
St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish

680 Mill Street, Excelsior, MN 55331

January 2, 2022 | The Epiphany of the Lord



The Magi

Today we are celebrating the great feast of the Epiphany, the mystery of the Lord's Manifestation to all the peoples, represented by the Magi who came from the East to worship the King of the Jews (cf. Mt 2: 1-2). St Matthew, who recounts the event, stresses that they arrived in Jerusalem following a star that they had seen rising and interpreted as a sign of the birth of the King proclaimed by the Prophets, in other words the Messiah. However, having arrived in Jerusalem, the Magi needed the priests and scribes to direct them in order to know exactly where to go, namely, Bethlehem, the city of David (cf. Mt 2: 5-6; Mic 5: 1). On their journey, the star and the Sacred Scriptures were the two lights that guided the Magi, who appear to us as models of authentic seekers of the truth.

They were Wise Men who scrutinized the stars and knew the history of the peoples. They were men of science in the broad sense, who observed the cosmos, considering it almost as a great open book full of divine signs and messages for human beings. Their knowledge, therefore, far from claiming to be self-sufficient, was open to further divine revelations and calls. In fact, they were not ashamed to ask the religious leaders of the Jews for directions. They could have said: "we will do it on our own, we do not need anyone", thereby avoiding, according to our mentality today, all "contamination" between science and the word of God. Instead, the Magi listened to the prophecies and accepted them; and, no sooner had they continued on their way towards Bethlehem than they saw the star again, as if to confirm the perfect harmony between human

seeking and the divine Truth, a harmony that filled the hearts of these genuine Wise Men with joy (cf. Mt 2: 10). The culmination of their quest was the moment when they found themselves before "the Child with Mary his Mother" (Mt 2: 11). The Gospel says that they "fell down and worshipped him". They might have been disappointed, or even shocked. Instead, as the true Wise Men that they were, they were open to the mystery that had manifested itself in a surprising manner and, with their symbolic gifts, they showed that they recognized Jesus as the King and Son of God. Precisely in that gesture were fulfilled the messianic oracles that proclaimed the homage of nations to the God of Israel.

A final detail confirms the unity in the Magi of intelligence and faith: it is the fact that "being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way" (Mt 2: 12). It would have been natural to return to Jerusalem, to Herod's Palace and to the Temple to spread the news of their discovery. Instead, the Magi, who had chosen the Child as their Sovereign, kept this hidden, in accordance with Mary's, or rather with God's own style. And thus just as they had appeared they disappeared in silence, content but also transformed by their meeting with the Truth. They had discovered a new Face of God, a new kingship: that of love. May the Virgin Mary, model of true wisdom, help us to be authentic seekers of God's truth, ever capable of living the profound harmony that exists between reason and faith, science and revelation.

*Pope Benedict XVI, St. Peter's Square
January 6, 2010 // www.vatican.va*



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To know, love, serve and share Christ through worship, teaching, stewardship and witness

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 4th

6:00pm RCIA

Wednesday, January 5th

Faith Formation Classes (4pm & 6:30pm - Confirmation Year 1)

Thursday, January 6th

8:30am Women's Bible Study

Friday, January 7th

10:00am Caffe & Ave

Saturday, January 8th

5:00pm Mass

Sunday, January 9th

8:00am Mass (Hospitality)

10:00am Mass (Hospitality)

Mass Roots - The Homily

The three Magi's journey to find the Christ child was no doubt long and arduous. Upon finding the Word made flesh, do you think they popped in to say hello, drop off their gifts, and headed on their way? I would think not! Just as countless other people in the Gospels, they no doubt wanted to spend time with Jesus, the very Son of God. *Everyone* has this desire to spend time with our Creator and Redeemer (whether some realize or acknowledge that reality is another story), but it looks different now since Jesus' bodily time on earth has ended.

So how do we spend time with Jesus today? Well, since he is the Word, it would only make sense to spend time with Scripture! We already read four Scripture passages during the first portion of the Mass, but we don't stop there. Immediately following the Gospel, the priest or deacon delivers the homily to shine light upon the Word of God we have just heard.

If you put yourself in the shoes of a parish priest, you would find yourself giving homilies *nearly every single day*. Amazing, isn't it? Imagine picking a series of books other than the books of the Bible and trying to come up with a daily reflection upon it for years on end! But the Bible isn't just any book. St. Augustine famously exclaimed in his *Confessions*, "O, beauty ever ancient, ever new!" **While we can spend insurmountable time and energy diving into the *historical* context and meaning of Scripture, the text will perpetually take on *newness* as our lives continue to unfold and God continues to reveal more of Himself to us.**

This is precisely the objective of the homily, as the priest aims to "explain the literal, and evolve the spiritual meaning of the Sacred

Text." (Patrick Beecher, "Homily"). They take the *unchanging Word* and bring it to life in our *ever-changing world*. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops puts it, "an increasingly important objective of the Sunday homily in our day is to stir the hearts of our people, to deepen their knowledge of the faith, and to renew their living the faith in the world and participation in the Church and her sacraments."

The homily is certainly no small task! Next time you're at Mass, be sure to appreciate the priest or deacon's important ministry, and open your ears and heart to what the Lord may be speaking to you through His Word that day.

Exultemus Domino,
Kari Hoeft ~ Director of Music, Liturgy and Parish Engagement



“Our Gifts, God’s Work” Program

Thank you for your generous support of our “Our Gifts, God’s Work” increased offertory giving program! Several weeks ago, we began this important parish-wide program and we are starting to see signs that our offertory collections are growing through the generosity of YOU, our faithful parish community. In the coming weeks we will be publishing in the bulletin a report with important highlights from our program. Thank you so very much to all who participated. Your generosity shows your willingness as faithful stewards to be a part of the ongoing missions of St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish.

Feed My Starving Children

We serve at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen every second Thursday of the month from 9am-11am. The next date is Thursday, January 13th. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Place to join us!

Christmas Flowers

- ✿ *In Memory of the parents of James & Mary Frerich. Donated by James & Mary Frerich.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Bob Peterson, Millard & Lorraine Peterson, and Arnold Schroeder. Donated by Linda Peterson.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Walter Kunisch, Walter & Voola Kunisch, and Cliff & Sue Roberts. Donated by Walter & Megan Kunisch.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Mary Behun, Laura Kapsner, and Mabel Vacek. Donated by John & Vanessa Behun.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Shirlee Stacy and Dale Brooks. Donated by Joe & April Brooks.*
- ✿ *In Memory of John & Sue Walton. Donated by Christopher & Katherine Simmer.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Amelia & Thomas Lobue and Anne & James Hagan. Donated by James & Paula Hagan.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Dr. Joe & Helen Dupont. Donated by John Dupont.*
- ✿ *In Memory of David Voaklander and Doris Bartholomew. Donated by Tom & Nicki Bartholomew.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Del Hennessey. Donated by Florence Hennessey.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Charles Osterfeld. Donated by Jane Osterfeld.*
- ✿ *In Memory of the King Family and the Eldredge Family. Donated by Judith King.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Keith & Kathy Bedford, Ella & Fred Bedford, Grace & Paul Bendel, Dorothy Lamb Bedford, Dorothy Moores, and Michael Moors. Donated by Kal & Kari Bedford.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Don Rogers and the Mase Family. Donated by Mary Rogers.*
- ✿ *In Memory of Stephanie Vavrichek and Grace Vavrichek. Donated by Steve & Karen Vavrichek.*
- ✿ *In Honor of the Renard Family and the Skortz Family. Donated by Tom & Jeanine Renard.*
- ✿ *In Honor of Marie Schroeder. Donated by Linda Peterson.*
- ✿ *In Honor of Kathy Davis, Mr. & Mrs. G. Conkey, Ted Davis, and Nancy Crippen. Donated by Curtis & Mary Crippen.*

Weekly Prayer

Readings for the week of January 02, 2022

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/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/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/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Questions of the Week

First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah foresaw a time of great joy for Israel when nations and kings would come to Israel praising the Lord. How do you show gratitude to the Lord for the great joys of your life?

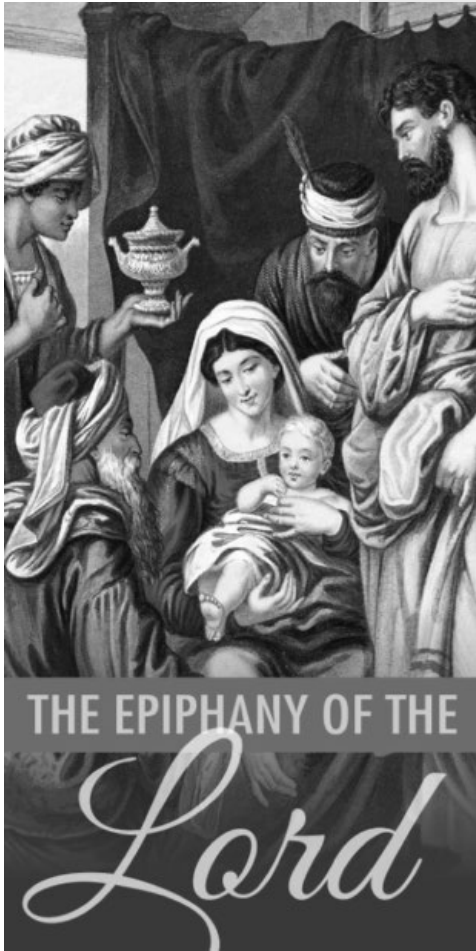
Second Reading:

It was revealed to Paul that God intended to save all people (Jews and Gentiles) through his Son, Jesus Christ. Paul tried to convey the significance of this revelation to the Ephesians by using the language of “coheirs” and “copartners.” What does this language signal to you?

Gospel:

The visit of the magi is one of the most well-known stories from the Gospel infancy narratives. It was an event that manifested God’s revelation of His newborn Son to the world. It also foreshadowed the threat that some would experience because of Jesus. How does Jesus challenge the status quo even today?

©LPi



Mass Intentions

Mon.	January 3	No Mass	
Tues.	January 4	5:30pm	Eric Sweigard
Wed.	January 5	8:00am	† Bradley Beniek
Thurs.	January 6	8:00am	† Howard Gans
Fri.	January 7	9:00am	Jill Schmidt
Sat.	January 8	8:00am	† Rich Kreutter
		5:00pm	Howard & Joan Johnson
Sun.	January 9	8:00am	Anna Louise Fulks and Steve Fulks
		10:00am	For the Parish

Pray for the Sick

We invite you to keep in your daily prayers the sick and confined of our parish who seek God's joy in their infirmity, in particular:

- Elvera Hoops
- Roger “Pete” Hansen
- Mary Rosati
- Tom Bartholomew
- Viviana Wright
- Joyce Koch
- Margaret Davis
- Art Rosenberg
- Joe Garaghty
- Caroline Garanich
- Ruth Colnar
- Scott Lunger
- David Streeter
- Jerry Doboszanski

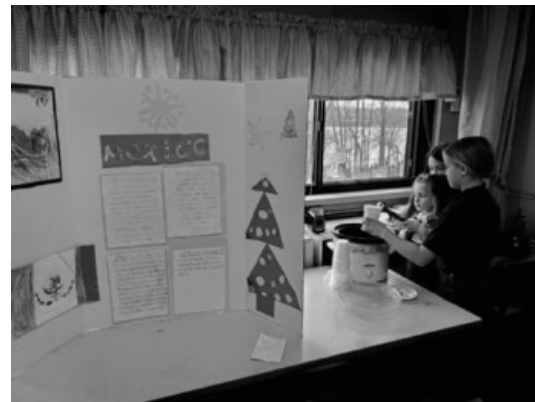
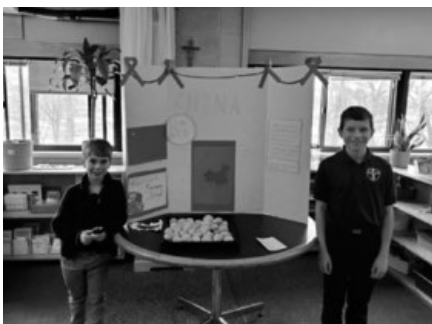
St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School

Guided by our Roman Catholic faith, St. John the Baptist Catholic Montessori School prepares students to live out the Gospel message, achieve academic excellence, and joyfully lead by faith, virtue and reason.



Christmas Around the World

Before our Elementary students went on their Christmas break, they hosted their annual Christmas Around the World. Family and friends visited the school on Friday, December 17th to learn from the students how other countries celebrate Christmas and to sample traditional foods from the countries they studied.



News & Events

Take a look at what's coming up!

Please Join in Welcoming Bishop-elect Joseph Williams

On December 10, Pope Francis named Father Joseph Williams, a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, as Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

The ordination of Joseph Williams to the Episcopacy will take place Tuesday, January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. The ordination will be livestreamed on the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis' Facebook page. Time to be announced. Learn more about Bishop-elect Williams, watch video interviews, and find details on the ordination at archspm.org/newbishop. Please join us in praying for our new auxiliary bishop!

Men's Silent Retreat

Looking for the perfect getaway? Let God meet you at a beautiful retreat location in Lake Elmo, MN. Join us for a Men's Silent Retreat at the Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House January 20 – January 23. The retreat begins Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening. Free will donations are accepted. For more information, call Bob Cardinal at (651) 398-1457 or check out the website <http://www.demontrevilleretreat.com>. Other retreat days are also available.

Ladies of St. John's – Give yourself a gift!

You are warmly invited to nurture your relationship with Jesus by attending the 6th Annual Women's Retreat – Deeper Love on Friday evening, January 14 & Saturday, January 15 at the Church of St. Therese in Deephaven. Take time out to come rest in His love during this time of learning & sharing, prayer, music, sacraments & sisterhood! We will welcome Minnesota author and national speaker, Liz Kelly, who will guide us to encounter a deeper love with Jesus Christ, as she shares insights from her award-winning book, *Jesus Approaches*.

The retreat may be attended in-person, virtually or a combination of both. Cost is \$65 and scholarships are available. Details and a registration link can be found at www.st-therese.org. Come strengthen the tether between your own heart & the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands.” Let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 11-13, 2022 in Buffalo, MN and May 6-8, 2022 in Buffalo, MN. For more information, call Brent & Tracy Chessen at 612-756-8720 or visit them at twincitieswwme.org.

Stewardship Update

*We have increased our Offertory Budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. We have additionally included this year's actuals compared to last year's actuals for a more accurate reflection of our offertory growth/(decline).

*Please note that fluctuation in weekly giving is often due to variable timing of annual stewardship gifts.

Collections as of: 12/20/2021		Year-to-Date Information as of: 12/20/2021	
	Actual	YTD Budget	\$436,793
Sunday	\$9,377.00	YTD Actual	\$427,341
EFT	\$10,617.67	Amount Over/ (Under)	(\$9,452)
Plate	\$672.00		
Total	\$20,666.67		

Year-to-Date Information as of: 12/20/2021

Prior YTD Actual	\$405,011
Current YTD Actual	\$427,341
Amount Over/(Under) Prior Year	\$22,330

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil	5:00pm
Sunday	8:00 & 10:00am
Tuesdays	5:30pm
Wednesdays, Thursdays	8:00am
Friday (School Mass)	9:00am
Saturdays	8:00am

(Holy Days and Holidays—see bulletin Or call Parish Office)

Sacrament of Confession

Tuesdays	5:00pm
Wednesdays, Thursdays	7:30am
Fridays	8:30am
Saturdays	8:30-9:30am & 3:30-4:30pm

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples must call Fr. Carlson 6 months in advance

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish Office 2 months prior to child's birth. Required classes held regularly.

A local Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. Victim Assistance Hotline: (651)291-4497

Parish Offices

CHURCH: (952) 474-8868 Fax: (952) 444-3474

PASTOR: FATHER CARLSON

Ext. 216 | fr.carlson@stjohns-excelsior.org

DEACON: DCN GARY HOFFMAN

garyhoffman44@gmail.com

PARISH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR: MARIE RICE

Ext. 204 | mrice@stjohns-excelsior.org

ACCOUNTING: CHRISTA VASSALLO

Ext. 203 | cvassallo@stjohns-excelsior.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, LITURGY & PARISH ENGAGEMENT: KARI HOEFT

Ext. 206 | khoeft@stjohns-excelsior.org

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & ADMIN ASSISTANT: MARY ELSÉN

Ext. 200 | melsen@stjohns-excelsior.org

OFFICE & CEMETERY MANAGER: MEGAN ADAM

Ext. 207 | madam@stjohns-excelsior.org

LEAD MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN: MIKE PYLKA

Ext. 205 | mpylka@stjohns-excelsior.org

SCHOOL: (952) 474-5812 Fax: (952) 444-3474

PRINCIPAL: ANGELA WROBLEWSKI

Ext. 301 | awroblewski@stjohns-excelsior.org

SCHOOL OPERATIONS MANAGER: MONICA BENDA

Ext. 300 | mbenda@stjohns-excelsior.org

PARISH TRUSTEES: BARB THOMAS, MARK SPANIOL

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR: PAT JOHNSON

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: CHARLIE KANAN

Church Building Hours— Open for Prayer:

Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

Saturday 8:00am-6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am-12:00pm

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