



2 January 2022
Feast of Epiphany

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

Useful

Well, it has finally come, my retirement. A priest I knew in Eau Claire, actually a very holy and good man knew how many confessions, baptisms, weddings he'd witnessed. No kidding. He kept a diary and tallied up the numbers every week. In the confessional he had a clicker that counted off the number of confessions he'd heard. When we had penance services throughout the city, he'd secretly keep the clicker in his pocket. No one knew he was counting, counting, counting. He truly was a holy man. His last days however were spent in delirium and I wondered when I went to see him if all the faces of his confessions, baptisms, weddings were dancing in his head as he slowly made his way back to God.

Not me though. The only number I have solidly in my head is 43. That's how many years I've been ordained. I worked for the Diocese of La Crosse before I was ordained though so it's really closer to 50 that I've been working for the Church. It is time for me to go though, the fullness of time.

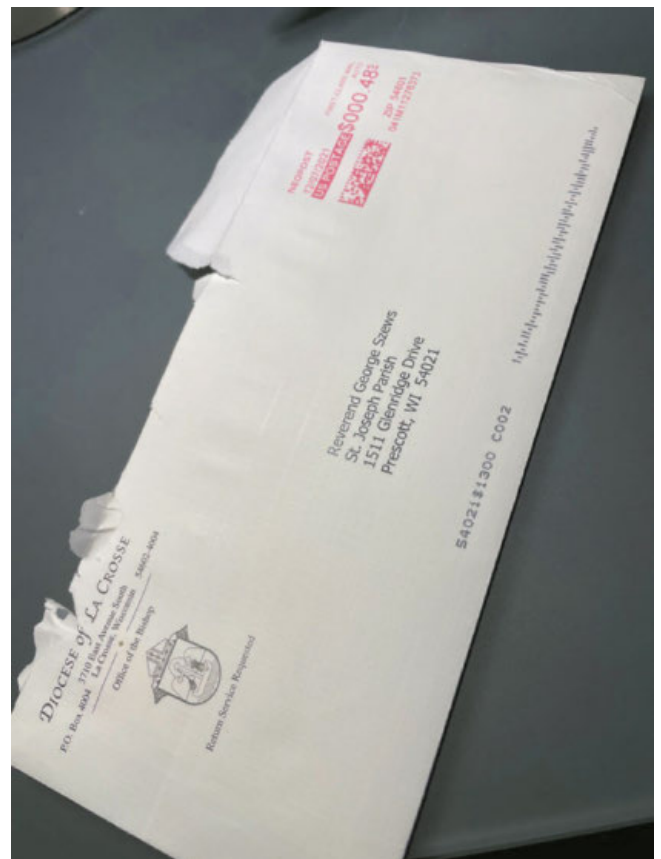
Last week I got the official letter from the bishop accepting my resignation from St. Joe's and granting me status as a Senior Priest. They really want Senior Priests to keep working but I think I've put in my time. Three parishes all together. St. Patrick's and Newman in Eau Claire, and St. Joseph's in Prescott. I can now let out a secret about my coming to St. Joe's. I always knew I would wind up here. Just knew it. When my father was alive he'd ask me where I was going and I would say Prescott. He'd scoff, "That's too far away," he say. He was right of course but then again he never moved more than ten miles from where he was born.

Thank you to all the good people of St. Joe's for making me feel welcome these past 8 years. I know I wasn't all I was supposed to be for some of you. I really have no skill set with small children. And, I know for some of you I was too much. A few of you left the parish because of me--and I'm sorry about that. But for the most part you accepted me, made me feel welcome and useful.

I guess that was always my final hope as a priest--that I be useful. Not for all, but for some, I was useful. For Jesus and the Church, I was useful--not the greatest, not the worst, but useful. Thank you...GRS

On a side note, the Diocese informed me a couple of weeks ago that the new pastor would not arrive in Prescott until July and basically I am not allowed to say who is it. If the guy who I think will come here comes here you will love him. He's an easier guy to love than me.

For the next 7 months or so there will be fill-in priests. I even have two weekends--the last in January and the last in March. Most of the weekends however will be covered by Fr. Corradi. He likes it here and you were always kind to him.



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. • We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. • Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. • For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Music for Mass

☒ Entrance: We Three Kings of Orient Are (#463) Hopkins, Jr.

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11.
Text and music: *Carols, Hymns and Songs*, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

Readings can be found at #1011

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. • I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

☒ Responsorial Psalm: All the Ends of the Earth Nick Poss

All the ends of the earth have seen the glory of the Lord.
All the ends of the earth have seen the pow'r of God.

© 1999, Nick Poss

8 AM Mass Response: Lord, ever nation on earth will adore you.

☒ Preparation: What Child Is This (#466) William C Dix

1) What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.

2) Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.

MASS INTENTIONS

4:00 PM Saturday 1 January
Lois Ruhr by Ron & Anita Sterud
8:00 AM Sunday 2 January
Parishioners
10:00 AM Sunday 2 January
Dorothy Most by Beth & Jerry
8:15 AM Tuesday 4 January
No Mass
8:15 AM Wednesday 5 January
No Mass
8:15 AM Thursday 6 January
No Mass
4:00 PM Saturday 8 January
Chuck Mueller by Ron & Anita Sterud
8:00 AM Sunday 9 January
Peter Kelly by Family
10:00 AM Sunday 9 January
Parishioners

BREAD AND WINE

Our Eucharist bread and wine for the month of January has been donated IMO the Beeler and Cotter Families, by Mary Beeler.

PRAYER CORNER

Please keep the following in your prayer.

Norm Killian; Anita Casey (Darla Ironside's Sister-Inlaw); Jessica Sabelko, Laura Kemmerer; Denise Cornell (Sylvia Falteisek's daughter); Jana Morrow (Walt & Carol Matzek's Daughter); Eileen Chase (Rich Niebur's mom); Kelly Niebur (wife of Ryan); Jackie Unser; Bill Casperson (Nancy Peterson's brother); Robert Hei (Shirley Hei's Son); Dwight Hollen; Kristi Meier; Evan Horn; Richard Cornell; Dick Baker; Casie Johnson; Richard Hulne; Mike Meier; Jerry Killian; Michael "Chip" O'Brien; Leslie Cobian; Marv Lindseth; Julie Murchinson; Gracie Magnan (daughter of Peter & Jessie); George Johnson; Shirley Hei; Betty Armstrong; Jerry Hoss (brother of Janet Cleary); Bernie Wisniewski; Roberta Bradford (Shirley Dehning Granddaughter); Butch Carroll (Roxie's Husband); Boyd Huppert; Theresa Hei; Sharon Heikkila; Alice Mercord; John Mercord; Mike Ptacek and all the parishioners who are homebound or in the nursing home.

To add a name to the prayer corner, call 715-262-5310. Names will remain on the list for one month, unless the parish office is notified otherwise.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Sundays during the 10am Mass we have classes for 4-, & 5-year-old children downstairs. Register anytime. (Stories of God's Love") No class Jan. 2 **January 5th** Classes 1-10, Grade 10 in gym for Pro-life Speaker.
January 12th Classes for Grades 1-9 with grades 7-9 in the gym for pro-life speaker
Any questions: Call or email Carol at 715-262-3514 or 651-208-4449
or carolmercord@stjosephprescott.com

"THE REAL JESUS:

Who is He....and How Can We Know?"

Mark your calendars: Wednesday, January 26, 2022, Supper 5PM, presentation to follow. Presented by Fr. Mark Pierce.
More information to follow.



Prayers are kindly requested for parishioner LaVerne "Vern" Cobian who passed away 25 December 2021. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Adult Envelope Contributions	\$ 17,055
Offertory	\$ 519
Immaculate Conception	\$ 10
Christmas Offering	\$ 1,200
St Joseph Parish School Donation	\$ 500
Total for week ending 12-19-2021	\$19,284

Due to early publication deadline, the financial information for Christmas will be updated next week.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the Church. If you need a contribution statement for 2021 please call the Parish office at. (715) 262-5310. or email us at ParishOffice@StJosephPrescott.com

St. Joseph Parish School

Christmas break begins for the school on December 23rd and will run through January 2nd. School will resume on Monday, January 3rd. The school office will be closed these dates as well.

As we near the end of Advent and reflect back during these final days of 2021, we are very thankful to have again remained in school from September through December. We continue to appreciate our partnership with parishioners and stakeholders in carrying out the mission and work of our school. Thank you for your time, talent, treasure, and continual support. We are committed to bringing the best possible Catholic education to our parish and community children, and we couldn't do this without you. Thanks again for all you do to support the operation and efforts of our school.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a restful winter break!

— *Mr. Magee, School Principal*



Tickets are now for sale ONLINE for Disco Knights!

January 29th 6pm-11pm @ Ptacek's Event Center

<https://event.gives/discoknights>



Saturday, 8 Jan. • 4:00 pm **Sunday, 9 Jan • 8:00 am**

Pat Rynda	Lector 1
Doris Ong-Schifsky	Lector 2
Pat Rynda	EM
Thomas Rynda	Server
OPEN	Server
Ron Sterud	Usher
OPEN	Usher

Patrick Leahy	Lector 1
Jan Ptacek	Lector 2
Mike Myers	EM
OPEN	Server
OPEN	Server
Bill Hovel	Usher

Sunday, 9 Jan • 10:00 am

Carol Mercord	Lector 1
Jennifer Christensen	Lector 2
Trevor Shearen	EM
Anne Markert	Server
OPEN	Server
Don Sabelko	Usher
Kevin Dunning	Usher

Lector 1 • 1st reading
Lector 2 • 2nd reading
& petitions

Money Counters

First National Bank
Monday, 10 January • 9:00 am
Roger & Carm Klegin
Ron & Anita Sterud

Contact Information

PARISH STAFF

Rev. George R. Szews	.....	Pastor
Rev. Mr. Gerald T. Rynda	.....	Deacon
Chris Magee	.....	School Principal
Carol Mercord	.....	Director of Religious Education
Rita Johnson	.....	Parish Administrative Assistant
Ann Schwebach	.....	Finance and Benefits
Crystal McCarthy	.....	School Administrative Assistant
Howie Kittleson	.....	Building & Grounds Manager
Don Sabelko	.....	Cemetery Sexton

PHONE

Rev. George R. Szews - Emergencies Only	.....	715-262-2520
Parish Office	.....	715-262-5310
St. Joseph's School	.....	715-262-5912, Fax 715-262-5901
Religious Education	.....	715-262-3514
Don Sabelko, Cemetery Sexton	.....	715-262-3123

OFFICE HOURS

Closed Monday & Friday; 9:00 am-3:00 pm Tuesday to Thursday

DEVOTIONS

Perpetual Help Novena

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

A class for new and expecting parents is held quarterly. Parents must be registered as parish members prior to attending the class. Call the parish office for more information. Baptisms are not celebrated during the Lenten season.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage should contact the parish office at least six months in advance. Marriages are not celebrated during the Lenten season.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Contact the Parish Office to make an appointment with the pastor.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Holy Communion is brought to the sick and homebound every Wednesday. Those who are seriously ill or anticipating surgery should contact the parish office to arrange for the Anointing of the Sick.

PARISH BULLETIN

Items for the weekly bulletin must be in the parish office by Friday at 12:30pm. (i.e. 9 days before the bulletin date)

PARISH WEBSITE	.....	WWW.STJOSEPHPRESCOTT.COM
PARISH EMAIL	.....	parishoffice@stjosephprescott.com
Fr. Szews EMAIL	.....	gszews@stjosephprescott.com
Finance	.....	finance@stjosephprescott.com

☒ Communion: The Table of Emmanuel

Tony Alonso

As we taste the bread of heav - en and the
cup of love out - poured, we pro - claim your birth, Em -
man - u - el, Child of Mar - y, Christ the Lord.

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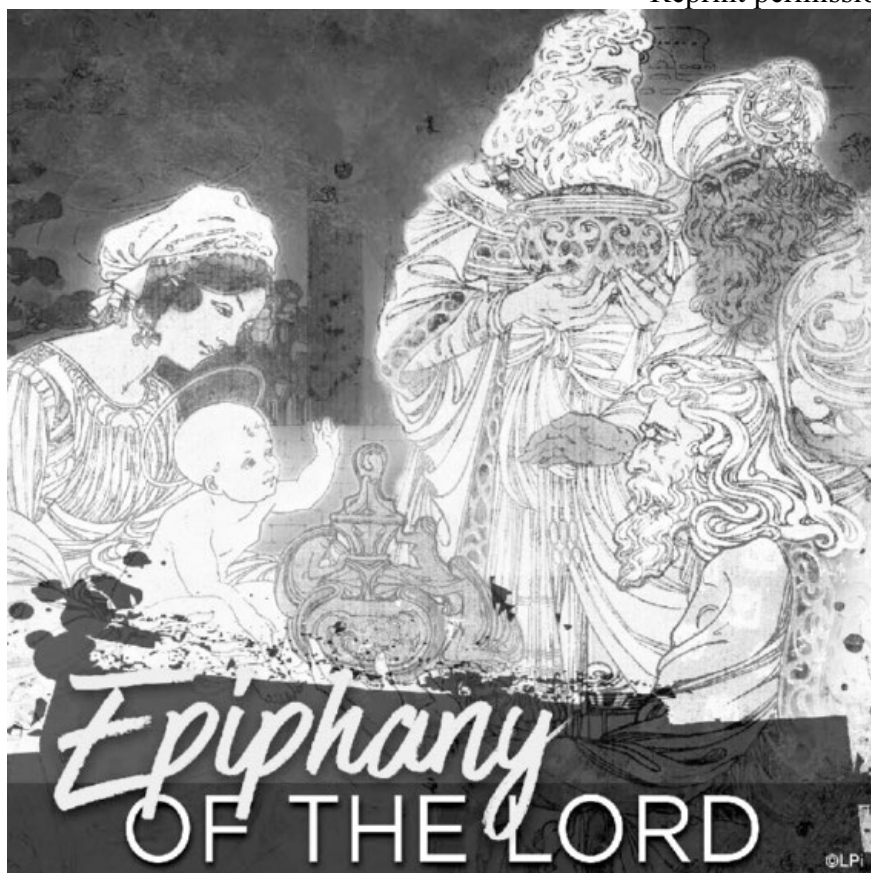
☒ Communion: The First Noel (#460)

☒ Closing: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (#459)

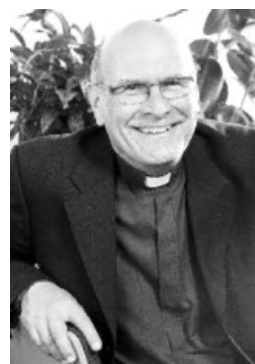
J. S. Bach

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar;
Branch of royal David's stem
In your birth at Bethlehem;
Anthems be to you address,
God in flesh made manifest. | 2) Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana, wedding guest,
In your Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to you address,
God in flesh made manifest. |
|--|--|

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Farewell to Fr. Szews



We have been blessed with an amazing friend and priest for the past 8 years. Fr. Szews, thank you for the gift of your priesthood. Thank you for giving us 3 minute homilies, that helped us to grow in our Christian faith. (We thank your mother for gifting you to God!) You lead us through many improvements and changes to our church. You leave a legacy of leadership, kindness and friendship. God Bless you! Enjoy your retirement.

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