party

We will be holding a New Year Eve Party in the Church Hall after Mass on Wednesday. This is an informal event for our parishioners who have no place to go and would like to celebrate New Year Eve with friends. A donation of \$10.00 is asked to cover the champagne toast, mixers, hats and noise makers. A covered dish is requested to enhance the buffet table. When the stroke of midnight comes, we will gather together in Church for a prayer service welcoming 2009. For reservations, please call Barbara Tadajski @ 412.953.7823.

The candles for the Sanctuary Lamp that is lit representing Christ's presence in the tabernacle on the Main Altar has been donated by Kay Tondera in memory of her husband, Tom Tondera for the calendar year of 2009. Thank You for your generosity

Feast of the Epiphany



This solemnity of the visitation of the Magi will be celebrated on January 6th at 9:00 A.M. with the blessing of incense and chalk. If you would like Father to bless your home during the Epiphany Season, please call him @ 412.276.5562 to set arrangements.

What do I do with all the Christmas Cards? Here is one suggestion. Since the person thought so highly of you to send a card, you can remember them this year by saying a prayer for them at grace when you sit down for your dinner meal. Just place all the Christmas Cards in a basket and choose one. This will keep Christmas alive through the year.

THEME: Am I a faithful messenger of good news?

The shepherds ran in haste and when they saw, they understood. When we look upon the nativity set, do we understand? God speaks in all manner of ways-as varied as the works of creation and as mighty as the deeds of deliverance. God's most powerful word is the one who comes to dwell among us-Jesus, the creative and redeeming Word of God. Some are unable to hear God's words. Others cannot accept the one who speaks of peace, love, forgiveness, and justice. To those who welcome His message, Christ is birthed anew in them and they become children of God.

God needs our words too. How beautiful are those who carry glad tidings of salvation as the shepherds did long ago. How healing are the words spoken to those in pain. How comforting is the message to the oppressed. The Word of God pierces the darkness, illuminating the whole world with saving power. God speaks to us in words of enduring love first spoken to the Son, "You are my child, my first born, this day I have begotten you."

As we celebrate this solemnity of the Humble Shepherds, may we be like those shepherds, and tell all peoples concerning the Child of Bethlehem. May we, like the shepherds, astonish our relatives, friends, and neighbors concerning the redeeming and saving powers of God. This is the message and we are the messengers because of our baptism and confirmation in faith through Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us with this message beginning today.

Sunday Ministry Schedules

<u>This Week</u>	9:00 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Lectors	Yellow Team	B. Zaucha
Greeter	D. Szatkowski	S. Kish
Ushers	J. Chornak & T. Tomco	T. Zaucha
Acolytes	All Servers	All Servers

<u>Next Week</u>	9:00 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Lectors	Blue Team	B. Zaucha
Greeters	C. Trumpe	A. Fioravanti
Ushers	G. Jugan & S. Tadajski	D. Piesik
Acolytes	All Servers	All Servers

This Week

Sunday, December 28, 2008

Holy Mass
Coffee Hour
Holy Mass
Special Offering for the Savonarola Seminary

Humble Shepherds

9:00 A.M.
10:15 A.M.
11:30 A.M.

Wednesday, December 21, 2008

Year End Mass of Thanksgiving
New Year Eve Party

New Year Eve

7:00 P.M.
8:00 P.M.

Thursday, January 1, 2009

Solemnity-Circumcision of the Lord Mass

New Year Day

10:00 A.M.

Friday, January 2, 2009

Holy Mass

Solemnity-Holy Name of Jesus

9:00 A.M.

Sunday, January 4, 2009

Holy Mass

Solemnity-Holy Family

9:00 A.M.

Installation of the 2009 Parish Council

Nursery School 9:00 A.M.

Coffee Hour 10:15 A.M.

SOCL 10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass 11:30 A.M.

God's Field

A new listing for the 2009 God's Field subscriptions will be sent in next week and you are reminded that payment for subscriptions are now due. Rates have increased to \$20.00 due to postal rates. Every member should receive this bimonthly newspaper filled with religious articles, church doctrine and parish events. Don't forget to subscribe via the parish envelope system today.

New Year Resolutions

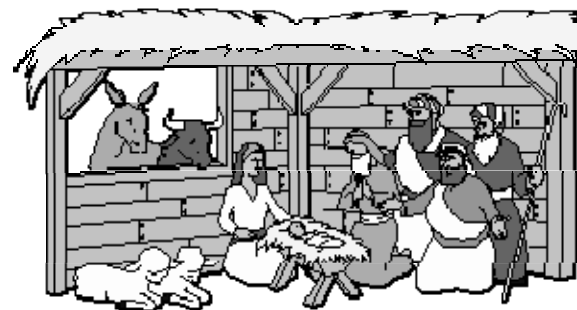
Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength

Keep holy the Sabbath Day

Love your neighbor as yourself

Share your faith with all your family, friends and neighbors

Support your parish spiritually and financially to do God's Work



Don't forget to pick up your 2009 Parish Envelopes are in the Church Narthex. Envelopes this year will include the mandatory obligations: General Church Fund, Diocesan Development, 6% Fund. Our parish Stewardship program includes only the funds that remain in our parish and not the special envelopes that go to special programs of the Church. Please take yours home. If there is no envelope with your name, contact the parish office. For any questions, speak with Father. 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 — "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

2009 Special Intentions Reservations

If you would like to reserve special dates for Mass Intentions or special events during the 2009 year, please see Father Bruce and he will mark these dates in the parish Ordo.

Christmas Thank-You

Father and Marian would like to thank all the wonderful people who wished them a Blessed Christmas and New Year through cards baked goods and gifts this Christmas Holiday. God Bless You All and may the New year bring us all happiness, love, peace and health.

We thank Martha Krusienski for the purchase of the Christ Candle this year in memory of her husband Chester Krusienski. Jesus is truly the light of the world.

Joy to the World the Lord has come