

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**JANUARY 3, 2021**

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for January 10<sup>th</sup> The Baptism of the Lord

*Isaiah 55:1-11*

Those who thirst are invited to “come to the water”.

*1 John 5:1-9*

Christian life requires both faith in Jesus and love of other people.

*Mark 1:7-11*

Mark’s Gospel starts with the “good news” of Jesus’ baptism at the beginning of his ministry.

## WEEKDAY MASSES January 5 - 8

Tues: 5:00 pm +Dennis Lyons

Wed: 8:40 am **School Mass** +Jim Kempel

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Mike Sauer

Fri: 12:05 am +Kathryn Shablow

## WEEKEND MASSES January 9 – 10

Sat: St. Edward’s - Nekoma NO MASS AT NEKOMA TODAY

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus +Mike Gellner  
Reader: Holly Lyons  
EMHC: Holly Lyons

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Lina Hamann & People of the Parishes  
Reader: Carleen Schill  
EMHC: Alan Schill  
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

St. Michael’s – Wales NO MASS AT WALES TODAY

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Pat Schuler  
Reader: George Podhradsky  
EMHC: Dennis Schill  
Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Fellowship Hall Host: Duane & Bev Otto

Fr. Michael Hickin’s cell phone: 701-891-1238

Website for St. Alphonsus Parish – <http://www.stalphonsuslangdon.com/>

Confessions: Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays after Mass or  
by appointment

**Weekly Reflection for Christmas and December 27, 2020:** This week’s  
reflection of the parishioner’s relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$6,479.00
Intentional Givers	\$100.00
Plate	\$745.00
Children	\$302.00
Improvements	\$20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,646.00</b>

# The Epiphany of the Lord

The journey of the magi was, perhaps, just as dangerous. Herod was alarmed that anyone should be looking for a new king and nearly caught them in a murderous trap. Theirs, too, was a journey into unknown territory, for the wise men were not Jews but strangers in the land. All they knew was that they must search for the great king of ancient prophecy whose star they had seen rising in the east. They expected, perhaps, to find some majestic potentate, but the star led them away from Jerusalem and shone over a humble dwelling. There they found a young mother and her baby. Entering with awe, they realized that this lowly place was where God had come to dwell with humankind. Jesus was more than a Jewish king: he was destined to rule the hearts of all people of goodwill.

The mysterious visitors to that stable in Bethlehem teach us what it is to live by faith. Committed and persevering, poring over ancient scriptures and searching the night skies, theirs was a lifelong quest for meaning. They were courageous, too, setting out without knowing their destination. It was the kind of faith that lets go of expectations. They went looking for a king, but did not go away disappointed when they found God at home amongst the poorest people. Before this gracious child, they fell to their knees in wonder. They offered him their all.

Taken from The Living Word

## Epiphany of the Lord

*"..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - MATTHEW 2:11*

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

**Giving Hearts Day:** St. Alphonsus School will participate in its first Giving Hearts Day in February. Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour fundraising event for non-profits in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. Since the first event in 2008, generous donors have given more than \$90 million – 100% of which goes directly to participating charities.

**Wanted! Match donors.** We are looking for up to 7 donors for our \$7,000 match pool, please contact Carrie at 256-2354 or email at [carrie.hope@k12.nd.us](mailto:carrie.hope@k12.nd.us).

**Wanted! Giving Hearts Day donors!** Donate online any time on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021 at [givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org). Checks are also welcome on the day of the event, they must be dated February 11 and can be dropped off at our school. We will reserve special parking spots in front of our school for Giving Hearts Day donors who wish to donate in person.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** - Normally, Christmas decorations remain up in church until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which ends the Christmas season and begins Ordinary Time. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (Candlemas Day), February 2, is the last feast celebrating Jesus' infancy. For this reason, a few decorations, like the Christmas tree in the foyer with the family ornaments and Sleeping Joseph, will remain up until February 2.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee:** We are starting a committee to plan our big 100<sup>th</sup> celebration weekend in July of 2021. We know that plans can change, but we want to be prepared to welcome alumni home if we are able to do so. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Carrie at 256-2354 or email at [carrie.hope@k12.nd.us](mailto:carrie.hope@k12.nd.us).

**St. Edward's Church cleaning for January/February**— Bonita Erickson & Karla Mack

**Discover what every couple needs to know and what every woman has the right to know!** Do you or do you know someone who struggles with painful periods, irregular cycles, miscarriages, infertility or wants to avoid a pregnancy? Are you ready to use a system of fertility awareness that is 100% natural and can be used to help with all the issues listed above? Jen Lagein, FCPI offers an instructional course in the Creighton Model System of FertilityCare, scientifically proven to be as effective as any hormonal birth control in avoiding pregnancy and three times more effective than IVF in achieving pregnancy. Call Jen Lagein at 701-367-6386 for an Introductory Session.

Knights of Columbus will be collecting non perishable food items for the Cavalier County Food Pantry. There is a purple plastic tote at the back of the church.

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Catholic Daughters – NO meetings until further notice

There will be an Altar Society meeting on Tuesday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The Constitution will be read at this meeting.

**Lector and EMHC Schedule is in the sacristy. Please take your copy; it will not be mailed out.**

Here are addresses if you would like to send them a card:

Seth Skjervheim  
Mt. St. Mary's Seminary  
16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Sean Gette  
1<sup>st</sup> RTBN BRAVO CO PLT 1034  
39011 Midway Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92140-5640

**A BIG THANK YOU - HEARTY** thanks to all those who sent well-wishes, cards, & goodies to your pastor over these beautiful, solemn days of Christmas.

Special Thanks to our Choir who filled our ears with delight and the Environment folks who made the church look so lovely.

Christmas is about God becoming human. Humans are spirits who grow through experiences of the five senses. Christ wanted to be touched, heard, and beheld. Decking out our homes and churches in fanfare is how we Christians extend the meaning of the Word Made Flesh into our daily lives. Thanks for doing such a great job of it!

**"EPIPHANY"** is Greek for "manifestation" or "appearance". We speak of having an *epiphany*, a moment when 'a lightbulb' goes on inside the head. An 'epiphany' is an experience of things appearing in a new light.

In Bethlehem, the Magi (outsiders, non-Israelites) encountered the mystery of Christ. The Epiphany message is that the appearance of the world's Savior is good news for the whole human race. Christ enters upon the world's stage. Yet, it can only happen one meeting at a time. This Sunday we recognize the meeting between this Infant Savior and three representatives from the ends of the Earth.

Is our home a meeting place with Jesus, the Savior of the whole world? Here's a way to remind ourselves of that and celebrate it—the Epiphany home blessing.

Using chalk blessed at Mass, each family is invited to use the following formula to bless their homes.

### ***EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING***

**All:** *Make the Sign of the Cross.*

**Leader:** "Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord."

**All:** Blessed be God forever.

**Reader:** In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth (John 1:1-3.14).

*Using the blessed chalk, write on the lintel above one or more of your household doorways (each number/letter could be written by a different member of the family):*

*The first half of the current year: + 20*

*Then the three letters: C + M + B*

*Lastly, write the other half of the year: 21 +*

*It should look something like this: + 20 C + M + B 18 +*

*The initials stand for **Christus mansionem benedicat**, which is Latin for "May Christ bless this house". They also recall the traditional names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, Balthazor.*

**FINAL PRAYER:**

**LEADER:** Lord God of heaven and earth,  
you revealed your beloved Son  
to every nation by the guidance of a star.

**Bless this house and all who dwell here.**

**May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart,  
gentleness and the keeping of your law.**

**ALL: Amen**