



The Byzantine Catholic Churches
Of Youngstown's West side

St. Mary's

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Youngstown, Ohio 44509
Assumption Social Center
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Served by Fr. Richard Lambert

SUNDAY OF THE FORE-FATHERS

Dec. 17, 2017

SAT.	4:00 p.m.	+John & Mary Puskar by Family	Page 135 & 281
SUN.	10:30 a.m.	Health & Blessings of Parishioners	
MON.	11:00 a.m.	No Liturgy	
TUE.	11:00 a.m.	+Health & Blessings of Sister Leocadia by Sister Bernarda	
WED.	11:00 a.m.	+Edward Olbyrch by wife, Joanna	
THU.	11:00 a.m.	+Emil Zatchok by God-son, Fr. Richard	
FRI.	11:00 a.m.	No Liturgy... <i>Traditional Christmas Eve Fast transferred to today</i>	
SAT.	3:15 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation until 3:45 p.m	



SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS & ANCESTORS

Dec 24, 2017

SAT. 4:00 p.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners Page 141 & 285

SUN. 10:30 a.m. +Louis Wallace by Mr. Mrs. Tod Beno

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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SUN. 4:00 p.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners

MON. 11:00 a.m. Deceased Pastors & Parishioners of St. Mary's



St. George

1726 Canfield Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44511

SUNDAY OF THE FORE-FATHERS

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Dec. 17 9:00 a.m. +Michael Kovach Sr. by Mrs. Elsie Kostyo

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS & ANCESTORS

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Dec. 24 9:00 a.m. +Michael Kovach Sr. by wife, Veronica

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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Dec. 25 9:00 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners



MEET THE MAGI

The Gospel according to Saint Matthew reports that Jesus was recognized as Israel's Messiah by some visiting dignitaries shortly after His birth. Matthew uses the Greek word *magoi* to describe these visitors and says simply that they journeyed "from the East." A *magos* is someone versed in "magical" arts like astrology. They could well have served as advisors to some king. In English, we call them "wise men."

Predicting the future from the stars (a practice roundly condemned by the Fathers of the Church and most recently by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#2116) was especially associated with Mesopotamia and Persia. The Akathist Hymn calls them "Chaldeans." The troparion for Christmas points out how God used the Magi's interest in astrology to lead them to the truth: "those who worshipped the stars, have learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice." Once they found Christ, the Magi left their pagan errors behind them.

There is another astrologer "from the East" in the Bible. In the last leg of the Exodus, as the Israelites were passing through Moab (east of the Jordan), King Balak hired a pagan prophet named Balaam to curse them (Numbers 22-24). Four times the prophet went through elaborate rituals without being able to pronounce the desired curse. In his fourth attempt, Balaam made this prediction: "I see him, but not now. I behold him, but not near. A star shall come forth out of Jacob and a scepter shall arise out of Israel" (Numbers 24:17). Balaam, the *magos* from the East, predicted a mysterious king of Israel identified by a star. The Magi of the Gospels followed that star to find the "newborn King of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2).

We can find the Magi's footprints in two other Old Testament texts. Envisioning a renewed Is-

rael after the Babylonian Exile, Isaiah (60:5-6) predicted: "The abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you . . . all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord."

Psalm 72 is addressed to an unnamed King, a descendant of David. Jesus' contemporaries understood it to refer to the Messiah. The psalmist sings: "May the kings of Sheba and Saba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him . . . long may he live! May the gold of Sheba be given to him." (Psalm 72:10-11 and 15).

Psalm 72 is why the Magi are sometimes called "kings." Saint Matthew never said how many magi there were. The traditional number three presumes that each wise man brought one gift. The Armenian tradition counts and names twelve Magi!

Saba is in Arabia and the Fathers of the Church locate Sheba in Ethiopia. This is why Roman Catholic manger scenes depict one of the three "kings" as African. Byzantine liturgical texts simply celebrate the Magi as the first Gentiles to encounter Christ. The Akathist Hymn says they "became God-bearing heralds" who brought the Good News of Christ back home with them.

Saint Irenaeus of Lyon (*Adversus Haereses* III.9.2;

2nd century) was the first to see the Magi's three gifts as symbols. You probably know this interpretation from the carol, *We Three Kings*. Gold represents Jesus' kingship, incense points to His divinity, and myrrh looks ahead to His burial.

The Magi act like ambassadors on a state visit but things become tense when they pay a call to King Herod. They bring no gifts for Herod and their question about the "newborn King of the Jews" suggests that Herod (who called himself "King of the Jews") might be out of a job. Herod attempts to dupe them into spying for him but the wise men prove wiser, as the Akathist Hymn puts it: "leaving Herod as a fool" and avoiding his court on their way home.

Our liturgical hymns frequently pair the noble Magi with the humble shepherds. Together, these witnesses to the birth of the Son of God tell us that no one is excluded from His plan of salvation. ECL



Icon of the Adoration of the Magi

St. Mary's... 12/10//2017
Offertory...\$1,822.00
Christmas...\$245.00

St. George....12/10/20/17
Offertory.... \$316.00

SOCIAL GAMES

Are played every

SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY

at 6:45 p.m Plan to stop by for an evening of **FUN**. ...Come on down and support our Church; and better yet come on down and lend a hand!!

ALSO With Christmas only a week away it is now time to start making a list and checking it twice and when you see how much **XTRA CASH** you will need you might want to join us at our Social Games. On *Dec. 17th & 20th* we will be giving out **TEN \$15.00** Cash Prizes. **ALSO...Come out and play Our Progressive Piggy Pull Tab game, The Hog game is at its Max \$2,000.00, and The Pig game is also at its Max \$1,000.00. STOP BY TONITE OR WEDNESDAY you do not want to miss out on the BIG CASH!!**

PLEASE NOTE...

No BINGO SUN. DEC. 24TH.
We will be open on Dec. 27th
and Dec. 31st New Year's Eve.

VOCATION ICON PROGRAM
Began Sept. 24th in all Byzantine Catholic Churches. Each Family should plan to take The Icon into their home and pray for vocations for the week.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAST

Please note since Christmas Eve falls on Sunday the Fast is transferred to **FRIDAY**.

LITURGY REQUEST

Please call the office if you would like to schedule liturgies for the new year.

CALENDARS

The calendars for the new year are in the vestibule. Please take one and check it regularly they are a wealth of information. We are truly grateful to George & Tom Kinnick and Michael Kirila for sponsoring these calendars. God bless them.

TIME SCHEDULE

FEAST OF NATIVITY

St. Mary's Sun. Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm. & Mon. Dec. 25 at 11:00 a.m.

St. George Mon. Dec. 25 9:00 a.m.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season!