



St. Michael's

CATHOLIC CHURCH
1/2/2021

The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings for the week of January 2, 2022

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

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

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.



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Email: sisterjblum@fmctc.com

St. Peter's in Defiance
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am
Saturday 4:00 pm
St. Joseph's in Earling
Wednesday & Friday 8:00 am
Sunday 9:00 am

CALENDAR & INTENTIONS for the Week of January 2, 2022

Monday, January 3, No Mass
 Tuesday, January 4, 8:15 am Mass in memory of John Assmann
 Wednesday, January 5, 8:15 am School Mass in memory of Ron Newcomb, Vince & Irene Kenkel & Bernice Kenkel
 6:30 pm Family Formation in Rosman Parish Center
 Thursday, January 6, 12:00 Noon Communion Service
 Friday, January 7, 8:15 Mass in memory of Pat Miller
 First Friday Adoration
 12:00 Noon Benediction
 Saturday, January 8, 5:00 pm Mass for the people of St. Michael's
 Sunday, January 9, 9:30 am Mass in memory of Brandy Chamberlain-Harms and Larry A. Patten

Office Hours - New Year's
 Monday, Jan. 3 CLOSED

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to make a memorial donation for Christmas flowers please place your gift in an envelope marked "Flower Donation." Tell us in whose memory the money is given, and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Suggested donation is \$20. Memorials received by January 3 will be printed in January 8-9 bulletin.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions received after Dec. 31, even if the check has a 2021 date, do not qualify as a contribution for 2021, unless the envelope they came in was postmarked in 2021.

Ministry Schedule

	Friday	Sunday
Jan.8-9	5:00 pm	9:30 am
Lector	Lin Brinker	Maxine Kwapiszeski
Eucharistic Ministers	Roger Bissen (T) Dea Ann Bissen Kathy Hull	Pat Lee (T) Richard Lee Jenny Moser
Servers	Tim Goeser Ashley Tunender	Kyia Rueschenberg Katy Schmitz Ethan Schmitz
Musicians Cantors		Kate Kohorst
Ushers	Joe Klein Lin Brinker Joann Kenkel Ethan Tepe	Bill Buman Russ Chamberlain Marcus Gross, Jr. Tom Powers



Church Calendars

The 2022 church calendars are available in the back of church. We ask for a donation of \$2 to help cover the cost.

St. Michael's Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Michael's Catholic Parish, are many parts, but one body. As a community of believers in Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we celebrate the sacraments, are challenged by Sacred Scripture and Roman Catholic Tradition, share of ourselves in service to others, and strive to promote the dignity of all human life and justice for all, as we continue toward the eternal glory of God's kingdom.

Remember the Sick

Gary Kenkel	Becca (Kloewer)
Charlotte Leinen	Fawkes
Tami Rueschenberg	Olivia Fawkes
Jennifer Anderson	Dawson Fawkes
Gay Burgod	Ethel Defenbaugh
Fr. Glen Wilwerding	Tyler Bruck
Carol Thompson	Denny Stolz
Theresa Kranz	

***** REMINDER *****

BEGINNING IN JANUARY ALL DYGS
meet the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Weds each month.
Jr High in Music Rm, Sr High in Library &
Confirmation Class in the Gym 6:30-8:00
Family Formation
continues to meet the 1st Weds of each
month in the Gym 6:30-7:45



Parish Solidarity Fund

Bishop William Joensen invites us to help a sister parish, St. Mary of Hamburg, that needs a religious education center for its youth. We will be taking up a special collection the weekend of **January 8-9**. Or you can go to dmdiocese.org/giving to make your contribution.



Fifteen-Decade Rosary for Life

Sun., Jan. 16, 2022

1:30-2:30 PM

St. Mary, Portsmouth

All parishioners of all
Shelby County Catholic Churches
are encouraged to attend.

Pancake Breakfast & Open House

Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 30. Shelby County Catholic School will be hosting their annual open house and pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 30, from 8:00 am until 11:30 pm. Come celebrate the opening of Catholic Schools Week with us.

Save The Date

Mark your calendar now for the
St. Michael's Spring Fundraiser/Auction &
Dinner that is scheduled for
Saturday, March 19, at the Rosman Parish
Center.

Sacrament Information

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

4:00 P.M. Saturday or by Appointment

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

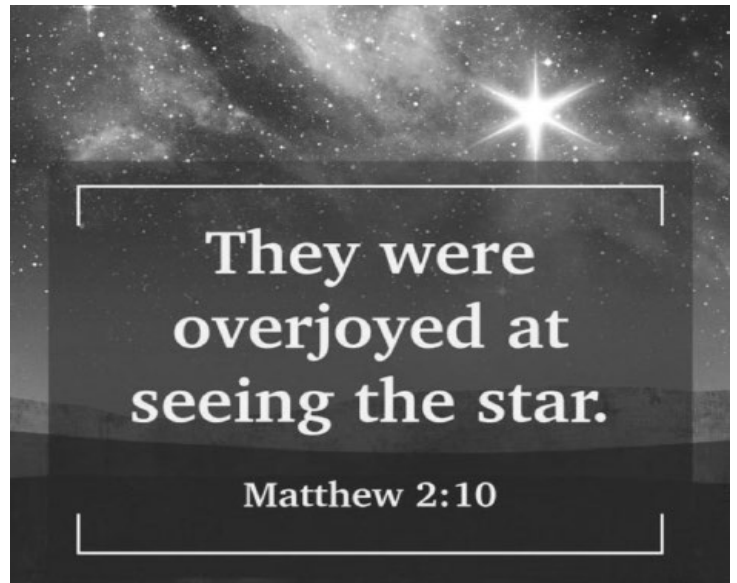
Is celebrated by request. Notify the office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the office to set a date

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Wedding dates are set after initial interview with Father Clement



Where to Watch

St. Michael's Mass is televised on cable TV (HMU Channel 15 at 4:00 pm on Sunday & Wednesday, on Mediacom Channel 18 at 4:00 pm on Monday, and on FMCTC Channel 48 at 4:00 pm on Sunday.) Mass is also available as **livestream** or on demand on Harlan Knights of Columbus channel on YouTube at:
<https://tinyurl.com/y4ax6z3g>

St. Michael's 9:30 AM Sun Mass is **livestreamed** on Facebook:
St. Michael's Catholic Church - Harlan, IA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need someone to take Communion to Elm Crest every other Monday at 10:30 am.

We need past Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers to let us know if we can put you back into rotation. Please call or email the office.





FAITH FORMATION MEETINGS

Sunday Saints

Sunday 9:30 Mass 3 y/o - 2nd Graders

Family Formation Encounter

1/5 6:30-7:45 K-6

Rosman Parish Hall

Defenders Youth Group (DYG)

1/12, 1/19 and 1/26

6:30-8:00 ALL DYG Gather

Rosman Parish Hall

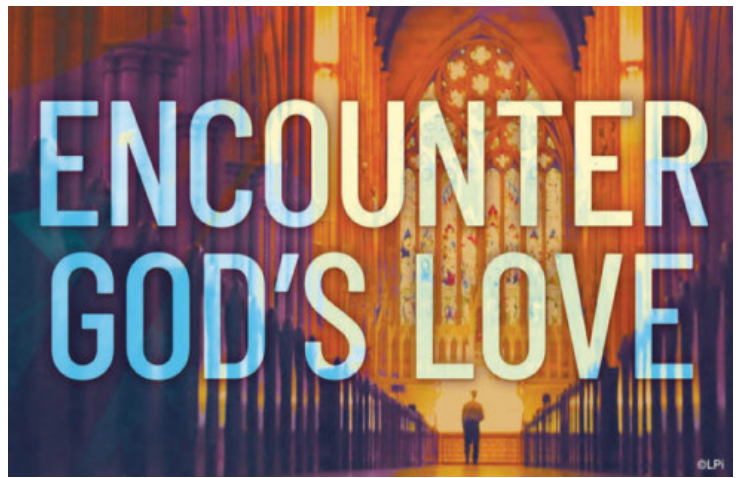
Jr High Music Rm - Sr High Library

- Confirmation in Gym -



A Prayer to Be Open to God's Will

Good and gracious God,
I know that life can be unpredictable.
Sometimes I know what is good and right,
but I don't have the courage to do it.
Sometimes I am so busy with my own affairs,
I forget to see the needs of people in front of me.
Sometimes I am set in my own ways,
and I resist growing and learning.
Help me, Lord, to be open to Your will.
When You prompt me to do the right thing,
give me the courage to do it.
When those around me need my help,
give me Your heart to love them.
When I'm stuck in my own ways,
give me the grace to grow closer to You every day.
Give me the trust and confidence of Mary.
Let it be done unto me according to Your word!
Amen.



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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