



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 GCD.

The Epiphany of the Lord

“Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.’” How strange to journey so far for perhaps so little. Of course the magi go to the capitol city. Of course they entreat with King Herod. Of course this is where they expect newborn royalty to be. But where is the child? “In Bethlehem of Judea,” the scribes say. And so the magi go on to what is yet another Christmas miracle.

We don’t know where the magi met the Christ Child, but it cannot have been lavish. Perhaps it was the stable. Perhaps it was a small hovel Joseph had found to wait out the census. But it would have been the home of a laborer, worn and threadbare. Here, in this unassuming abode, the magi are still “overjoyed...they prostrated themselves and did him homage.”

Have you ever gotten to the end of a great work and found the results to be underwhelming? How did you respond? Were you disappointed or elated at God’s providence and your upended expectations? The magi journeyed hundreds of miles over treacherous terrain to pay homage to royalty they have seen prophesied in the stars. They encountered an ordinary family displaced from their home. This Sunday, the magi are an example for us. Can we see God in the unexpected? Do we encounter Him in the person who doesn’t fit our expectations of propriety? Do we revere Christ’s presence in the poor? Or do we expect to meet God only in places of honor and esteem? This week, ask God for the grace to honor Him in the unexpected places and unassuming people. He is waiting for you!

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The Epiphany of the Lord
January 6, 2019

SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH

607 South Jackson St.
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

St. Alphonsus Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish, strengthened by Word and Sacrament, strive to live out Jesus Christ’s call to discipleship by worshiping faithfully, serving willingly, and growing spiritually.

Parish Staff

Pastor.....Fr. Paul Connolly.....385-8410
Office Manager Vicki Lohmann.....385-8410
Director of Music Carmen Heaton.....385-9342
Adult Faith Form/RE Cdtr....Margi Mountz.....385-4937
Confirmation Contact.....Ted Mountz.....385-4937
Custodian Russell Hill.....385-8410

Parish Council President.....Bob Cardoni
Finance Council President...Tom Holtkamp

Weekend Mass Schedule... Saturday 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 and 11:00 AM

Daily Mass Schedule...Monday NO Mass,
Tuesday—7:00 AM, Wednesday—5:30 PM,
Thursday and Friday Noon Mass

Confessions...Saturday 4:30 PM or by appointment.

Eucharistic Devotion:

Friday Adoration: 9:00 AM to Noon

Monthly Adoration: 1st Thursday Noon to 9:00 PM

Rosary: Led by KC Members, 7:30 AM Sundays

Parish Office Phone (319) 385-8410
RE Office..... (319) 385-4937
Manning Hall.....(319) 385-0544
Church fax.....(319)385-0545
Church Emailstalphonsus@windstream.net
St. Alphonsus Web Site..https://stalphonsus.weconnect.com

MASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK				
	Mass time	Mass Intention	Saint of the Day	Readings for the day
Mon, Jan 7	NO MASS		St. Raymond of Penyafort	1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tue, Jan 8	7:00 AM	Ron Thompson †	Weekday	1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
Wed, Jan 9	5:30 PM	Jody Bair †	Weekday	1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
Thu, Jan 10	12:00 PM	Sue Rodruck †	Weekday	1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
Fri, Jan 11	12:00 PM	Jim Watson †	Weekday	1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
Sat, Jan 12	5:30 PM	Jack Hawks †		
Sun, Jan 13	8:00 AM	For Parishioners	The Baptism of the Lord	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
	11:00 AM	Deceased members of Moothart Family †		

MINISTERS FOR JANUARY 12 & 13

LECTORS

- 5:30 PM Mary Ann Messer
- 8:00 AM Theresa Rose
- 11:00 AM Mary Lou Perry

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

- 5:30 PM Team D Jerry Keeley
- 8:00 AM Team E Ken Feldmann
- 11:00 AM Team F Judy Warning

SERVER

- 5:30 PM Ajay/Alexis Wagner
- 8:00 AM Chris Dyar/Jordan Watznauer
- 11:00 AM Jackie/Katherine Tansey

USHERS

- 5:30 PM Todd/Audra Gerleman
- 8:00 AM Denny Heaton/John Newton
- 11:00 AM Robb/Tyler Gardner

GREETERS

- 5:30 PM Karen Stevens/Cathy Lampe
- 8:00 AM Doris Grilliot/Joann Mallams
- 11:00 AM John/Judy Warning

Inspiration for the Week

We all have had the experience of walking into a dark room and searching for the light switch. If we are really unfamiliar with the space, anxiety, uncertainty, disorientation, and even fear can easily arise. Once we find the light, all is illuminated and we are at peace. Our light has come into the world! The glory of God has been revealed! Today's feast of the Epiphany teaches us to look to our Savior, Jesus Christ, for the way to truly be the human beings we were created to be. He shows us how to prioritize our lives, order our relationships, care for creation, and live as daughters and sons of God. God's love and creative power is universal, transcending all races and nations. Jesus brings the light of peace to a broken world that still struggles to understand itself and to you and I who also struggle to understand who we are. May we find ourselves overjoyed that we have found our truth and allow Jesus to bring light to the darkness of our lives!

Keep the Confirmation II Class in Your Prayers

On March 31, 2019 fourteen Confirmation II students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep these students in your prayers as they continue their faith journey: Samuel Carrasco, Sawyer Carrasco, Jacob Fry, Joseph Holtkamp, Grace Kelley, Reed Kemper, Desiree Leonardo, Sophia Lopreato, Katie McCormick, Molly McLaughlin, Thomas Schnicker, Kaylee Shelman, Avery Sutter, and Chase Williamson.

Offertory for December 29 & 30

Envelopes.....	2328.00
Offertory.....	291.02
Fuel Collection	<u>50.00</u>
Total.....	2669.02

Thank you!

Your donations make our ministries possible!

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan 6	Mon, Jan 7	Tues, Jan 8	Wed, Jan 9	Thurs, Jan 10	Fri, Jan 11	Sat, Jan 12
Rosary, 7:30 am Mass, 8:00 & 11:00 am KC Breakfast, 9:00 am Homebound Ministers-Team 2	NO MASS	Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am Mass, 7:00 am RCIA, 1:00 pm Quilters, 6:00 pm Social Action, 6:30 pm	Women Scrip, 9:30 am Mass 5:30 pm Choir practice, 6:30 pm RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm	Mass, Noon	Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass at Park Place, 10:00 am Mass, Noon	Confessions— 4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm Blest Art here this weekend
Sunday, Jan 13 Rosary, 7:30 am Mass, 8:00 & 11:00 am Liturgy donuts, 9:00 am RE Class K-8th, 9:30 am Spanish Mass, 2:00 pm Homebound Ministers-Team 3	NO MASS	Tues, Jan 15 Men Scrip, 6:00 am Women Scrip, 6:00 am Mass, 7:00 am Prayer Shawl, 2:00 pm Finance meeting, 4:30 Quilters, 6:00 pm	Wed, Jan 16 Women Scrip, 9:30 am Mass, 5:30 pm Choir practice, 6:30 pm RE Class K-8th and Confirmation I & II, 6:45 pm	Thurs, Jan 17 Mass, Noon	Fri, Jan 18 Adoration 9 am-Noon Mass, Noon	Sat, Jan 19 Confessions— 4:30-5:00 pm Mass 5:30 pm

Help Support Christian Families in Bethlehem

Blest Art will be visiting our parish on behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine. Our mission is to support those families in the Holy Land.

For centuries, the Christians in and around Bethlehem have earned a living by carving religious olive wood art to sell to visiting pilgrims. Fewer pilgrims are journeying to the Holy Land today, making it difficult for those Christians to support their families. As a result, there has been a dramatic rise in Christian emigration from the Holy Land. Now, less than 1% of the population in the Holy Land is Christians.

Blest Art Inc helps the struggling families of Bethlehem by marketing their artwork in the United States. Due to this work many families maintain their livelihood and their ancestral homes in the land of our Lord.

Please visit the display the weekend of January 12th and 13th after each Mass.

Spend the Weekend Away with your Spouse

Give your spouse the perfect gift, the gift of quality time with you for an entire weekend. Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends allow couples private time to focus on their relationship and rediscover the one they fell in love with. Sign up for upcoming weekends to ensure your spot. Gift certificates are available by calling the phone number below. Upcoming dates: Mar 8-10 LaCrosse, WI; Apr 12-14 Ankeny, IA; May 3-5 Dubuque, IA For more information visit our website at: iowa-wwme.org or call 563-608-3305 or email jljwwme08@gmail.com

Pilgrimage to Greece with Father Marty Goetz

Footprints and Flyaways with Heather presents a pilgrimage to Greece, in the Footsteps of St. Paul, including a 4 day cruise to Mykonos, Crete, Santorini and more with Father Marty Goetz. The dates of the pilgrimage is September 16-27, 2019. For more information, contact Heather Tieman 319-759-4508 or faithflyaways@gmail.com.

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

“The Story of the Other Wise Man” by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to “the least of these” he has actually given to Jesus himself.

If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man’s constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go.

If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places.

News from the Fellowship Cup

Thursdays are always a heavy physical and emotional day for our organization meeting the needs of the community we serve. I stop and pray with our clients/volunteers a lot on Thursdays. Today after praying for a client's husband who has a severe heart ailment, I thought that We as a Faith Based organization need to take advantage of the weapon we have in Spiritual Warfare. I would like to ask the community for prayer warriors to meet here on Thursdays 10 AM - 12 PM once a month or more to pray with and for our clients after they have received their food. I could use help in finding those warriors through your own churches if you could please ask. They can contact me @ 385-3242 and we can meet to set up a schedule.

Ken Brown with the Fellowship Cup

RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH

The North Lee County Right to Life group will be hosting the annual Right to Life March. The March will be held on Saturday, January 26th at 10:00 a.m. The start of the March is at 10th Street and Avenue F, in Fort Madison. Dress warmly and bring your family and friends to support the right to all human life, from conception to natural death. Refreshments will be available at McAleer Hall after the March.


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