

Blessed Trinity

All Are Welcome



JANUARY 4, 2026

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**14040 PURITAS AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44135**

Phone: 216-671-5890

Fax: 216-938-9843

Email: office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Website: www.blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/BlessedTrinityCleveland>

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Wednesday: 9 a.m.–8 p.m.
Thursday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
(Closed for lunch 12:30-1:00pm & 1:15-1:45 p.m.)
Saturday: 1:00–3:45 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Children’s Liturgy of the Word: 11 a.m.
Monday: see worship calendar for time & location
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Anytime by appointment only

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Blessed Trinity Parish is an open and welcoming Catholic community, centered in the Eucharist and celebrating God’s gift of Diversity. We bring God’s love to one another and support one another in responding to the challenge of living the Gospel. We strive to deepen participation and encourage all parishioners to take ownership for the everyday life of their church, especially Spiritual Growth, Community Life, the Building of a Just Society, and Service to All God’s People.



Psalm 72: Every Nation on Earth

Refrain I



Text: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Michael Joncas Music: Michael Joncas ©1987, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under One License A-702576. All rights reserved.



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The Epiphany

The commentary on the Gospel of Matthew W. F. Albright and C. S. Mann does a thorough job of myth-bashing in its treatment of today's Gospel passage. It explains that the text does not actually indicate how many Magi there were and that they were not necessarily astrologers and less likely to have been kings. They may have been women as the artwork on the back wall of the church depicts them. Those who plow through Raymond Brown's *The Birth of the Messiah* will end up fairly uncertain about how many details of the story might be historically plausible. But in the end, historicity is far from the most important indicator of truth. Because we accept the Gospel of Matthew as part of the canon of Scripture, we assume that it all has value as revelation. Therefore, we look to the story to see what it tells us about our life as a people of God.

Matthew uses this story to introduce themes that he will develop in other ways as his Gospel progresses. He situates Jesus' birth in historical time — specifically, the days of King Herod who achieved great fame for his cruelty. He then describes the band of foreigners who journeyed to the geographical heart of Judaism where they would find the priests and theologians who could help them understand what was happening in their day.

What did they seek in Bethlehem? Their search began when they gazed at the heavens in wonder. They embraced the fact that God's mystery was greater than everything they already knew. Eventually, this led them to search for God's revelation through the chosen people. With evangelical irony, Matthew points out that those who came from afar sought and asked about God's revelation, while those who were near the Scriptures neglected to search out their meaning. Matthew presents the religious leaders as people who could recite prophecies for people who had questions without allowing the Scriptures to question themselves and their lifestyle. We could almost imagine that once the Magi left, some cynics among the leaders enjoyed a good laugh about their naïveté: "Just imagine! Following a star? The Messiah in our midst? Only dumb foreigners would buy the idea that David's old myth would repeat itself!"

In the second stage of their journey, the Magi were overjoyed when the star led them in harmony with the Scriptures: Nature and revelation had coincided. Their physical journey was complete when they encountered the child and mother; they recognized God at home with humanity.

Like the simple people who comprehended Jesus better than the wise (Matthew 11:25), the Magi took the next steps of rejoicing, worshipping and offering the treasures of their heart (6:21). Finally, as attentive to dreams as to Scripture and nature, they understood that reporting to Herod would bring no good. Like the Gerasene man possessed by demons whose story we hear in Mark and Luke, they returned to their own people after encountering Jesus. This, the third stage of their journey, had the potential to last the rest of their lives as they assimilated what meeting the Christ meant for them and their own.

If we want to imagine something beyond what our crèche sets depict, we might think of the Magi as a traveling group of families or friends seeking the meaning of a sign they had perceived in the heavens. As happens to many who come to a land not their own, their presence alarmed some people. The travelers were looking for the newborn king of the Jews — and according to the religious professionals, none of the right people had an infant who fit the bill.

The Magi's questions disturbed people. As strangers, they didn't understand that they should keep quiet and leave well enough alone. What did they hope to find in Bethlehem of all places? What were they called to?

We might ask the same.

The readings for the feast of the Epiphany invite us to begin this new year by asking with whom in today's Gospel we will decide to identify. Will we choose to settle as a sedentary church, quiet in the face of darkness, contented with the minimal ritual and almsgiving that supposedly fulfill our religious obligations? Or do we want to be more like the Magi, people anxious to be on the move in search of God among us? Isaiah is trying to awaken us to what God holds out as possible for us. Paul tells us that we are to steward this mystery. Matthew holds up the example of the Magi to nudge us out of our cozy corners and into areas where we can encounter Emmanuel, God-with-us, in ever new ways.



AROUND THE PARISH & OTHER PARISH NEWS

PASTORAL TEAM

216-671-5890

Pastor: Fr. Doug Koesel..... Ext 21
dkoesel@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Dick Beercheck.....
dbeercheck@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Pastoral Assistant: Briyant Hines..... Ext 19
bhines@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Business Manager: Devra Konjura Ext 26
accountant@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Music Minister: Julio Santana.....
Julio@julioxsntnsda@gmail.com

OFFICE STAFF

Office Manager: Donna M. Bell Ext 10
office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Bulletin Editor: Donna M. Bell..... Ext 10
bulletin@blessedtrinitycleveland.org

Society of St. Vincent DePaul@ Blessed Trinity...Ext 14

Stephen Ministry..... Ext 12

E-MAIL BULLETIN NOTICES TO:

bulletin@blessedtrinitycleveland.org or deliver them to the rectory office. Notices MUST be in by **Monday** of the week before the bulletin is distributed.

Please join us for an informational meeting, Thursday, **January 7, 2026 at 6:30 pm** in the Joseph Center if you have interest in learning more about the pilgrimage to Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Hungary and Slovakia that Fr. Doug is taking June 8-20. This is a 13 day trip costing \$5599. A representative from Proximo Travel will be available to answer any questions you may have. Hope to see you there!

GENTLE WOMAN FELLOWSHIP – AN INTERPARISH WOMAN’S GROUP meets on First Fridays at St. Clarence Parish, 30106 Lorain Rd., N. Olmsted, 44070. **FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026** Schedule of Activities [This meeting is being held on the Second Friday of the month.]

8:30 Attend Holy Mass in the Chapel

About 9:00 Pray the Holy Rosary During Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel

About 9:30 Gather for a Snack and Coffee Followed by a Talk at 10:00 in Classroom 8 in the Hall Across from the Office.

RSVP to Christine Dietrick by January 6 at 216-337-3664 if you will be attending the gathering in Classroom 8. If North Olmsted City Schools are closed our gatherings are also

Collections for January 11 will be reported next week

Please pray for our sick:

Jim Beesley, Mary Ann Bowers, Charlene Boyer, Adele Burke, Br. Tom Carroll, OFM, Gladys Castro, Pat Chapin, Romualdo Cipro, Teri Crowe, Scherrie Damm, John Darmstadt, Al Delattre, Dukles Family, Joseph Dunn, Barb Dylag, Scott Eidam, Erma Eifel, Terry Evans, Jenny Flynn, Will Gibson, June Grace, Michael Graham, Louise J. Hall, Thomas Heim, Susanne Heisey, Agnes Hocesvar, Gail Iseli, Eileen Kelly, Nicola Jandric, Annette Janetzke, Vicki & Rudy Juris, Joanne Kauchuk, Dan Kemer, Ralph & Judy Kobus, Linda Kreon, Marilyn Lombardo, Karen Long, Liz Mahon, Eileen Mangan, Jerry Masek, Claudette Matero, Andrea Medina, Betty Ann Menzing, Mary Jo Menzing, Michael Mitchell, Jim & Steve Moravcik, Genevieve Noar, Dave Norris, Steven Povlis, Jose Rivera, Carol Roberts, Matthew Rossman, Liz Rosa, Ron Ruble, Mary Salamon, Marilyn Samonte, Rob Salvaore, Betty Schmidt, Catherine Sesztak, Evana Stanonik, Christopher Stein, Richard Stein, Jacqueline Zambarano, Tom Vasko, Noreen Williams, Jesse Wilson, Monica Woodman, Maggie Wooley, Mary Pat Wynne.

Please pray for all who are serving in the military, especially the men and women connected to our parish:

- * Brook Robinson (Navy), son of David & Michelle and grandson of Dolores Coleman
- * Kyle A. Riley (Air Force), nephew of Robert Hollowell
- * Greg Koch (Air Force), nephew of Nancy Koch
- * Francisco Cacho (Police), son of Medel Cacho and Stepson to Marianne Cacho.
- * Michael Duniec (Air Force), grandson of Dottie Schultz and nephew of Margie Pavone
- * James Andrews (Navy), nephew of Bob and Kathy Grega
- * A.J Butler (Army) Grandson of Nancy Butler

The Catholic Cemeteries Association’s next Sunday Grief Support Group will be Sunday January 18th. In-person will meet at 3pm, virtual at 5pm. In a welcoming and supportive setting, find fellowship among others who share their experiences and understand the pain of loss. Meetings are being held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, at no charge to you. Please join us for an hour of listening, healing, and finding comfort with others who understand. For details, call Renee at 216-930-4866 or visit: www.clecem.org/Events

In-Person Locations:

- All Saints, Northfield | 480 W. Highland Road
- All Souls, Chardon | 10366 Chardon Road
- Holy Cross, Akron | 100 E Waterloo Road
- Holy Cross, Brook Park | 14609 Brookpark Road
- St. Joseph, Avon | 32789 Detroit Road

Virtual – Please register at <https://clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx>



This Week at Blessed Trinity

SATURDAY, JAN. 3

9:30am-11:00am Ragamuffin Faith Sharing Group (R Liv Rm)

SUNDAY, JAN. 4

9:00am-10:45am CGS Level 1 (A)
 9:00am-10:45am PSR 1-3 (A)
 10:00am-10:45am PSR 4-8 (RB)
 10:00am-10:45am Breaking Open the Word (R Lib)
 11:00am-11:15am CLW (CH)

MONDAY, JAN. 5

9:00am-10:30am Legion of Mary (CH)
 7:00pm-8:30pm St. Vincent DePaul Society (R Lib)

TUESDAY, JAN. 6

8:00am-8:30am Novena (CH)
 9:00am-11:00am IDCC (JC Lg)
 9:30am-12:00pm Bountiful Basement (JC Lg)
 10:30am-12:00pm A.A. Meeting (RB)
 7:00pm-9:00pm Bell Choir Practice (CH)

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7

4:00pm-6:00pm IDCC (JC Lg)
 5:00pm-6:45pm Bountiful Basement (JC Lg)
 5:30pm-6:30pm Mobile Pantry (Back Lot)
 6:30pm-7:30pm Tai Chi (FH)
 6:30pm-7:30pm **Fr. Doug's Trip**
 7:00pm-9:00pm Choir (CH)

THURSDAY, JAN. 8

11:00am-12:30pm A.A. Meeting (RB)
 7:00pm-9:00pm Bell Choir Practice (CH)
 7:15pm-8:45pm Stephen Ministers Peer Group (JC Lg)

FRIDAY, JAN. 9

SATURDAY, JAN. 10

SUNDAY, JAN. 11

9:00am-10:45am CGS Level 1 (A)
 9:00am-10:45am PSR 1-3 (A)
 10:00am-10:45am PSR 4-8 (RB)
 10:00am-10:45am Breaking Open the Word (R Lib)
 11:00am-11:15am CLW (CH)
 12:00pm-1:00pm Community Meal (FH)

Jesuit Retreat Center Programs & Retreats

January Weekend Directed Retreat. Friday, January 9, 5:30pm - Sunday, January 11, 1:00pm. Directed Retreats are a time of sacred silence, an invitation to step away from the pressures and demands of daily responsibilities, and an opportunity for sustained personal prayer. These retreats are ideal for anyone seeking to explore or deepen one's relationship with God and take the next step in his or her spiritual journey. You will be accompanied by a trained spiritual director, who will meet with you daily during the retreat. Cost: \$300

WORSHIP

SATURDAY, JAN. 3

4:00pm Christine Galayda (Marian Warmuth)

SUNDAY, JAN. 4 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12(20)
 9:00am Blessed Trinity
 11:00am Ron Mickler, Sr. (Kathy Mickler)

MONDAY, JAN. 5

11:00am at West Park Health Center
 4401 West 150th, Cleveland, Ohio

TUESDAY, JAN. 6

8:30am Charles Boehmer (Mary Lou Murray)

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7

8:30am John & Kathleen Murphy (Kathy Mickler)

THURSDAY, JAN. 8

No Mass

FRIDAY, JAN. 9

8:30am Eugene and Mary McSweeney (Kathy Mickler)

SATURDAY, JAN. 10

4:00pm Christine Galayda (Marian Warmuth)

SUNDAY, JAN. 11 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17(21)
 9:00am Blessed Trinity
 11:00am Blessed Trinity

THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS WEST For Adults 40 & Over

Join us Monday, Jan. 12
 7 - 8:30pm

Westside Irish American Club
 8559 Jennings Rd. Olmsted Twp.



Who is C.S. Lewis? Why, as Catholics do we care? Dr. Matt Carey Jordan, VP of Academic Affairs at Borromeo & St. Mary Seminary, has led several Lewis-themed pilgrimages to England and taken people behind the scenes to walk in the footsteps of C.S. Lewis. Join us for an enlightening discussion of the man behind *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Screwtape Letters*.

Light appetizers included. Cash Bar is available. Advance tickets recommended. Register in advance: www.theologyontherockswest.com. Doors open at 6:30pm.

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