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IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

SAVE the DATES JUBILEE 2025

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF BOYS AND MEN FROM LONDON, ENGLAND, Thursday, April 3, 2025, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, 7:00 PM

LENTEN WEEK of RECONCILIATION:
Leave the Lights On, Second Week of Lent. The Sacrament of Penance will be offered throughout the diocese. Deanery schedules will be made public in 2025.

FEAST OF SAINT PETER & PAUL JUBILEE MASS
Sunday, June 29, 2025, Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto, 7:00 PM Mass; Missionary Speakers and Expressions of Hope Art, Photo and Poetry in Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

ECUMENICAL CHORAL CONCERT: Sunday, October 5, 2025, 2:00 PM, Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown, Ex-pressions of Hope Art, Photo and Poetry display in the Zion Lutheran Church Hall

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE: Friday, October 17, 2025 National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C., 2:00 PM; Mass with Bishop Mark

JUBILEE CLOSING MASS: December 28, 2025 Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, 11:00 AM Televised Mass

Epiphany Moments

As the Christmas season winds down, the Church celebrates the three manifestations of Christ—literally, God’s showing His Son to the world. The first manifestation is the Epiphany, the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. This is celebrated on the second Sunday after the Nativity. On the following Sunday, we remember the baptism of Our Lord, as performed by John the Baptist. During the second manifestation, God the Father spoke from heaven identifying Jesus as His Son. The third manifestation, on the next Sunday, is the beginning of Jesus’ public life; the miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, where He first displayed His divine power.

One way to remember these great manifestations is with a few simple celebrations.

Bless This House: Near the front door of your home, as a family read the story of the Magi . (Mt 1:1-12) Using holy water, walk through the house sprinkling each room with the water. Reconvene at the front door and use chalk to write 20+C+B+M 24 on the top of the door. The numbers reflect the year and the initials represent Caspar, Balthasar and Melchior, the traditional names of the Wise Men who visited the Holy Infant.

Fit for a King: The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child. Honor Christ by designing a centerpiece for your table featuring these three items. Something gold, a scented candle or incense burning and a small vial of perfume could represent the Magi’s gifts. Make sure to include Baby Jesus.

That Takes the Cake: In early times, Magi cakes were popular in Italy. For dessert on Epiphany, bake a cake and decorate it. Invite friends over to share a slice.

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Respect Life Committee

Beginning this weekend, the newly formed Respect Life Committee of the Diocese will provide a monthly reflection on pro-life issues in our bulletin. The **Mission Statement of the Committee** is “To assist in creating a Culture of Life throughout the diocese by supporting existing Respect Life Programs, and in developing new programs and services that promote, support and educate parishioners, students, and organizations on the Church’s teaching concerning Life issues, as well as encouraging practical support for those experiencing unplanned or difficult pregnancies, and the promotion of communal prayer for Life”. To learn more about the Respect Life Committee or to schedule a pro-life presentation, get information on The Gabriel Project, or how to initiate the Pro-Life Rosary or Holy Hour, please contact them at respectlifegm@gmail.com or 814-207-9110.

A Family Perspective

January 1, 2025: Mary, Mother of God (LK 2:16-21)

The gospel tells us “Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.” We would do well to imitate Mary in our New Year’s resolution. Instead of criticizing let’s “keep it in our hearts.” Criticism isn’t productive or well received anyway!

January 5, 2025: Epiphany (MT 2:1-12)

After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by “another way.” What in your family needs to be done “another way?” Do you need “another way to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection? This is a new year, time to change what isn’t working. Take a tip from some wise men, there’s always “another way.”

ORDINARY TIME January 12, 2025:
Baptism of the Lord (LK 3:15-16, 21-22)

In today’s gospel Jesus was publicly AFFIRMED by his Father: “You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased.” As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed AFFIRMATION and so do our children.

January 19, 2025: Second Sunday (JN 2:1-11)

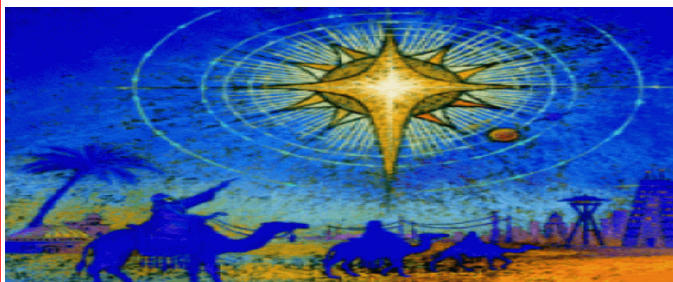
At Cana we get a good insight into Mary’s parenting style. She did not plead, argue, demand or manipulate. She merely pointed out the situation and trusted her son would make the best decision.

January 26, 2025: Third Sunday (LK 1:1-4; 4:14-21)

In today’s gospel Jesus was “praised by all” except at home in Nazareth where the “eyes of all were intently on him.” Acceptance can be hard to find at home due to unreal EXPECTATIONS. Jesus challenges us to “proclaim liberty” to anyone “oppressed” or “captive” by our EXPECTATIONS .

Reprinted with permission from: “A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar.”

www.friendsofkenyanorphans.org



Enjoying Snow Days

As we begin to settle into winter don’t let these days get you down. Pull out those dusty games, puzzles, photos or craft boxes and enjoy family time or quiet time learning to knit, crochet or sew. Finish a project that’s been tucked away. Turn the devices off and light a fire or candle, make popcorn or smores. Try to pretend we are living in simpler times like families of long ago.



My Name is Luce! I am a Jubilee Pilgrim. I am the official mascot for the Catholic Church’s 2025 Jubilee Year is named “Luce,” which is Italian for “light.”

This is my dog, Santino!



About my appearance... Clad in a yellow raincoat, mud-stained boots, and a pilgrim’s cross, Luce’s mission is to guide young pilgrims toward hope and faith with her trusty dog Santino at her side. Shells glimmer in her eyes, recalling the scallop shell of the Camino de Santiago, an emblem of the pilgrimage journey.