

Ss. Mary and Paul Parish

Mineral Point, Wisconsin



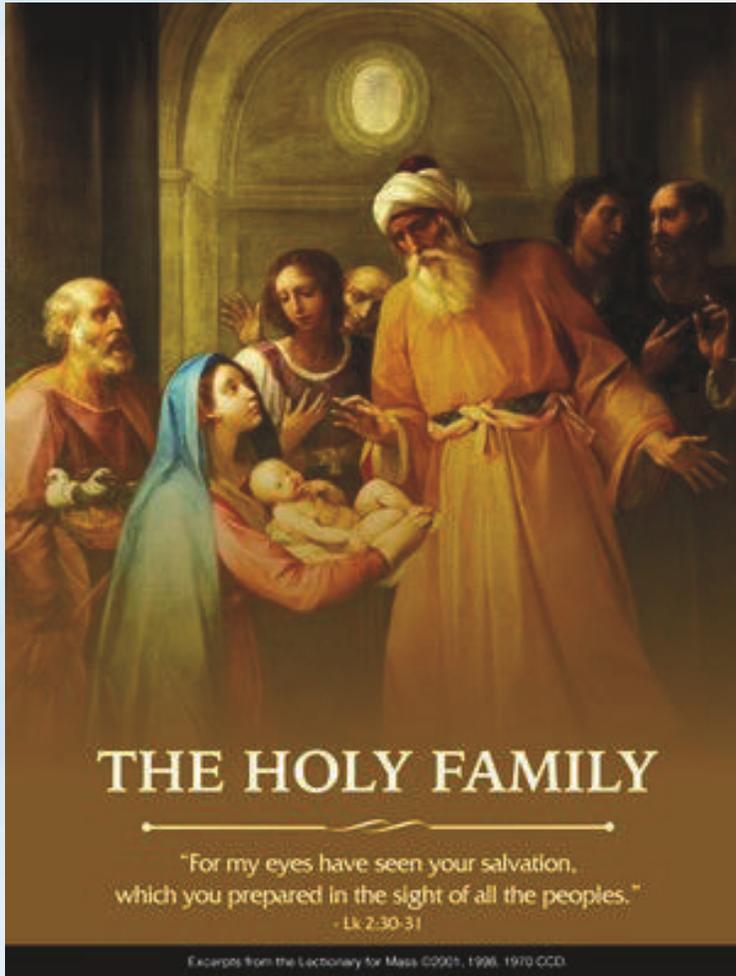
St. Philomena Parish

Belmont, Wisconsin

Father Michael Tarigopula, Pastor

DECEMBER 27, 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Ss. Mary and Paul Parish Catholic Center

224 Davis Street • Mineral Point, WI 53565
Phone & Fax 608-987-3361
E-mail stmarypaul@msn.com
Website stmarysstpauls.org
Online Bulletin www.seekandfind.com
Hours: ... Mon., Tues., Wed., 8:00 am- 3:00 pm

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. Michael 608-987-2026 or frmichael94@gmail.com
Secretary, Kris Potterton 608-987-3361
DRE, Paula Schuette 608-987-3361
Music/Liturgy, Caleb Mitchell 608-987-3361



St. Philomena Parish

Parish Office

338 Chestnut Street • Belmont, WI 53510
Phone 608-762-5446
E-mail st.philomena5446@gmail.com
Website belmontcatholic.weebly.com
Online Bulletin www.seekandfind.com

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. Michael 608-987-2026 or frmichael94@gmail.com
DRE, Jamie Dreger 608-762-5446
Bookkeeper, Tim Dreger 608-762-5446
Secretary, Veronica Reske 608-762-5446



Holy Sacraments



Baptism

Saturdays after the 5:00 pm Mass in Mineral Point and Sundays after the 10:30 am Mass in Belmont.

Marriages

Contact Rectory at least one year prior to wedding.

Reconciliation

4:00-4:30 pm every Saturday; 4:30-4:50 pm every Tuesday; 7:00-7:25 am Thursday and Friday in Mineral Point.

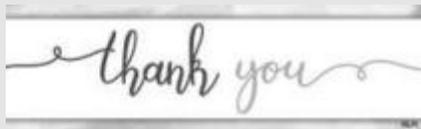
Wednesdays after the 8:30 am Mass and Sundays after the 10:30 am Mass in Belmont.



Do You Know the Meaning Behind the 12 Days of Christmas?

When you hear about "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the popular English Christmas carol likely pops into your head. But this fun Christmas song actually holds a much deeper meaning for Catholics. It's way more than a repetitive melody of a list of strange gifts. From 1558 to 1829, Roman Catholics in England were prohibited from practicing their faith, both openly and privately. It was a crime to even be a Catholic during this time. The "Twelve Days of Christmas" was written during that era as a catechism song for young Catholics. This traditional Christmas carol has two levels of meaning. There's the surface meaning of the actual gifts, and then there is the hidden meaning only known to members of the Church. Each element to the song has a code word for a religious belief to make it easy for the children to remember. First, the 12 days to the song are a representation of the time between the two major Christmas feasts. We celebrate the Nativity of the Lord on December 25 and Epiphany on January 6. And each of the gifts stand as hidden meanings to the teachings of the Catholic faith. It is also important to note that the "true love" giving the gifts each day in the song is not just any man or woman in our life, the "true love" we sing about represents God. And the "me" receiving gifts refers to every baptized person. When singing the carol, the first gift we receive is the partridge in a pear tree. This represents Jesus Christ. On the first day of Christmas, God gave us his only Son. Jesus is represented with this gift because a partridge is willing to do anything to protect its young from injury and predators. The partridge is even willing to sacrifice its own life for the safety of its young. Just like the first gift, all the other gifts in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" also have a special Catholic translation.

To be continued next week!



A Christmas Thank You to St. Philomena & St. Mary/Paul Parishes!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and safe New Year! May the Child Jesus, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel- God with us, fill you with His peace and be with you to lead you through these tough times. Thank you all for your support of our parishes. And thank you all for your prayers, wishes, gifts, and kind words to me. They are greatly appreciated. I am grateful to all of you.

Thank you to our Liturgical Ministers, our Choirs, Musicians, Decorators, and Parish Staff. I am also very gracious to everyone who donated towards Christmas flowers and decorations to beautify the church environment. We have a lot to be thankful for in our parish communities!

My prayers and blessings of the season to you all!

Fr. Michael

Liturgies of the Week

Saturday, December 26

5:00 pm † John & Irene Hickok Family

The Holy Family, December 27

8:00 am † Maxine Tibbits

10:30 am † Rebel Riechers (at St. Philomena, Belmont)

Monday, December 28

No Mass today

Tuesday, December 29

4:00 pm Adoration/Holy Hour for Vocations

5:15 pm † Helena & Bill Lawinger

Wednesday, December 30

8:30 am † Glenn & Ruth Spensley (at St. Philomena, Belmont)

Thursday, December 31

4:00 pm For Parishioners of St. Philomena (at St. Philomena, Belmont)

Mary, Holy Mother of God, January 1
9:00 am † Tim Statz

Saturday, January 2

5:00 pm † Bob Regan

Epiphany of the Lord, January 3

8:00 am † Nancy & Gary Teasdale

10:30 am † Elizabeth Betty Junk (at St. Philomena, Belmont)

Mother Teresa Prayer Group

If you have a request for prayers either for yourself or for someone else, please call Bea Palzkill at 987-3108 or Mary Graber at 987-3533.



Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." (Gn 15:5)

Psalms:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

Second Reading:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. (Heb 11:8)

Gospel:

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

St. Philomena's News!

Liturgical Roles for Next weekend, January 3

Lector: Tamara Haag



Mass Intentions

If you would like to schedule a Mass Intention, please contact the parish office (608-762-5446). Mass Intentions will be scheduled on a first come – first served basis. Thank you!

The Feasts of the Christmas Season

Have you ever wondered why Catholics celebrate Christmas after December 25, rather than before like the secular world? The Christmas season is very substantial in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar. The Christmas season does not begin officially until sundown on December 24 each year. We start with the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

At the **Nativity of the Lord** (Christmas itself) we celebrate the incarnation of Christ- he has appeared visibly in our world like one of us: a humble baby. This is a miracle- how can God himself become human and divine? The angels herald the glad news, messengers of God, to humble shepherds in the fields. The people of Bethlehem look up and see a magnificent star shining in the sky and wonder why this baby is so special as they gaze into the manger. Their hardened hearts had to melt when they beheld such a beautiful sight.

The Sunday after the Nativity of the Lord celebrates the **Holy Family** of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We picture a serene sight in the stable- Joseph tenderly holding a lighted lamp, keeping watch over Mary and the Christ Child. Mary sweetly sings to Jesus while he sleeps in his swaddling clothes. This family is not an ordinary family, it is extraordinary. This family of three is a model of a family of faith.

The first week of the Christmas season is called the Octave of Christmas, or the eight days of rejoicing following the Nativity. Each day of the Octave is celebrated with the same solemnity as Christmas Day. The Glory to God is sung or said at daily Masses, the prayers of the Priest celebrant are more gloriously worded to celebrate the Word made flesh. On the Octave Day of Christmas, which is January 1 each year, we celebrate **Mary, the Mother of God**. This is a holy day of obligation and a Solemnity in the Church calendar as we celebrate the divine Motherhood of Mary.

On the Sunday following the Octave of Christmas, we commemorate the **Epiphany of the Lord**, or the manifestation of Christ to the world. This is depicted through the Gospel account of the magi who traveled from far off lands to follow a star that led them to the Christ Child in the manger. They came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts foreshadowed the life of Christ- the gold foretold that he would be a king, frankincense showed his deity as incense rising to God, and myrrh would be used to anoint and prepare his body after being taken down from the Cross.

The last Sunday of the Christmas season is the **Baptism of the Lord**. We commemorate the start of Jesus' public ministry as he is baptized and goes out among the people to teach them the Good News of God.

So, we can see that the Christmas Season is quite extensive in our Catholic tradition! How will you keep the Christmas feasts in your prayer life this upcoming season?

Seeking Solace: Approaching a Pandemic Through Prayer

Times of great, collective struggle, such as the loss of life and disruption to our activities brought on by COVID-19, can also strain our spiritual lives. To help support our spiritual well-being, the Ss. Mary and Paul Parish community is initiating a weekday prayer hour program called "Seeking Solace: Approaching a Pandemic through Prayer." Participants are encouraged to sign up for a time to pray in church Monday through Friday. An hour is encouraged and time of day can be flexible. Those who can not leave home due to illness or other barrier are still encouraged to sign up and complete an hour of prayer at home. A sign-up sheet will be in the entry of church. Or, you can sign up by calling Bob Janetka, at 608-341-8745. The goal is to continue these dedicated prayer hours until the Pandemic has ended. More than one person can sign up per day, but our goal is to have at least one person praying one hour each weekday. Please social distance from others and wear a mask when praying in church, just as we do during Mass.

This Friday is a holy day of obligation as we celebrate the Motherhood of Mary and the patronal feast day of our parish in Mineral Point. Masses will be at 4:00 p.m. on December 31 in Belmont and 9:00 a.m. on January 1 in Mineral Point. Join us either in person or virtually as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary.

JUST A REMINDER

The Parish financial books close on December 31, 2020. All contributions for 2020 must be received prior to that date. We cannot accept post-dated checks. If you have not yet contributed to the support of your parish, please consider making a donation!





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