



St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor
Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates
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1/03/21

The Epiphany of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon NO MASS
- Tue NO MASS
- Wed 8:15 AM – To Heal Division
- Thu NO MASS
- Fri 8:15 AM + Keating/Schaaf Families
- Sat 6:00 PM + Michael Gonderinger Family
- Sun 10:30 AM + Walter & Cecelia Ries

Sacrament of Reconciliation: One half hour prior to Weekend Mass



**WISE
MEN
STILL
SEEK
HIM**

*We Remember...*those in need of special prayers: Emma Lou Gunther, Kenny Fessler, John Gilg, Garrett Scholz, Barb McTavish, Andy Hoffman, David E. Leiding, Lois Tunender & Mary Jo Closson.



Looking Ahead...The Annual Seminary Collection...will be held the weekend of Jan. 10. The Archdiocese of Omaha is currently blessed with 22 men studying for the Priesthood. We ask for your continued prayers, sacrifices, and generous financial support. The seminary bill for our 22 seminarians during this academic year will be \$1,242,814.00. A successful seminary collection is critical to our effort to form future priests for our Archdiocese. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Jesus, teach us to love each other so that we can fill the world with your glory!

Taking The Vocation Cross... this weekend—Jim & Rosemary Ketteler. The week of Jan. 10—Roger & Pam Frickel.



*For Those Who Take Part...*in adoration, if there is ever a question due to weather concerns, please listen to KBRX.

*Many Thanks...*to all who helped with the following: church decorating, donation of poinsettias, liturgical ministers and organists/singers during the Christmas celebrations. May God bless you for sharing your time, talent & treasure with your fellow parishioners!

*Sometimes...*we can only accept a crisis as a mystery that God will one day explain to us...



Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties,

The first human word spoken in Matthew’s gospel is the one the wise men address to Herod: “Where . . .?” It is also the response of Herod when he summons the chief priests and scribes and his Jerusalem supporters. But the two questions are spoken from very different hearts. Herod is panic-stricken at the thought of losing his power to another “king of the Jews,” and is desperate to know “where” this threat lurks. It is some of the same camp that Matthew will later describe Herod as summoning to help him to plot the death of Jesus, and who will mock him on the cross (Matt 26:3-4; 27:41-43). In contrast, the wise men, Gentile (perhaps Persian) seekers and aristocratic scholars, have no concern with status or ethnicity; their “Where . . .?” is a sign of their genuine search for the new king so that they may come to pay him homage. They also have the humility to come to Jerusalem to add to their foreign and pagan wisdom the wisdom of the Hebrew Scriptures to help them in their search. In the wolfish company of Herod and his cohorts, Matthew sees the wise men as witnesses to the later call of Jesus for all his disciples to be “shrewd as serpents and simple as doves” (Matt 10:16; NABRE).

The search of the wise men from the East begins with a sign in the skies and the guiding wisdom of pagan astrology; it ends with a Child of earth to whom they are led by both the star and the light of the Hebrew Scriptures. Whether Matthew intended it or not, later tradition has seen in the gifts the magi bring a hint of the paschal mystery: the myrrh for embalming, the frankincense for fragrancng of sacrifices and burning before the holy of holies, the gold a fitting gift for a king.

Their human “dreams” fulfilled by their visit to the Child, God touches their spirit in a dream that warns them of Herod’s hypocrisy so that they do not return to Jerusalem to tell him the “where” of Jesus but return to their own country by another way.

When we place the magi in our Christmas crib, they are usually dressed in opulent robes and have black, yellow, and brown faces. For the number or the physical appearance of the wise men we have no biblical evidence, but the truth that their visit declares, and the symbolism that their presence in the crib proclaims, is the gospel truth that Jesus is king for all the nations of the earth. This is what we pray for in the words of the responsorial Psalm 72: the establishment of God’s kingdom of justice and peace throughout the world so that the rights of the poor and helpless are respected and the cries of the needy are answered.

In the story of the revelation of Jesus to the magi, what is revealed to us about our own eagerness or reluctance to seek God? What is our own ability to listen to the Word of God, our own discernment of hypocrisy and hunger for power, in ourselves, our world, our church? What is our own attitude to strangers and our appreciation of their wisdom? Do we make the refugees and asylum seekers welcome in the parish or as neighbors, or do we regard them as a threat to jobs, property values, national security, our own comfortable and myopic spiritual wisdom? How do we respond to the young people who are searching for their own stars to guide them in their “where” and “when” of something more in their lives? Where and when must there be both a “birth” and a “death” in our Christian lives as we gaze on the Christmas Child and recognize the mystery of the adult Christ for adult Christians?

Have a blessed Epiphany!

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor

Archbishop’s Annual Appeal---St. Joseph’s Parishioners are commended for reaching their goal of **\$9,098.00 with \$9,745.00 committed, (107.1%),** participation goal is 27% currently 22.6%.



- **Wed., Jan. 6**—Adoration, 9am—3pm. **CCD classes resume**
- **Weekend of Jan. 9/10**—Seminary collection
- **Jan. 10**—Remove Christmas decorations after 10:30 Mass

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...JAN. 9/10

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHCs	Kenny Tunender	Joe Skrdla
LECTORS	Tim Hamik	Landyn Mlady
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANISTS	Terri Vrooman	Volunteer
SERVERS		
USHERS		

THE LORD’S PORTION...12.25.20

Adult envelopes (23)	3,180.00
Loose checks (4)	1000.00
Immaculate Conc. (1)	10.00
Loose check (Sun) (1)	<u>25.00</u>
TOTAL	4,215.00
	12.27.20
Adult envelopes (11)	400.00
Christmas (5)	690.00
Online Giving (3)	314.70
Loose check (1)	<u>25.00</u>
TOTAL	1,429.70