

WELCOME TO
THE CHURCH OF
SAINT LUKE

The Epiphany of the Lord - January 3, 2021



17545 Huber Avenue N.W. • Clearwater, Minnesota 55320

Father Dennis Backer, Pastor



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Website www.churchofstlukes.com

Pastoral Emergencies 320-291-5678

Parish Office

Hours Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 am-3:00 pm
Fri. 8:30 am-12:00 pm

Phone 320-558-2124

Email office@churchofstlukes.com

Father Backer
Ext 1 or fatherbacker@churchofstlukes.com

Website www.churchofstlukes.com

Prayer Line 320-558-6169

Trustees..... Judy Lashinski & Steve LaFond

Finance Council ChairpersonSteve Duncan

Pastoral Council Chairperson.....Tony Leither

Parish Staff

Parish AdministratorSue Miller
Ext 3 or admin@churchofstlukes.com

Director of Faith Formation Marilyn Popp
Ext 2 or stlukefaithandlife@gmail.com

MusicTammy Reinert

Mass Schedule

Weekend

Sat. 5:00 pm; Sun. 8:00 & 10:00 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday—Friday 8:00 am

Saturday—9:00am

Chapel Hours

Sun.—Sat. 5:00 am to 9:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Fri 9:00 am—9:00 pm

Hospitality after Mass

Join us in the gathering area for coffee

Sacraments

Reconciliation

1/2 hour before Daily Mass Tues-Sat

Before weekend Masses:

Sat.- 4:15 PM; Sun.- 7:15 & 9:15 AM

And by appointment

Baptisms/Baptism Prep Classes

Prep class required before each baptism, please call parish office to make arrangements.

Weddings

Contact the parish office one year prior to your requested wedding date.

RCIA

Contact: Bruce Fladebo—320-260-3303
brucefladebo@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChurchOfStLukes

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Can I get a breather? (Note this is written pre-Christmas.) In the last couple of weeks, we have gone through Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Feast of the Holy Family, a funeral, New Year's (bye bye 2020 don't keep in touch) or as I call it the Feast of Holy Mother of God, and we are now celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord. Each of these have their own focus and reason for joy. However, I could now use a rest.

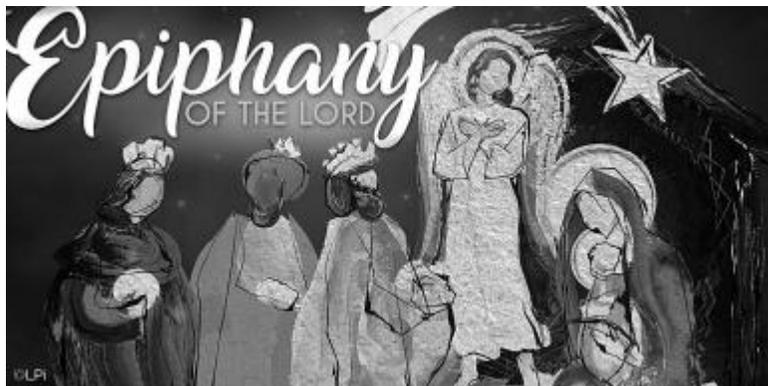
The Feast of the Epiphany, the arrival of the Magi or 3 kings always leads to many thoughts for me. Some are memories that come back from the time I was assigned to Epiphany in Coon Rapids for a year. However, the most powerful thought that keeps coming are the gifts the wise men brought, and if I could have joined them, what gift would I have brought to the Christ Child?? I sometimes spend time thinking about the 3 gifts. GOLD, is a sign that the child is a King. Gold has great value and if you had it to show, you were someone of some importance. FRANKINCENSE was a sign that the child would be a priest. The use of incense can have a few meanings, one representing our prayers going up to God and also acknowledging what is being incensed. MYRRH, signifies that this child will be a sacrifice. Yes, from the very start, there is a connection to the cross. These gifts were not just random gifts, there is much importance to them. So, what would we bring? What importance does it have?

I believe the other part of the Epiphany that we should not forget is the journey. The Magi traveled a great distance to find the child. They started their journey not knowing where or when it would end. How many of us would be willing to do that? And do not forget what it was like to travel in that time! This was not 'Load up the SUV and hit the road' using your credit card all the way. Mary and Joseph also traveled and would soon flee to keep the child safe. Travel at the time was hard and could be dangerous. Yet, the Magi's desire is so great to go looking for this newborn king, that they took the journey. I believe sometimes we overlook the gift that they came, that they were there. Will we make the commitment to search out the Christ Child in our world today? We may need to work to find Him. It may not be easy at times. Will we go? What will we bring?

Lastly, this year more than ever before, I see the Magi's visit as pointing to the future. We all had a rough time in 2020. Some more than others, but I do not believe anyone was left untouched by COVID. We have been hearing more and more words of hope for the future. Just before Christmas we saw the numbers in Minnesota fall (I am hoping they are still down). The national numbers were still high at that point, but there were signs of change. Hope also came with not just one but two possible vaccines that have started to be shipped and given to Healthcare workers first and some high-risk groups. But it will take time - time to vaccinate people, time to make so much vaccine, and time to see the effect of the vaccines.

I also would like to take a moment to express gratitude for all of the cards and messages I received over the last month, both for my birthday and for Christmas. One of the things that meant the most to me was that many of you took the time to thank me for doing my best to keep St. Luke's a safe place to come and worship. Some of the protocols come right from the Archbishop (or may have come from the Governor). However, since every parish is in a different situation with different buildings and staffs, some decisions have been deferred to the Pastor. This has been a heavy weight on my shoulders over the last year. I look forward to starting to move the other way, but we are not there yet!! Please remember we are still on our own journey, but let's keep making sure we are still searching for the Christ Child.

Blessings in 2021,
Fr. Backer



V I S I O N S T A T E M E N T

*The Church of St. Luke is a Catholic Community, centered in Christ through baptism and formed by the Eucharist.
We strive to always be a community where every heart is touched by our Christian fellowship.*

Faith and Family

The Epiphany - another celebration within the Catholic Church giving us as families an opportunity to have fun with our children and at the same time teach them about our faith. The word epiphany means manifestation or revelation. We also know it as The 3 Kings Day or 12th day of Christmas (the actual feast day is January 6th but in the US we celebrate it on the Sunday after the New Year). On the Epiphany we celebrate the revelation of Jesus Christ as a human being and also as the Son of God, the Incarnate, the Word made flesh. It is assumed that there were three men who came to see Christ because there were three gifts brought to Him. The significance of each gift is the real gift; Gold is presented to the Christ Child, which represents His kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of Christ's divinity because it was used by priests in the temple in offering their rising prayers to God with the smoke. And myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered to show the anticipated death of Jesus. What faith and longing for a Savior these wise men had - to study the stars and set out on a long difficult journey knowing that if they could follow the star it would lead them to the Savior of the world. We too have this same longing in our hearts for Christ. How do we follow the "star" and come to know our Savior in a deep and intimate way?

Take about ten minutes each day to read the Gospel for the day (found in the fold out of the bulletin) and ask the Lord to reveal to you the meaning of His word. Talk to your children about the significance of the wise men's gifts to Jesus. A fun activity for children is to take the kings from your family nativity set and parade around singing "We three kings" and then place the kings at the entrance of the stable showing that they have arrived. Another custom is blessing the home. This may have come from the words in the Gospel, "And entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary, His Mother, and falling down they adored Him." Matt 2:11. The father of the family (or mom can do this too) leads the family from room to room, using Holy water to bless each room, and at the entryway of the house he writes the initials of the three Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) above the doors with the chalk that has been previously blessed. The doors are inscribed with the following: 20 + C + M + B + 21. The initials are separated by crosses and the year above the door. The initials CMB also stand for the words "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means, "May Christ bless this house". This writing above the entry of our house will be a reminder to us that we should be with and go to Christ in all our comings and goings.

How to Pray: 6-Week Series Wednesdays, January 6-February 10, 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom, hosted by St. Thomas More, St. Paul. Join us in the New Year for our winter prayer series! Each week we will learn about a new form of prayer. Our time will include a talk by the presenter and, in some cases, time to practice the prayer form for the evening. There will also be time for sharing our experiences and responding to questions. You may join us for as many or as few sessions work with your schedule. <https://www.morecommunity.org/howtopray>.

Baptism

Attendance at a one hour Baptismal Preparation Program is **required** and parish registration is expected. Please call the parish office a minimum of 2 months prior to your desired date for baptism to register for the Baptismal Preparation classes.

Weddings

Contact the parish office *one year prior* to your requested wedding date and set up an appointment with Father Backer Marriage Preparation classes and a retreat are required.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK: Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup. This week watch **God's Doorkeeper: St. Andre' of Montreal**. This week, January 6th, we celebrate the memorial of this humble doorkeeper, St. Andre' of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love! **FORMED NOW! HOW TO PRAY.** Whether you are a veteran in the spiritual life or are just beginning start this year off right by recommitting yourself to prayer! Join Drs. Tim Gray and Elizabeth Klein as they discuss ways to kick-start your prayer life this year! Watch, learn or listen and then share and discuss. There is something for everyone. Check it out. **SIGN UP FREE AT [FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP](https://formed.org/signup).**

Virtual Ascend Conference January 21-23, online This conference for young adults will take you on a deep dive into what it means to be "created for worship." It is our hope that these three nights of high-powered keynotes, convicting exhortation, live whole-hearted worship, and our very own "Ascend Show" will open your heart to a new and profound experience of your identity in Christ. Register at ascendspo.org.

Prayer Service for Life Friday, January 22, 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul and via live stream. Please join us for this prayer service to commemorate the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. Limited seating will be available, and COVID-19 protocols will be followed. The prayer service will also be live streamed on the Cathedral's Facebook page: facebook.com/cathedralsaintpaul.

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@rvineyardmn.org, call 763-250-9313 or see www.rvineyardmn.org.

Synod Year 2: Winter 2020 Watch for updates to come on activities in winter 2021. Faith and Culture Series: January and February 2021. Synod at Home, Growing in Faith Together. Learn more about these offerings, and find all materials from the Synod Fall 2020 Series at archspm.org/synod. May God bless you!

MISSION STATEMENT

"We, the community of St. Luke, come together to worship with joy and unity, to guide our children in faith, to show compassion and love towards others, and to work together as a parish family, so that we may be instrumental in building a meaningful and everlasting community to God by sharing our time and talents and following our Lord Jesus Christ."

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Tuesday, January 5th

8:00 am †Clarence Shatek

Wednesday, January 6th

8:00 am †Fr. John C. Clay

Thursday, January 7th

8:00 am †Ron & Kathy Misenor

Friday, January 8th

8:00 am †Fr. Peter Wittman

Saturday, January 9th

9:00 am †Kathy & Ron Misenor

Saturday, January 9th

5:00 pm †Dennis Hilsgen

Sunday, January 10th

8:00 am †Alfred Gohman

10:00 am Parishioners

Minister's Schedule For January 9th & 10th

The Ministry Heads will be contacting volunteers to minister.

Mass Options

If You are Staying Home During the Pandemic

Church of St Luke FaceBook Page 10:00am Sundays

EWTN at 11:00am Sundays. 7:00am Daily Mass

Check website for other Mass times too.

<https://www.ewtn.com/tv>

Catholic TV catholicTV.org

<http://www.catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass>

Televised Mass: Diocese of St. Cloud: Sundays, 11 a.m. on KSTC-TV/45

Our Lady of Grace, Edina: Sunday, Noon on Fox 9+

Spiritual Communion

“My Jesus, I believe that you are present
in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things
and I desire you with all my heart.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself to you completely.

Please do not let me ever be separated from you.”

Sacraments for Seniors Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recognizes that residents of long-term care have spiritual and emotional needs, not just physical. Even if there is a case of COVID-19 in the facility, clergy and pastoral caregivers may be admitted under the title of “healthcare worker” or “compassionate care,” provided that they have not been recently exposed to COVID-19 and abide by stringent safety requirements. The patient or the patient’s advocate, however, must request the visit. If a facility will not allow such access, you may wish to contact the Minnesota ombudsman’s office, (651) 431-2553. It has doubled its staff and is available to help advocate.

Receive **The Catholic Spirit** newspaper — for free! Be in-the-know with news from your Catholic community and the Church around the world. Get **The Catholic Spirit**, the award-winning newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, in your home. Free subscriptions for parishioners are available via each parish. Contact your parish office to be added to the mailing list.

Archdiocesan Synod: Faith and Culture Series January 21 – February 9, Four sessions 7-8:30 p.m., Virtual Event; Link Sent to Registrants. Inspired by the thousands of participants at the Prayer and Listening Events, this series connects their stories to the story of the Church. Each virtual event includes a talk, testimonials, and a live panel discussion. Registration is required to participate live. Find topics, dates and registration at

Consecration to St. Joseph: The Archdiocese is observing a Year of Saint Joseph from December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021. Consecration Mass and prayer service to Saint Joseph on December 8, 2020. Archbishop Hebda said, “On this December 8th date, the Church Universal will be marking the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX’s proclamation of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. Our hope is that the Year of Saint Joseph will be a source of renewal in our local Church, most especially as we continue our preparations for the Synod of 2022.” The lay faithful are invited to participate through individual consecration to Saint Joseph. Learn more at <https://www.archspm.org/synod/stjoseph/>.



Readings for the Week of January 3, 2021

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11 ©LPi

St. Luke's Calendar

Wednesday, January 6th
6:45 pm Faith Formation

Friday, January 8th
9:00 am — 9:00 pm Adoration



Registration

Welcome to the Church of St. Luke. Please call the parish office to become a registered member.

Prayer Line 558-6169



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KofC meeting reminder:
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