



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

National Catholic Church
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TODAY – JANUARY 4, 2026

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist

10:00 am - Fellowship Hour

OPENING HYMN

“TO THEE, WE COME, O LORD OUR GOD”

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,

Before Thine altar, Father

Thou knowest best our yearning hearts;

This supplication answer.

Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,

Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

Under Thy cross we stand prepared,

To serve Thee with devotion;

Be it with sweat of blood or tears,

Or humble resignation.

For we Thy people are, O Lord,

Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(Luke 2:15-16)

V. The shepherds said to one another,

“Let us go, then to Bethlehem to see this
thing that has taken place.

R. So, they went in haste and found Mary
and Joseph, and the Infant lying in a
manger.

C. 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 GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest,

And peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

Almighty God, and Father,

We worship You; we give You thanks

We praise you for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father

Lord God, Lamb of God

You take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us.

You are seated at the

right hand of the Father,

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ

With the Holy Spirit,

in the glory

of God the Father

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray. Father in heaven, Creator of all,
You ordered the earth to bring forth life and
crowned its goodness by creating the human
family. As we celebrate the Solemnity of the
Holy Family teach us the sanctity of human
love, show us the value of family life, and help
us to live in peace with all people. We ask this
through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM THE BOOK SIRACH

(Sirach 3:2-6,12-14)

For the Lord honored the father above the children, and he confirmed the right of the mother over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honors his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays, he will be heard. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother; O son, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show forbearance; in all your strength do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you.

C. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

(Psalm 27:4; 84:5)

C. On thing I ask of the Lord'; this I seek; to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my \ life.

R. Happy are those who dwell in Your house!
They never cease to praise You.



A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

(Colossians 3:12-21)

Brothers and sisters: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and

spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

C. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

(Isaiah 45:15)

C. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia. alleluia

C. Truly with you God is hidden, the God of Israel, the Savior.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

(Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

Now when the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his

mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

C. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father.

God from God, Light from Light, True God
from true God, begotten not made
Of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made
For us and for our salvation.

He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary
AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake, He was crucified
under Pontius Pilate
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
To judge the living and the dead
And His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Lord and Giver of Life
Who proceeds from the Father,
With the Father and the Son
He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in One, Holy, Catholic
and Apostolic Church
I acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

And I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



OFFERATORY VERSE

(Luke 2:22b)

V. They took Him up to Jerusalem to present
Him to the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Gracious Father, accept this sacrifice we offer in honor of the Holy Family. Through the prayers of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, and of her husband, Joseph, unite our families in peace and love. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

THE ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE

(Isaiah 43:10a)

V. You are My witnesses, says the Lord, My
servants whom I have chosen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

Let us pray. Loving Father, we desire to live as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in peace with You and one another. May this Holy Communion strengthen us to live like the Holy Family and to face the challenges of life. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

by

Rev. Fr. Robert M. Koerber

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Family, our thoughts are of Joseph, Mary and Jesus. In so many ways, they represent the family and represent the standards of what a family of God is and should be.

First, it should be noted, that Joseph and Mary were "righteous" unto the Lord. They observed prayer and the Jewish observances not only in their home but also traveled to the temple in Jerusalem which was from Nazareth about 75 miles and would take about four days.

We have but glimpses into this family of God, but what we read about them in the New Testament, I am sure they were devoted to worship God during their lives.

The word "righteousness" is defined as: "the quality of being morally right or justifiable." For Christians, it is being morally right and justifiable in the eyes of God and having a right relationship with Him.

I believe that the **Solemnity of the Holy Family** is much more than just recalling the godly attributes of Joseph, Mary and Jesus; for they again set the standards for those of the Judeo-Christian faith and each family associated in our Parish; for the first cause is to be in a right understanding with God. All must be willing to share in making one's family righteous unto the Lord, through their words and interactions with each other.

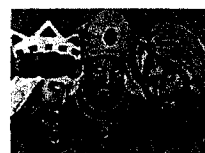
"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world,

our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."
- 1 John 5:1-5



TODAY - JANUARY 4, 2026 **POLISH KOLENDY SING-ALONG**

At 2:00 PM, a Polish Kolendy Sing-Along will be held at **Saint Valentine's PNC Church, in Northampton, MA** Refreshments will be served following the concert.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 **SOLEMNITY - EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist

Prior to Holy Mass, the blessing of charcoal, incense and chalk

THE STORY OF THE MAGI

On the twelfth day of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the **Epiphany of our Lord** which marks the end of the Christmas season.

~~In many of the Churches of the East (Orthodox), Christmas will be celebrated on January 7th, according to the Julian calendar, for on this day, the Christmas story is complete.~~

The final characters to this most special event were the Magi, who saw the Star of David and who were led to the Christ child, They presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Many questions are asked about the Magi. Who were they? Where did they come from? How were they led by a star to Bethlehem, to the Christ child? Were the Magi really present at the birth of our Lord? How did they know about the "King of the Jews? Were they themselves Jews?"

As It is mentioned in Holy Scripture that they came from the East, possibly from Persia or Arabia. and that they could have been priests, sages, philosophers or even astrologers, who were able to read the stars.

In the Gospel according to Matthew 2:10-11, we read: "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

There is no mention of the Magi in any of the other three Gospel accounts, and it was never mentioned how many Magi there were.

It is interesting that Matthew does not mention a "stable" or later believed by some to have been a "cave," but rather he mentions a "house" and instead of a "baby," he uses the word "child." This would give credence to the story of king Herod ordering the "massacre of the innocents" on all male children, aged two years old and under.

In the Gospel of Matthew it stated they "they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Why these gifts? What significance did gold, frankincense and myrrh play in His life and what was their value and purpose?

In value, gold speaks for itself, but in the time of Jesus, frankincense and myrrh were also considered very valuable. Consider frankincense. As a resin, it was burnt in not only the Jewish temple but was also burnt in the Roman, Greek and other pagan temples. Myrrh was also a valuable gift, used for different purposes, but mostly in the embalming and preservation of the deceased.

To this newborn king, these gifts were to represent the fullness of the understanding of whom this Messiah would be, as revealed in the Old Testament by the prophets. Gold represented the kingship of the Messiah. Frankincense represented the divinity of the

Messiah and myrrh represented the humanity of the Messiah.

It can be said that the value of these three gifts could have been used to help support the Holy Family as they departed into the land of Egypt, where they stayed until the death of king Herod.

There has been much conjecture of the star that guided the Magi to the Christ child. We first read that they presented themselves to king Herod and inquired about where this "King of the Jews" might be found. "We have seen His Star in the East and have come to worship Him." Calling upon the Sanhedrin and seers, Bethlehem was prophesied as the place of His birth. We read that after the Magi left "the star appeared and went before them until it came and stood over where the child was."

In 1603, Jonathan Kepler, the noted German astronomer researched the phenomena of the "Star of David." Searching the ancient records, he understood that this star, might have been a conjunction of the planets Jupiter, Saturn and Mars, which would have created a new, extraordinary and a colored evanescent phenomenon. Others believe that this star, might have been a comet that was recorded preceding the death of king Herod. Whatever this star was, it guided the Magi to worship Jesus the promised Messiah and it the first time that this most special child was to be honored by the Gentiles.



POLISH TRADITIONS

THE CHALK, CHARCOAL AND INCENSE

There is an old Polish tradition, that on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord, chalk, charcoal and incense are blessed and distributed to the faithful. The reason for charcoal is simple. Without lighted charcoal, incense, which is a resin, cannot create a

fragrant smoke, which is symbolical of prayers of the faithful rising to God. The incense which we will bless on Epiphany, is a mixture of frankincense and myrrh.

The Chalk is used to mark the doorposts of the homes of the faithful following the blessing of the house in the new year. The doorpost will be in marked this year as follows: 20 K+M+B 26. The initials "K+M+B" refer to the traditional and ancient names of the "Magi": Kasper, Melchior and Baltazar. This custom is intended that all are blessed as they cross the marked doorpost.



BLESSING OF HOMES

Starting Tuesday, January 6th, I will begin with my Pastoral visitations and the traditional blessing of homes. I would very much like the opportunity to visit all the families of our Parish in this new year of 2026.



NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026 **SOLEMNITY – BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist
10:00 am – Fellowship Hour



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

"And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

- Luke 2:9

May we pray for the health and healing for all those, who we remember in our prayer:

George Sadowski, Wayne Shaw, Linda Puchalski, Richard Foster, Carolyn Rapalye, Karen Herzig, Paula Winn, Stefanik Gadecki, Marge Sanderson, Brandon Poe, baby James, Liam & Evelyn Spatcher, Jennie Harrington, Eric Rose, Lori Lukomski, Mick Szumski, Toka Bara, Laurie Lis, Todd Odell, David Moskin, Laurie Lis, Renata Wos, Jan Clark, Zoe Kinnunen, as well as many of all our own personal intentions

Let us Pray: O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness, stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way are ailing. Deliver them, according to Your will, from all their present sicknesses and illness, and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, and are One God. Amen.



ED MISSION & EVANGELISM **COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON** **CALL TO PRAYER**

In the month of January, our Eastern Diocese has called upon all its members and others to offer prayer at 12:00 noon each Wednesday:

Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and unite all those who seek the truth in sincerity:

Almighty and Eternal God, Source of our unity, look with favor on all those who follow Jesus, Your Son. Through baptism we are all consecrated to You. Help us to become one in the fullness of faith and in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Eastern Diocese Mission & Evangelism Commission