



Ascension Catholic Church

12700 Lanham-Severn Rd. | Bowie, Maryland 20720 | Ph. (301) 262-2227

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 4:00pm (Vigil) | Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm

DAILY MASS: Monday 9:00am | Tuesday 9:00am | Wednesday 9:00am | Friday 9:00am | Saturday 9:00am

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD IN THE VESTING SACRISTY

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday— 8:40-9:00am (before daily Mass)

Saturday — 8:40-9:00am (before daily Mass) | 3:00-3:30pm (before vigil Mass)

ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration: Please call the parish office for the door code

Weekday Adoration: before and after daily Masses (8:00-9:00am, 9:30-10:00am) | Monday 5:00-9:00pm

OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Tuesday 9:30-3:30pm, Wednesday 9:30-4:30pm | Closed for lunch 12:30-1:00pm

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Timothy Daniel

Secretary: Ms. Sharon Fanning | **Bookkeeper:** Mrs. Marilyn Donovan

Coordinator of Religious Education: Mrs. Maria Centeno | **Coordinator of Youth Ministry:** Ms. Emma Bigony

Coordinator of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Mrs. Heather Bress



The Epiphany of the Lord

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Matthew 2:10-11a

January 8, 2023 | Fax: (301) 805-5053 | Email: office@ascensionbowie.org | www.ascensionbowie.org

Around Ascension

MASS INTENTIONS (January 9-15, 2023)

Monday 9:00am: +Antonio Dominico Visk

Tuesday 9:00am: John Kilcoyne

Wednesday 9:00am: +Marilyn Kneval

Friday 9:00am: +Guadalupe Gutierrez

Saturday 9:00am: Special Intention

Saturday 4:00pm: +Bob Daniel

Sunday 8:00am: Parishioners

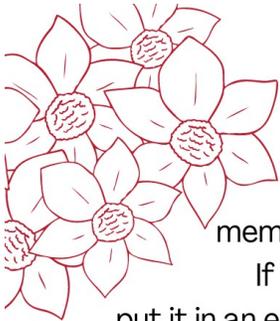
Sunday 10:00am: Special Intentions of the Hernandez
and Reeley families

Sunday 12:00pm: Special Intention

A (+) indicates intention is for the repose of the person's soul

Baby Bottle Campaign Thank You

The Gabriel Network would like to thank everyone who donated to the Baby Bottle Campaign in November. Ascension Parish generously donated **\$6,712.00**. Your generous donation allows us to continue our mission of helping mothers and babies at risk. We are truly blessed to have Ascension Parish as partners in our mission.



Christmas Memorial Flowers



Ascension Catholic Church invites all parishioners to consider a memorial flower contribution in name of deceased loved ones for Christmas.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the form below, cut it out, put it in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket (or place in the IN BOX at the office).

An offering of \$20.00 will assist in decoration of the sanctuary and church for Christmas.

I wish to make a contribution to the Christmas Memorial Flower Fund.

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

All names received by 12pm 1/9/2023 will be included in the bulletin for the Baptism of the Lord (1/15/2023).

James & Helen Bates

The Buckley family loved ones

The Connelly family loved ones

John & Eva Gepert

Greg Gepert

Helen Harris family

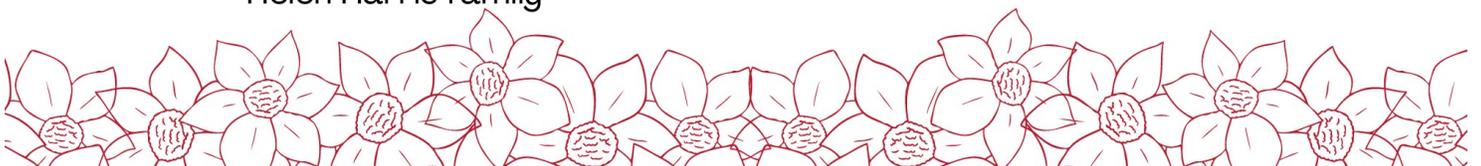
Mike Hungerford

The Dr. Francis Kelly family loved ones

The Partington family loved ones

Joseph & Helen Scabis

Barbara and Matt Smith



Greetings from Fr. Jim

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Epiphany with its important themes of the human search for God and God's revelation to all the world ("Epiphany" means "shining upon," or "manifestation"). Since I plan to focus on those themes in my homily, here I want to provide a little more historical background. Who were these "magi from the East"?

First things first: the Gospel itself does not tell us how many there were, or whether they were "kings" – it simply says, "wise men from the East." The number three came to be associated with them largely because of the number of gifts (gold, frankincense, and myrrh), while the notion that they were "kings" comes from the Psalm recited on this day:

*The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.*

Thus we must admit that our popular ideas of these visitors are not based on a strictly literal reading of the Gospel text.

But should we therefore remove "We Three Kings" from our hymnbooks? No. To ask what is or is not found in the Gospel text on a literal level is only a first step. And for all we know, there could have been three wise men, and they could have been kings, so there is no harm in the popular picture. So far we are only admitting that the Gospel passage itself does not give us those particular details.

So what does the passage show? If nothing else, that these magi were "from the East," that is, not Jewish—which is itself already significant, for it hints at the great truth eventually realized by Paul and Peter and the rest of the apostles, that God desires to bestow His life through Jesus Christ on all peoples of the world, not just the Jews. Jesus is the universal savior of human beings – this much we can certainly see in the arrival of these wise men, loosely re-reading today's psalm as prophecy: "all nations shall serve him."

But we don't have to settle only for that much; we might also ask where exactly "from the East" would have been in the first century. And a little bit of historical research from a recent book, *Mystery of the Magi*, helps. The author, Fr. Dwight Longenecker, documents very good reasons to believe the magi came from the ancient kingdom of Nabataea, which spanned what is now northern Arabia, Jordan, and Syria, in the land east of Judea. Not only did the Nabataeans control trade routes throughout the ancient Near East, including shipping routes to India and China, but among their wares were precious jewels, metals, and spices, in particular gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Nabataeans were also excellent candidates for the cultural and religious origins of the magi of our Gospel. Not only did the Nabataeans mix with ancient Jews along the ancient trade routes, but Jews had spread into Nabataean lands during various persecutions, bringing with them their prophecies of a Messiah. Nabataean wise men, who were versed in astronomy and philosophy, and were familiar with ancient Abrahamic religious traditions, would have been interested and influenced by the growing Jewish hopes for a "newborn king." Moreover, they served as advisors to Nabataean kings – making further sense of the our psalm today, as well as the equally prophetic words of our first reading, Isaiah 60:1-7:

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Continued on next page

*Lift up your eyes round about, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far,
and your daughters shall be carried in the arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant,
your heart shall thrill and rejoice;^k
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.
All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you,
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;
they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,
and I will glorify my glorious house.*

The Church has long associated this prophecy with the arrival of the wise men, and Longenecker notes that “Midian,” “Ephah,” “Sheba,” “Kedar,” and “Nebaioth” refer variously to descendants of Abraham or tribes in Northern Arabia where the Nabataeans are believed to have originated. In fact, some of these tribes had even long claimed to have descended from Ishmael, son of Abraham.

If this last point is correct, what we see in the Gospel today then is not just God’s desire to reveal himself to all human beings, but also His providential “righting” of human “wrongs” into blessings. Abraham, after all, was called to patiently trust in God to receive a son, Isaac, through his wife Sarah, but when God seemed to be delayed, he had Ishmael through Sarah’s maid Hagar. Sarah later casts Hagar and Ishmael out, leaving them crying, but God comes to their aid, promising to bless Ishmael and his descendants, even though the covenant will come through Isaac (see Genesis 16-18).

Thus the arrival of these wise men, quite possibly descendants of Ishmael himself, is a testament to the rest of today’s psalm: “God shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.”

God bless,
Fr. Tim

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

This year Bishop Roy E. Campbell will celebrate the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass to Celebrate the Vocation of Marriage on Saturday, February 11, 2023, 10:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This celebration is to highlight the witness to the Catholic vocation of marriage and the beauty of God’s plan for married life. Couples must register with the parish office to attend the Mass and/or receive a certificate from Cardinal Wilton Gregory in honor of their anniversary year by January 20, 2023.

Congratulations to our raffle winner
RICHARD FULGINITI

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK

Francis Barnes, Mary Ann Boyer, Laura Chesnick, Al Cline, Rosita Dietrich, Elizabeth Dinsmore, David Divine, Cynthia Graham, Harry Givens, Beverlee Lee, Robert Milburn, Ida Mullikin, Jean Mosby, Norma Perry, Norma Raffaele, Robert Raffaele Jr., Geralyn Roberson, Bert Nemeth, Sr. Vincent de Paul OSF, and Amber Wist.

WARM NIGHTS 2023

January 22 - 28, 2023

We will be providing breakfast and lunch for 50 people for 7 days. Donated items will be delivered to the shelter monitored by Community Crisis Center Inc. You can help by making the following donations:

- *Bagged lunches - a sandwich, snack, dessert, drink, fruit, and napkin in a lunch bag (labeled with sandwich type and date made; please also include condiment packages and utensils if needed)*
- *Non-Perishable Food (individually wrapped) - shelf milk, juice boxes, gatorade, bottled water, breakfast pastries, individual cereal, instant oat meal, soft granola bars, etc.*
- *Toiletries (men & women) - razors, axe body spray, bar soap, shampoo, lotion, chapstick/lip balm*

Physical donations can be delivered to Bates Hall after all masses on January 8 & January 15.

Monetary donations will be collected after Mass on Jan. 8&15

Please SIGNUP to DONATE at:
<https://tinyurl.com/WarmNights2023>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
Anne Powell (gpowell6@aol.com | 252-665-4690)
Jeana Barber (jeanaforchurch@gmail.com | 301-957-5114)