

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)

Floyd Helgoe, Fr. Finnestad, Loretta Lovcik, John Christianson, Betty Novak, Pauline Dusek, Patricia Rodvold, Jane Zidon, Marla Zidon, Dorothy Snell, Heidi Gustafson, Adriane Wellman, Isabelle Copeland, Tracy Letzring, Kelly Morrison, Jody Deibert, Allison Bleick, Dale Hultin, Bob McCartney, Lonnie Guderjahn, Susie Dimsha, Sherry McDonald, Shelbie Goodoien, Oliver Goodoien, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O'Toole, Ruth Rieger, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Mae Jackson, Carol Smith, Mary Louise, Bernard & Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Brett & Rick Letzring, Jane Grazadzieleski, Rick Kilichowski, Donald Denault & Gary Olson.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION! On January 6th, we dive into Chapter Twelve! High school is at St. Patrick.

ST PATRICK ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pray the Rosary: Sun at 8:00 AM. **Adoration with Confessions:** Sat at 8:00 AM. **More Confessions:** Sun 8:00 AM. **January Church Cleaners:** PAUL & SHERRY O'TOOLE, SCOTT & MARY SALWEI & ASHLEY JOHNSON. **Collection:** Al & Scott (Jan 3); Don & Duane (Jan 10). **Reader:** Jim (January). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Larry Dumas (Jan 3); Leroy Daley (Jan 10). **Sacristan:** Duane (Jan 3); Scott (Jan 10). **Rosary:** Mary T (Jan 3); Mary S (Jan 10)

ST BRIGID ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray the Rosary: Sundays at 10:00 AM. **Adoration with Confessions:** Wed and Fri at 11:00 AM; **More Confessions:** SAT. 4-5:00 PM, MON 5-5:15 PM. **January Church cleaners:** L-R. **Collection:** Lynette & Cathy C (Jan 3); Doug & Gary (Jan 10). **Readers (Jan):** Sat-Brain S; Sun.-Matt F. **Sanctuary Lamp:** Holly & Megan Puppe (Jan 3); Benjamin Puppe and Arni Johnson (Jan 10)

Reminder: The 2021 Calendars are available. **Also:** Church envelopes for 2021 are available too.

Prayer for Our Country: every Friday at 6:00 pm at St. Brigid

Mon	St Elizabeth Ann Seton	Jan 4	5:15 pm	St Brigid	+Dorothy Scholler
Tues	St John Neumann	Jan 5	8:00 am	St Patrick	+Vernice DeMars
Wed	St Andre Bessette	Jan 6	Noon	St Brigid	+William Thomasson
Thur	St Raymond of Penyafort	Jan 7	8:00 am	St Patrick	+Dolores & Arni Johnson
Fri		Jan 8	Noon	St Brigid	+Clayton Motl
Sat		Jan 9	9:00 am	St Patrick	St Brigid & St Patrick parishes
			5:00 pm	St Brigid	+Ray & Florence Robinson
Sun	The Baptism of the Lord	Jan 10	8:30 am	St Patrick	+Kenneth Yan
			10:30 pm	St Brigid	St Brigid & St Patrick parishes

Stewardship (as of 12-27-20)	St Brigid	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
Adult Envelope	3,670.00	345.00	St Patrick's Care Collection Dec 2020		265.00
Plate	65.00		God's Gift Appeal Goal 2020	23,768.00	8,928.00
Weekly Total	3,735.00	345.00	God's Gift Appeal Actual	14,653.82	6,897.02
Yearly Actual Total	113,24.48	42,638.09	Percent of Members Participating	49%	73%
LAST YEAR TOTALS at this time	112,624.83	44,788.42	Christmas	3,241.00	905.00
Monthly Envelope Building Fund	855.00		Cemetery	3,440.00	5,638.50
St Pat Tuckpointing \$54,955.00			Care & Share	210.00	199.00
St Patrick Sidewalk Repair \$11,080.00	Total Cost	66,035.00	Immaculate Conception	265.00	75.00
Funds Raised for both Projects		60,788.90	St Bernard Cemetery		235.00
Monthly Envelopes Building Fund		5,801.00	St Anthony Cemetery	1020.00	
Balance needed for Sidewalk Repair		Paid	St Helen Cemetery	970.00	

Pastor: Fr. Charles LaCroix
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The Epiphany of the Lord
St Brigid & St Patrick
January 3, 2021

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THE MAGI AND HEROD
(Herod Symbolizes the State)

The deepest meaning of the visit of the Magi has *yet to be seen*. Coming from the **Gentile** world, in search of the king of the Jews, they naturally went to the palace of *King Herod* to find out where the new monarch of the Jewish people was born. Of course the **Magi** came to Herod in good faith. It was not only a star in the heavens but nothing less than a special, even mystical inspiration which led them to Palestine in search of the Messiah.

Little did they know what fear they inspired in Herod's heart when he heard that a new king of the Jews had come into the world. They were told to go to **Bethlehem**. But remember, Herod himself had to ask the Jewish leaders where the Messiah was to be born. He did not know. In fact, he *did not want to know*. When the priests and scribes told him that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, you would expect them to be the first ones to go to Bethlehem and discover this infant whom the prophets had foretold.

Herod's reaction to the information he received about the place where the *Messiah* was to be born is nothing less than a profound mystery. From Herod on until Good Friday, the story of Jesus Christ was the same. The *political powers* in what we have come to call the *Holy Land* were in open **opposition** to the Savior of the world.

No sooner did Christ come into the world than He had to be taken out of Palestine, in the dead of night, **to escape** the murderous envy of the tyrant Herod. When Herod died, Jesus returned to where He had been conceived at *Nazareth*. We commonly speak of His thirty years of hidden life at Nazareth. Not so. It was not a hidden life but a life in hiding. Christ had to remain in secret seclusion for three decades in order to avoid the envious hatred from a hostile political power.

No sooner did Jesus begin His **public** ministry than He aroused the hostility of the leaders of the *Chosen People*. They allowed Him less than three years to proclaim His message of salvation during what we call His public ministry. The very miracles that He performed were the last straw.

No sooner did He raise the dead Lazarus from the grave than the *Scribes and Pharisees* decided on appealing to the **State** to have the Author of Life crucified. What happened at Christ's birth has been going on for the past **twenty** centuries. It will continue during all the centuries of Christian history *until the end of time*.

Our own country is a tragic example of what this means. We commonly, but erroneously, speak of **separation** of *Church and State* in America. Not really. It is rather **subordination** of Church to State. The interests of the *State* are paramount, and the Church dare not compete with these interests at the risk of being opposed and, if necessary, being destroyed by the **State**. As the State successfully pursues its aims, it **cannot** on principle allow the Catholic Church to threaten its political supremacy.

Again as the State becomes more *secularized*, that is more worldly, it considers the Catholic Church to be its greatest **threat**. Why? Because the Church believes that human beings exist indeed in this world but their destiny is in a *heavenly eternity in union with God*. In the defense of its secular interests, the **State** feels compelled to resist what it considers rival competitors, by ignoring their interests, by dulling their influence and, if necessary suppressing their rights. Among these competitors in our country, the Catholic Church is considered the **arch-rival** of the secularized State.

The State can achieve this result, either **directly** by executive mandate, by restrictive legislation or judicial decision; or **indirectly** by encouraging such domestic rivalry within the Catholic Church as to weaken if not erase her effective impact on the State. So the litany of subordination of Church to State goes on. It all **began** with the visit of the Magi to the Christ child in Bethlehem. It reached its **climax** during Christ's visible stay on earth when Pilate condemned the Savior to a merciless death on *Calvary*. It is **going on** in one nation after another, including our own beloved United States.

Just one closing observation. Nothing ever happened in the life of Christ during His visible stay on earth that was not meant for all times. Epiphany means "*manifestation*." The **first** Epiphany was the manifestation of how Jesus Christ had to escape to Egypt to keep from being murdered by *Herod*. **To this day**, the Epiphany manifests how the followers of Christ are treated by those who wield political power in *opposition* to the teachings of Christ.

(From: *The Real Presence Association*)