



Holy Child Church

240 S. Main St, Mansfield, PA

Reverend Bryan B. Wright

Pastor

Saint Mary of Częstochowa Church

144 St. Mary's St, Blossburg, PA

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 2026



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

United with the Pope, we the members of Holy Child Parish seek to be a welcoming church, which fosters spiritual development and expresses charity by living in word and deed the life of Christ. Under the leadership of the bishop, our goals are to implement effective ministries through word, worship, and the sacraments, to enhance the spiritual growth of our parish family, and to encourage, through works of love and faith, the unity of the Church.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Please call the Parish Office to schedule a meeting with the Pastor and to schedule the ceremony.

Reconciliation: Confessions are heard on:

- Saturdays: 2:15-3:00 pm Holy Child Church
- First Fridays: 9:00-10:00 am Holy Child Church
- First Saturdays: 10:00-11:00 am Saint Mary's Church
- By appointment—please contact the Parish Office.

Holy Communion: Those preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time, please call the Parish Office.

Matrimony: Couples should contact their Pastor at least six months before the planned wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick: For the infirm & homebound. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange a visit.

New Parishioners: Welcome to Holy Child Parish! New parishioners are asked to register by contacting the Parish Office. Registration is required for our religious education programs and for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Matrimony.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	4:00 PM	Holy Child
Sunday	9:00 AM	Saint Mary's
Sunday	11:15 AM	Holy Child

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Saturday	3:00 PM	Holy Child
Sunday	8:30 AM	Saint Mary's
Sunday	10:45 AM	Holy Child
Monday	11:30 AM	Saint Mary's
Tuesday	11:30 AM	Saint Mary's
Thursday	5:15 PM	Holy Child
Friday	8:00 AM	Holy Child



DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS

Monday	12:00 PM	Saint Mary's	The Angelus
Monday	12:45 PM	Saint Mary's	Miraculous Medal
Tuesday	12:00 PM	Saint Mary's	The Angelus
Tuesday	12:45 PM	Saint Mary's	Saint Jude
Thursday	6:00 PM	Holy Child	The Angelus

PARISH CONTACTS

Financial Secretary: Darlene Buck 570-662-3568
 Secretary: Cara Clementi 570-662-3568
 Director of Religious Education: Darlene Buck
 Good Samaritans: 570-662-3568
 Health Ministry & Medical Equipment Loaning:
 Dotty Welsh 570-662-2057
 Knights of Columbus: Scott DiMarco; srdimarco@hotmail.com
 Ladies Guild: Patty Hutcheson 570-662-2034
 St. Mary's Hall: 570-638-2783 Holy Child Hall: 662-9996

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
~ prior to all Masses ~



MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 3 *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*; First Saturday
9:30 am, St. Mary's: † John & Joan Miller

(by Theresa & Scott Delmotte)

VIGIL - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Our Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, January 4 **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

9:00 am, St. Mary's: † Floyd & Genevieve Stachowski

(by Bernadine)

11:15 am, Holy Child: Donna Hillary (by Denise Grishka)

Monday, January 5 St. John Neumann, Bishop

12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Robert Dalton, Jr. (by Robert Dalton)

Tuesday, January 6 Christmas Weekday; *St. Andre Bessette*

12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † The Dead

(by The Scranton Diocese Society for Propagation of the Faith)

Wednesday, January 7 Christmas Weekday; *St. Raymond of Penyafort*
No Mass

Thursday, January 8 Christmas Weekday

6:00 pm, Holy Child: Kevin Abrams & Mary Simmons

(by Cara Clementi)

Friday, January 9 Christmas Weekday

8:30 am, Holy Child: † Stanley J. Banik (by Theresa Banik)

Saturday, January 10 **VIGIL - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Deceased members of the Miller & Nance Families (by Mary Nance)

Sunday, January 11 **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

9:00 am, St. Mary's: † Our Living & Deceased Parishioners

11:15 am, Holy Child: † William Slusser (by Cathy & Dave Slusser)



SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Holy Child: † Our Living & Deceased Parishioners

St. Mary's: † Our Living & Deceased Parishioners

The Sanctuary Candle burns to remind us of the Real Presence of Christ reserved in the tabernacle.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday—2:15 pm—Holy Child Church

First Fridays—9:15 am—Holy Child Church

First Saturdays—10:15 am—St. Mary's Church

~Or By Appointment~

PARISH OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER 15-JANUARY 4
WILL BE REPORTED NEXT WEEK. THANK YOU!

OUR DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (2025)

32% of Holy Child parishioners have made gifts amounting to 81% of our goal. If you've already made a gift... *thank you!*



Donate now at
AnnualAppeal.org,
call (570) 207-2250 or
click this QR code



PRAYER LIST

Please pray... for deceased parishioners, family, & friends. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. For troops & first responders: Lord, hold them in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families in our time of need. Bless those who need special prayers:

Judi Bonk-Guy, Richard Faber, Bernice Frederick, Catherine Gallagher, Lance Hall, Ann King, Patrick Lindquist, Tony Lupkowski, Tom MacBlane, Christopher Mortensen, Richard Niemczyk, Sandy Parker, Lori Sherant, Yolanda Tacka, Jack Watson

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.



To request prayer for someone, please contact the Parish Office. To respect privacy, please specify if their names are to be put in the bulletin, added to the Prayer Chain, or both.

"SPARE A PRAYER" PRAYER CHAIN

Contact: Maryjane (seifriedmaryjane@gmail.com or 570-549-7550) or Dotty (dhjrw@ptd.net or 570-662-2057).

The Lord is always listening.

VISITS TO THE HOMEBOUND

For Communion or a Pastoral visit, please contact the Parish Office.

Would you or someone you know enjoy a friendly visit, a partner to play cards or games with, someone to read to them, or simply keep company? As an outreach of Marian Ministries, Mary Hohman has offered to visit local residents and nursing homes, to spend time with people who may feel alone. Mary can be reached at (717) 203-9090.



PRO-LIFE RESOURCES

Natural Family Planning (NFP)

dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/natural-family-planning/



heartoftioga@gmail.com

24/7 ONLINE NURSE CHAT

Heart of Tioga Crisis Pregnancy Center: 570-948-2020

Abortion Pill Reversal 24/7 Hotline: 1-877-558-0333

Project Rachel Helpline: for help after abortion; 888-456-HOPE

heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory

gabrielproject.org elizabethministry.org respectlife.org

uscbb.org/prolife/diocesan-pro-life-offices

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sun 1/4	Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13 Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12
Mon 1/5	1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7b-8,10-12a Mt 4:12-17,23-25
Tu 1/6	1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4,7-8 Mk 6:34-44
Wed 1/7	1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2,10,12-13 Mk 6:45-52
Thu 1/8	1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2,14,15bc,17 Lk 4:14-22a
Fri 1/9	1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15,19-20 Lk 5:12-16
Sat 1/10	1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a,9b Jn 3:22-30
Sun 1/11	Is 42:1-4,6-7 Ps 29:1-4,9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17

The Epiphany of the Lord

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, also known as Three Kings Day, falls on Sunday, January 4, 2026. In the Catholic tradition, Epiphany was always celebrated on January 6. Beginning in 1970, the feast was moved in the U.S. (and elsewhere in the Latin-Rite Church) to **the first Sunday following January 1** (i.e., from January 2-8 inclusive). Epiphany lasts until the following Sunday, so, **keep your trees up!**

This holy day marks **the arrival of the Magi** to worship the Baby Jesus and **the manifestation of Christ** to the Gentiles as the Savior of the world. Longstanding tradition connects the Epiphany with two additional events: the baptism of the Lord and the miraculous transformation of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee.

Tradition provides us with the names of the Three Wise Men (**Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar**) and venerates them as saints, because they not only recognized Christ but also revealed him to the world. Their visit symbolizes the Gentiles finding Jesus (Isa. 11:10; Matt. 28:18-20) and expressing who He is (**King, God, & Savior**) through their gifts: **gold**, symbolizing the Lord's royalty; **frankincense**, used in the worship of God, signifies his divinity; and, **myrrh**, a burial ointment, points to Jesus' redemptive Passion and death.

"Doesn't the star of Bethlehem imply the practice of astrology?"

The Three Wise Men witnessed the sudden appearance of a new and brilliant star (the Star of Bethlehem). This bright light indicated to the Magi the birth of an important person: in fact, a king.

The ancients did not know what the stars really are, and many regarded them as divinities that ruled the fates of men. Thus, planets had the names of deities: Sol, Luna, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. The names varied from culture to culture, but in paganism they were worshipped as deities.

This practice was explicitly condemned in the Old Testament (Deut. 4:19, 17:3; 2 Kings 17:16; Jer. 19:11-13; Amos 5:26-27). This does not mean God can't use them as signs of major events in his plan. He is omnipotent and can do so if he chooses.

In the book of Joel, God states: "I will give portents in the heavens. . . . The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood" (Joel 2:30-31). It is noteworthy that darkness covered the land ("the sun shall be turned to darkness") during the Crucifixion (Matt. 27:45), and—provisionally—there was a lunar eclipse that made the moon appear red ("and the moon to blood") on April 3, A.D. 33, the probable date of the Crucifixion.

If God chose to mark the death of his Son with an unusual celestial sign, then he might have done the same to mark his birth, and he may have further allowed the Magi to recognize its significance based on the ideas present in their culture.

However, this would be an exceptional event and not an endorsement of the practice of astrology in general. The stars are not divinities that rule our lives, and they have no power over us. God may providentially use them as markers of certain events in his plan of the ages, but that does not mean we can infer things about the events of our own lives from them. This is what the modern practice of astrology does, however, and so the Church rejects it (CCC 2116).

For Catholics, **Epiphany marks the culmination of the traditional Christmastide celebrations, i.e., the traditional Twelve Days of Christmas** (which typically don't add up to exactly twelve in the new calendar, given that Epiphany is now a moveable feast). Traditional Epiphany celebrations commence and overlap with the continued Christmas season, with both culminating on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Christmas decorations often remain until Epiphany or the Baptism of the Lord, emphasizing the enduring joy of Christ's birth.

The following day we transition into Ordinary Time. catholic.com

Mark Your Calendar

Jan 4: Knights MU Council, 6:30 PM, Holy Child Hall
Jan 16: Health Ministry Meeting, 10:30 AM, Holy Child Hall

NAZARETH GROUP (with the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth)

11:00 AM–4:30 PM: Jan. 17, Mar. 21, Jun. 6

For young women, grades 9-12, who desire to learn more about the faith, to make wholesome friendships, and to grow in their love for Christ through prayer and hearing



inspirational talks. Reservations required. Two locations:
Mother of God Convent,
Tunkhannock; call Sr. Angela
(570) 836-2737. Mother of the Eu-
charist Convent, Williamsport;
call Sr. Clare (570) 745-3334.



Office for Parish Life


Bold and Beloved

Women's Retreat

Inspired by the teaching of St. Hildegard of Bingen

January 30–February 1, 2026

For more information, call (570) 207-2213 x1100




Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
1000 Seminary Rd, Dalton, PA 18414

Register at dioceseofscranton.org

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
through
DECEMBER 5TH!!!

Registration closes January 16, 2026



Annette Bergeon
Keynote Speaker



Michael Corsini
Worship Leader

HOLY CHILD HEALTH MINISTRY

New members needed; all are welcome!

Now that the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation is over, you might require naps or huge cups of caffeine, or both, to keep going. Here are some tips for us older folks on how to nap and enjoy all its benefits.

Naps can boost energy, focus, and overall health. Napping too long or too late in the day can leave you feeling worse than before. Short power naps of 10 to 20 minutes boost energy and alertness. A 30 minute nap may improve mood but leave you feeling groggy. A 60 to 90 minute nap is helpful on sleep-deprived days, but it may take a while for you to recoup and regroup. The right environment is also helpful for that restful nap. Comfortable surfaces, a good temperature, dim light, and quiet make nap time a beneficial event rather than a groggy experience.

Avoid caffeine before that nap. Caffeine stays in your system, raising blood pressure and heart rate, for up to 12 hours. Some energy drinks not only contain high amounts of caffeine but also a lot of sugar. The initial effect of the sugar is often followed by the sugar crash, leaving you feeling worse than before. Caffeine users note needing larger doses to obtain the same results. This is known as tolerance. Staying hydrated, eating healthy meals and snacks, doing physical activity at least 30 minutes a day, limiting alcohol and reducing stress are some ways to boost energy without using caffeine.



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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored,
glorified, loved, and preserved throughout
the world, now and forever. St. Jude, worker
of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the
homeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times
a day, by the 8th day your prayers will be
answered (if it be God's will).
It has never been known to fail.
Thank you, St. Jude. Amen.

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\$20 per month

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570-662-3568

Book Recommendation
from Father Bryan...

The Exorcist Files

By Father Carlos Martins

Your Ad Here!

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Reminder for Funerals...

Eulogies are permitted during:

- ♦ Funeral home vigil services
- ♦ Graveside committal services
- ♦ Luncheons (after Funeral Masses)

*Eulogies are not permitted during
Funeral Masses (CCC1688). Thank you.*



**The Blessed
Sacrament is
reserved in the
Tabernacle.**

*Please help to
maintain a prayerful*

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**Food
Pantry**

The local food
pantries need
our donations of
nonperishable
items.

Collection bins are in both churches.

Thank you for your support!

Health Ministry—Available Medical Equipment:

Basket for walker, Blood pressure monitor, Canes, Crutches, Emesis Basin,
First Alert System, Foot Bath, Hospital Bed, Hoyer Lift, Ice Therapy Machine,
Knee Crutch, Knee Scooter, Toilet Chairs, Raised Toilet Seats, Toilet Handles,
Rising Frame for Chair, Rollator Walker, Shower Bench, Shower Chair, Transfer
Bench, Transfer Board, Tub Handle, Foldable Transport Ramp, Tubing, Walk-
ers, Walker with Seat, Wash Basin, Wheelchair, Wheelchair Cushion; Baby
Items: Bath Tub, Booster Seat, Bed Rails, Safety Gate