

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH JANUARY 5 2025 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 4, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 4:30 p.m. Carole Bilesimo (Chuck & Kathi)

Sunday, January 5, 2025 8:00 a.m. Patrick James Donnelly III (Denise)

10:00 a.m. Linda Wiltrek (Lin)

11:30 a.m. Joann Barbour (Family)

Monday, January 6, 2025 7:45 a.m. James R. Balfe (Wife Nancy & Family)

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 7:45 a.m. Our Parish Family

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Confessions 6:30 p.m. Kathleen Garbowski (Helen Meigs)

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 9:30 a.m. Dan Ritter (Family)

Thursday, January 9, 2025 7:45 a.m. IC Staff Members (Friends)

Saturday, January 11, 2025 8:00 a.m. Donnelly Family (Family)

4:30 p.m. Leo & Pauline Balcerek (Family)

Sunday, January 12, 2025 8:00 a.m. Paul Dirling (Iuliano Family)

10:00 a.m. Kay Mason (Paula Egnot)

11:30 a.m. Dolores & Anthony Nese (Family)

Monday, January 13, 2025 7:45 a.m. Tim Salopek (Family)

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 7:45 a.m. Our Parish Family

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Confessions

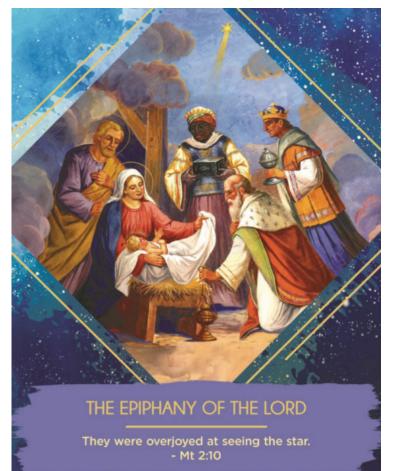
6:30 p.m. Stephen Pilipovich (Peg)

Queen of Angels Catholic School Jennifer Filak, Principal jfilak@queenofangelssch.org www.queenofangelssch.org 724-978-0144

Diocese of Greensburg www.dioceseofgreensburg.org

HELP LINES St. Vincent DePaul www.svdpgreensburg.org - 724-691-3711

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg 724-837-1840 www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org



Rev. Michael Crookston, Pastor mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Rev. Louiegene Arnold Valdez, Parochial Vicar lvaldez@dioceseofgreensburg.org

> Courtney Ruby, Business Manager cruby@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bridget Deveney, *Director of Music Ministry* bdeveney@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Tracy DeFelice, Administrative Assistant tdefelice@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Susan Cheplic, *Director of Faith Formation* skcheplic@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Katelyn Waterhouse, *Regional Director of Youth Ministry* kwaterhouse@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Immaculate Conception Parish Office 308 Second Street Irwin, Pa 15642 Parish Office: 724-863-9550

> Parish Office Hours: 8 am to 3 pm

PASTOR'S NOTES

"...but upon you the Lord shines."

Each of the readings for this celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord echoes both the joy and gratitude that arise when God's light appears in the midst of human cares. Isaiah in the first reading speaks of a people reflecting the joy and enthusiasm of the return to Jerusalem and Judah after some seventy years of exile to Babylon. Epiphany is from a Greek word which means "manifestation." This reading is filled with references to light, splendor, radiance and glory. God is Light, not only for his own people but also for all nations. The Epiphany is about the universality of salvation, as exemplified by the pilgrim journey of the magi as told in the gospel. Isaiah speaks to us about the joy that can be found when we are able to recognize the light that God brings to the problems of life.

St. Paul in the second reading addresses a community of people who were distraught over many challenges that confronted them in life. They were exposed to many different religious cultures and "mystery cults." It was difficult to stay true to the message of Jesus. Paul gives us a clear statement on the church and its mission. He looked at the Gentiles as being on equal footing with believers coming from Jewish backgrounds and did not have any problem viewing them as "co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel." Like Isaiah, Paul gives us a strong example of the universality of salvation. The gospel presents us with the all too familiar story of the Three Kings or the Magi. For centuries now people have been fascinated with the story of the Magi. Eastern Rite and Orthodox churches celebrate the Epiphany, rather than Christmas as the time of gift-giving in imitation of the Magi bringing gifts to Jesus. The star, along with the manger, has been the most popular image on Christmas cards. Ultimately this feast points to the wonder of God's plan for all people. It deals with life and all of the divisions we are faced with in our world as well as in our hearts.

Like Isaiah, it is light that guides the Magi to the Christ child, bringing them into the presence of God. These Magi are not ordinary men. The Greek word "magi" refers to a priestly cast known for their wisdom and ability to interpret dreams and decipher astrological phenomena. The gifts that they brought; gold for a king, frankincense which is a symbol of prayer rising to God and myrrh, a symbol of one who will die, suggests that these men have received a special revelation or epiphany from God as to who the child Jesus was. The Magi's journey symbolizes for us our own human experience, our journeys both physical and spiritual. In celebrating this feast today we all give witness to a universal truth based on the experience of all people and their quest to find God. Their journey reflects our own lives, our own stories, our own gifts which we bring to God.

Salvation is meant for all, if we are willing to follow God's signs of the gift. Although we may not abandon everything in life just to follow a star, the story helps us to recognize that in our daily living God does lead us. We just have to have the faith and insight to recognize that guiding light. If we walk by faith following our own stars in life who knows what might be at the end of our journey. ~Father Mike

CANDLES

Sanctuary Candle: In Memory of Ron Beatty (Carol)

Divine Mercy:

In Memory of Bernard & Marion Arendas (Family)

St. Peregrine Candle: Special Intentions for Fr. John Moineau (Friends)

Easter Flame Candle: In Memory of Corey Korinko (Carol & Judy)

St. Joseph's Candle: In Memory of Month's Mind

Altar Candles for the Month of January:

In Memory of Deceased Members of the Bertolina, Santimyer & DeFelice Families (William, Tracy, Michael & Vincent)

If you would like to have a candle lit in memory of your loved one, please call the parish office. We will be glad to help you. 724-863-9550



Please pray for the family of Gloria Poach and all of our faithful departed. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Prayer of Rejoicing

Fill our hearts, Lord, with rejoicing as we seek and discover You. Your ways are full of wonder, glory, surprise, and joy. Amen.



Epiphany Prayer

God, giver of all gifts, You inspired the three kings to follow a star to your manger of salvation. Give us the courage to use our gifts to build your kingdom even though we may traverse the deserts of pain and darkness. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.



SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament is available during Confession hour and after each Mass.

Matrimony

Couples wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony must contact the parish office one year in advance of the Wedding.

Baptism

Families of our parish who wish to have their child baptized please email Susan Cheplic at skcheplic@dioceseofgreensburg.org to register for Baptism Preparation.

Confession

Tuesday 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. & Saturday 9-10 a.m. (except for the first Saturday of the month)

Divine Mercy

Join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet Monday through Friday at 3:00 pm in the church.



Eucharistic Adoration is held every Tuesday after 7:45 am Mass & continuing until 6:15 pm.

"When we face the sun we get a tan, but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist we become saints." - Blessed Carlo Acutis

Sunday Offertory December 22 - Offertory totals not available by bulletin deadline

Online Giving December 16 - December 22- \$4,643.20

Thank you for your generosity!

Immaculate Conception Parish offers Online Giving.

- Scan QR Code on the new Pew Cards or QR Code below.
- Click Create a new account.
- Create an ID and password.
- Allow 2 minutes to complete the
- process.



If you decide to switch to online giving and would like to discontinue your envelopes please contact the parish office. Thank you!

HAPPENINGS ON THE CORNER & AROUND THE DIOCESE

Knights of Columbus Donations for Vocations Dollars for Collars

St Jude 9019 Knights of Columbus will be collecting for Vocations on January 11-12 after all masses. All monies collected for vocations are in support of our Seminarians in the Greensburg Diocese. Last year we collected \$5,940 from the Parishes of Immaculate Conception, St Agnes, and St Elizabeth Ann Seton. From that total last year we gave \$3,000 directly to Designated Seminarians studying for the Priesthood in our Diocese. The remainder was donated to the Diocesan Fund that pays for educational costs. This year we are supporting three seminarians, Tyler Randolph, Ryan Scavnicky, and Matteo Arcara. Tyler and Ryan are members of Immaculate Conception Parish. Thanks for supporting this worthy cause.



Thanks to everyone who took some time from their busy Christmas schedules to help us decorate our church for Christmas. It looks beautiful! But all things must come to an end. On Sunday, Jan. 12, after 11:30 Mass we

could use your help disassembling and packing away the decorations, trees and nativity to prepare for Ordinary Sunday. Please call the parish office (724-863-9550) by January 8th to sign up to volunteer. **You must have up to date clearances on file at IC parish office to volunteer**.

2024 Offertory Statements

If you would like a 2024 contribution statement for tax purposes, please call the parish office or email cruby@dioceseofgreensburg.org to request your statement. We will be happy to send you one. Thank you!





The Immaculate Conception Creation Care Team meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Children's Liturgy Room. The team's focus is to study the encyclical "*Laudato Si*, Care for Our Common Home" and to turn the Pope's vision into effective actions. For more information, Chris Peta at chris@syncrous.com

Home Blessing Kits

Kits will be available while supply lasts in the back of the church. The tradition is to bless your home on the Feast of the Epiphany which falls on Jan 7, 2024. The kits have been blessed and includes the instruction sheet, chalk, and holy water. The family will use the chalk to write 20 + C + M + B + 24. The letters represent the first initials of the three kings who visited the Christ child on Epiphany: Caspar, Melchior, & Balthazar. Those letters also signify the Latin phrase Christus Mansionem benedicat, which means, "May Christ bless the house".



Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local competition for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championships. The local competition will be held Saturday, January 4, 2025 at Queen of Angels Gymnasium, and start time is 12:00 PM. Boys and girls will compete in their respective age divisions with winners progressing through Local, District, Regional and State Competitions. For questions or registration information please call or email Al Borgony at 724-864-3487 or email <u>a.borgony@comcast.net</u>, or Matt Cheplic at 412-736-9196 or email mcheplic@gmail.com.

Christmas Decoration Removal Immaculate Conception Cemetery

If you wish to retain your Christmas decorations from your loved ones graves, please remove the Christmas decorations by March 3, 2025. Anything left in the cemetery past March 3, as a courtesy to you, will be discarded by cemetery staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bingo at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City Bingo on Weds. Jan. 8 and Feb. 5. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games begin at 6:45 p.m. The kitchen will be open, and free coffee will be provided. The hall is handicap accessible. For information, call 724-744-7474 or 724-744-4594.

Diocese of Greensburg Jubilee Year Calendar



DECEMBER 2024



Diocese Greensburg

APRIL 2025 The Passion According to Matthew - Jubilee Concert 7 PM at BSC **Jubilee Mass 11 AM Confessions** Noon Mass at BSC **Palm Sunday Procession & Mass with Bishop Kulick** 11 AM Mass at BSC MAY 2025 Jubilee Mass for the Poor 10 11 AM Confessions Noon Mass at BSC **JUNE 2025 Jubilee Mass for Vocations** to the Priesthood & **Religious Life 11 AM Confessions** Noon Mass at BSC **Corpus Christi Mass & Eucharistic Procession** with Bishop Kulick 11 AM Mass at BSC **JULY 2025 Jubilee Mass for First Responders (Blue Mass) 11 AM Confessions** Noon Mass at BSC AUGUST 2025 Jubilee Mass for Families, **Youth & Newcomers 11 AM Confessions** Noon Mass at BSC 15 Assumption **Mass & Procession** 6 PM at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg

SEPTEMBER 2025 **Jubilee Mass for Laborers** 11 AM Confessions Noon Mass at BSC **Exaltation of the Cross** 11 AM Mass at BSC OCTOBER 2025 All Schools Mass -Solemnity of the **Dedication of Blessed** Sacrament Cathedral 9 AM Mass at BSC **Jubilee Mass of Reparation** for Victims of Sexual Abuse 11 AM Confessions Noon Mass at BSC NOVEMBER 2025 **Jubilee Mass of** 8 Remembrance **11 AM Confessions** Noon Mass at BSC **Feast of Christ the King** Diocesan-wide **Eucharistic Adoration** DECEMBER 2025 **Jubilee Mass for Religious 11 AM Confessions** Noon Mass at BSC **Solemn Closing** 28 of the Jubilee Year 11 AM Mass at BSC

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200 Leger Road North Huntingdon, PA 15642

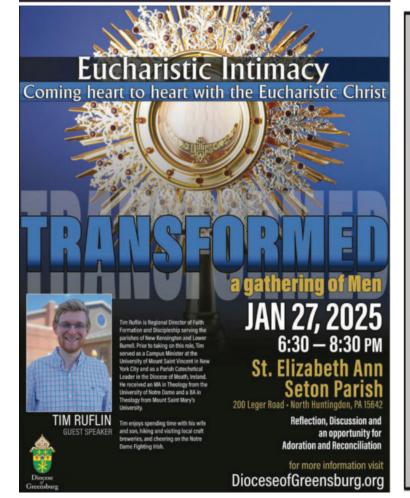


For more information visit DioceseofGreensburg.org

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has served in ministry in both the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the

ese of Greensburg. She has written dozens of articles on



March for Life 2025 in Washington DC

Friday, January 24th

Bus leaves Mother of Sorrows at 5:30 AM

Cost: \$25, \$20 for students, payable on bus or MOS office

Cash or check - payable to Mother of Sorrows Parish

Cash tip for bus driver

To register email Barb Koury at barbkoury@gmail.com

Include name and a cell phone number that you will have with you that day.

Trip includes Mass at the National Basilica in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

at 10:30 AM celebrated by Bishop Larry Kulick.

	y for Life" e Greensburg Dio	Friday, Janu cesan Council of the I	ary 24, 2025 National Council of Catholic Women	
ALL are Welcome		Come and go as your schedule permits		
Christ	: Our Shepherd	Center, 2900 Ser	minary Drive, Greensburg	
11:30	Rosary for pries	ts		
12:00		d by The Very Reve ritual Advisor	rend Eric J. Dinga, VF	
1:30	Rosary for Life			
2:15	Stations of the	cross	Free will offering and Donations	
3:00	Divine Mercy C	haplet	of diapers and baby items will	
3:30	Litany for Life		be distributed to pregnancy	
4:00	Closing Praver	and Benediction	centers throughout the diocese	

12 Hig	h School	Minis	stry Press	ents:
Steubenville Co	elp to send 4:12 High Scho nferences, Camp Damascu	is, and the Nat	ional Catholic Youth Conf	
***5	Saturday, NOW DATE (March 1st)W	atch KDKA for ca	ancellation information	
	Ann Seton — Mack Hall ors Open 10:45 AM —			
Jackpot Payout — \$ 1,000.00 20 Games — \$ 100 Payout Each (18 cards)				
0	Sol	kets \$6 (sold 0 per Ticket		Th.
•		Beverage Inc	August and a second sec	U
Name		Phone #		
Address		170	707	
# of Tickets	Amount Paid (Make checks paya		es Church)	
St. Agnes Re: Super 11400 St.	Church	Ar	irchase tickets at St. Elizabeth in Seton, St. Agnes, or maculate Conception church foes.	
				e call Mar

4:12 High School Ministry

welcomes high school youth (grades 9-12) to continue their faith formation with games, group discussions and presentations on topics of interest to teens. We also have seasonal social events, opportunities for service, conferences, camps, and a summer missionary trip!





4:12 High School Ministry Hosts



Immaculate Conception, or St. Elizabeth

Ann Seton to purchase your \$30 ticket!

WINTER SCHEDULE JAN **EPIPHANY PARTY!!!** 5 JAN 12 SCHOOL M Mother Mary Knows Best JAN Seeing the Word! 19 JAN 26 Seeing the Kingdom! FEB Stuffed & Emptied 2 Meetings are 6-8pm Q Youth Ministry Building on the Queen of Angels Campus NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME! KWaterhouse@DioceseofGreensburg.org





Steubenville Conference

18-20, 2025 DEUTERONOMY 4:24





Promo Video

Registration

Steubenville Youth Conferences are for current 8th-12th graders

ANGELS CORNER—QUEEN OF ANGEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Queen of Angels Catholic School is preparing for a new celebration of Catholic Schools. National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. CSW has traditionally been held the last week in January. We want to help showcase what makes Catholic schools the best when families are looking to find the right school for them. This year we will celebrate January 26-February 1, 2025. This year's theme is Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.

OUEEN OF ANGELS CATHOLIC SCHOOL TODDER-TWO TODDER-TWO PROGRAM S "Toddler Time" Parent/Child Program is

This "Toddler Time" Parent/Child Program is designed for children and their parent or caregiver to come together to play and learn.

A typical session will include: Exploratory Play, Arts & Crafts, Circle Time (a gentle introduction to group time) and Snack.



WHO: 2-3 year old children with a parent or caregiver (Must be 2 before session starts)

WHERE: Queen of Angels Catholic School



WHEN: 1 hour class – Monday AND/OR Wednesday TIME: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

SESSIONS AVAILABLE: Each session is 8 weeks Fall- Oct 14/16- Dec 9/11 (no session Nov 27th or Dec 2nd) Winter -Jan 6/8- March 10/12 (no session Jan 20/22 or Feb 17/19 Spring- March 17/19- May 12/14 (no session April 16th or 21st)



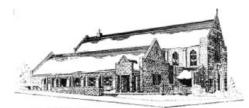
Cost per session: \$100 for 1 day per week or \$175 for 2 days per week

REGISTRATION FORM

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE: ONE MAIN ST. NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA 15642. YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER AT HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/BMBS4IPZAM OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Guardian's Name:			
Child's Name:			
Phone Number:		Email:	
Session:	Fall Winter	Spring	
Day: Monday	y <u> </u> Wednesday	Monday & Wednesday	





THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD January 5, 2025 - Order of the Mass

VOCATIONS PRAYER

Lord Jesus, raise up from our homes those called by the Father:

courageous and humble men to the Priesthood, generous servants to the Permanent Diaconate, faithful people to Consecrated Life, and holy men and women to the Sacrament of Marriage. Holy Spirit, help us to live our universal vocation to holiness by listening to the Father's voice and responding with a sacrificial love. Holy Mary, Model of vocations, pray for us. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

• 11

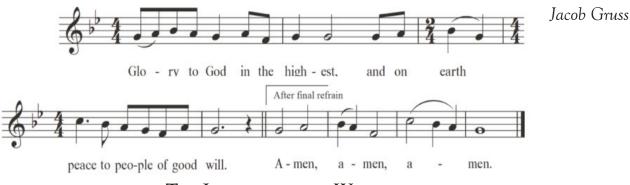
As With Gladness Men of Old

	e e	
As with glad - ness As with joy - ful As they of - fered In the heav'n - ly	men of old steps they sped gifts most rare cit - y bright	Did the guid-ing To that low - ly At that man - ger None shall need cre -
		• • •
star be - hold; As man - ger - bed, There crude and bare; So at - ed light; You,	with joy they to bend the may we this its light, its	hailed its light, knee be - fore ho - ly day, joy, its crown,
§#		r
Lead - ing on - ward, Him, whom heav'n and Drawn to you with -		So, most gra - cious So may we with All our cost - liest
You, its sun which	goes not down;	There for - ev - er
	(•• •
Lord, may we Ev hur - ried pace Run treas - ures bring, Chri	to seek your	splen - dor see. throne of grace. heav'n - ly King.
may we sing Al	- le - lu - ias	to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Tune: DIX, 77 77 77; arr. from Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, by William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Mass of the Immaculate Conception



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about: they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72 Michael Joncas

Every nation on earth will adore you, Lord.

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people. He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. 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. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with 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, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

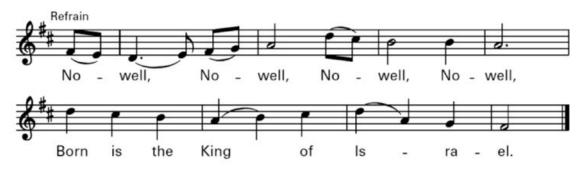
We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT



Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1–11. Text and music: *Carols, Hymns and Songs,* 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

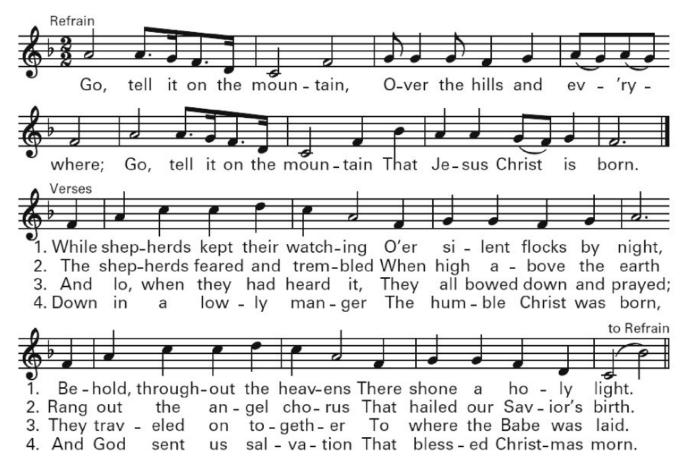




Text: Irregular with refrain; trad. English Carol, 17th cent.; verse 6, alt. Music: Trad. English Carol, 17th cent.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Go, Tell It on The Mountain



Text: 76 76 with refrain; fr. American Negro Songs and Spirituals, 1940; John W. Work, Jr., 1872–1925, alt. Music: Spiritual.





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