

January 3, 2009: The Epiphany of the Lord



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." — Mt 2:1-2

Illustration from the Liturgy for Mass 0209-1992 178 0232

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, January 3, Epiphany of the Lord (Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family
10:30 am- John & Frances Valigura

Monday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1 Jn 3:22; 4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25)

7:00 am- Joe, Lillian, Katie & Sophia Muhlstein
10:00 am- P.L., Julie & Paul Netardus; Joe & Annie Stanek
(Hallettsville Rehab)

Tuesday, Jan. 5, St. John Neumann (1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44)

7:00 am- Gaynell Staha & Marcell Gerum

Wednesday, January 6, Bl. Andre Bessette (1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52)

7:00 am- Florian Tomsu
8:05 am- Mass of Thanksgiving

Thursday, Jan. 7, St. Raymond (1 Jn 4:19; 5:4/Lk 4:14-22a)

7:00 am- Dale Schulte
10:00 am- Louis & Julia Satsky (Stevens Nursing Home)

Friday, January 8 (Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16)

7:00 am- Joe & Helen Grafe
8:05 am- Wilhelm & Georgie Grahmann

Saturday, January 9 (1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30)

5:30 pm- Douglas Bludau

Sunday, January 10, Baptism of the Lord (42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family
10:30 am- Adele Richardson

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of John & Frances Valigura by Bob & Lou Kubena.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In memory of Leon Sitka & Ervin Bludau, Sr. by Aaron Bludau.

Vigil Light: In memory of Dennis Appelt.

Our Gift to God on Christmas: Envelopes-\$7,581.50; Loose \$2,338; Childrens-\$135.

Our Gift to God last weekend: Envelopes-\$6,753; Loose-\$1,580; Children's-\$72; Manna-\$2,139; collection for Daniel & Carolyn Etzler- \$7,325.

December Baptisms: Mason Russell, son of Bradley & Stephanie Grahmann; Ainsley Dell, daughter of Brandon & Jennifer Noska; Kennedy Jade, daughter of Kevin & Sally Zappe; & Brooke Nicole, daughter of Antonio & Laura Atkinson.

Welcome to the Parish: John & Ashley Patlovan Family.

SHCS Extravaganza, Feb. 6, KC Hall. Social, dinner & dance, \$125/couple. Available for purchase at the school office, Rectory, Beauty Boutique, & S.H. Credit Union.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

-Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.

-RCIA Class, 7:00 p.m., Family Center.

-KC's General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., KC Hall.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

-CCD: Grades K-11th, 6:00 – 7:10 p.m.

-Spiritual Book Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.

-Divine Mercy Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Room.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

-Firefall, 6:00 p.m. in church. Parishioners are invited to join the youth in Eucharistic Adoration.

Christmas Flowers on the Eucharistic Altar in memory of Tyler Bludau by Stephen, Renee & Christa Bludau, Frank & Bernadette Bludau, Frank & Darlene Bludau, Frances & Henry Kallus Family, Shirley Bludau & Mike Grimes, Tony & Joyce Bludau Family, Audrey & James Poche Family, Brenda & Jon Youngblood Family– \$215.

Christmas Flowers: John & Evelyn Pavliska-\$10; Lillian & William Gohlke-\$25; Leona Chovanetz-\$10; Leo & Evelyn Hoffer-\$50; Sylvia Kallus-\$5; Snow & Irene Matula-\$20; Gene & Trudy Janak-\$20; Vernell Bozka-\$20; S.E. & Mary Golsch-\$10; Emil & Joyce Hermes-\$15; Franklin & Nola Bohuslav-\$25; Gilbert & Beatrice Butschek-\$10; Jerry & Margaret Kallus-\$20; Victor & Lucille Vasek-\$10; Larry & Doris Grubert-\$30; M/M A.J. Kutac mem. M/M Newton Renken, Stanley Kutac-\$15; Sara Jansky mem. Paul Jansky-\$10; Josephine Matejek mem. deceased family-\$5; M/M Don Rainosek mem. M/M V.L. Rainosek, Alvin J. Grahmann-\$30; Martha Sitka mem. Henry Sitka-\$20; Arthur Spies mem. Thelma & Ann Spies-\$20; M/M Henry Kostelnik mem. M/M John V. Novak, M/M Joe Kostelnik-\$20; M/M Guntram Janak Family mem. M/M Alvin Schneider, Sr. & Alvin Jr., M/M Guntram Janak, Sr., Dwayne Janak-\$10; M/M Mike Technik mem. Louis R. Kallus, Carolyn Steffek-\$20; Rudy Petru Family mem. Dorothy Petru-\$20; M/M Marvin Rabel mem. Stacey Rabel-\$15; M/M David Bludau mem. M/M Hubert Bludau-\$50; M/M John Trojcek mem. Rose Trojcek, Jim Bludau-\$20; Cleo Muras Family mem. Magdalen Muras-\$25; mem. Harvey Pavliska, Sr. by his family-\$25; M/M Pat Steffek Family mem. Rosie Steffek-\$30; Ella Mae Bludau mem. Ervin Bludau, Sr.-\$20; Debra Smirak Family mem. Dennis Smirak-\$20; M/M Roland Schaefer honor of 56th anniv.-\$25; Sherry & Heath Hale mem. M/M Buster Hale-\$20; Bessie Dornak mem. Phillip Chaloupka, M/M Leo Dornak-\$20.

Sacred Heart Catholic School (798-4251):

January 4: Classes resume.

January 11: Student Council Blood Drive 10 am – 6 pm.

From the Desk of Father John

On behalf of Fr. Michael, Deacons Sonny and Joey, Sisters Colette and Emiliana, and the parish staff, I thank you for all your many kindnesses, gifts and prayers during this Christmas Season. I also thank everyone who helped in any way with decorating in the parish and all those who participated in special ways in the various liturgies.

Thank you for your generosity in the Christmas and end of the year collections, L.A.M.B. (Manna Food Pantry) and especially the collection for Daniel & Carolyn Etzler who lost their home in the fire before Christmas. May God bless you for your generosity at this time of the year and throughout the coming year.

We pray that you and your families will have a blessed and healthy 2010.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the coming of the Three Kings. An old Catholic custom is the blessing of the home at Epiphany, especially the doorways. We can bless ourselves and the rooms of the home with holy water. We use chalk to mark the numerals and letters over doorways. The chalk reminds us of the dust of the earth from which we were made. The numerals consecrate the new year. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar – and also stand for the Latin motto *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless this house):

20 + C + M + B + 10

There is a very good Catholic television station called EWTN. It is on our local cable or you can get it on your satellite dish. EWTN has very good Catholic religious programming. It has a variety of instructional programs, daily Masses, the praying of the rosary and many inspirational programs. If you haven't watched it before, I would suggest you give it a try.



The Youth ConneXion



January 10: Youth meet in church at 5:00 p.m. Firefall at 6:00 p.m. Youth gathering & Christmas party for 8th – 12th graders at the Youth House after Firefall. If participating in the gift exchange, bring a \$10 gift suitable for anyone.
Music Practice: Mondays, 6:00 p.m., Youth House.

Eric Genuis will be performing a concert at 7:00 p.m. on Wed., January 20 at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville.

Eric is a composer, virtuoso pianist and captivating performer. Since 1997, he has been performing his works throughout the world in countries including Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Poland and the U.S.A.

In addition to performing for millions of people, Genuis has composed and recorded four CDs, and written music for films, documentaries, television and internet media.

Eric's concert will also feature the vocals of Krista Adams Santilli, violinist Renata Steve, and cellist Mary Beth Hussey.

There is no admission charge, only a free will offering

Religious Education (CCD) ~ Office 798-3124

Janice Busselman, Coordinator

Angela McConnell, Assistant

January 6: CCD classes resume.

January 17: 9th Grade youth involvement, 8:00 am Mass.

January 30: First Penance practice, 9:00 a.m. in church.

January 31: First Penance at 2:00 p.m. in church.

AMONG OUR SICK: Hubert Grahmann, Alvin Rosenauer, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Josie Ohnheiser, Mason Leibham, Riley Mika, Mary Bonorden, Annette Krupala, Anthony Corte, Amanda Conniff, Margaret Timm, Helen M. Appelt, Michael Kutac, Rosalie Simpson, Ed Aulick, Paige Haas, Anita Kallus, Hubert Etzler, Jeff Zavesky, Renae Ross, Alma Jurena, Kate Kopecky, Michael L. Drozd, Bill Biehunko, Lindal Finley, Frank Fishar, Pam Dornak, Clayton Patek, Suzanne Romano, Mary Agnes Grahmann, Alice Kocian, Anita Bohuslav, Betty Toman, MacKenzie Fogle, Henri Mae Patek, Louise Pesek, Doyleen Drozd, Bryce Saldi, Travis Klmitchek, Judith Koerth, Thelma Mikulenska, Louise Tesch, Sharon Grahmann, Sandra Henneke, Mary Ann Koenig, Ronald Kanak, Marcella Henke, Helen Mitchon, Tillie Schott, Robert Vasek, Georgia Schaefer, Geraline Morgenroth, Joseph Ilardo, Anthony Petru, Dolores Ludwig, Denise Lewis, Evelyn Kutac, Barbara Tesch, John D. Henneke, Emil Grahmann, Marilyn Bludau Marikle, Lillie Demny, Henry Morris, Theresa Hemmi, nursing home residents, & the homebound.

Epiphany of the Lord - Stars are amazing – not the people who claim star-status because of their work in sports or entertainment – but the stars that populate the universe. Most are between one & ten billion years old, a time span impossible to comprehend. Other than the sun, the closest star to Earth is Proxima Centauri, about twenty-five trillion miles away, another calculation that is impossible to comprehend. The exponential numbers scientists use when working with stars, whether it is age, distance, weight, composition, luminosity, or any other characteristic, race beyond our everyday calculations of hundreds & thousands. Stars are just too big for us humans.

No wonder Matthew's infancy narrative included a star as the sign for the newborn king. Everything about this child's birth seemed unimportant: born in Bethlehem instead of the big city, Jerusalem; unknown to the important people of the day; the pregnant woman taken into Joseph's home quietly so as not to cause scandal; a quiet, unremarkable birth in an unimportant country in the empire.

But then there's that star! Big, shining, revealing that there is more to this event than meets the eye. Visitors come from afar, & upset the balance of power as they seek the child who would be king. Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the world. And the star shows Him to be who He really is – king of the universe & Lord of all.

So it shouldn't seem so strange to us that Matthew would point out one of those incomprehensible entities in the night sky as the signifier of the One who is beyond all human understanding. What is remarkable is that that One came to be one of us so that we could understand Him.



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January 2010

One Minute Meditations

A fresh start

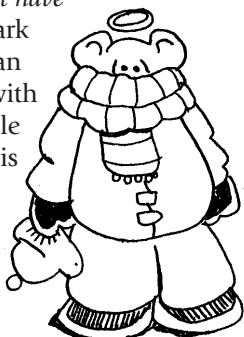
The New Year offers the chance to make a fresh start. Choose one area you would like to change in yourself or your life, making sure it is reasonable and doable. Each day, renew your commitment to the change you chose. Then partner with the Holy Spirit to make a fresh start.

People of God

What do people of God look like? *"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience"* (Colossians 3:12). People of God are the hosts, not the guests. They comfort rather than seek comfort. They give rather than demand. People of God look like Christ.

God's shoulders

As Catholics we know that we can trust God to give us what we need, but do we really trust God? *"Do not be afraid; just have faith"* (Mark 5:36). Lean on God with your whole weight. His shoulders can take it.



God gives credit for good effort

Even though we intend to grow in holiness, life sometimes gets in the way.

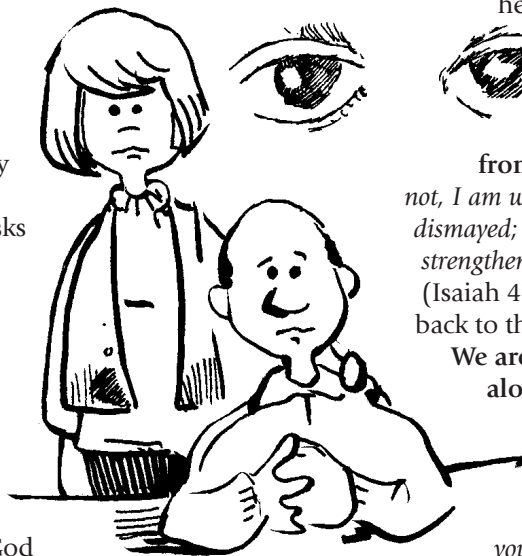
Household expenses can leave little for charity, work may take away from family time, daily tasks encroach on prayer time, and so on. It can be discouraging when we stumble, but it's important to keep trying. God watches our efforts with loving eyes.

God knows we won't always get it right. Our Father understands that we are human and that we struggle. Even Peter, Jesus' close friend, promised complete devotion to Jesus but then

denied even knowing him (John 13:37-38). Not only did Jesus forgive him, he made Peter the first head of his beloved Church. Don't let fear of failure keep you from trying again. *"Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you"* (Isaiah 41:10). The key is to get back to the plan.

We aren't meant to do it alone. Jesus is our partner and wants to help us get it right. *"Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch*

cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me" (John 15:4). *"Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power"* (Ephesians 6:10).

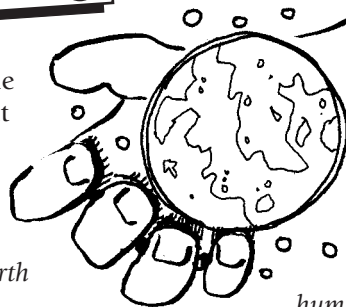


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe God created the world?

How God created the world is a mystery but the Bible tells us he did. The first words are, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ..."* (Genesis 1:1).

Further references throughout



include, *"... Look at the heavens and the earth and see all that is in them; then you will know that God did not make them out of existing things; and in the same way the human race came into existence"*

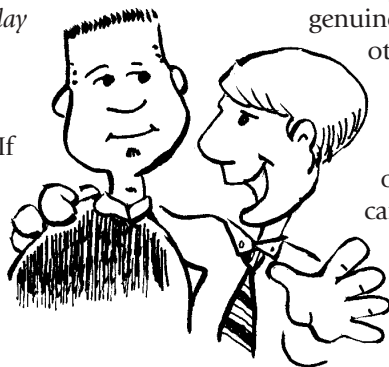
(2 Maccabees 7:28).

No greater love ...

There wasn't much Jesus wouldn't do for his friends. He said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Consider these suggestions for becoming a better friend:

Make spending time together a priority. If schedules are a problem, combine visits with other activities. Meet after Mass on Sunday. Run errands together. Have coffee before going to work.

Help others feel important. Give your full attention in conversation, and show appreciation for what is said.



Celebrate your friends' successes. A true friend is genuinely happy when something good happens in the other's life.

Value differences. Don't try to change your friends. Celebrate their diversity.

Apologize when necessary. You may let each other down once in a while but a sincere apology can bring friends closer together.

Don't forget old friends. Call someone you haven't been in touch with for a long time.

Don't know what to say? Try, "I don't want another moment to go by without being in touch. I've missed you."

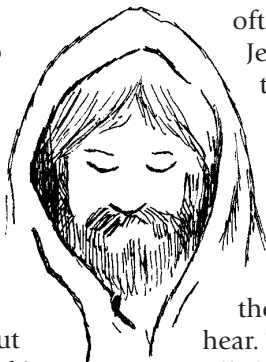
from Scripture

Luke 4:21-30, Live the truth

From the time God promised a Messiah, his people imagined a triumphant king with extraordinary abilities who would defeat Israel's enemies. They didn't expect someone ordinary, or even familiar, like Jesus.

Still, his friends and neighbors heard reports about his amazing deeds and were excited when he read Isaiah's prophesy about the Messiah and announced its fulfillment in him.

All of that changed when they heard the tough message Jesus had for the children of Israel. They wanted a



comforting message from him, not one that reminds them of how often they failed God. And when Jesus mentioned God's grace to the Gentiles, people they thought inferior to themselves, the people became angry and threw him out. They forfeited his blessings because they rejected his word.

There is no substitute for the truth, even when it is hard to hear. Turning our backs on the truth will close the doors to the kingdom to us. For a follower of Jesus, there is no substitute for the truth. Living it is the only way to enjoy God's blessings and grace.

Q & A What is wrong with talking about other people?

Talking about other people can hurt you and them.

Even if you meant no harm but disclosed something that wasn't true and caused a negative impression of someone, you could be guilty of a serious sin called, "calumny." Plus, fixing what you created is nearly impossible.



If you believe the negative reports you hear about others without verifying the facts, you will be guilty of rash judgment. False reports contributed to Jesus' condemnation and death. Having suffered from them, one can imagine that Jesus takes a dim view of calumny and rash judgment.

"Detraction," is another serious sin that involves disclosing someone's faults or misdeeds to listeners who didn't know about them, without an objectively good reason. Such a disclosure almost always impacts a reputation.

Rather than risk hurting someone or sinning yourself, follow grandma's wise advice, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all."

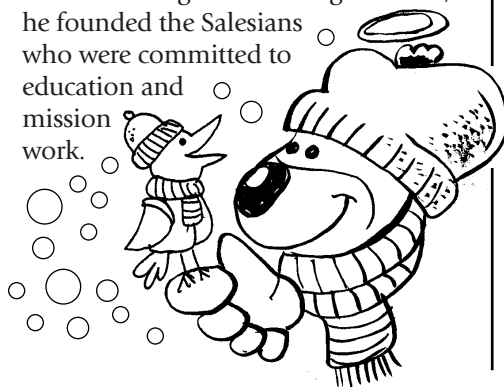
Feasts & Celebrations

In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. "...at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10). The English letters IHS –the first three Greek letters in Jesus' name – used to be written over the doors of Christian homes.

January 3 – Epiphany of Our Lord. Epiphany is Greek for "manifestation." When they honored the infant Jesus, the three wise men bore witness to the fulfillment of God's promise of a savior.

January 10 – The Baptism of the Lord. Jesus began his public ministry by

getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. **January 31 – St. John Bosco (1888).** St. John Bosco taught young men and women how to incorporate their spiritual life into their work and play. He opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales and provided workshops for boys in shoemaking and tailoring. In 1859, he founded the Salesians who were committed to education and mission work.



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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)