

January 3, 2021

# The Epiphany of the Lord



CHURCH OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT

**The wise still seek Him.**

## Church of the Blessed Sacrament

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!"

Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest Himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for! ©LPi



### Apostles vs. Disciples

**Question: What is the difference between apostles and disciples**

**Answer:**

When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: *apostles* and *disciples*. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many *disciples*, the group of *apostles* was much more limited and referred to Jesus' closest collaborators.

The word *apostle* essentially means "one who is sent forth" or, as we might think of it today, "an ambassador." The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus' inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognizes Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord's name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the "apostle to the apostles." In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.

When we think of the word *disciple*, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, disciple literally means "student" or, more specially, an "apprentice learner." The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians. ©LPi

### E TEAM

The Evangelization Committee was formed at Blessed Sacrament last year as a result of the parish survey in 2018.

In view of the great apostasy (falling away) and dissent from the Catholic Faith in the world, those of us left are called to a renewal and return to the True Faith in Jesus Christ. Urged on by the pope and bishops we work for a "New Evangelization". We don't have to be successful only faithful. God will do the rest.

At present team members are: Heather Holmes; Michelle Keough; Mike Beltz; Peter McGraw; Daisy Carlson; Maureen Erikson; Cita & Tom Regan.

Supporting members are: Matt Kuettel; Ray Eberhard; Lyn DuCloux; Deb & Mike Peisert; Sandra Calcedo McGraw; Lea Martinez.

We best profess and confirm our faith when we share it. We get to heaven by bringing someone else there.

### How do I watch Mass live??

Go to Facebook and type in Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. You can also subscribe on Facebook to get notifications when we go live! Please note you must have a Facebook account. If you don't have Facebook, watch it later on YouTube. Go to YouTube and type in Blessed Sacrament Church in St. Paul, MN

• Livestream Mass on Facebook— **Tuesday-Friday at Noon, Saturday at 4:00 pm and on Sunday at 9:00 or 11:00am** or watch later on our YouTube channel link via our website.

## FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

### Rosary chain continues

The rosary chain that Father Benny first introduced in October is now an ongoing program that we are continuing indefinitely. Please see the sign-up sheet at the hospitality desk or via the sign-up on our website.

### New Sacristy Window

Special shout out goes to Joe Peisert for installing the new window in the door of the sacristy. Also, thank you to the two anonymous parishioners who covered the cost of the material on this project. As was previously mentioned, the Sacristy is reserved for Father, the sacristan, lector & servers. If you need to speak to Father, please wait until Father exits the sacristy. We appreciate everyone's cooperation. God bless.

### Winter Safety

This year we've been blessed with a very unusual winter season (so far). Please continue to use caution when walking outside on the sidewalk or in the parking lot. We have a service who manages the snow and ice, so if you notice any problem areas please let the office know right away. Please continue to be careful out there!

### Adding coat hooks in the Educational Wing

We are looking to add some coat hooks in the hallway of the Educational wing of our facilities. We will be mounting some nice pieces of oak wood with coat hooks in the hallway. This project is going to run about \$150. If there is anyone [or maybe any group] willing to cover this expense for the parish it would be appreciated. Expect blessings!



### Catholic Education Fund

We have designated the month of January for our Catholic Education Fund program. This is a program where we grant scholarships to children of parishioners who elect to send their children to a Catholic grade school or Catholic high school. Our monthly second collection will take place the last weekend in January. We are accepting donations throughout the month for this worthy cause. Simply indicate "Education Fund" on the memo line of your check or you may pick up an envelope at the hospitality desk in the Gathering Space.



### Are You Hurting?

If you or someone you love is grieving the loss of a child to abortion,

come and experience the compassionate mercy of Jesus Christ on our confidential weekend retreat. Rachel's Vineyard Twin Cities' retreats are open to anyone impacted by abortion - women, men, grandparents, siblings, and health care professionals. The next retreat is January 8-10, 2021 in the Twin Cities area. For more information contact Nancy at [rachels@vineyardmn.org](mailto:rachels@vineyardmn.org), call 763-250-9313 or see [www.rvineyardmn.org](http://www.rvineyardmn.org).

## The Epiphany of the Lord ♦♦♦ 1/03/2021

S T A F F D I R E C T O R Y	<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATION</b> 651-738-0677
	Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ..... ext. 11
	John Florin, Business Administrator ..... ext. 10
	Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ..... ext. 12
	Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
	<b>PASTORAL MINISTRY</b> 651-738-0677
	Carol McKenna, .....ext. 15
	<b>FAITH FORMATION</b> 651-738-0677
	Connie Hill, Director ..... ext. 14
	<b>MUSIC</b>
	Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
	<b>PRAYER LINE</b>
	Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290
	<b>CHURCH EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:Church@blessedsacramentsp.org">Church@blessedsacramentsp.org</a>
<b>PARISH COUNCIL:</b> <a href="mailto:parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org">parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org</a>	

S A C R A M E N T S	<b>BAPTISM</b> - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
	<b>RECONCILIATION</b> — Saturday 3:00-3:45pm or by appointment on other days
	<b>MATRIMONY</b> - Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
	<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b> - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
	<b>LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE</b> - Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

P R A Y	• Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-W-F 1-11pm & TH 6am-noon
	• The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

M A S S R E A D I N G S	<b>Sunday, January 3</b>
	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>
	<i>Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12</i>
	9am † Bernard Bearth
	11am Parish Mass
	<b>Monday, January 4</b>
	<i>Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious</i>
	<i>1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25</i>
	<b>Tuesday, January 5</b>
	<i>Saint John Neumann, Bishop</i>
	<i>1 Jn 2:4-7-10/Mk 6:34-44</i>
	† Kathy Neuman
	<b>Wednesday, January 6</b>
	<i>Christmas Weekday/Saint André Bessette, Religious</i>
<i>1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52</i>	
† Gen Barthel	
<b>Thursday, January 7</b>	
<i>Christmas Weekday/Saint Raymond of Peñafort, Priest</i>	
<i>1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22</i>	
† Cruz Espenal Ancestors	
<b>Friday, January 8</b>	
<i>Christmas Weekday</i>	
<i>1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16</i>	
† Catherine Kobilka	
<b>Saturday, January 9</b>	
<i>Christmas Weekday</i>	
<i>1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30(Morning Readings)</i>	
4pm † Gerald Lydon	
<b>Sunday, January 10</b>	
<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	
<i>Is 55:1-11/ 1 Jn 5:1-9/ Mk 1:7-11</i>	
9am Parish Mass	
11am † Joanne Kriva	

## Church of the Blessed Sacrament

### SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

January 3– January 10

The celebration of public Masses has resumed for a limited number of participants!

Tues, Jan 5: 10:00am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Wed, Jan 6: 6:15pm Faith Formation & CGS

### FINANCE

#### Gifts of Treasure

December 26/27, 2020

***No information available at time of publication.***

#### The Christmas Story

Tradition suggests that we keep our nativity scene on display at home through The Presentation of the Lord on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. To learn more about the whole Christmas Story, visit our Blessed Sacrament Faith Formation YouTube channel to watch the video, "The Infancy Narratives." Pray with scripture at home and ponder the full story.

Also, visit the website for the National Gallery of Art ([www.Nga.gov](http://www.Nga.gov)) and view the gallery talk entitled, "The Christmas Story in Art." See how artists have depicted those Infancy Narratives for hundreds of years. Let sacred art be your springboard to prayer at home (*visio divina*: "divine seeing")

#### Service Opportunities for the Christmas Season

Christmas is such a high feast that we celebrate for eight days, completing the Octave of Christmas on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Christmas season is a beautiful time to bake those cookies and send out greeting cards. No need to feel late or rushed because Christmas continues through the Baptism of Jesus, which is January 10<sup>th</sup> this year.

Caroling is COVID-friendly! Evangelize and do a work of mercy at the same time. Walk your neighborhood or sing on the sidewalk outside homebound neighbors or parishioners. As a family, sing outside our Adoration Chapel. **Send Connie a picture of your service in action!** *O come let us adore Christ the King!*



## The Epiphany of the Lord

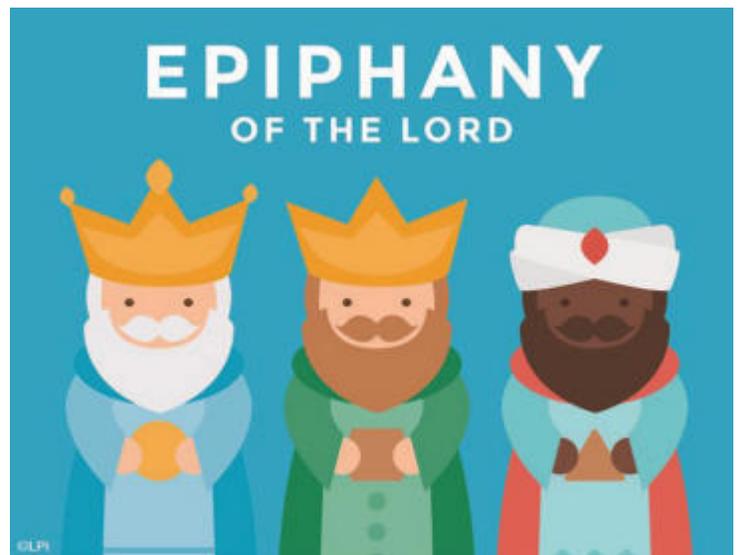


### Upcoming

Tues, Jan 5	CGS 10:00 to 11:30 am
Wed, Jan 6	CGS 6:15 to 7:45 pm
Sun, Jan 10	Presentation of Confirmation Candidates at 9:00 am Mass Candidate and Sponsor Meeting after Mass (10:00 to 11:00 am)
Tues, Jan 19	CGS 10:00 to 11:30 am
Wed, Jan 20	CGS 6:15 to 7:45 pm

### Happy Epiphany!

TODAY! After Mass, take home blessed chalk and an instruction card to celebrate Epiphany at home. Use the chalk to write “20 C+M+B 21” above your doors to signify the names of the first Wise Men (Caspar, Mechior, and Balthasar) as well as “Christus mansionem benedicat” (“Christ bless this house”). Read more about this tradition at [www.aleteia.org](http://www.aleteia.org)



### Adoration of the Magi

If your Magi traveled throughout your home (like an “Elf on the Shelf”), they now have arrived at your family’s creche to adore the Infant King. These three men brought prophetic gifts, foretelling of Jesus. They adored Him and were able to return home safely after being warned of Herod’s plan in a dream.

Think a moment. Even before the Magi, who were the first to adore the Christ Child? The Shepherds. Along with the angel who calmed their fears, the shepherds were the first to sing, “Glory to God in the Highest!” Truly, Jesus Christ is Priest, Prophet, and King for all peoples of all time. Come, let us adore Him, at Mass and in our Adoration Chapel!



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