

January 3, Feast of the Epiphany



Before I Forget

"When my daughter was small, she got the dubious part of the Bethlehem star in a Christmas play. After her first rehearsal she burst through the door with her costume, a five-pointed star lined in shiny gold tinsel designed to drape over her like a sandwich board. "What exactly will you be doing in the play?" I asked her. "I just stand there and shine," she told me. I've never forgotten that response." *Sue Monk Kidd in When the Heart Waits.*

We all know the carol, The 12 Days of Christmas. But what twelve days is it referring to? The Twelve Days extend from Christmas day, December 25, and run to the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6. This weekend we are celebrating Epiphany because in the United States we move Epiphany to the closest Sunday. You get the idea. Christmas is not a feast that we celebrate on one day but rather a feast we celebrate for twelve days. We do this for two reasons.

The first is when we look at the size of the gift that we have received at Christmas, the gift of the Eternal Word made flesh. That gift is enormous. The first reading on Epiphany from Isaiah (60:1-6) says that gift of Christ is a light to all nations. The second reading from the Letter to the Ephesians (3:2-3a, 5-6) talks about Christ being given to all humanity, both Jews and Gentiles alike. So when we recognize how great the gift is that we have received, it takes more than one day to celebrate it. That is why the tradition gives us twelve. But there is a second reason why we need twelve days at Christmas. It results from what we are expected to give. When we recognize how much we have received, the gift of God's own Son, then it becomes clear to us that we must give to others in light of that tremendous gift. That is more giving than we usually imagine. It is for this reason that both in tradition and in songs, gifts are given not only on the first day of Christmas but on each of the twelve days.

That is a lot of gifts to receive. In fact, every year on-line someone goes around to establish the cost of three French hens and ten lords-a-leaping to total up all the gifts at current prices. This year the cost is between \$25,000 - \$30,000. Surprisingly, the most expensive item was seven swans-a-swimming. The birds are \$1000 apiece. The cheapest gift was the maids-a-milking. For \$60, you can get all eight of them. (Don't you think that's below minimum wage?) Even more importantly, if you take the song literally, on each of the twelve days of Christmas, you are expected to give not only the gift for that day but also all the previous gifts over again. When calculated that way, the full cost of gifts at today's prices is \$110,000 - \$120,000. That's a big number. But its very size makes clear how much we are expected to give. And, of course, what we are expected to give is not six geese-a-laying or a partridge in a pear tree. We are expected to give lives that are in conformity with the Gospel of Christ. We are expected to give the benefit of the doubt to the person who irritates us, comfort to those who are suffering, support to those who are poor, respect to those with whom we disagree, and forgiveness to our enemy.

One cannot put a price on this kind of giving. But it certainly costs us. The demands of the Gospel that are placed on us are significant and real. So how are we to give on this high a level? How can we afford to pay the price? Only by stretching the payments over time. We are not sure why the early Christian community set the dates for Christmas and Epiphany twelve days apart. But one explanation is that the twelve days were meant to reflect the twelve months of the year. In this way, the Christmas days do what Christ ask us to do; we have twelve months. And we have a whole year to give, then we can pay in smaller installments. We can give in simple ways.

We might not be able to eliminate prejudice. We might not have the resources to eliminate poverty in the city. We might not be able to forgive our enemy. However, we can make small daily decisions in these and other areas of our life.

When we stop and look at how much we have received, the amount that we are expected to give is enormous. That is why Christ gives us time to make the payments. So choose today, at the Beginning of 2021 to take a small step in the right direction, and let Christ guide you. The twelve days of Christmas end, but the twelve months of 2021 have just begun.

Happy New Year. Thank you for your ongoing support of our CTK Community during the past twelve months which have been a challenge and difficult for most of us, especially our seniors, children, teachers, people living alone, health care workers and those who suffer from loneliness or depression.

The "STAR" guided the Magi to Bethlehem. Christ is our Morning Star who lights up our days and who leads us on the journey. Let your light shine!

Forward together, and no one left behind, Fr. Bill

BE THE CHURCH

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION



We are distributing Eucharist to people within their car in our parking lot on **Sundays, 10:30 am 11:15 am**. Please view our virtual Mass either on Saturday evening or Sunday morning prior to coming over for Eucharist.

Fr. Bill, Deacon Jim, often both, will distribute Holy Communion to people in their car. There will be no reason to leave your car, just pull up in front of the doors, open the windows.

We plan to continue this practice until we are able to come back together in our worship space, weather permitting.

If you have need of gluten-free hosts, please let us know when we approach your car.

If any reason you can't make this work for you and your family, please call Dcn. Jim at the parish office and we will find a solution that works for you.

OUR PRAYER CORNER



Mike Coogan, Fr. Doug Dandurand, Kelley Deshler, Joanne Dick, Walter Dick, Chuck Gorman, Mary Ellen Halverson Mary Ann Hansen, Sylvia Herkenhoff Eileen Hoy, Dan Ivory, Steve Kean, Tomi Kean, Joan Kelly, Anna Kinney, Mary Koby, Jozef Lazar, Mary Lee, Annette Sadler Stefan Skorich, Lydia Spanier, Angie Tucker, Pat Urick, Diane Wielinski

We extend our our prayers and sympathy to Mickey Coppage on the passing of her father, Gerald Ruehle. Also to Joe Loftus on the passing of his sister, Margaret Klug. May they enjoy the eternal embrace of God's love.

If you would like someone remembered in prayer on this list, please call Jim DeShane, .612-920-5030, ext.19

ASCENSION FOOD SHELF



**Saturday, January 3,
10 am—Noon**

Bring all the items you have collected in your Reverse Advent Basket, and additional items for the food shelf. Item suggestions this month can include hearty canned soups, hot cereals such as oatmeal, coffees, canned meats and fish, fruits, paper goods.

Any questions about these ministries, contact Deacon Jim at 612-920-5030, x19 or jdesbane@ctkmpls.org



CTK has been a supporting church of Loaves and Fishes, almost from its beginning in 1982 at St. Ste-

phen's in Minneapolis. Its mission is to provide healthy meals where need is greatest to all people regardless of socioeconomic, cultural, religious, or ethnic background, recognizing that people deserve to meet their basic needs for food, dignity, and respect.

Through your donations, our community provides these meals, valued at approximately \$650 per event. Our volunteers prepare and serve meals on the first Friday of alternate months starting in February at Oak Grove Presbyterian (2200 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN 55431)

This volunteer ministry is headed up by Bill Weber and is more important than ever during this time of food insecurity. If you are interested in joining as a volunteer, please contact Dcn. Jim at jdesbane@ctkmpls.org or contact the parish office.

For more information about Loaves and Fishes, go to www.loavesandfishesmn.org

THANK YOU

CARDS FOR COMMUNITY



A huge thank you to everyone who brought in cards for our first ever Cards For Community Program. Many of the cards were homemade and they all had wonderful messages of hope and support. We were able to send out approximately 150 cards. Many thanks to all who participated.



“Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk in your light, and kings by your shining radiance.” (Isaiah 60:1-3).

A PRAYER FOR PUTTING ON A MASK

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with your Love. In the name and in that Love, I pray. Amen. (Rev. Richard Bott, Presbyterian Church of Canada.)

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE FROM PAUL ZDECHLIK PARISH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Thank you to all the households that have returned their stewardship pledges for 2021! We appreciate your generosity and commitment to CTK.

For those who haven't turned in their pledges, please remember you can simply email me and let me know what you would like your pledge to be for 2021, as long as we have your financial information on file. If we don't have your information on file, please call me. If you have additional questions, please contact Paul Zdechlik at 612-920-5030, x15, pjzdechlik@ctkmpls.org

Please contact me at 612-920-5030, ext 15, if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Paul Zdechlik

BE THE CHANGE



Stimulating Zoom discussions continued last Sunday on the topic of reparations for the past 401 years of racial injustices.

If you were unable to join us at that session, but would like to be included in the CTK antiracism newsletter,

please email anngrael@gmail.com.

Actions by the four different teams are planned to continue over the holidays. One action by the Adult Ed team is a book club to learn more about systemic racism. The first book of the new year will be *Caste* by Isabella Wilkerson. Contact maryjanemitchell@msn.com if you are interested in participating in this book club.

Here is prayer from the Liturgy Team:

Gracious God, We pray for our Church: That all may acknowledge the truth of the injustice of racism that is a part of our history and work toward a true reconciliation with our past. As Jesus says, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” May the Church lead all in our world to a new sense of freedom. Amen.

Washburn - McReavy

washburn-mcreavy.com
Funeral Chapels, Cemeteries and Cremation Services

EDINA CHAPEL

5000 W 50th Street
952.920.3996

State Farm Matt Boockmeier



Call/text (952) 928-0455

Home • Auto • Life • Business

matt@mattboockmeier.com



VARSITY PAINTERS

952-938-3886

Kris Perry • Parishioner

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Contact **Bob Bembenek** to place an ad today!
bbembenek@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x2454

Knutson Ventilation Inc.

Gerhard W. Knutson (952) 928-0195
Design Consulting of INDUSTRIAL

- Ventilation Systems
- Air Pollution Controls
- Hygiene Evaluations



ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



ADT Authorized Provider | **SafeStreets**

1-855-225-4251

UPGRADE TO A

VIBRANT ad

Contact us for details
800-950-9952

NEVER MISS A BULLETIN !

Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com

PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

\$29.95/MO PLUS SPECIAL OFFER

BILLED QUARTERLY

CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772
WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM

WE'RE HIRING AD SALES EXECUTIVES

- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT
careers@4LPi.com
www.4LPi.com/careers

Too Sick for Mass?

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!

www.parishesonline.com

Interest rates are great! SPRING MARKET IS HERE - DON'T WAIT!

Tracie Rossman
952-201-0522
www.edinarealty.com/tracie-rossman-realtor

Edina Realty.

Contact me for a FREE Current Market Analysis!

SPREAD THE WORD
A Thriving, Vibrant Community Matters

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lp.com

Christ The King, Minneapolis, MN

A 4C 02-0023