

St. Mary's Catholic Church



Hamburg, Iowa

January 5, 2019

"Life is always a good. ... Why is life a good? This question is found everywhere in the Bible, and from the very first pages it receives a powerful and amazing answer. The life which God gives man is quite different from the life of all other living creatures, inasmuch as man, although formed from the dust of the earth, is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory. This is what Saint Irenaeus of Lyons wanted to emphasize in his celebrated definition: 'Man, living man, is the glory of God'. Man has been given a sublime dignity, based on the intimate bond which unites him to his Creator: in man there shines forth a reflection of God himself".

Bulletins are online at—<http://www.parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-church-51640>



Cycle A -- Reflections on the Readings

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Theme: **Becoming bearers of Christ to the world**

My dear beloved, today we celebrate the feast of Epiphany. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek meaning "appearing or to show".

The Epiphany of the Lord is about revelation: the manifestation of a God who cares in the person of the Son who became man and dwell among us.

In order to show that the admission of the Gentiles is part of God's plan, Matthew's Gospel tells the story of the pagan astrologers who were the first to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews. The faith of the gentile astrologers is meant to challenge the Jewish defectors.

The Magi and what they stand for

The magi represent all those Gentiles who will enter the Christian Church while the Jews, who possess the Scriptures, reject Jesus. Believers are first and foremost recipients of the light who are challenged to penetrate darkness.

Today's readings understand community members as the bearers of gifts to others. To share one's gift is to overcome the darkness and usher in the light.

Determination of the magi

Tradition gives the names of the magi as *Gaspar, Balthazar, and Melchior*. It should be noted that opinion vary regarding the place of origin of the Magi. I wouldn't go into detail about their origin.

They leave their homes and they start searching. They are looking for something. What? They do not know. But they believe it is something great and wonderful. They leave with the hope to find it. Travelling in those days was not easy. They do not mind; they get up and go. They leave the security of their own land; they set out on the road to an unknown destination.

We see them keeping their eyes on the star – the sign. We hear them asking from people, from the king himself. Nothing stops them. They have set their hearts on finding what they are looking for.

Breathing the air of hatred and suspicion instead of Joy

The magi came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning King – a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Remember, Herod killed all the infants less than two years.

Friends, we too know the true facts concerning Christ, his mission, and his present and future kingdom. Like the leaders of the Jews of his day, we could become absorbed in the affairs of this life and the quest for wealth, pleasure and power that we will ignore him.

We, like the magi are searching for some sign. A sign that will show us where we can find what we are looking for here on earth. To be on the right track, ***what you are searching for should lead to Christ.***

Dear friends, we are still at the beginning of a new year, and like the Three Wise Men at the beginning of their journey, we do not know WHAT it will bring to us. But we know WHERE it will bring us to. If only we allow God to lead us, it will bring us to Himself, to the Savior who has come to us.

The pagan astrologers are the first to come and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews. We too can offer ourselves to him as gifts for his service. Our homage is complete when we make ourselves useful in the circumstances of our lives as we offer the gold of our **Talents, Time and Treasure.**

The wise men do not have scriptures, but they take all the trouble, travel long distances, seek, ask and find the messiah. They represent those who walk in faith and earnestly desire the vision of God. They are amply rewarded for their simplicity of heart, openness of mind and eagerness to see. Have we really sought the messiah, and found him? What difference does Jesus make for us?

The wise men saw the star and understood its meaning, their journey was purposeful, and they were committed. Like the magi who followed the star and found Christ. **May you also find the Lord when your pilgrimage is ended. Shalom!**



Motivation for the week

Developing a Relationship

Nita was recently married and had started living in a joint family with her husband and in-laws. After a few days, she started to realize that she is not able to get along with her mother in law. Nita's mother in law was conservative whereas Nita was liberal with modern lifestyle. Soon they both started quarreling due to differences in opinions and lifestyle. As days and months passed, none of them changed their behavior.

Nita became very aggressive over the time and started to hate her mother in law. She started to think about how to get rid of her mother in law. Once, as usual, when she quarreled with her mother in law and her husband took his mother's side, she became angry and left to her father's home. Nita's father was a chemist and she told him about everything that's been happening. Then she pleaded with her father that give her something poisonous, so she can mix it up and give it to her mother in law to get rid of her, else she won't go back to her husband's home.

Nita's father felt pity at her situation but told her, "If you give poison to your mother in law, you and I both will end up in jail. It is not the right thing to do". But Nita was in no mood to listen and understand. Finally, her father gave in. He told her, "Ok, as you wish but I don't want to see you in jail, so do as I tell you". Nita agreed. Her father brought a powder and told her, "Every day when you make a lunch or dinner, just mix a little pinch of this powder in your mother in law's meal, since the quantity will be less, she won't die quickly but will slowly in few months and people will think she has died naturally".

He also told her, "Because no one should have doubt on you, from today onwards, you will not fight at all with your mother in law but instead you will be very caring towards her, even if she says something which you don't like, you will not be rude, you will simply be polite only".

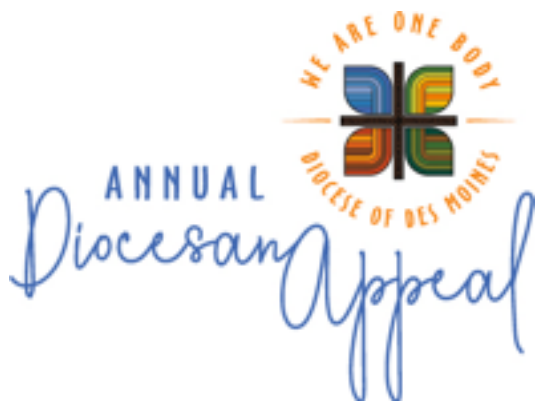
Nita agreed thinking she will be free from her mother in law's quarreling in few months and came back to her in-laws and as advised by her father, she started mixing the powder in her mother in law's meals and behaved very caring and polite whenever her mother in law said something

As time started to pass, Nita's mother in law's nature also started to change. Because Nita was being very caring towards her, she too started to be affectionate towards her. Five months passed and Nita had been mixing the powder, but atmosphere of the house was changed.

There were no quarrels, both were praising each while talking to neighbors. They got very attached to each other like a mother and daughter. Now, Nita started to get worried thinking due to the powder, her mother in law may die soon.

She ran at her father's home and told him, "Dad! Please give me the antidote to cure the effect of that poisonous powder you gave! I don't want to lose my mother in law, she is just like my mom and I love her very much". Her father smiled and said, "Which poison? I had simply given you a sweetener!"

Moral: Each person is different which may be due to their own circumstances. This can often lead to many differences. However, we must try to understand each other and adjust a little to make a healthy relationship with each other. And, when such differences arise between persons, it is the duty of their loved ones to keep them calm and guide towards the right path. *(sometimes, we have to change our attitude and behavior and not the other person. My emphasis)*



As One Body, we offer prayer and material support for our faith community, our leadership and clergy, and for those we serve by way of the Church's ministries and programs.

Your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal helps us fund priest medical and healthcare, priest retirement, seminary formation, Catholic education, youth and young adult programming, pastoral ministry, Catholic Charities services, administrative support, and much more.

Thank you for helping your parish reach its goal and supporting the Diocese of Des Moines!



This and that

Decoration: We thank our selfless and loving members whose eyes of beauty brought great change in our liturgical environment. Your decorations are wonderful, splendid and Spirit-filled.

Christmas and New Year Activities: It is with heartfelt appreciation that I express my gratitude to the choir for their sacrifice, commitment and dedication in providing us with Spirit-filled songs during mass. In the same breath, many thanks to our devoted cantors, accompanist/pianist, lectors, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, ushers and members who wash the church linens and money counters.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is next week. This officially end the Christmas season. We will begin first part of ordinary time, which is relatively short. **Do you remember your baptismal date and minister?**

A big thanks to all and sundry whose role brought order, love and care into our church community.

Ministry Workshop: Pleased be informed that Father Paul Turner, one of the nation's foremost voices in the area of liturgy, will be providing a ministry workshop for pastors, deacons, and parish staff on January 23 at Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Atlantic.

The underlying need for this workshop is rooted in three areas of concern:

1. The disconnect between liturgy and faith formation programming,
2. Pastor's concern about the numbers of families attending faith formation programming or Catholic School Masses but who do not attend weekend liturgies, and
3. the recent studies by CARA and Pew about the belief in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

This workshop is ideal for participation by catechetical leaders (religious education, youth ministry, RCIA, sacramental preparation), parish pastoral musicians and liturgists. Bishop Joensen will join us for part of the day.

Please pick up a form at the back of the church and fill. Kindly returned the form to the office ASAP. This will enable planners to prepare adequate materials for each participant.

This is a free workshop that is paid for by support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Let me know if you have any questions.

More information on Pg.9.....

Eucharist & Evangelization

A Ministry workshop day for Clergy and Lay Ecclesial Ministry Staff
(catechetical leaders, parish musicians, pastoral associates, and Catholic School administrators)
January 23, 2020 at Ss. Peter & Paul parish in Atlantic

"The Transformative Power of the Eucharist for Evangelization"

Please join Father Paul Turner, one of the nation's top voices in sacred theology and pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, to help us connect the Eucharist to our pastoral outreach from proclaiming the kerygma into the invitation to follow Jesus and making Him central in one's life. Father Turner will present four conferences that equip us to better understand the goals of evangelization and how the liturgy puts them into action.



Our Workshop Facilitator: Father Paul Turner

Father Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri. A priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, he holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome. He is a former president of the North American Academy of Liturgy and a member of Societas Liturgica and the Catholic Academy of Liturgy. He serves as a facilitator for the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. His publications include *One Love: A Pastoral Guide to the Order of Celebrating Matrimony*; *Inseparable Love: A Commentary on The Order of Celebrating Matrimony in the Catholic Church*; *Glory in the Cross: Holy Week in the Third Edition of The Roman Missal*; *Let Us Pray: A Guide to the Rubrics of Sunday Mass*; and *Whose Mass Is It? Why People Care So Much about the Catholic Liturgy*; all published by Liturgical Press. He is also a contributor to Give Us This Day.

Location:

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church (Parish Hall)
Locust & West 5th Street
Atlantic, Iowa, 50022

This workshop is ideal for participation by the pastor, deacons and pastoral staff. Pope Francis wrote, "God's word, listened to and celebrated, above all in the Eucharist, nourishes and inwardly strengthens Christians, enabling them to offer an authentic witness to the Gospel in daily life" (*The Joy of the Gospel* 174). This workshop is designed to focus on our mission together as a pastoral team.

Schedule for the Workshop

Thursday, January 23

9:00 am	Gathering
9:30 am	Conference 1—Understanding the Lectionary
10:45 am	Conference 2—Sunday Mass collects ideal for evangelization
12:00 pm	Mass
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	Conference 3—RCIA—Period of Evangelization & Rite of Acceptance
2:00 pm	Conference 4—RCIA Lenten Rites: The Scrutinies & Presentations
2:45 pm	Questions & Closing Prayer

"Compassion is not seeing someone else's pain. Compassion is sharing their pain."

DR. ALLEN HUNT
What Did Jesus Do?

Dedication ceremony

Today from 2 to 4 p.m., there will be a open house at our newly renovated **Inter Church Council** building—The Center, 1008 Main Street. After the flood, many members of the council and our churches spent hours of volunteer work tearing out, repairing, rebuilding and painting the Center. It is now reopened and we are holding our meetings and soup suppers there again. In the midst of this renovation, we lost a very involved Pastor Tom Beutler. Tom was leading us through all this when he passed away suddenly. In lieu of his hours of work and commitment to the Council and Food Pantry, we will hold a dedication ceremony in his honor at 3 p.m.. The meeting room will now be called the 'Tom Beutler Fellowship Hall' . If you are able to, please do stop by and see the labor that has been put into our building.

St. Mary's events.....

Jan. 5—Dedication Ceremony at the Center 2-4 P.M.



Readings for the week of 1-5-2020

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/Mt

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES

JOSH SIMMONS

JACOB ANDERSON

JUSTIN PHILLIPS

DERRICK HUBARD

STEVEN ANDERSON

COLBY MCGINLEY



1-2—Mary Burkhiser

1-9-- Quentin Laumann

1-10---Tanya Hayes

1-15—Mike Moody

1-17--Jason Foster

1-18—JoElla Travis

1-18—Nancy Dalton

1-20—Noah Goodman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1-3 Harold & Anne
Hendrickson

1-4 Bob & Judy Clark



Greg Andersen
Grady Secht
Reese Kemp
James Dowling
LeRoy Herscheid
Noah Howe
Mary Lou Miller
Dottie Dankof
Isacc Durr
Robert & Nancy Dalton
Todd Quick
Verona Mitchell
Joel Loggins
Kenneth Russell
Bill Long
Henry Johnsen
Lawrence DuBois
Angie Witter-Childers
Pat Sheldon
Joe Kirk
Tim Konecny
Esther McCowan
Shawn Collins
Drake Travis
Martha Gude
Gloria Green
Larry Dalton
Vickie Graham
Glen Whitehead
Ronda Shirley
Zayne Osborn
Marty Weston

Your Contributions

Dec 29, 2019

Tithes-\$1235.00

Plate-\$70.00

Coffee-\$39.00

Dec. 24, 2019

Tithes-\$1750.00

Plate-\$256.00

Thank You!!!

2020	January 5 The Epiphany of the Lord 8:30	January 12 The Baptism of the Lord 8:30	January 19 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	January 26 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	February 2 Presentation of the Lord 8:30
Greeters and Ushers	Jim & Cheryl Owen	Tim & Donna Whelan	Terry & Kim Travis	Marty & Carolyn Maher	Angie Sheldon Kathy Moody
Eucharist Ministers	Denny & Joella Travis	Joe & Robbi Travis	Dan Goodman Vince Hilton	Annie Wakefield Robbi Travis	Joella Travis Bill Green
Servers	Mia & Addy Foster	Amelia Moody Tate Mount	Mia Foster Kylie Foster	Cora Moody Evan Laumann	Max Casey Gabriel Casey
Lector	Cara Goodman	Jed Whitehead	Dave Dowling	Rick Jamison	Jed Whitehead
Mass Setup	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie
Cantor	Children's Choir	Kate/Cara Cora H/Cora M	Beth/Liliah	Children's Choir	Kim/Evan
Accompanist	Kate	Cale/Nichole Joseph/Emily	Nancy	Kate	Donna
Coffee and Donuts	Jeff & Lisa Phillips	Youth Biscuits and Gravy	Robert & Mary Burkhiser	Jim & Cheryl Owen	Terry & Kim Travis
Wash Linens	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield	Bev Finnigan
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