

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Feast of the Epiphany

January 5, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The word **epiphany** comes from the Greek and means a revelation, manifestation or showing. The dictionary states that an **epiphany** is a "sudden recognition or insight into the meaning, reality or significance of something." Thus an **epiphany** is the manifestation of a profound reality. The shepherds in Bethlehem had an **epiphany** when the angels appeared to them announcing Jesus' birth. Today we commemorate the manifestation of Jesus to the non-Jewish world in the person of the Magi (a pagan cult who were experts in astrology, dream interpretation and the occult arts.) The Magi's primary work was to act as advisors to a king by studying the stars for messages from the various pagan gods.

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of the invisible God in a visible, human nature for the salvation of the entire world. We celebrate the truth that Jesus, son of Mary, **is** the Son of God. We celebrate the fact that Jesus **is** the Savior of all. That is its theological meaning but what has captured the imagination of people for centuries is the story of the journey of the Magi from the East seeking the new born king-Jesus. We don't know much about these astrologers as St. Matthew is the only Gospel writer who mentions them. We think of them as three because of the gifts they offered Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Over the centuries Christians have added all sorts of details to the Epiphany story. They have given to the Magi the names of Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar making one young, one middle age and one elderly. Christians also have posited that the Magi came from different parts of the world representing the gentile cultures in Arabia, Persia, and India.

The story of the journey of the Magi is a story about the ways in which God reveals Himself and even more about the different responses which His revelation receives. There are numerous **epiphanies** and manifestations of God in Scripture and in **our lives**. We can learn much about how to handle God's manifestations in our lives by following the Magi's example. Their pursuit was based on a sense of awe and wonder. They were going on a journey with a specific purpose in mind: to worship the new-born king. Their following a star (representing an encounter with God) can make us question our own direction in life. The Magi speak to us of that desire for God which is the heart of all of us. Like the Magi, we are called to be open to God's signs and go in search of a clearer vision of where those signs lead us. We too are called to offer ourselves with whatever gifts we have to our God. Finally we would do well to imitate the Magi's search for wisdom, which is our greatest intellectual value and the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit. To find wisdom we don't have to travel far but rather we only have to journey into the depths of our heart and soul.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 4 4:00 p.m Theda Hankish, George Donaldson

Sun Jan 5 10:00 a.m. Sue Schlumbohm

Sat Jan 11 4:00 p.m Jim and Ruth Baderstcher

Sun Jan 12 10:00 a.m. Dennis Warren

Communion Service

Fri Jan 10 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$3,076.00 Loose \$1284.00

Children \$19.00 Total \$3,661.00

59 envelopes returned = 28%

Christmas Collection to Date: \$8,608.75

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!



Assignments for January 11 & 12, 2020

Money Counters: Deb Goldenetz and Chad Wolford

4:00 p.m. – please sign the sheet in the main entrance

Greeters: The Kaufman Family

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Chuck Niese and Dave Siefker

Lector: _____

E.M.: Jerry Wehri, _____, _____

Servers: Shylee and Ronald Kaufman

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers: _____

Lectors: Jane Bowerman

E.M.: Wes Lovett, Noralu Kahle, Ron Bowerman,

_____, _____

Servers: Lovett Boys

Readings for January 12, 2019

The Baptism of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1 – 4, 6 – 7

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34 – 38

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13 – 17

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Thank you to those who have signed up to be a liturgical minister for the first quarter (Jan-Mar). If you have not yet done so, please see the sheet in the main entrance. **If you cannot volunteer this quarter**, please contact the office or email rawelch47@yahoo.com

Christmas Tear Down will be Thursday, January 9th at 6p.m. All are welcome to join! The more hands, the quicker the work goes! Thanks again to the many that were here to help set everything up.



Offertory Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the main entrance. If you have not gotten them in the past and would like to receive a box, please put your name on the sheet and they will be ready for you next weekend.



Online Giving If you would like to give online, please visit our website and click on "E-Giving" under the "Home" tab. Create your profile and set up the amount and rate at which you'd like to give. If you have questions, please contact the office.

Holy Communion for the Sick at St. Rita's

Visiting the sick is one of the corporal works of mercy, and bringing Holy Communion to people in the hospital is a great way to practice this. St. Rita's Medical Center is looking for volunteer Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to share the sacrament with patients. The Medical Center would provide orientation and training. If you are interested in serving the sick, please contact Matt Etkorn, Spiritual Care Director at (419) 226 – 9531. Thank you, Fr. Charles Obinwa and Matt Etkorn

Community meal Thank you to all who donated items and/or served at the dinner. A special thank you to Greg and Edna Conkling for all the work they put into this event.

Council Meetings Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday, January 7th and the Finance Council will meet on Tuesday, January 21st (*please note*: this is a change from what the calendar shows)

Volunteer Appreciation Supper



On Sunday, January 19, at 6:00 p.m., in the social hall, we will gather to celebrate our many volunteers who work together to make St. Mary's the wonderful parish that it is. This year our theme is "Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord". Don't forget to sign up!! The sign-up sheet is on the shelf in the main entrance.

Improving a marriage takes time and a conscious effort to learn about your spouse. Growing closer in a marriage does not happen automatically.

Retrouvaille is a marriage program dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a stronger bond. You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between your work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage?

Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together. The next weekend in our area is January 24 – 26, 2020. For more information, contact: Joe and Arlene @ 419-481-1116 or visit our website: **HelpOurMarriage.com**

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word resumes today, January 5th, during the 10 a.m. Mass

K-6: Class resumes this Wednesday, January 8th from 6:30 – 7:30

Jr High: Class is today, January 5th, from 11 - 1



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet for class today, January 5th!