

January 2, 2022



THEY WERE OVERJOYED AT SEEING THE STAR, AND ON
ENTERING THE HOUSE THEY SAW THE CHILD WITH MARY
HIS MOTHER.- MT 2:10

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED Sacrament

2119 Stillwater Ave E St. Paul, MN 55119 651-738-0677 church@blessedsacramentsp.org
Mass Times: Saturday Anticipatory: 4 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11 :00 am Daily, T-F 8:30am

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's indeed with great enthusiasm and happiness that I accept my role as the new pastor of the Church of Blessed Sacrament. I am not new to this parish because I served in this parish as Associate Pastor two years ago. I'm happy to be here with you and as you know most of the faces are familiar to me. Therefore, you don't need a detailed introduction; it's only a continuation of what I did two years ago.



I hail from a family of seven siblings and I fall in the middle. Both my parents are doing well. I was born on October 21, 1976 and I was ordained as priest on December 27, 2007.

I came to Canada in December, 2009 and worked over there for eight years, mostly as hospital chaplain. I came to the United States in August, 2018 and worked over here as chaplain, associate pastor and pastor. I hold a Post Graduation in Psychology.

As I begin my new journey as your pastor on January 1, 2022, keep me in your prayers and I, certainly, will keep you in my prayers. May God bless you all.

Father Jimmy Puttananickal

ADORATION CHAPEL NEWS

"Our Lord came to the aid of each great tribulation with a special devotion. The present and future tribulations of the Church and of nations are greater than at any other period, and this persecution is more dangerous than those of previous times. Hence, the devotion which God sends to the succor of His Church and of the nations at the present time is the devotion to the Most Holy Eucharist. It is the highest of all devotions

— Pope Leo XIII



We are still working at expanding our hours of Adoration. Please check the website for schedule. Please contact us if you feel called to devote an hour a week to spend with the Lord. We are always in need of prayer partners. Please call Kathy at 651-247-5185 or the parish office, if you are interested.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 2, 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose

our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For

those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.



We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

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WOMEN'S CLUB DONATION REQUESTS

The Women's Club will be looking for contributions of fleece for their annual **Family Service Night**. They are specifically looking for donations for children's prints (1.5 yds. ea.) & teen prints (2 yds. ea.). If you are willing to make a contribution to this great cause, please drop it off at the parish office by February 7th.



FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

THANK YOU to our Contribution Counting team

On behalf of the parish, I wish to give a shout out for Margaret McKane, Kathy Kopp, Maureen Erickson and Mike Ebert for their efforts to come in and count the contributions made each week. We sincerely thank you for your time and talent on this vital task. Please know that we are very grateful for your time each week. Expect blessings.

Donut Sunday Update



Here is a quick update on our Donut Sunday efforts. We are thrilled to be able to have donuts and coffee after the Sunday morning Mass since July. Our Free Will offering has been covering approximately 70% of the expenses. We hope

this bit of joy is bringing our parishioners together for quality conversation and fellowship. God bless.

Library Update

Our parish library has now reopened after being closed down since early 2020 due to COVID. Thank you, Jan Meulemans, for agreeing to manage our library on behalf of the parish. We are thrilled that our former coordinator, Rita Deutsch, has agreed to lend her years of wisdom to you on this venture. God bless.



'Tis the Season of Giving

Please remember we do collect perishable food items each week and donate them to a worthy food shelf. Please remember even though Christmas is over, the need is there and continues to grow throughout the winter months. Please help bring some holiday cheer to others by bringing in a donation to the food shelf collection box and to the Veteran's collection box that can be found in the Gathering area. Thank you!

SOCIAL CONCERNS FOR JANUARY

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 third 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.



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- PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677**
 Rev. Jimmy Puttanickal, Pastor ext. 11
 John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
 Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
 Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
 Carol McKenna,ext. 15
FAITH FORMATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT 651-738-0677
 Connie Hill, Director ext. 14
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 Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
PRAYER LINE
 Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290
CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

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- BAPTISM** - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
RECONCILIATION— Saturday 3:00-3:45pm; after 8:30 am Mass on Friday or by appointment on other days
MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK - 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.
LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-F, Please see signage for hours.
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

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Sunday, January 2
Epiphany of the Lord
 Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
 8:30am Parish Mass
 11am † Dan Dunn

Monday, January 3
Christmas Weekday/Holy Name of Jesus
 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday, January 4
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
 Frank Steel

Wednesday, January 5
Saint John Neumann, Bishop
 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
 † Jane & Jack Gergen

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Thursday, January 6
Christmas Weekday/Saint André Bessette, Religious
 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22
 † Rev. Thomas F.A. O'Brien

Friday, January 7
Christmas Weekday/Saint Raymond of Peñafort, Priest
 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
 † Ethel Wagner

Saturday, January 8
Christmas Weekday
 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30 (Morning Readings)
 4 pm † Nicholas Chavez

Sunday, January 9
Baptism of the Lord
 Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ti 2:11-14;3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
 8:30am Parish Mass
 11am † Melvin Houle

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

January 2—January 9

Sun, Jan 2:	9:30-10:45 Coffee & Donuts
Tues, Jan 4:	9:30-11:00am CGS
Wed, Jan 5:	Young at Heart after Mass
Sun, Jan 9:	9:45-10:45 Faith Formation Classes

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

December 18/19, 2021

Sunday Envelopes & Plate	\$ 3,548.25
Christmas:	\$ 310.00
Other:	\$ 52.00
CFIC Children's Mission:	\$ 1,258.20
<u>Additional Operations:</u>	<u>\$ 15.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 5,183.45

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

FAITH FORMATION: PEEK AT THE WEEK

HAPPY EPIPHANY!

The very first Epiphany was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. The gifts of the Magi to Jesus reveal this holy Child's identity: gold for Christ's Kingship, incense for His divinity, and myrrh for His sacrifice. We can celebrate Epiphany in a number of ways. Here are a few ideas:

✠ **Go to Mass!** Make this a top priority as you worship the Newborn King for the full Christmas season.

✠ **Move the Wise Men to Jesus!** Pray with your at-home nativity scene. Moving the Magi visually reminds us that the Christmas season does not end with the birth of Christ. Ponder what it

means to have the Magi join Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

✠ **Give gifts to Godparents!** Have children choose people in their lives who are spiritually significant. Help them prepare a special gift for that person. Deliver the gifts just like the Magi delivered gifts to the Christ child.

✠ **Visit our Adoration Chapel!** What gifts can you bring to Jesus, who Himself is the greatest gift to mankind. Come, let us spend time with Jesus and adore Him.

✠ **Chalk your door!** It's a beautiful way to make your home the Domestic Church. Take home blessed chalk and an Epiphany guide. Consecrate your home and family to Christ for the entire upcoming year.



NO CLASS JANUARY 2

Families, here are some ideas to continue Faith Formation at home. Confirmation candidates can work on their Saint report. Children preparing for First Reconciliation can study the question-and-answer sheet of "Things to know" for reconciliation. All students can practice memorizing prayers. Families can read and pray with the daily Gospel. Best yet, attend daily Mass on those days off school. Remember: Jesus comes to us in History, Mystery, and Majesty! Visit our website for more ideas: <https://blessedsacramentsp.org/faith-formation>



Divine Mercy Cenacle

My eyes rest with pleasure on this house today. **280**

Prayer cards are on the table to take. Look for a new message from St. Faustina's Diary weekly.



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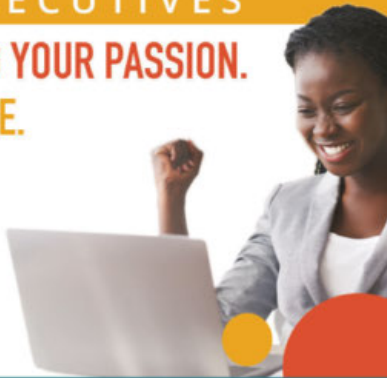
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