

St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The word **epiphany** comes from the Greek and means a revelation or manifestation. For Christians, today's feast is the manifestation of Jesus as Son of God, Messiah, and Savior of the world. Today's feast commemorates Jesus' manifestation to the non-Jewish world in the persons of the Magi. The Magi were priests of a pagan cult who were experts in astrology, dream interpretation, and other occult arts. Their primary work was to act as advisors to a king and his court by studying the stars, looking for messages from pagan gods.



Today's feast celebrates the manifestation of our invisible, divine God in a visible human nature for the salvation and redemption of the world. We celebrate and rejoice in the truth that Mary's son, Jesus, is the Son of God. That is the theological meaning of today's feast but what has captured people's interest and imagination for years is the story of the Magi's journey to Bethlehem. These wise Gentiles, who could read the signs of the times, followed a divine star and came to pay homage to the infant Jesus. They refer to Jesus as "the newborn king of the Jews" and recognized Him as God's presence on earth. In contrast, the reigning king of the Jews, Herod the Great, was totally unaware of Jesus' birth or what His birth might mean.

We don't know much about the Magi since St. Matthew is the only Gospel writer who mentions them. However, over the years, Christians have added all sorts of details to the Epiphany story. Christians have dubbed the Magi with the title of the Three Wise Men for the three gifts they offered the infant Jesus: gold (kingship), frankincense (divinity), and myrrh (redemptive suffering). The Magi have also been given the names of Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

The story of the Magi's journey is a story about the ways in which God reveals His very self to people and the different responses which His revelation receives. The Magi's journey is symbolic of **our own** journey in discovering God. The Magi's journey was long, tedious, and difficult as they followed a star which led them to Jesus. At times, our journey in discovering God can be tedious and difficult as we look for signs of God being in our midst. The Magi recognized God's presence in the baby Jesus and we recognize God's presence in the Holy Eucharist.

Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 2	4:00 p.m	Ed Murphy
Sun Jan 3	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Jan 3	10:00 a.m	Robert Blake, Ed + Rita Wenger
Sat Jan 9	4:00 p.m	Intentions of the Schroeder Family
Sun Jan 10	8:00 a.m.	Living and deceased members of Eric + Marla Santomieri Family
Sun Jan 10	10:00 a.m	Urban Selhorst

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,100.00	Loose \$187.50
	Total	\$3,287.50

34 envelopes returned = 16%

Christmas Collection to date: \$8,990.00

Thank you for your generosity!

*Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for January 9 & 10, 2021

Money Counters: Deb Goldenetz, Tonya Meyer
4:00 p.m.

Cantor:
Ushers: Dave and Shirley Siefker
Lector: Jason Swartzlander
E.M.: Jeanne Parinello
Servers: Evan Grothause

8:00 a.m.

Cantor:
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor:
Ushers: Mike and Rhonda Maag
Lectors: Anna Schroeder
E.M.: Jim Tabler
Servers: Ethan Hoffman

Readings for January 10, 2021

The Baptism of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1 – 11

2nd Reading: 1 John 5:1 – 9

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:7 – 11

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...The Magi presented their unique gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus and we present to Jesus the gift He wants most - our loving selves with Him. The Magi returned home taking away a treasure that surpassed anything that they brought as they were filled with delight in their encounter with Jesus. In the Eucharist we receive the greatest gift of all - Jesus' Real Presence. The Magi were enriched by their intimate encounter with the Baby Jesus and they shared their experience with others. Every time we receive the Eucharist we are blessed and we are encouraged to share this truth with whomever we meet.

Like the Magi, we are called to be open to God's revelation of Himself and search for a clearer vision of what God is asking us to do. We would do well to imitate the Magi and search for wisdom and understanding which are the gifts 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. To find God we only have to come and celebrate the Eucharist as God **always** reveals Himself in a very tangible and real way. Have a blessed and happy 2021.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

New Parish Office Hours: Starting on January 4th the office hours will be:
Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The office will be closed on Mondays

Daily Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9 a.m.



YouTube Page To watch our Masses online, please go to our YouTube page at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqK-4_hQ9QbgP7sH4EhD9YA Be sure to click the "Subscribe" button while you are on our page so you don't miss out on any of our uploads!

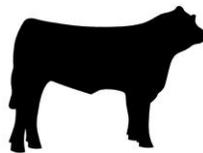
We are still unable to live-stream at this time, but a recording of the Sunday Mass will be uploaded each week to our YouTube page, and the link will be shared on our website and Facebook page.

We congratulate Elizabeth Tabler and Jacob Dunn who were married here this weekend. May God bless you all the days of your life and may our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph watch over and protect you always.



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.

Offertory Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the main entrance. Please be **very** attentive of the name on your box! Some numbers have changed this year. If you cannot find yours, please ask the office before taking any. 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.



The St. Mary's Catholic Youth is selling tickets to raffle off 1/4 beef to raise funds for summer camp next summer. Beef is donated by 6-K. Tickets are \$20.00. It's an approximate \$600 value.

- 2nd prize - Oil change from Leiber's Garage,
- 3rd prize - Luke's Gift Card
- 4th prize - Strattons/Roots Gift Card
- 5th prize - Twisted Whisk Gift Card

The winner will be drawn January 10th. Beef will be available around January 21st and will need to be picked up by the winner from Rodabaugh Meats in Pandora. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please see the students in the entrances after Mass! Thank you for your support.

P.R.E.P

K-5: Class will meet this Wednesday, Jan. 6 for K, 1, 2, and 5 from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Jr High: Don't forget about your take home work in place of today's class. Happy New Year!



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet today from 11-12:45