

# Week of January 8, 2017

## MONDAY Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4,6-7 \* Ps 29:1-4,9-10 \* Mt 3:13-17

## TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Heb 2:5-12 \* Ps 8:2,5-9 \* Mk 1:21-28

## WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Heb 2:14-18 \* Ps 105:1-4,6-9 \* Mk 1:29-39

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Heb 3:7-14 \* Ps 95:6-11 \* Mk 1:40-45

## FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

Heb 4:1-5,11 \* Ps 78:3-4,6-8 \* Mk 2:1-12

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Heb 4:12-16 \* Ps 19:8-10,15 \* Mk 2:13-17

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery & Children's Liturgy of the Word

Is 49:3,5-6 \* Ps 40:2,4,7-10 \* 1 Cor 1:1-3 \* Jn 1:29-34

\*All events take place at St. Gabriel East Campus unless otherwise noted.

## Parish Activities

- Mon., Jan. 9 6:15pm Religious Education  
6:30pm Choir practice
- Tues., Jan. 10 10:00am Scripture Study (Psalms)  
5:30pm RCIA
- Thurs. Jan. 12 6:30pm Commissions Meetings  
7:30pm Parish Council Meeting

### Next Weekend, January 14/15

**Food Pantry Collection:** needed most are canned fruit, jelly, tuna, Mac & Cheese, mashed potatoes, paper towels, hand soap, tooth paste & shampoo. Thank you!

☕ Coffee & Donuts ☐ will be served after each Mass.

☐ Scrip will be available from an AACS representative.

**Adult Scripture Study:** The Bible is at the heart of our Catholic Faith-and our relationship with God. At the heart of the Bible are the Psalms, prayers from God that help us learn to pray. The Holy Spirit inspired them. Israel sang them. Christ himself prayed them. Come join and learn how to establish an intimate personal dialogue with God through the Psalms, beginning Tues., Jan. 10 for ten weeks, in the Parish Center at 10am. We will use the DVD set **Psalms: The School of Prayer** presented by Jeff Cavins, Dr. Tim Gray and Sarah Christmyer. Everyone is welcome!!!

**All ministers of the parish -** Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers), Ministers of the Word (Lectors) and Extraordinary Ministers (Distributors): SAVE THE DATE! Fr. Bert Gohm will be presenting a workshop about ministering in our parish on Thurs., Feb. 2 at 6:30pm & Sat. Feb. 4 at 9:30am at East Campus. If anyone from the parish is considering becoming a minister, this would be a great overview! We can always use more people to help out at Mass! All current and potential future ministers should plan on attending! The Worship Commission

**Thank you** to the 14 people who donated blood at our drive on Dec. 28. Our next drive will be on **February 22**. You can sign up by visiting [miblood.org](http://miblood.org) or by calling the parish office.

## Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$9,910.00

Religious Ret.: \$45.00

In Loving Memory of Larry Haut: \$225

## Education/Formation

**FAMILY TALK TIME** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

The Gospel says that the Magi followed a star. How can we find Jesus today if there is no star to lead us?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** This wondrous Scripture appears almost as a drama, with Herod making a great effort to find the new ruler who would shepherd Israel, using the Magi as informants. The text names three gifts, but doesn't name how many Magi there were. In its clarity and simplicity, the Gospel tells us that Jesus came not just for the Jews but for foreigners from many lands.

► **Living the Word:** This week, celebrate the star that lead the Magi to Jesus! Drape inexpensive lights in a family area apart from the Christmas tree. As a family, make star cookies, eat star-shaped sandwiches, and write a new year's resolution-just one-on a star. Encourage all family members to keep the star in a secret place until Ash Wednesday. On that day, everyone should take out their stars and check to see if they spread the light of Christ with the resolution, or if it needs to be renewed during Lent. Each resolution lights the way to living more like Jesus.

## Auburn Area Catholic School

### ► Why AACs?

† Parents choose Catholic Schools because of high academic standards: **values-added education** and a safe school environment.

† Catholic School stress the value of self-discipline and commitment.

† Catholic Schools join with the family to help students understand their special place in the family, the Church, and society.

► **Tuition Assistance** through **Spreading the Spirit:** We have been BLESSED by many gracious donors to have established a healthy fund available to help with tuition needs. Please contact Mrs. Reder if you would like more information.

► **Spirit Hockey Tickets:** AACs has free Saginaw Spirit tickets, in the form of vouchers, available in the school office. Stop by the school office & pick up vouchers any time during school hours, or call at 662-6431. Their home game schedule is available at <http://saginawspirit.com/schedule/56/34>.

► Scrip Cards will be available after Mass next weekend Jan. 14/15.

### Top Ten list about New Year Resolutions by Nielsen Survey

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10. Read more                    | 5. Spend time with friend/ family |
| 9. Travel more                   | 4. Spend less and save more       |
| 8. Learn something new/new hobby | 3. Live life to the fullest       |
| 7. Not make any resolution       | 2. Lose weight                    |
| 6. Get organized                 | 1. Get fit and healthy            |

### Resolutions having to do with faith and prayer don't show up.

Few among us would say our relationship with God is exactly where we want it to be. Most of us have enough struggles to know we could benefit from more time spent in prayer. Consider grabbing one of these faith based resolutions to guide you through the new year.

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| † Go to church every Sunday   | † Join a prayer group          |
| † Pray with your kids         | † Find a prayer app or website |
| † End the day with the Examen | † Centering prayer meditation  |

Taken from: [uscatholic.org](http://uscatholic.org), *At Home with our Faith*, January 2017

## From Father Tom's Desk *Feast of the Epiphany*

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

The Magi followed a star, a sign in their own tradition, but they didn't limit themselves to their own religious background. Upon arriving to Jerusalem, they sought counsel from the faith of the people of that place. When "they sought diligently," Jewish wisdom together with their own tradition led them to the child. Matthew records no commentary about the family's modest setting, but only says that they saw the child and prostrated themselves in homage. Then, adding practical content to their religious sentiment, they "opened their treasures" and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We might say they worshiped in word and deed.

We picture them as three because of the three gifts that are named. In reality, they could have been two or ten or more; they could have been a retinue including women and children. But what's important about them is what they have to tell us about seeking and finding, about worship that has integrity.

Without mentioning the Magi, St. Augustine reflected on how human nature was created with a thirst for the divine: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee." The Magi were people gifted with what Augustine might have called the grace of holy restlessness. Apparently well-to-do enough to take a long journey and arrive with expensive gifts, they set off with enough interior freedom to be responsive to the Spirit who urged them to look for more than they already had and knew.

We use the story of the Magi's seeking and finding as the frame for our feast of the Epiphany, the celebration of God's self-revelation. The combination of this story and the meaning of the feast make a subtle theological statement intimating that only those who are willing to go a distance in their seeking will discover God's self-manifestation.

### Unless You're Looking

McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Today is a good day for the sort of reading that demands both quiet contemplation and the restlessness of spirit that opens us to what lies beyond anything we already understand. The journey of the Magi is a reminder that the pilgrimage toward God is long. As the Magi seeking a king found a poor child, our journey will surprise us as well. In telling of the Magi, strangers to the traditions of Israel, Matthew intended to shake us out of our ethnocentrism and facile assumptions about other people's beliefs and our own as well.

The story of the star leading to Bethlehem's child is one more rendition of God's gentle yet unrelenting overtures to humanity. In the effort to draw us close, God will use anything from stars and prophecies to poetry or restlessness. If we are open to the grace of seeing, anything and everything can be an epiphany.

### Seeing the Light (Isaiah)

[Celebration](#)

In its own context this passage from "Third Isaiah" is a call to the people who have returned from exile to recognize the wonders God is doing in their midst. As always, it insists that the glory of Israel comes from God but depends on the response of the people. Thus, the command to "Rise up!" is a wake-up call to folks who have become quite good at taking account of how bad things are. Sure, darkness covers the earth and people's perception seems hopelessly cloudy, but those circumstances are nothing in the light of what God can do with them if they will only open their eyes.

As we hear this reading in the opening days of the new year, it should wake us up as well. It's far too easy to concentrate on the darkness of the world situation. But God's command is "Rise up in splendor" because the light of the world has come.

When Isaiah proclaims, "Rise up!" the prophet is saying that weariness, sadness and mourning are an indulgence the people of God can no longer afford. The task now is to open our eyes to the Lord's light. In the light of recognizing God's presence, we will find the energy and inspiration we need. With all the assurance of "seek and ye shall find," the prophet says God's self-revelation is here for the seeing. This is the time of epiphany, and the more we recognize it the more we will reflect its light for the nations.

### In the Stars

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

When the sun rules the day, it overpowers all the stars. But evening comes and the world glides into the silence of night. There, in the darkness, God is revealed in the twinkling light from stars. We look back in time to a galaxy that sent its light racing toward our eyes a billion years ago. We see light that may no longer exist. Such galaxies may have gone dark a million years ago. Astronomers and computers can recreate the position of the stars yesterday or two thousand years ago. They reverse the celestial clockwork to precise points in time. Projecting back in time they can recreate the sky as it appeared on the night Jesus was born. We are enabled to search with the Magi for the Christmas star. Some scientists conclude that the "star" was a rare conjunction of the planets Venus and Jupiter. Others speculate that the Christmas star must have been an unidentified flying object. Perhaps it was a celestial "burning bush" coming in power to join the shepherds and shout *Hosanna in the highest*.

*"Lord, open my eyes  
to your presence."*

### Cycle A, Gospel of Matthew

Biagio Mazza, [Celebration Worship Resource](#)

Matthew has been called the first Gospel, as well as the Gospel of the church. In our Lectionary where there are three cycles, A, B and C, Matthew is always associated with Cycle A, which began several weeks ago on the First Sunday of Advent. Exposure to the mind and message of Matthew's Gospel is a fitting way to begin our new year of grace.

One of the best ways to get at the heart of Matthew's community mind and message is to reflect on the last two verses of the Gospel, chapter 28:18-20. They summarize the contents of Matthew's Gospel clearly and succinctly. It is often referred to as the "Great Commission." It would be appropriate to end by quoting these verses directly. Jesus, as he is about to depart his disciples, leaves them with this beautiful summary of the entire Gospel:

*All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.*

Good Question:

*"How are you an epiphany of  
the presence of God to others?"*

Heartfelt thanks to Fr. Tom, Sue and the choir, & the luncheon committee for the kindness extended to our family! *Larry Haut Family*

### *The Parish in the Community*

► **Have you heard about the Christ Renews Weekend?** It is an opportunity to enrich your faith and gain a deeper experience of your Catholic Christian faith through prayer, reflection and interaction with other women. Held Feb. 4 & 5, at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Midland. For more information contact Angie Rouget, 492-6388 or JoAnne Johnston 225-9355.