Christ the Saviour Cathedral

"CATHEDRAL JOTTINGS"



Corner of Garfield Street and Butler Avenue
Johnstown, Pa. 15906
Rectory Office – 249 Butler Avenue; Johnstown, Pa. 15906
Cathedral Church of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa
of the
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
of the
Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople

Cathedral Clergy

Pastor – Very Reverend Protopresbyter Robert A. Buczak, Cathedral Dean
Very Reverend Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro, Chancellor
Very Rev. John S. Brancho

Rectory Phone……814-539-8086
Mobile Phone……412-759-4481
Cathedral Office……814-254-4011
E-mail Address (for Father Robert Buczak)……frbuczak@outlook.com
Diocesan Website: http://www.acrod.org ***Facebook***: https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Cathedral: http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral ***Twitter***: https://twitter.com/acrodnews
Camp Nazareth: http://www.campnazareth.org ***You Tube***: https://youtube.com/acroddiocese

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Vol. 82 No. 1929

Sunday, January 5th, 2025



Divine Liturgy – 9 am
Choir Sunday

Panachida for
+***Mary Pavlik*** offered by Roger Pavlik;
John, Ruth, Michael, James Horner and Mark DeCoske offered by Rosalie Horner and family;
+***Anastasia, John, and Andrew Podolak by the Podolak Family;***
and
+***Emily Terchanik, and Mark Bodnar*** offered by Pani Kathy Buczak

Resurrection Tone 3 - Tropar & Kondak pages 85 & 129

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

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Monday, January 6th, 2025

The Great Compline of the Nativity of Our Lord - 8 pm

Christmas Carols – 8:45 pm

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord - 9 pm

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Tuesday, January 7th, 2025

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

9:00 am – Divine Liturgy

Tropar & Kondak: pages 132 – 135

Epistle: Galatians 4: 4-7 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

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CHRISTMAS BRUNCH – January 7, 2025

All are invited to join us for a Christmas Brunch Christmas morning, January 7th, 2025 after the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral Auditorium.

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Wednesday, January 8th, 2025

The Synaxis of the Theotokos (Birthgiver of God)

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Panachida for + ***the Founders and Benefactors of the Cathedral Parish***

Tropar and Kondak pages 132-136

Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18 Gospels: Matthew 2:13-23

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Thursday, January 9, 2025

The Feast of The Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Panachida for + ***Stephen Evanisko and the Departed Servicemen of the Cathedral Parish*** offered by the Evanisko Family; +***Mary Radasky Kesselak*** offered by Andrea and Jeff Robel; +***Helen Krompak + Kay Miloro*** offered by the family***; Anna Toth*** offered by the family.

Tropar & Kondak: pages 132-137, 138

Epistle: Acts 6: 8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60 Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

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Sat. 1/11 … ***No Vespers Scheduled***

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Sunday, January 12, 2025

Sunday after the Nativity

Sunday Before Theophany

Divine Liturgy / Choir Sunday - 9:00 am

No Sunday School

Panachida for +***Margaret Mley, Helen Cicmansky, and Joe Kuzmyak Sr.*** offered by Pani Kathy Buczak;

+Departed Kol'adniki of the Cathedral Parish: Andrew Pavlik, Andrew Medvechy Jr., Constantine Mishurda, John Mishurda, John Kurtz, Nicholas Polak, Joseph Evanisko, Andrew Sakmar, Michael Gritzer, John Duray, Stephen Patrick, John P. Duray, Stephen Matolyak, and John Yurosko offered by John and Helen Yurosko

+Ronald Koval offered by daughter Susan and Ivan

+Patricia Pasternak offered by Ann Marie Mlinarchik; ***+Prof. Andrew Panchisin***

+Joseph, Michael, and Anna Chanda offered by Mary Chanda; ***+Pani Emily Molchany***;

+Helen Balog; and +Matthew Lazarak offered by Mary Lazarak (Perpetual)

Resurrection Tone 4: Tropar & Kondak: pages 90 &142

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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Mon. 1/13 … ***Vespers for the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord……...4:00 pm***

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Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord
Commemoration of St. Basil the Great
& Julian Calendar New Year

Divine Liturgy- 9:00 am

Tropar & Kondak: pages 140-141

Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12 Gospel: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

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Saturday, January 18th, 2025

Vigil of Theophany

Ordination of Sub-deacon Seamus Murray to the Diaconate

Graduation Ceremony after Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great – 9:00 am

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Saturday, January 18th, 2025 ---- 6:00 PM

THEOPHANY EVE DINNER

In the Cathedral Auditorium – ALL ARE WELCOME!

Day of Strict Fasting

Vigil Service of Theophany with the Blessing of Water - 7:00pm

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Thank you to Roger Pavlik for donating the spring water for the Theophany Eve Blessing of Holy Water

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Sunday, January 19th, 2025

The Feast of the Theophany of our Lord

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

+***Helen Balog*** (Remembered in Proskomedia)

Tropar & Kondak: pages 145- 148

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

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Monday, January 20th, 2025

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

+***David Vreeland*** (Remembered in Proskomedia) offered by Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Vreeland

Epistle: Acts 19: 1-8 Tropar & Kondak: pages 145, 148-150 Gospel: John 1: 29-34

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Wed. 1/22 … +Very Rev. John Stefanik offered by the Family; +Rose & John Patrick Sr.;
+Betty Ann Lanko Berezonsky offered by John Lanko Jr……8:00 am

Thur. 1/23 … +Michael, Mary, Michael, Anna, John, Susanna, Anna, and
+Martha Prokop…….8:00 am

Sat. 1/25 … +Sacrament of Holy Matrimony of Matthew Conjelko and Erica Goble…...2:30 pm
No Vespers Scheduled

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Sunday, January 26th, 2025

The Thirty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday after Theophany

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am Sunday School - 10:20 am

Panachida for +***Anna Marie Dudak*** offered by Dave and Melanie Dudak
+***Ron Belchik*** offered by Pani Kathy Buczak;
+Dolores Muchesko offered by Mary Ann Muchesko
+John Mirilovich offered by Mirilovich family: Rich, Harriet, Richard, Renee, Andrew, Kristen, Michael, Nancy & Marie;
+Michael and Anna Zahoran offered by Joann Berkey; ***+Jan and Mary Koval***;
and +***Very Reverend Dr. Nomikos Vaporis*** offered by son, Subdeacon Michael
Resurrection Tone 6 - Tropar & Kondak: pages 145-148, 96 & 150

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel Matthew 4:12-17

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the ***Christ the Saviour Cathedral Parish*** will be held ***Sunday, February 2, 2025*** immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral Auditorium. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. This is the ***first official announcement*** of the meeting. Proposals for the Annual Meeting are being accepted in the Cathedral office in written form until ***Sunday, January 19, 2025.***

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BANNS OF MARRIAGE – are announced for ***Matthew John Conjelko***, son of the Very Reverend Matthew Conjelko and Mary Margaret (Wiker) Conjelko and ***Erica Renee Goble***, daughter of Mark A. Goble and Kelly Dawn (Marcoux) Goble both Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Parish (Homer City). The Sacrament of Matrimony will be administered at the Christ the Saviour Cathedral Parish, 300 Garfield Street, Johnstown, Pa. 15906 on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 2:30 pm. This is the second and third official announcement.

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU – to ***Barry, Julia, and Amanda Gilchrist*** for their generous gift of ***$400.00 to the Cathedral Special Fund*** for the needy in memory of their dearly departed mothers and grandmothers Helen Yuhas and Helen Gilchrist and fathers and grandfathers John Yuhas and Robert Gilchrist.

CATHEDRAL CHARITY BOX - REMINDER

Did you know that the Cathedral has a charity box for the less fortunate of the parish? On the back of the last pew on the "Virgin's side" of the church is a small wooden box in which you may put your offering to help those in need. Thank you for your stewardship of our parish!

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BIRTHDAY PRAYERS – are offered for ***Thomas Allen Buczak III (1/5), Michael Maticic (1/5), Janice Midler (1/6,)Zachary Tvarozna (1/10), Melanie Dudak (1/10), David Podolak (1/11), Nicholas Podolak (1/12), Luke Tvarozna (1/13), Sydnee Lauren Satkovich (1/13), Jerees Noah Zreigat (1/15), Steve Muchesko (1/17), Jodi Billetdeaux (1/17), Richard Kesselak (1/17), Michael Haschak (1/18), Maria Richards (1/18), Amanda Dutko (1/19), Katie Abele (1/22), George Evanisko (1/23), Nicholas Benc (1/24).*** You were remembered in Prokomedia!

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THE ETERNAL LAMP - is offered the week of January 5th in memory of ***+Anastasia, John, and Andrew Podolak by the Podolak Family.***

THE ALTAR CANDLES – are offered Sunday January 5th in memory of ***+Mary Pavlik by Roger Pavlik***.

THE ALTAR CANDLES AND THE ETERNAL LAMP – are offered the week of January 12th in memory of ***+Michael Savering by his wife Mary Ann Savering.***

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ACRY "Souper Bowl"

We will be collecting cans of soup for the West End Food bank starting Sunday, January 12, 2025, thru Super Bowl Sunday, February 9, 2025. Please use the stage in the Cathedral auditorium for your donations. Thank-you for your continued support!!

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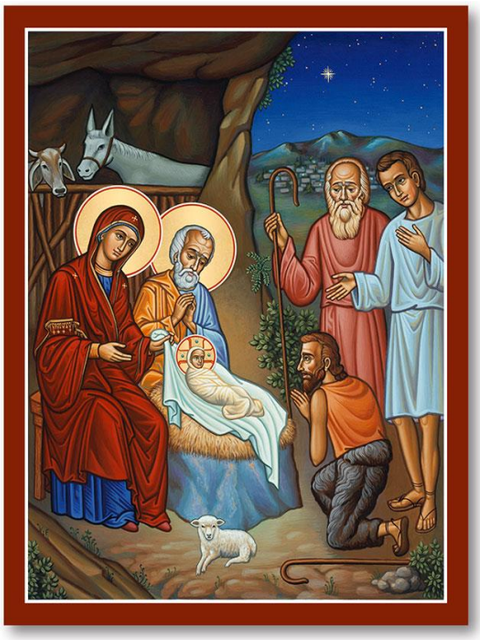
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CATHEDRAL ON-LINE

Did you know that you can make donations to Christ the Saviour Cathedral on-line? Many parishioners and non-parishioners save time and efforts by donating to the Cathedral at: **https://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/**

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ON THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE THE SHEPHERDS WHO BEHELD THE LORD



Shepherds, not far from the cave, are spoken of by the Evangelist Luke: “And shepherds were in the same country, living out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the Glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were afraid with a great fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Cease being afraid; for behold, I announce to you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord, was born to you today in the city of David. And this shall be a sign to you: You shall find the new-born Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger.’ And suddenly there came to be with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. (Luke 2:8-14).”

The shepherds watched the flocks destined for sacrificial services, in the very place consecrated by tradition as where the Messiah would first be revealed.

Not only the earthborn were amazed, but even the heavenly hosts were filled with wonder at the divine condescension. “Before Thy nativity, O Lord, beholding with trembling Thy mystery, the noetic hosts were struck with wonder: for Thou Who has adorned the heavens with stars was well pleased to be born as a babe, and Thou Who holds all the ends of the earth in the hollow of Thy hand are laid in a manger of dumb beasts”.



Saint Kosmas the Poet writes: “The shepherds abiding in the fields, received a vision of light that filled them with terror. For the glory of the Lord shone around them, and an angel cried aloud: “Sing praises, for Christ is born.” Then at the announcement of the one angel, he was joined by myriads of others. “At the word of the angel, the hosts of heaven suddenly cried aloud: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men; Christ has shone forth.’

Another hymn makes mention that the angels exhorted the shepherds to put aside worldly occupations: “As shepherds were piping songs, a host of angels stopped them and called out, saying: ‘Cease now, you who abide in the field at the head of your flocks; cry out and sing that Christ the Lord is born, Whose pleasure it is, as God, to save mankind.’ Scripture continues and says; “And it came to pass, as the angels went away from them into the heaven, also the men, the shepherds, said to one another, ‘Let us now pass through as far as Bethlehem and see this thing which is spoken of as having come to pass, which the Lord made known to us. (Luke 2:15).”

Thus, we see in the nativity icons, angels performing a twofold service; they glorify God and bring good tidings to men. In this festal icon, we also often see angels looking upwards in a posture of singing glory to God or leaning downward toward men, to whom they announce good tidings. (Continues on the next page)



“And having hastened they came and found out both Mary and Joseph, and the new-born Babe lying in the manger (Luke 2:16).”

Saint John of Damascus attempts to described the thoughts of the shepherds. “The choir of shepherds abiding in the fields was overwhelmed by the strange sight they were counted worthy to behold: For they looked upon the all-blessed Offspring of an all-pure bride; and they say also the ranks of bodiless angels, who sang in praise of Christ the King, incarnate without seed.”

Saint Ephraim put the following words into the shepherds’ mouths: “The shepherds came near and worshipped Him with their staves. They saluted Hm with peace, prophesying the while, ‘Peace, O Prince of the shepherds!’ The rod of Moses (Ex 4:2) praise Thy rod, O Shepherd of all.”

Saint Kosmas adds that the shepherds, “coming to Bethlehem, worshiped with her who had given Him birth.” Saint Ephrain poetically chants: “Thee then the shepherds praise, because Thou has reconciled the wolves and the lams within the fold.”

The very animals present therein, the ox and the ass, having Him in their midst, tirelessly attended Him. Then that what was fulfilled which was spoken by the Prophet Isaiah, “The ox knows his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel does not know Me, and the people has not regarded Me (Is 1:3).”



Saint Ephraim then mentioned the gifts brough by the shepherds, “The shepherds came laden with the best gifts of their flock: sweet milk, clean flesh, befitting praise! They brought and presented a suckling lamb to the paschal Lamb, a firstborn to the Firstborn, a sacrifice to the Sacrifice, a lamb of time to the Lamb of truth. Fair sight to see the lamb offered to the Lamb!” And, “The lamb bleated as it was offered to the Firstborn. It praised the Lamb, that had come to set free the flocks and the oxen from sacrifice (Ps 49:9); yea that paschal Lamb, Who handed down and brought in the Passover of the Son.”

Now when the shepherds beheld the Christ, “they made known publicly concerning the saying which was spoken to them about this little Child. And all those who heard wondered about those things which were spoken to them by the shepherds…. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God over all the things which they heard and saw, even as it was spoken to them (Luke2:17-20).”

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PRAYER CHAIN

Thomas Buczak	Angeline Komara	Michael Paul Gost	Denise Stroud	Sheri Smay
Steve Martyak	Arianna Risso	Brooklyn Balamuto	Brianna Thompson	Geroge Kuzmiak
Veronica Buczak	Charlie Erisman	Matushka Helen Jasiukowicz	Elijah Groff	Jackson Enhro
Michael Sakmar	Rachael Costlow	Joanne Democko	Michael Mehalacki	Lisa Luterman
Joseph Muchesko	Marshall Rosenow	Robert and Barbara Stokes	Matthew Hanak	Jeanne Norris
Roberta Kovalik	Shirley Mazurak	Marcia Matthews	Carol Labad	Kristo Burkett
Kira Pronin	Erin Demich	Jolene McClain	Carter McAuly	Amanda May
Alexxa Lowery	Mary Ann Muchesko	Georgene Coulter	Michael and Alex Yaremenko	Jean Romesburg
Romayne Laichak	Michaela Miller	Tanya Britan	Pauline and Margaret Blehi	MaryAnn Savering
Zachary Rogina	Arianna Jade Miller	Frank and Daniel Porembka	Lauri LaBuda	Marilyn Stolzfus
Ron Kuzmyak	Taylor Miller	Dr. Rose Ann Jordan	Dorothy and Kathy Bayconish	Spenser Kreger
Paul Kalcik	Jennifer Gardenhour	Demetra Mavrophilipos	Nicholas and Carole Blitva	Zander Marshall
Henry Laichak	Valentina and Olga Yaremenko	Rose Conjelko	Lorie Joseph	Kara Dorsey
Ronald Kmet	Steve Prieber	Cindy Birth	Mary Frances Dutko	Ronald Patrick
Barry Gilchrist	Aberdeen Rudge	Roger Zankey	Clarabella Knight	Lisa Daugherty
Robert Janeway	Pat Hanuska	Jess Ambrose	Matushka Mary Margaret	Cindy LaBarr
Eva Zeleniak-Whitak	Dwight Nugle	Paul Kalinyak	Remona Blunt-Wall	Amber
Malcolm Barnes	Rose and Terry Fyock	John Rosiak	Patti Sweeney	Diana Gvozdich-Smith
Ann Koehnlein	Rosalia Horner	Louis Pocchiari	Samantha Salway	Jean Barnes
Larry Eisenhauer	Beverly Mayo	Ed and Christine Sakmar	Joan Bost	Jennifer Beas
Judith Rowlands	Al Kuzmyak	Julie Locher	Cheryl Reese	

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You have never really lived

until you have done something for someone who cannot possibly pay you back.

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THANKS FOR THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Father Robert and Pani Kathy Buczak– in memory of Metropolitan Nicholas and in honor of Metropolitan Gregory

Father Robert and Pani Kathy Buczak – in memory of Joseph and Helen Rogel and Bernie Buczak

Very Reverend Protopresbyter Frank and Pani Connie Miloro

Margaret Gardenhour in memory of parents, Margaret and Steve Homan

Kristine Bunda – in memory of Stephen and Margaret Herko

Kristine Bunda – in memory of Bill and Peg Ryan and infant George Herko

Susan Kalcik and Nick Bocher

Ann Fischbach

Carol Devine

Patricia Gable in memory of Peter and Margaret Gresh

George and Evelyn Evanisko

Zachary and Melanie and Zachary Timko

Roger Pavlik and Janice Middler

Roger Pavlik and Janice Middler in memory of Parents and Grandparents

Louise Brudnak – in memory of Stephen, Anna, Dolores, and Robert Brudnak and Joseph Kuhar

Son, Subdeacon Michael Oleksa – In loving memory of Patricia (Gzvodich)Oleksa

Thomas Fultz – In memory of the departed members of the Fultz Family

Thomas Fultz – In memory of the departed members of the Tomchik families.

Thomas Fultz – In memory of Theresa, William, and Amanda Fultz

The Gregory Family – in memory of Margaret and Rudolph Gregory

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Haschak – In memory of Bethany Haschak

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Haschak – In memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Haschak Sr.

Lynne Hood - In memory of my parents Eli and Betty Gvozdich

Halee Leader – In memory of Frank and Elizabeth Zahoran,

Halee Leader - In memory of Julia Holko

Halee Leader - In memory of Alice Joann Berkey and Julia Holko

Melissa Kolar - In memory of Amelia Kolar and John Kolar

Diana (Gvozdich) Smith - in memory of Gvozdich and Bastaja Families

Diana (Gvozdich) Smith - in memory of the Geisey Family

Rich and Harriet Mirilovich – In memory of prents John and Mary Mirilovich

Rich and Harriet Mirilovich – In memory of sister, Nancy Jo Horvath

Darice Tvarozna and Tvarozna family – In memory of husband, Daniel Tvarozna

Daughter, Darice and the Tvarozna Family – In memory of Peter and Helen Dutko

Grand-daughter Darice, Zachary & Luke Tvarozna – In memory of John & Mary Sprincz

Majed and Jehan Zreigat



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On the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, we also commemorate the veneration of the Magi



Magi, or wise men, referred to a class of priestly scholars, who had great power among the Persian people, not unlike the Levites among the Jews. This group of intellectuals was occupied with the study of medicine, philosophy, the natural sciences, scientific observation of the stars and planets (astrology), and interpretation of dreams. We know that the Prophet Daniel, as a youth, was one of the first of the Jewish captives taken to Babylon in 605 B.C. He was renamed Baltasar (also known as Valtasa) and made chief over this society of scholars that held great honor and respect in the court of the Persian Kings. Recognizing Daniel's God as the "God of gods and Lord of kings, Who reveals mysteries," Nebuchadnezzar elevated him to be the chief of the enchanters, magicians, Chaldeans, and soothsayers (See Daniel 2:48; 4:6, 5:11). The prophet Daniel then asked the king to appoint Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the providence of Babylon, which was done (Daniel 2:49).

The Wise men of the Gospel were among the last successors of this group that held duel priestly duties (a hereditary priesthood) and governmental office. The writings of their chief Magi, Daniel, during the sixth century B.C. concerning the Messianic prophecies, had a profound and motivating effect upon them. Among the prophecies of the holy Daniel, with which they were most familiar, was the prophecy concerning the time of the coming of Jesus Christ (Daniel 9:25-26). The Archangel Gabriel has answered Daniel's prayers by revealing the time span that would intervene: "Thou shalt know and understand that from the going forth of the command for the answer and for the building of Jerusalem until Christ the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks (Daniel 9:25)." They were also familiar with the prophecy about the star shining forth from Jacob (Num. 24:17).

Saint John Chrysostom rebukes an unbelieving Jewish nation when comparing then to the Gentile Magi. "The Magi sought the Lord Jesus Christ, born King of the Jews, among those from whose race they knew that Balaam, a prophet from the Gentiles, had prophesied that He would come. The faith of the Magi is the condemnation of the Jews. The Magi believed on the authority of their one soothsayer Balaam and the Prophet Daniel; but the Jews, from the testimony of many prophets, refused to believe. Whereas the Magi acknowledged that the coming of Christ would terminate their profane knowledge and magical arts, the Jews would not accept the mysteries of the divine dispensation. The Magi confessed a Stranger; the Jews rejected their own."

Saint Kosmas writes concerning this: "The Magi, beholding the strange course of an unknown and newly shining star that exceeded the brightness of all heavenly light, learned thereby that Christ the King was born on earth in Bethlehem for our salvation.