

Dear Friends,

Today we remember the visit of the Magi to see Jesus. They also represent all the people Jesus came to see, for the visit of the Magi is the first sign that Jesus comes not just for the Jews, but for all people. They bring gifts, but receive far more than they give.

The star would be a sign that everyone could see, but only a few made the journey. The Magi or wise men were thought of in their time much the way some scientists, such as astronomers, are thought of today. They are people who are smart and know a lot of things no one else knows, but don't know how to function in the real world. Bad enough they spend all their time looking at the stars, but then to go chasing off after one star as a mysterious sign. Only a fool would do that. At least that is the way it looks to the worldly wise.

But God is drawing them to Him. The star brings them to Jerusalem. Through nature, reason, and conscience God is drawing all to Himself. Those things only bring you so far. To gain a deeper understanding of God we need God to reveal Himself to us. At Jerusalem they receive deeper knowledge through the Scriptures.

This brings them to an encounter with Jesus at Bethlehem. A journey Herod and the others do not want to make, unless they can be sure. Herod himself is unfamiliar with the prophecy of the Messiah. He is not looking to God for salvation, but seeks it in worldly power alone.

When the Magi go home it is by another route, because they have been warned in a dream, just like Joseph received instructions in a dream. They are treated the same by God. They have the same relationship with God as a descendant of David. They have not just a new way home but a new way of living.

Jesus is still calling all the people of the world to Himself. People find it hard though to make that step from darkness to light. The light of the star only attracted a few, and that star is gone now. But the light of Christ remains. The brighter it shines the more people are attracted to it. The more they are attracted, the more they are willing to risk.

That light is in each of the baptized. Jesus tells us we are the light of the world. Instead of being up in the sky Jesus has put that light where it can now go and seek out those in darkness. The more we let the light of Christ shine through us the more people will want that light also. Instead of few travelers whole caravans will be coming to Jesus. Just as the prophets foretold.

Fr. Peter Giovanoni



Weekend Ministries January 13th & 14th

Saturday--5:00pm

Lector: J. Orr

EMs: J. Orr

Altar Servers: C. & M. Lancaster, L. & L. Sullivan

Sunday--8:15am

Lector: G. Dameron

EMs: J. Dominic, A. Bishop, D. Kayser

Altar Servers: C. Dameron, J. Dameron, M. Wise

Sunday--10:30am

Lector: H. Miller

Reader: C. Miller

EMs: J. Smith, C. Smith, C. Miller

Altar Servers: M. Brelage, R. Brelage, A. Seskar

Sunday--6:00pm

Lector: N. Abell

EMs:

Pray for the Sick



Joyce Ack
Emma Aparicio
Timothy Binder
Robert Bradburn
Lisa Carpenter
Catherine Dean
Jane Dougherty
Jack Greenwell
Mary Agnes Hill
Cameron Kalen
Paul Mackie
Ann McDonough
William Morris
Fr. O'Connell
Lin Perry
Peggy Raley
Ann Robrecht
Gabriel Santos
Gertrude Sullivan
Hilda Trossbach
Janice Wood

Grace Angela
Vivian Barnes
Pam Bohmann
Karen Byrne
Jack Cullison
Erica Dingle
Fritz Feltman
Pam Hayden
Jason Hoyer
Jane Kenyon
Addie McBride
Diane Miller
Gerry Mueller
Kay Owens
Lawrence Potter
Patty Raley
Janet Sanders
Nicole Shreve
Wise Tennyson
Susanna Wolf
Elizabeth Woodburn

Mass Intentions January 8th-14th

Monday	9:00am	Edna Long
Tuesday	9:00am	Francis Smith
Wednesday	9:00am	Ted Abell
Thursday	9:00am	Special Intentions
Friday	9:00am	St. Michael's School
Saturday	5:00pm	Anna Vial
Sunday	8:15am	St. Michael's Parishioners
Sunday	10:30am	Donald Carroll
Sunday	6:00pm	Special Intentions

Catechetical Corner

On Monday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, which marks the end of the liturgical season of Christmas, and the beginning of the season of Ordinary time. Our focus switches from thinking about the meaning of God coming to be among us to thinking about what Jesus taught us while He lived among us. The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. He will give us the example of His life, perform miracles, teach the people, and call disciples. All this will lead up to the fulfillment of Jesus' mission on Easter. In so doing Jesus gives Himself to us as the fullness of the revelation of God, and the foundation of the Church.

God knows us better than we know ourselves, and now wants us to know Him. In knowing God better, we also know ourselves better, and know better how we are to live. It begins with knowing God. God has revealed Himself, how will we seek to learn more about God this year?

Collection for Church Missions in the United States--On the weekend of January 13-14, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a second collection for Church Missions in the United States. This collection supports home mission dioceses in this country that are unable to offer their people basic liturgical, pastoral, and service ministries without outside help. It also supports vulnerable Black and Native American communities with funds for parish support and evangelization needs. Thank you for your generosity.

"GIFT: Life in the Spirit"-- Are you interested in learning how to more fully live out your faith in your daily life? This is a six-session series aimed to help people of all ages to encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith. Mark your calendars now: St. Michael's School gym, Wednesdays during Lent, 6:30pm-8:30pm. The cost is \$10 (includes all 6 dinners and materials). To register, call 240-587-1248 or email us at discoverchristinRidge@gmail.com. Testimonies from local Catholics who have participated in the GIFT: I feel closer to God every day--every hour. I feel at peace for the first time in a long time. I now go to confessions.

Stewardship Report	
December 24 th Collection	\$2,599.00
December 31 st Collection	\$2,187.00
Christmas Collection	\$24,488.00
Christmas Flowers	\$560.00

Our Lady Star of the Sea--Hosting it's annual dinner theater on January 26th & 27th and February 2nd & 3rd. The show is title "**Alibis**", it is a mystery-comedy spoof. Tickets are \$40 per person which includes the show and a wonderful buffet catered by Thompson Seafood of St. Mary's County. The play will be held in the Providence Room at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, on Solomons Island, MD. For reservations call 410-326-8272. Doors open 6:00pm.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 14th Annual Prayer Breakfast--is Monday, January 15th at St. Mary's College of Maryland. The breakfast is held in the J. Frank Raley Great Room, in the Campus Center and opens at 6:30am. Cost is \$10 at the door.

Knights of Columbus

--Next Chicken Dinner is Sunday, January 14th from 11:30am-5:00pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ridge.

--Next Bingo is Saturday, January 20th. Doors open at 5:30pm and games start at 6:30pm. Jackpot is \$5,000!

Bible Study--Will again be on Tuesday evenings beginning on January 9th at 7:00pm in the sacristy of the Church.



St. Michael's School News



St. Michael's School Annual Auction is planned for June 9, 2018. We are able to accept gently used cars, boats, motorcycles or RV's in running condition. We can store and provide minor repair of donated items. Please contact Rich Muir at 240-538-1888 cell, leave message if no answer.

Angel Wings and Things Thrift Store

The store is open from 9:00am-4:00pm on Saturdays and from 10:00am to 1:00pm on Sundays. Items can be dropped off on Saturdays between 10:00am-2:00pm. Thank you for your generous support!



Queen of Hearts--Every Friday night at the American Legion in Ridge. Tickets will be on sale from 4:00pm-7:00pm and food will be available starting at 5:00pm. Drawing at 7:00pm. Come out and support St. Michael's School for a fun night of chance!



Mark Your Calendars:

January 10--Early Dismissal, 12:30pm
January 12--Queen of Hearts @ American Legion
January 14--Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner
January 15--No School, Martin Luther King, Jr.