



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

Epiphany of the Lord - January 2, 2022

A MESSAGE FROM FR. MILLER/OTHER

Friends,

Peace be with you.

This is my first column in 2022. I hope you all had a very blessed New Year's celebration "kicking the old year out, kissing the new year in" as Irving Berlin wrote in his song Let's Start the New Year Right. As we turn our focus toward this new year, I hope to be able to keep focused on what we are doing well and ask God to make clear what he wants us to do better. Personally, I am very much looking forward to 2022 but also a little hesitant. I'm hesitant because I know that I am not "new" anymore. I've been here long enough that my mistakes and foibles, for instance my struggles with learning people's names, are not as easily excused. Still, there are exciting things too. I plan to take more vacation this year than I have the past few years. I plan to be gone in March on a retreat with some vacation before and after. And I get a month-long sabbatical at the end of June ending the first part of July. I plan to take another vacation as well in the Fall of the year. I know this may seem excessive and planning to do something and actually doing it are two entirely different things. But please know that I really haven't taken much vacation in my time here and I can feel that it's starting to have an effect on my concentration and peace of mind. Plus, you deserve a break from me.

In a recent meeting, the Archdiocese of Dubuque clarified the meaning of a recent comment by the Archbishop about the need to start a pastoral planning process, a phrase notorious for meaning the need to close parishes. Understandably, that concept scares people. Let me say, from what I see and hear, our Archbishop and his people are going about the process in a very different way than most other dioceses. The Sioux City Diocese, for instance, just came out with a list of parishes and the dates they were to close. Other dioceses have done similar things. That's not what our Archbishop is doing. He is asking us to think about what things a parish needs to do to be continuing the mission of Jesus Christ. A parish that reaches out to the poor, tells the story of Jesus to those who need it, and is a genuine place of prayer is a viable parish. A parish that does nothing for the poor, does nothing for catechesis or evangelization, has few baptisms or marriages, and whose liturgies are more known for their convenience and speed is going to be asked to change. They'll be given the tools to be more active in their faith. And, if it becomes obvious that they are unwilling to live the Christian life to its fullest, they may be asked to close. But please notice that this is a several years long process involving consultation and assistance to help parishes to grow. It will begin by reaching out to people "on the margins", as Pope Francis calls them. They want to reach out to people who are unchurched or people who have left the church or people whose churches have closed. They also want to hear from the poor and the homeless, to hear what the church can do to make them feel more connected. Please notice that I have not talked about money at all. The perception has always been that a parish that can pay its bills will stay open. In some ways, dealing with monetary

Message from Fr. Miller continued

shortfalls is the easiest problem to solve. More people through the doors makes more income or decreasing the amount of money a parish pays its staff makes less expense. It's much harder to change a culture of comfort in a church, a culture that thinks the whole purpose of the church is to do what I want it to do when I want it to do it. A culture of comfort doesn't care about the poor because they only care about control. A culture of comfort doesn't care about catechesis or evangelization because they know everything and more people in church just means someone is sitting in their pew. A culture of comfort wants a 30 minute Mass so they can be back home before the game begins or will miss Mass if there's a chance it will conflict with something they deem more important than receiving the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus. Our parishes cannot be places focused on a culture of comfort. We must be focused on being the Body of Christ on earth. Let's pray that all four of our parishes can keep focused on that into this new year.

Upcoming Archdiocesan Conferences for Women & Men 2022 Virtual Archdiocesan Women's Conference: *Holy Women of the Visitation*, Saturday, January 29, 2022, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

We invite all women from St. Joseph, Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Catherine & St. Donatus to attend our Satellite Event to be held at the Kruse Center in Bellevue.

Adoration and Reconciliation will be available from 8:00 -9:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Church, with the event to follow at 9:00 a.m. in the Kruse Center. The in person event cost includes the virtual ticket, as well as snacks and a meal.

If there are women not comfortable joining us in person, virtual tickets will be available in order to view the conference from their own homes. Once registered, a registration link will be emailed to you. Contact Julie Schmidt (dbq012s@dbqarch.org) or Marybeth Wagner (dbq181ff@dbqarch.org) with questions.

2022 Archdiocesan Men's Conference Saturday, March 19, 2022

We invite all men from St. Joseph, Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Catherine & St. Donatus to attend our Satellite Event to be held at the Kruse Center in Bellevue.

Adoration and Reconciliation will be available from 8:00 -8:55 a.m. in St. Joseph Church, with the event to follow at 8:55 a.m. in the Kruse Center. The in person event cost includes the virtual ticket, as well as snacks and a meal.

If there are men not comfortable joining us in person, virtual tickets will be available in order to view the conference from their own homes. Once registered, a registration link will be emailed to you. Contact Julie Schmidt (dbq012s@dbqarch.org) or Marybeth Wagner (dbq181ff@dbqarch.org) with questions.

In-Person Event in Cedar Rapids: Register at <https://archmensconference.org/register>. Keynote speaker Mark Harfiel, and lunch session speaker, Devin Schadt.

A MESSAGE FROM BROTHER STEPHEN/OTHER

The Octave of Christmas

Christmas is so extraordinary the Catholic Church extends the feast for eight days, known as the Octave of Christmas. On December 26, 27, and 28 we also celebrate the feasts of Saint Stephen, Saint John the Apostle, and the Holy Innocents respectively. The Sunday following Christmas marks the feast of the Holy Family (replacing the feast of St. Stephen this year) and the 8th day of the octave, the Solemnity of Mary.

Saint Stephen impacted many lives, was known for his wisdom and grace, and was chosen to assist the 12 apostles in fulfilling their ministry to those in need of the word of God. Both Jesus and Stephen were falsely accused, persecuted, and killed because they spoke the truth. Jesus was crucified. Stephen was stoned to death. Both focused on God and prayed for forgiveness for their persecutors, witnessing exceptional courage, trust, and forgiving love.

Saint John the Apostle was among the first disciples of Jesus. John was instrumental in the conversion of Saint Paul and authored the 4th. biblical narrative of the Gospel as well as three letters (1, 2, and 3John) included in the sacred scriptures.

Herod, the insecure and fear filled king of Judea, considered the news of Jesus' birth a threat to his throne. He mercilessly ordered all boys under two years old to be killed. The Feast of the Holy Innocents recognizes these victims.

The feast of the Holy Family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, presents an example and inspiration for all families. There are multiple Catholic Institutions named in honor of the Holy Family. We older folks might remember how our Religious Sister teachers had us place a JMJ, representing the holy family, at the top of our homework.

January 1 is, of course, the beginning of the new year and the world day of peace. In the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar it is the feast of the Solemnity of Mary which celebrates motherhood, the highest honor attributed to Mary. The Catholic Church marks January 1 as a holy day of obligation highlighting the role Mary played in salvation history.

While considering resolutions we may or may not keep this new year, we would do well to ask Mary, Queen of Peace, to intercede for our troubled world and to remember and give thanks for the love our own mothers have instilled in us, the guidance we have gained from holy mother the church, and the sustenance that is ours from mother earth.

Wishing you and yours a happy and blessed New Year!

YOUTH GROUP/ EPIC/HS FF/YFF/FFF/ MSFF/HSFF/CONFIRMATION

- Wednesday, January 5 - 6:30 p.m. **Youth Group Meeting** in SJ rectory basement.

STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING FOR 12/19 & 12/26

St. Catherine

Adult Contributors	
Envelopes.....	\$5790.00
EFT (Auto Deposit)	\$350.00
Offertory.....	\$818.52
Fall Appeal.....	\$2300.00
Monthly Special Collection.....	\$40.00
Retired Religious.....	\$70.00
Christmas.....	\$3665.00
Cookbook.....	\$13.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$60.00
Holyday.....	\$10.00
Thanksgiving.....	\$10.00
Total.....	\$13,126.52

St. Donatus

Adult Contributors	
Envelopes.....	\$3567.00
EFT (Auto Deposit)	\$350.00
Offertory.....	\$671.00
Votive.....	\$67.00
Monthly Special Collection	\$230.00
Christmas.....	\$5265.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$40.00
Total.....	\$10,710.00

St. Joseph

Adult Contributors	
Envelopes.....	\$6102.00
EFT (Auto Deposit)	\$652.00
Youth Contributors.....	\$116.00
Votive.....	\$164.00
Offertory.....	\$1710.11
Fall Appeal.....	\$6728.02
Thanksgiving.....	\$242.50
Christmas.....	\$23,827.50
Flower Donation.....	\$750.00
Holy Day.....	\$30.00
Retired Religious.....	\$120.00
Total.....	\$40,442.13

Sts. Peter & Paul

Adult Contributors	
Envelopes.....	\$5960.00
EFT (Auto Deposit)	\$612.00
Online giving.....	\$30.00
Offertory.....	\$984.35
Votive.....	\$24.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$145.00
Christmas.....	\$7430.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$354.00
Hall Rent.....	\$200.00
Donut donation.....	\$20.00
Initial Offering.....	\$50.00
Total.....	\$15,809.35



OTHER

LITURGICAL ROLES

St. Joseph - Saturday, January 8 at 4:15 PM

Lector: Patty McClimon **Eucharistic Minister:** Gail Michels, Melissa Brinker, Andy Bishop, Sue Kieffer **Lead Rosary:** Marilyn Ploessl **Sacristan:** Carol Ries **Servers:** Macie/Parker/Myra Harris **Ushers:** Tim Daugherty, Loras Deppe, Russ Kettmann, Jim Kilburg, Greg Schulte, Dick Zeimet

Sunday, January 9 at 10:15 AM

Lector: Kim Moore **Eucharistic Minister:** Jason Weber, Karla Weinschenk, Julie Schmidt, Carolyn Weber **Lead Rosary:** Ann Michels **Sacristan:** Monica McHugh **Servers:** Allie/Louie Gonner, Landon Veach **Ushers:** Dalton Jackson, Shawn Jackson, Mark Jess, Mark Michels, Eric Schroeder

Sts. Peter & Paul - Sunday, January 9 at 8:00 AM

Lector: Jack Tebbe **Eucharistic Minister:** Dan Zeimet **Servers:** Mason/Avery Pitts, Grace Gerlach **Lead Rosary:** Carol Gerlach **Offertory:** Dave Pitts' **Ushers:** Mark/Tyler Banowetz, Steve Cloos, Greg Thomas

St. Donatus - Saturday, January 8 at 5:30 PM

Server: Brynna Gregorich **Lector:** Jessica Thole **Eucharistic Minister:** Ruth Roling **Ushers:** Mark Heitz & Cody Heitz

St. Catherine - Sunday, January 9 at 8:00 AM

Lector: Liz Staner **Eucharistic Minister:** Marybeth Wagner **Ushers:** Joe Lyons & Scott Weimerskirch **Sacristan:** Kim Weinschenk

Holy Hour for Vocations

All are invited to a regional Holy Hour for Vocations on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at St. Joseph the Worker parish in Dubuque at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a witness talk by a seminarian as part of this event.

Stewardship Quote ... The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and savior?



Through the waters of Baptism we welcome, Spencer Kay Sturm, daughter of Isaac & Haley (Lampe) Sturm, who is being baptized this weekend at St. Joseph.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
First Friday Adoration, Friday,
January 7th 8:45 - 11:00 a.m. and
HOLY HOUR for Vocations
Saturdays 8:00 a.m.— 9:00 a.m.



St. Donatus, St. Catherine, St. Joseph & Sts. Peter & Paul Additional Christmas Flower Donations

- ⇒ In Memory of Virgil & Darrell Nemmers--Algean Nemmers
- ⇒ In Memory of Catherine & Clarence Kearney--Don Kearney
- ⇒ In Memory of Louis & Delores Noel--Herman & Dolores Fogel
- ⇒ In Memory of Ray & Gertrude Manders & Albert & Lucille Jaeger--Bob & Betty Jaeger
- ⇒ In Memory of Bill & Marian Reeg--Ken & Judy Lochner
- ⇒ In Memory of Alicia Lochner & Alfred & Hilda Lochner--Ken & Judy Lochner
- ⇒ In Memory of Bernie & Fran Gansen--Jan Kemp

Members of all 4 parishes: Check out the FORMED.org website. You will be amazed at what you find. To sign up for your **free** account: 1. Go to sjandspp.formed.org. 2. Enter the zip code for our 4-parish office (52031) and "St. Joseph, Bellevue" will come up. 3. Click on "continue" to register with you name and email address. There are many great videos, talks, movies, etc., available on FORMED for both adults and children. Check it out.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a catholic faith based marriage enrichment program and has been providing couples with better communication skills and tools for over 50 years. Find out what you've been missing by attending one of these upcoming experiences. February 11 - 13th in Ankeny; April 23 - 24th in Epworth. For more information or to register go to iowa-wwme.org or call 563-608-3305.



Our sympathy and prayers to the family of Rita Brown, who passed away on December 17th, to the family of Janice Sieverding, who passed away on December 19th, to the family of Leonard Manders, who passed away on December 21st, and to the family of Delores Eggers, who passed away on December 23rd. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Bellevue Bread Basket

The Bellevue Bread Basket served the following in December - 47 families and 103 persons. The next Bellevue Bread Basket will be Thursday, January 20, 2022.



Bellevue Bread Basket Thank You

The Bellevue Bread Basket would like to thank St. Joseph's, Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Catherine, & St. Donatus Parishes for their food and monetary donation in 2021. May all of you be blessed for your generosity and kindness.

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MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

Monday, January 3

5:30 PM - SJ † Deceased Members of the Class of 1960

Tuesday, January 4

8:25 AM - SJ † Jeremy Theisen; Special Intention

5:30 PM - SC † Janet Kemp

Wednesday, January 5

8:25 AM - SJ † David Mausser

† Janice Sieverding

10:00 AM - MVCC For the People

Thursday, January 6

8:00 AM - SPP † Sandi Michel; † Jean Hoffmann

Friday, January 7

8:00 AM - SD † Emma Schmerbach

8:25 AM - SJ † All Alumni of Marquette who have passed away this past year

† Marilyn Clasen; † Lorin & Terry Kilburg

Saturday, January 8

4:15 PM - SJ Living Members of the Rosary Society

† Orlyn & Mary Ann Till

† Rosemary & Vincent Schwager & Family

5:30 PM - SD † Milton Weber

Sunday, January 9

8:00 AM - SC For the People

8:00 AM - SPP † Jeanette Konrardy, Joann Homan & Lee Homan

† Marvin Jacobs

MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS CONTINUED

Sunday, January 9

10:15 AM - SJ † Milt & Rosie Kettmann

† Tony & Elizabeth Sieverding

† Matt & Julia Michel & Family,
Charles & Lavita Pleiser & Family

**K
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PUZZLE
Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

wise-men	king	Mary
child	star	gifts
born	worship	dream

wsie mne **w i s e m e n**

brno _ _ _ _ _

knig _ _ _ _ _

derma _ _ _ _ _

cildh _ _ _ _ _

wrsohpi _ _ _ _ _

Mrya _ _ _ _ _

gfsti _ _ _ _ _

sрта _ _ _ _ _

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Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.

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