

WEEK OF JANUARY 6, 2019

MONDAY

1 Jn 3:22 – 4:6 * Ps 2:7-8,10-12 * Mt 4:12-17,23-25

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

1 Jn 4:7-10 * Ps 72:1-4,7-8 * Mk 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

1 Jn 4:11-18 * Ps 72:1-2,10,12-13 * Mk 6:45-52

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

1 Jn 4:19 – 5:4 * Ps 72:1-2,14-15,17 * Lk 4:14-22

FRIDAY

1 Jn 5:5-13 * Ps 147:12-15,19-20 * Lk 5:12-16

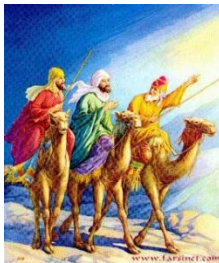
SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

1 Jn 5:14-21 * Ps 149:1-6,9 * Jn 3:22-30

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Is 42:1-4,6-7 * Ps 29:1-4,9-10 * Acts 10:34-38 * Lk 3:15-16,21-22



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mon., Jan. 7	6:00pm	Cantor Scheduling/Practice
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
	6:30pm	Bible Timeline
Tues., Jan 8	10:00am	Scripture Study
	6:30pm	RCIA
	7:00pm	Bible Study-WC
Thurs., Jan. 10	6:30pm	Commission Meetings
	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sun., Jan. 13	10:45am	Religious Education
	6:00pm	Youth Ministry

NEXT WEEK - JANUARY 13



Food Pantry Collection: Needed are diced tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter (16oz), jelly (16oz), pancake mix, syrup, deodorant, toilet tissue and paper towels.

Thank you for your generosity!!

COFFEE & DONUTS WILL BE A WEEK LATER, JANUARY 19/20.

From the Director: Cantor scheduling and practice will be Mon., Jan. 7 at 6pm with choir to follow at 6:30pm. We will be planning for January thru March 6. If unable to attend, please email can't serve dates to Sue LeVasseur at 205-4322

Here We Go Again: Our office manager Christopher, is no longer in the parish employ. He is seeking other possibilities. So we will, once again, be conducting a search for this position. If interested, apply at the parish office. A job description is available. Resume is necessary, along with three letters of recommendation. The Magi have company in searching!!

EDUCATION/FORMATION

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
What gifts would you want to bring Jesus, Mary and Joseph if Christ were born today?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** That a star announced Jesus' coming, shows that God holds all of the universe in care and love. As we celebrate that God sent Jesus to people of all nations, we will want to remember that creation is to be respected and honored. Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* calls for humankind to examine how that planet is treated. Each of us will want to consider how we treat the signs and wonders God has given us.

► **Living the Word:** On the celebration of Epiphany, gift each other with a service, experience, or something else that is not a material

good. The gifts of the Magi were symbolic. What could each person in the family do for others that would carry significance?

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC

► **What's Happening at AACs:** On Monday, January 7, the school children and staff will be participating in a **Blessing of the Doors**. The children gather to ask God's blessing on their classrooms and on those who learn there or visit the classroom. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in their classrooms, their comings and goings, their learning and playing, as well as their joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the door's entrance, **20 + C + M + B + 19**. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the Room. The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2019 is the year.

Thank you to Mrs. DesJardins for assisting us with the Door Blessings.

► **Mark Your Calendar:** AACs will have their **Open House** on Tuesday, February 12. This is an opportunity for potential preschool-5th grade parents to find out about the great things happening at AACs.

► **We are Blessed** to have so many thoughtful parishioners, outside organizations and families who support AACs! Thank you for your support and donations throughout the year!!

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL – EAGLE PALOOZA

Saturday, February 16 • 5-11pm • Williams Township Hall

Cost \$10 • Adults Only - Age 21 & up

Chicken Dinner • eat in & take-out • Cash bar

Raffle • Bay City Polka Panic • Silent Auction

Tickets will be sold following Mass weekend of January 19.

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$16,123.00

Religious Retirement: \$75.00

Children's Good Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...emptied the dishwasher for my Mom. ...I gave my friend gifts.
...to help the cleaning person at the hotel. ...I picked up shoes.

THE PARISH IN THE COMMUNITY

► **The Psalms** with Fr. Bill Taylor, Sat., Jan. 12 at the Center for Ministry, Saginaw. 9:30am-12 noon, followed by optional lunch. \$11 without lunch; \$21 with lunch. To register, call the Center for Ministry at 989-797-6607. Registration deadline for those eating lunch Jan. 3.

► **Adult Faith Formation** opportunity for all parishioners in the Diocese of Saginaw - On-line courses from the University of Dayton for a reduced cost of \$50. Topics range from Scripture to Prayer to Catholic Social Teaching. For information visit vlc.udayton.edu (without typing "www" at the beginning).

FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

Feast of the Epiphany

Sr. Mary McGlone, *Celebration*

What would Matthew want us to take away from this story in his Gospel? Some elements are easily discernable. One obvious component of the story is that God's presence can be discovered through creation: The star at Jesus' birth was the counterpoint to the darkness that came over the land at his death. It was a sign that although God's light may seem faint, it can never be snuffed out. Then there is the irony that strangers were willing to go to great lengths to encounter Emman-

uel, while the religious leaders of the chosen people were content with their theology and a Temple practice they had learned to manage.

The religious leaders of the day had forged an uneasy alliance with their Roman overlords. As long as they didn't make waves, they were allowed to keep the Temple running. Their ritual service gave them a living and did nothing to disturb the peace. Apparently, the priests and scribes had led their people to settle for formalism, counting on the idea that offering the right sacrifices would appease God just as their taxes satisfied Caesar. When the restless Magi appeared and King Herod asked the leaders to explain what their Scriptures foretold about a messiah, the chief priests and scribes could cite chapter and verse, all while remaining complacent, unaffected and incurious. That was their first step toward not only massively missing the point, but also developing a specialty of trying to thwart what God had begun to do through the newborn Jesus.

Contemporary Seekers

[Celebration](#)

Today, the story of the Magi combines with our reading from Isaiah to remind us that Emmanuel is still waiting to be discovered in what we might think are the most unlikely places and by the most unlikely people. It is highly improbable that a band of gypsies or a group of Muslims is going to show up at our doors. At the same time, there are serious seekers, contemporary magi, all around us. They are young people who are consciously hungry for a spiritual nourishment that they have not found in our churches and catechisms. They are women, young and old, who feel they have been treated like unwelcome outsiders when they come to the temple to offer their gifts. They are the more than 10 percent of the U.S. population who identify as "former Catholics," not necessarily because they lack faith, but because they have been injured, feel rejected or believe that the church has so betrayed her vocation that their conscience does not allow them to participate in it. These are the people whose sincere seeking, like that of the Magi, can be a wake-up call to those practicing in the church.

As we begin our new year, today's liturgy urges us to listen to the seekers who want more than they have found in conventional religion. Their searching reminds us that God is bigger than any ritual or tradition and is always waiting to encounter us anew, somewhere beyond our expectations.

Light in the Darkness (Is 60)

[Celebration](#)

Isaiah's call is addressed to any people who feel that their world or church has lost touch with God. One might imagine it addressed to the young Francis of Assisi in the collapsing church of San Damiano when he heard the words, "Repair my house!" In our case, Isaiah simply calls out, "Open your eyes! Rise up, for your light is *here!*"

While we who call ourselves Christian profess that the light of Christ shines in our world, we too often act as if darkness were the world's inescapable reality and the light only a pious illusion. Isaiah does not deny the darkness – in fact, he admits that it shrouds the whole earth. Still he calls us to see its counter point. We wouldn't know we were in darkness if we had no glimpse of the light.

Isaiah challenges us to believe that the darkness is neither inevitable nor omnipotent. Yet we need eyes of faith to perceive the Lord's glory shining in the darkness. The only people who can provide the light the nations need today are those who trust God's promise above all else. Now, even more than in the time before Christ, Isaiah charges us to rise up against the darkness and proclaim God's light.

God's Steward (Eph 3)

[Celebration](#)

As this reading begins, the writer who uses Paul's name claims to have received the "stewardship" of God's grace. The background to this unusual phrase is an image of God as a divine estate owner who

has a plan about how to supply everyone under his or her care with everything they need. According to this image, God appoints Paul as the steward in charge of assuring that all the guests or residents receive what will benefit them. Paul's idea could be summarized as saying, "God has all of this to give you and has sent me to be sure that you can take advantage of it."

The key to understanding what Paul is saying is to realize that he expects that everyone who hears this letter has enjoyed the graced experience of knowing Christ. Paul presents himself as a steward of the mystery. By extension, all believers share his responsibility to proclaim it. Because of what has been revealed to them, they are all "copartners" in the promise and the task of the Gospel.

Our Openness (Matt 2)

[Celebration](#)

If we want to imagine something beyond what our crèche sets depict, we might think of the Magi as a traveling group of families or friends seeking the meaning of a sign they had perceived in the heavens. As happens to many who come to a land not their own, their presence alarmed some people. The travelers were looking for the newborn king of the Jews – and according to the religious professionals, none of the right people had an infant who fit the bill.

The Magi's questions disturbed people. As strangers, they didn't understand that they should keep quiet and leave well enough alone. What did they hope to find in Bethlehem of all places? What were they called to? We might ask the same.

The readings for the feast of the Epiphany invite us to begin this new year by asking with whom in today's Gospel we will decide to identify. Will we choose to settle as a sedentary church, quiet in the face of darkness, contented with the minimal ritual and almsgiving that supposedly fulfill our religious obligations? Or do we want to be more like the Magi, people anxious to be on the move in search of God among us?

Revelation for Us

Katy Beedle Rice, [Celebration](#)

The word *epiphany* in common parlance means a sudden revelation or stroke of insight that usually catches one unaware. In today's Gospel, we could deduce many different epiphanies. Herod comes to the sudden (and troubling) realization that he is not the sole, or even the most important king in Israel. The Magi discover the light of the world at home with his mother in Bethlehem. Mary most likely received another affirmation of her marvelous child's identity.

Each Christmas season we are introduced to this child anew, the God of creation in the vulnerable guise of a newborn child, the one who is Emmanuel.

In the year to come, how will we proclaim this child to all we meet? Perhaps we will have the opportunity to bring his light to places of darkness. Perhaps we will recognize him in the faces of the ones our society has cast aside. Perhaps in our ventures into the great outdoors, creation itself will bring us new insight into our Creator God.

If we are attentive, we will find that every moment of our lives our God is longing to reveal Godself to us.

