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Jennie Forney

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Office hours: Mon- Thurs 8:00
am - 4:30 pm

Office closed on Friday.

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 7:45 am
Saturday: 8:30 am & 5:00 pm
Sunday: 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Wednesdays 5-6pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT Wednesdays after
the 7:45 am Mass ending with
evening prayer and Benediction
at 6:45 pm.

Please call the parish office to
schedule the Sacraments of Bap-
tism, Marriage and Anointing of
the Sick.

All Are Welcome Here!



Gospel:

*They prostrated themselves and did him
homage.*

*Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh. (Mt 2:11b)*

St. Mary Great Mother of God Catholic Church



COMING FROM
A LAND THAT
WORSHIPPED STARS...
THEY FELL DOWN
AND WORSHIPPED
HIM WHO MADE
THE STARS.

-VENERABLE FULTON SHEEN

The Epiphany of the Lord
January 6, 2019

St. Mary Great Mother of God Masses for the Week of January 7, 2018

Mon	Jan	07	7:45 a.m.	Mass-for Jenny Hunter
Tue	Jan	08		No Mass today
Wed	Jan	09	7:45 a.m.	Mass- for the poor souls in Purgatory
			8:30 am-6:45 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
			5-6 p.m.	Confession
Thur	Jan	10	7:45 a.m.	Mass-for the repose of the soul of Bill Gamble
Fri	Jan	11	7:45 a.m.	Mass-for the repose of the soul of Armore Labine
Sat	Jan	12	8:00 a.m.	Rosary
			8:30 a.m.	Mass-for the perseverance of all priests & religious
			3-4:30 p.m.	Confession
			5:00 p.m.	Mass- for the repose of the soul of Jim Serne
Sun	Jan	13	10:30 a.m.	Mass- for all parishioners



"The Sun of Justice rises on the man who recognizes God, because He is Himself the Everlasting Light."--Saint Ambrose

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF January 12 & 13

Saturday, 5:00 pm

Lectors	Mike Lessens
Altar Servers	W. & K. Kolp
Ex. Ministers of of Holy Communion	P. Krause, K. & H. Kolp
Laurels of Kent	
Fountain View/Green Acres	
Homebound	
Lacey's	
Sacristan	Joann Serne
Ushers	J. Ormiston, T. Fitzpatrick Dick Johnson, Gerald Eagan
Flowers	Melissa Patyi



Sunday, 10:30 am

Dave Carstens
J. & M. Wohlsheid
D. Dommer, J. Maschke, J. Pfaller
K. Reynolds, W. Alderink
Franciscan Sisters
J. Serne
D. Schultz
J. Hunter
Matt VanderWerff
B. Baker, D. Inbody, C. Nelson Andrew Inbody

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE: Deposit for 01/06/2019 will appear in a future bulletin

Adult Envelope Collection	\$
Loose Collection	\$
Children's Collection	\$
Total Weekend Collection	\$
Total needed for budget	\$ 5300.00

If you use auto-pay, please put your envelope number as the account number. Thank you!





Faith Formation News

Epic: A Journey through Church History is a captivating and fast-paced look at the story of the Catholic Church. Beginning with the lives of the apostles all the way up to the present day, *Epic* takes the immense history of the Church and simplifies it into twelve, color-coded time periods. In the course of twenty sessions, participants learn about the major people, places, and events that comprise the captivating story of Christianity. This study provides participants with an understanding of Church history that enables them to have a greater sense of meaning and identity as Catholics. We meet on **Wednesdays at 10 a.m.** To sign up for the study, contact Jennie at stmarylowelldre@gmail.com or join us for a class to check it out! All are welcome!

High School Youth Group will meet again on January 13th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the St. Joseph room.

Attention Men! Mark your calendars and register NOW for the upcoming 14th Annual Building a Legacy Catholic Men’s Conference on March 9, 2019 at West Catholic High School. It will be a day of dynamic speakers, powerful faith development and reinvigorating fellowship. This year’s line up includes Elvis Grbac, Matt Fradd and Matthew Leonard with Mass celebrated by Bishop Walkowiak. See www.buildingalegacy.org for details and to register. Questions? Call Deacon Jim at 616-292-0422. Early bird registration ends Feb. 22nd and is limited...don’t miss out!

DYMO Camp: DYMO (Diocesan Youth Ministry Opportunities) Camp is a weeklong retreat for high school students offered by the Diocese of Grand Rapids. It is being held at Camp Pinewood near Muskegon from June 16-22, 2019. Register before January 15th and save \$100. Scholarships are available!



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We all have had the experience of walking into a dark room and searching for the light switch. If we are really unfamiliar with the space, anxiety, uncertainty, disorientation, and even fear can easily arise. Once we find the light, all is illuminated and we are at peace. Our light has come into the world! The glory of God has been revealed! Today's feast of the Epiphany teaches us to look to our Savior, Jesus Christ, for the way to truly be the human beings we were created to be. He shows us how to prioritize our lives, order our relationships, care for creation, and live as daughters and sons of God. God's love and creative power is universal, transcending all races and nations. Jesus brings the light of peace to a broken world that still struggles to understand itself and to you and I who also struggle to understand who we are. May we find ourselves overjoyed that we have found our truth and allow Jesus to bring light to the darkness of our lives!

Happy Birthday to You!


- 1/7 Melissa Gast, Jenny Hunter, Ann Wood
- 1/8 Bernadette Joyce, AnaSophia Schmitz
- 1/9 Dan Brzezinski, Heidi Munson
- 1/10 Rachel Mullins, Larry Raspor, Nichole Anheuser
- 1/11 Dan Nowak, Nora Doyle, David Settle
- 1/12 Olivia Doty, Mark Brown, Ming Zou
- 1/13 Rose Ball



Epiphany A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by “another way.” What in your family needs to be done “another way?” Do you need “another way to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection? This is a new year, time to change what isn’t working. Take a tip from some wise men, there’s always “another way.”

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

 The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is Saturday, January 19, 2019 after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. If you volunteered at the parish in 2018, please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the north vestibule or call the parish office to RSVP. We are so grateful and thankful for our volunteers!



We are not done with Christmas yet. Remember, the Christmas Season continues until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which this year is January 13. We have another week of Christmas, so keep celebrating.

It is also good to keep in mind that not all Catholics celebrate Christmas as we do. In some parts of the world, other feasts have a greater celebration than Our Lord's Birthday. In many places the Epiphany (which we celebrate today) is when people give gifts (as the Magi did, whom we remember today). In other places, the feast of St. Nicholas is when people give gifts (again for obvious reasons).

This is true in many other parts of our Church year. We celebrate Easter with great solemnity. In other places Pentecost receives the greater celebration. For some reason we love Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday (probably because we get something); in other places the Triduum receives greater attention.

All of this is to say that there is still much for us to celebrate. God's mighty works are not over; the mysteries of our salvation are still being played out. There is still something to celebrate, so let's keep celebrating.

--Fr. Ferris

NEW YEAR



WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: In our church, on the feast of Epiphany, we write initials over the doorway. What does this stand for or mean?

Answer: Epiphany, like Christmas, is celebrated in various ways by different nationalities and cultures. The customs and traditions surrounding these days give them a distinct feel and meaning. In many Slavic traditions, Epiphany is observed by marking the year on the mantle of the entrance to a room or house. In the center are the initials of the traditional names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The purpose is to ask God's blessing on the home, marking it as though the Wise Men had come and found therein the Christ Child. It reminds us of the marking of the doorways in Egypt with the blood of the lamb so that the angel of death would pass over. God's blessing comes to each home as a source of protection and grace.

In some places, Epiphany is celebrated much like a mini-Christmas. Gifts are exchanged in memory of the gifts of the Wise Men and special meals are prepared. In any event, the manifestation of Christ as the Light of the World is a time to seek God's blessing and rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us and to all the world.



Rest in Peace-for our deceased & their loved ones: Victims of war, terrorism, natural disasters, and all the faithful departed.

Support Prayers for comfort & healing to those who are ill or injured, for the homebound & for caregivers: Chris Brigman, Betsy Davidson, Tom Rasch, Gary Whitney (Kathy Horsch's brother), Mike Roskamp, Rob Shay, Gordon Reynolds, Larry Patrick Sr., Larry Patrick III, June Horsch, Edna Corrigan, Marilyn Brown, Rita Gordon, Al Ketchum, Tom Scheidel, Gloria (Fr. Fekete's sister), Keith Brown, Patricia Reynolds, Rosemary Gamble, Jane Finch, Elaine Miller, Don & Kathy King, Jim Bieber, Cory Radel, Donna Roskamp, Peg Hoover, Sarah Klein, Mark Smith, Cara Miranda, Carla Swain, Jeff

Bowles, Michael Toczydlowski, Cara Sauber, Dawn Huesing, Lee Rea, Dave & Martha Roskamp, Ron Geldersma, Eugene Smith, the unemployed, Michigan's economy, members of our armed forces and war wounded, justice and peace in the world, and for all priests and religious, and the Holy Catholic Church.

SCRIP orders will be taken next weekend. SCRIP makes wonder birthday and anniversary gifts AND can be used by you for your own shopping.



Just a reminder: If Lowell Schools are closed on a Wednesday due to weather, there will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that day.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading

The prophet Isaiah spoke these words about 500 years before the birth of Christ. In what ways do you see Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled today?

Second Reading

St. Paul informs the Ephesians that "the mystery made known" to him "by revelation" was that the Gentiles are "coheirs" with the Jews "in the promise in Christ Jesus." This message was very reluctantly received. Why do you think some people struggle with the idea that God desires to save all people through His Son?

Gospel Reading

Matthew tells us the visit of the magi "greatly troubled" King Herod and all of Jerusalem. Why do you think the good news of Jesus Christ remains a threat to some people even today?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

"The Story of the Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to "the least of these" he has actually given to Jesus himself. If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man's constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go. If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places. -- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 6, 2019 The Epiphany of the Lord

"Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.'" How strange to journey so far for perhaps so little. Of course the magi go to the capitol city. Of course they entreat with King Herod. Of course this is where they expect newborn royalty to be. But where is the child? "In Bethlehem of Judea," the scribes say. And so the magi go on to what is yet another Christmas miracle.

We don't know where the magi met the Christ Child, but it cannot have been lavish. Perhaps it was the stable. Perhaps it was a small hovel Joseph had found to wait out the census. But it would have been the home of a laborer, worn and threadbare. Here, in this unassuming abode, the magi are still "overjoyed...they prostrated themselves and did him homage."

Have you ever gotten to the end of a great work and found the results to be underwhelming? How did you respond? Were you disappointed or elated at God's providence and your upended expectations? The magi journeyed hundreds of miles over treacherous terrain to pay homage to royalty they have seen prophesied in the stars. They encountered an ordinary family displaced from their home. This Sunday, the magi are an example for us. Can we see God in the unexpected? Do we encounter Him in the person who doesn't fit our expectations of propriety? Do we revere Christ's presence in the poor? Or do we expect to meet God only in places of honor and esteem? This week, ask God for the grace to honor Him in the unexpected places and unassuming people. He is waiting for you!

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