

# Saint Pius Calling



## THE EPIPHANY

What is an Epiphany? The name Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning “appearance” or “manifestation,” and refers to **the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world**. The holiday is also called the Feast of Epiphany, Theophany, or Three Kings' Day.

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on **6th January** and is the time when Christians remember the Wise Men (sometimes called the Three Kings) who visited Jesus.

*“When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, ... 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.’ .... 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.” - Matthew 2*

As it happens, Magi are not kings – they were astrologers and possibly Zoroastrian priests. The identification of the Magi as kings is linked to Old Testament prophecies that have the Messiah being worshipped by kings in Isaiah 60:3, Psalm 72:10, and Psalm 68:29. Early readers reinterpreted Matthew in light of these prophecies and elevated the Magi to kings. By AD 500 all commentators adopted the prevalent tradition that the three were kings.



And the text never says there are three – we just infer that from the number of gifts. But in any case, we are celebrating the visit of the first Gentile worshippers of the Savior. In the Western Christian church, they have been commonly known as Melchior, a Persian scholar, Caspar, an Ethiopian scholar, and Balthazar, an Arabian scholar.

Jan/Feb 2023

## Upcoming Events

- ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE START OF LENT.
- FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN MEALS 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM
- FRIDAY NIGHT STATIONS AT 7:00 PM
- DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
- WHAT IS THE LEGION OF MARY?
- PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER

## In this issue:

- The Epiphany
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- National March for Life
- Synod Update
- What is Ordinary Time?
- Valentine Day

This article is a follow up to St. Pius X's participation in the worldwide Synod on Synodality prompted by Pope Francis. Our parish participated through group and individual discussions from January to March, 2022.

A general summary of our results was presented to parishioners on March 29, 2022 and the final report was sent to the Harrisburg Diocese in April, 2022. A link to that report can be found at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a6GAaiDkr5j6N58BccUKVZB-NDvT6xhO/edit?usp=share\\_link&ouid=112551575327816517303&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a6GAaiDkr5j6N58BccUKVZB-NDvT6xhO/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=112551575327816517303&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Our diocese then synthesized all of its reports into one: <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/synod-2021-2023/>. That report was then sent to one of 14 intermediate regions, where lay and clerical representatives created the national report submitted to the Vatican. In total, the entire US process rested on 22,000 reports reflecting 700,000 US Catholic responses. A link to the national report can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/resources/us-national-synthesis-2021-2023-synod>.

Before listing a few highlights, a special thank you to the committee members headed up by Deacon Chris along with Liz Pomykalski, Elda Hricko, Joe Scartelli, and Pat Geipel. A special thank you also goes out to Paul and Carol Parowski who, through the GIFT Committee, recently invited the parish to hear a comparative study of St. Pius X responses with the national report. All of the major themes listed below were in both responses.

The first of two major differences between St. Pius X responses and

the national report is that our parishioners offered many comments concerning Ecumenism and the need for improvement in that area. Ecumenism is not included in the United States response. The second major difference is the United States report contained a section on youth wanting to be recognized for their present importance and to be given a significant voice in the present vs. being seen mostly as the future of the Church. St. Pius X did not submit comments about the youth.



The 15-page national report is divided into four overarching sections: Enduring Wounds, Enhancing Communion and Participation, Ongoing Formation for Mission, and Engaging Discernment. A few chief findings include:

#### Enduring Wounds

Fairly unanimous issues involve the still-unfolding effects of the sexual abuse crisis; ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and lost attendance; a deeply divided Church due to political ideologies and polarization seeping in; a lack of unity among the US bishops; and the pain of marginalization of individuals and groups (immigrants, incarcerated, disabled, LGBTQ+, divorced.)

#### Enhancing Communion and Participation

Respondents expressed needing a more profound formation process, especially around sacramental preparation; universal agreement on the significance of the Eucharist in the life of the

Church; a desire for stronger leadership, discernment, and decision-making roles for both lay and religious women; the existence of racism against Catholic people of color.

#### Ongoing Formation for Mission

A strong desire for life-long, spiritual, pastoral, and catechetical formation; a need for greater formation for seminarians and the ordained to better understand human and pastoral needs; a desire to hear better homilies that teach how to apply the knowledge into effective action.

Three subheadings with additional highlights under Ongoing Formation for Mission include: Social Mission of the Church, not surprising as the social justice documents of the Church are often called Her best kept secrets; Communication as a way to increase transparency; and Co-Responsibility to let priests have more time for pastoral care.

#### Engaging Discernment

This section discusses the synodal experience as having begun with some skepticism and suspicion but changed to gratitude as hundreds of thousands of Catholics felt heard for the first time as they came to listen to one another in a spirit of prayer. Discernment requires ongoing dialogue guided by the Holy Spirit.

For more detail and context, please review any or all of the reports at their respective links above.

*Editor's Note* - It might be prudent for our parish to pick up these studies and begin to plan for more listening sessions, especially involving parishioners who were not part of the original input, and move forward from there.



Do we have too many calendars to follow? Some of us work with in a fiscal year, families pay close attention to a school year, and most everyone tracks time in the Gregorian calendar year. The Gregorian calendar showcases holidays and points to weather-related seasons; for example, we hear the familiar “happy new year” every January 1 during the winter season. Strangely enough, though, we also hear “happy new year” at Mass on a date that is decidedly not January 1 and is during the autumn season. Is that because Fr. Josh might have fallen down and bumped his head? Not at all!

We in the Catholic Church have our own distinctive calendar to follow, called the Liturgical Calendar, which reflects our Liturgical Year. And just like the Gregorian calendar, the Liturgical Calendar has its holidays and seasons...the difference between the two is the Gregorian calendar follows worldly concerns, and the Liturgical Calendar follows Jesus' life.

The new Liturgical Year officially begins on the first Sunday of Advent (autumn), and that is when, and why, we hear “happy new year” at Mass. The four major seasons within the Liturgical Year are Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The time in between is called Ordinary Time and is a season in its own right. Even though it has an ordinary name, it is anything but! This is the time of year when we closely follow Jesus' life and teachings, and we take advantage of the Sacraments to grow spiritually. During Ordinary Time, we are encouraged to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation more frequently to help keep us on track in our walk with Jesus. That means we can participate in receiving the Holy Eucharist with ever more grace in our souls.

Ordinary Time appears twice in the Liturgical Year, but it is considered one Season: Between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, and again between Pentecost and the First Sunday

of Advent. We also recognize Ordinary Time from Fr. Josh's green vestments and the green altar cloth color, with green representing a time of growth. Many important observances take place during Ordinary Time, such as All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Christ the King, Corpus Christi, the Assumption of Mary, etc, along with the continuing celebration of one or more saints each and every day. As they say, no dust collects under the Church's pews!

The Catholic Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic; deep in prayer and full of hope; guiding, forgiving, and helping us grow in our walk with Jesus throughout the Liturgical Year. Celebrate Ordinary Time!



## NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

On January 20, 2023, members of St. Pius attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Life in Washington DC. This was the first National march in a Post Roe era. It was very exciting. We arrived early and were able to be in the main section in front of the stage and that never happened before. We were afraid there was going to be a smaller gathering this year but we were not disappointed. The crowds swelled to a healthy number of supporters stretching from the Washington Memorial to the stage and then some. There were large groups of school students from all over the country. People traveled for days from Kansas, Alabama,

Colorado, and Florida.

The speakers were awesome. Two in particular stood out.



First, Sister Mary Casey and her twin sister Casey. Casey is down syndrome and an Olympic champion. Her zeal for life was inebriating and brought a great focus on the “debate” for abortion based on the “health” of the baby. Casey was anything

but a burden or less of a human being.

Second was Jonathan Roumie who plays Jesus in the TV series The Chosen. He was dynamic and engaging and willing to speak out about his faith. He acknowledged how hard it is for the movie community to actually take a stand in religion but he gave the credit to God in calling him to do his work through this media.

It was an awesome day and we hope that more parishioners will join us in September for the Third Annual Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg, PA. Watch the bulletin for time and date. Hope to see you there.

## Saint Pius X, Catholic Church

112 Fairview Drive  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Phone: 570.374.4113  
Fax: 570.374.0156  
Email Parish Office:  
spxc@ptd.net  
Email Newsletter:  
spx10newsletter@gmail.com

### Our Mission

We the members of Saint Pius X Christian Community seek Christ who is our life and has revealed Himself to us. We praise Him by providing a spiritual environment so that all may follow in His footsteps. The realization of the Body and Blood of Christ through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the most important part of our journey. To be one with Christ through the Holy Eucharist is the ultimate expression of the faith.

Visit our Web Site for  
more information.  
[www.stpiusXparish.net](http://www.stpiusXparish.net)

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**CONGRATULATIONS!** The Prayer Shawl Ministry is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY this Feb. We had our very first meeting on Feb. 3, 2008. Fr. Ted Keating gave us his blessing and we've been sharing our gifts and talents ever since. Not only do our talented women make shawls, lap covers and rosaries but they are awesome in so many other ways.

This past December 1, 2022 the Prayer Shawl Ministry held their first

Advent celebration. Carol Parowski led them in an Advent meditation, they shared Advent prayers and family Christmas traditions, had a cookie swap and made ornaments as well.

These talented ladies work hard to bring a special kind of comfort to people in need. They meet the First Thursday of each month from 6pm to 8pm in the Conference Room. Drop in any time. For more

information or to request a prayer shawl for someone you know, contact Kathy Dalius at [kathydal@ptd.net](mailto:kathydal@ptd.net)



## VALENTINE'S DAY

### Who was Saint Valentine? (And what does he have to do with chocolate hearts?)

Not much, it turns out. St. Valentine's Day was a feast day in the Catholic religion, added to the liturgical calendar



around 500 AD. The day was commemorated for martyred saints named—you guessed it—Valentine. Differing legends celebrate three different saints called Valentine or Valentinus, but since very little was known about these men,

and there were conflicting reports of the St. Valentine Day story, the feast day was removed from the Christian liturgical calendar in 1969. But even though not much is known about the real history of the Saint Valentines on whom the holiday is based, the legend of Saint Valentine has several versions. One legend says that Saint Valentine refused to convert to paganism and was executed by Roman Emperor Claudius II. Prior to his execution, he was able to miraculously heal the daughter of his jailer, who then converted to Christianity along with his family. Another legend says a bishop called Saint Valentine of Terni is the true namesake of the holiday; this Saint Valentine was also executed.

But according to others, and this is how Saint Valentine became affiliated with a love-focused holiday, Saint Valentine was a Roman priest who performed weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry. A Roman emperor's edict decreed that married soldiers did not make good warriors and thus young men could not marry. This Saint Valentine wore a ring with a Cupid on it, a symbol of love, that helped soldiers recognize him. Because of this legend, Saint Valentine became known as the patron saint of love. The Saint Valentine prayer asks Saint Valentine to connect lovers together, so that two become one, and the couple remembers their devotion to God.  
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