



ST MARK PARISH

602 Military Road, Rothschild, Wisconsin

The Epiphany at Bethlehem

January 7, 2018

Liturgical Schedule

Monday, January 8

Baptism of Jesus

(Close of the Liturgical Season of Christmas)

No Sacrament of Eucharist

Tuesday, January 9

Sacrament of Eucharist, 8:10 am

Wednesday, January 10

Sacrament of Eucharist, St. Claire Hospital, 12:00 pm

Thursday, January 11

Sacrament of Eucharist, 8:10 am

Friday, January 12

Sacrament of Eucharist, 8:10 am

Saturday, January 13

Saint Hilary

Sacrament of Reconciliation, 10:30 am

Ordinal Time, Week 2

Sacrament of Eucharist, 4:30 pm

Sunday, January 14

Ordinal Time, Week 2

Sacrament of Eucharist, 8:00 am

Sacrament of Eucharist, 10:00



Steve Erspamer, SM. Liturgy Training Publications. Reprinted with permission

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Contact the Parish Offices for baptism dates and to register for preparation sessions.

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION Saturday - 10:30 am

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING - Celebrated in the Spring and Fall or in the home and hospital.

RCIA - A catechetical process to assist adults interested in becoming Catholic. Contact the Parish Offices.

MARRIAGE - Couples planning to marry are to notify the Parish Offices one year prior to the desired wedding date.

FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH with the parish, Contact the Parish Offices and ask for Father Slowiak.

Parish Offices: 715-359-5206 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm; Tuesday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Pastor: (Rev) Allan L. Slowiak 715-359-5206

Religious Education: Mary Hart 715-359-5206

Email: stmarkroths@smproths.org **FAX:** 715-355-8904

Newman Catholic Schools at St. Mark 715-359-9662

Information for the bulletin is due at 4:00 pm, Tuesday

Web: www.smproths.org

Principal: Tina Meyer

SACRED WORSHIP

Epiphany House Blessing

The inscription, how it would look: 20 + C M B + 18

One person makes the inscription with chalk above the door or side frame, while another says:

The three astrologers or magi

- C Caspar
- M Melchior, and
- B Balthazar

followed the star of the Son of God who took our human nature two-thousand and eighteen years ago.

- + May Christ Jesus bless our dwelling
- + and remain with us throughout the new year.
- L Almighty God, turn Your ear. Bless us and all those who gather here. Protect with Your graciousness all who dwell in this place through Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.

A Reflection of Today's Scripture Texts

-Father Slowiak

Isaiah 60:1-6 Sunlight does wondrous things to a city built of stone seated in arid geography; the stone of buildings is aglow with a golden glow, the very glory of God. Thus is the city of Jerusalem to this day. These words are of a restored and refurbished Israel in relationship with God after the Exile of Babylon. Jerusalem was summoned to "rise up in splendor" and to bask in the radiance of God's glorious presence.

Ephesians 3:2-6 Ephesians is thought to have been written by a disciple of Paul. At the close of the first century, the writers look ahead to help the evolving Church to find and exercise its role. There is a challenge here. If God's *secret* plan is still a *secret*, then we have fallen short of our standards as one, holy, catholic and apostolic and have been remiss in the ministry which has been entrusted to each and everyone of us who carry the cross of Jesus on our foreheads.

Matthew 2:1-12 It is important to bear in mind that the Gospel Community of Matthew has a Jewish background. They write to make Jesus' origins intelligible against the background of Old Testament expectations. Thus foreign astrologers acknowledge: Jesus' kingship [the gold], his divinity [the frankincense] his death [the myrrh]. We also are offered the first taste of *disbelief*, *rejection* and *persecution*, which would characterize the ministry of Jesus and the mission of the Church.

In the Liturgy of the Church

-Helen Ackermann

We have been experiencing days and days of cold; bone-chilling cold that enables those of us who stay in the north to understand why we have "snow birds." It is strange

that in the midst of this cold, we still enjoy the sunshine. Coping with Wisconsin weather leaves us with a choice; grey cloudy skies or brilliant sun shine. It seems we prefer the sunshine even though we know that the cold is more severe when the sun shines in winter. There is something about light that draws us.

In Scripture we often read of darkness and light. In our lives we experience days of darkness when problems in daily life drag us down. We wait for light as we continue to pray for darkness to be lifted. With the Feast of the Epiphany we are reminded of the importance of light. The star leads the wise men to Christ. It is light that helps them see where they are to go.

In our own experiences of darkness we find people who are like stars. They lift the darkness for us and help us find our way into light by the way they express their concern for us. Christ comes to us through their actions and words. Each of us, as disciples of Jesus are to act as stars in often a dark and dreary world. We can bring light and we should so that hope and love is felt by all who need the reassurance of a God who is loving and merciful. As we end the Christmas Season, let us focus on our responsibility to bring light into the world. Let us be the stars that lead others to Christ.

On the Epiphanies, a Reflection

The Greek word "epiphany" means the visible appearance of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler who was venerated as a god. In Christianity the word was defined as the appearance or manifestation of God. This is the original feast of the birth of Jesus in the Churches in the East (Christianity/the Church originated in the East and migrated to the West).

The earliest note of a Feast of the Epiphany is from Alexandria, Egypt where Clement, a Church writer (late 200s) says that the followers of a Christian leader (Basilides) celebrated a feast of the baptism of Jesus which he taught to be the real moment of the Son of God's birth into the world. It is possible that the Feast of the Epiphany was introduced into the Church in the East in reaction to the false teaching of Basilides and became, in the Churches of the East, the feast of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God in the Incarnation.

Then, too, the pagans of Alexandria celebrated the birthday of the god Mon (god of time and eternity), in a solemn ceremony water (source of life) was drawn from the Nile and stored. Out of this celebration the commemoration of the baptism of Jesus was inaugurated as a "second Epiphany" and Jesus pronounced "Son" by the Father and Holy Spirit. The crucial element of water then was connected with the commemoration of the first miracle of Jesus at the wedding feast in Cana, where He changed water into wine and once again revealed His glory, a "third Epiphany" in opposition to the pagan notions that on the night of January 6 springs

yielded wine instead of water. In response to this, Christians could say that Jesus had actually worked the change.

In the West, the Church, in reaction to the birth of the pagan Roman celebration of the death/resurrection of the "Sun god," proclaimed the birth of Jesus, the real Son of God on 25 December.

In the second half of the fourth century the Churches in the East and West married each other's birthday feast of Jesus. The Churches in the East celebrated the birth of Jesus and the coming of the Magi on December 25 and reserved January 6 for the commemoration of Jesus' baptism and his miracle at Cana. The Church in the West celebrated birth of Jesus on December 25 and the Epiphany of Jesus in connection with the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus and the wedding feast at Cana on January 6.

J. A. Jungman writes, "The mystery of the Incarnation is the proper subject of both; at Christmas the Church focuses on the Son of God born of our nature outside of sin, while the Epiphanies focus on the divinity of Jesus being revealed in and to creation." -a digest of an extract from The Liturgical Year, Adolf Adam

Liturgical Roles

January 13 and 14

4:30 pm

Servers. Christian S., Gabriel S.

Lectors. Ken H., Concetta G.

Ministers of Hospitality. Don B.

Ministers of Communion. Dee V., Albert R. (c), Penny D., Margee R. (c), Phyllis B., Mary S., 1 volunteer

Pastoral Musicians. Dean B., Linda H.

8:00 am

Servers. Will V., Sam N.

Lectors. Doug B., Tom S.

Ministers of Hospitality. Roger D., Norb H.

Ministers of Communion. John P. (c), Kay R. (c), Ron D., Larry M., Mary S., 2 volunteers

Pastoral Musicians. Marcie W., Steve W.

10:00 am

Servers. Addison P., Griffin P.

Lectors. Carol P., Colleen H.

Ministers of Hospitality. Tony H., Joe B.

Ministers of Communion. Pat G., Ray B. (c), Fran B. (c), Velma J., Ron H., 2 volunteers

Pastoral Musicians. Jeanette E., Greg S.

If there is a discrepancy, follow the online or printed schedule

Pastoral Music —Mary Martin

The Parish Choir rehearsals will resume January 10, at 6:30 pm in church. The Choir will sing at the 10:00 am Liturgy, Sunday, January 21.

The Youth Choir will rehearse Wednesday, January 17, at 5:30 pm in church.

The Handbell Choir will rehearse at 1:15 pm on Tuesday, January 9, in church.

Salvation for All. "The Lord Jesus is come to save all humankind. The "wise men," and all wise women and men seeing with a child's eyes, discover the star-marked babe in the arms of his mother, Mary. Humbly offering their gifts, they receive the Gospel, the good news of the Lord's arrival amongst his people. God shows himself to us in Jesus and so begins his saving work for each of us. Come let us adore him!" Text, Philip J. Sandstrom, STD

CATHOLIC EDUCATION/FORMATION



Religious Education - Mary Hart

Confirmation Candidates will be preparing and serving a meal at The Jubilee House Thursday, January 18. Contact Mrs. Hart to let her know what shift you are able to help at and if you are donating a salad or dessert.

This week in Religious Ed . . .

January 7 - 10:00 Sunday School – Epiphany Procession

January 8 - 6:30 Sessions for Grades 1-6

January 10 - 6:30 Sessions for Grades 7, 8 and 9

January 14 - Confirmation Session 5 after the 10:00 celebration of the Sacrament of Eucharist

January 15 - 6:30 Sessions for Grades 1-6

7:00 Grade 3 Communal Prayer

January 17 - 6:30 Sessions for Grades 7, 8 and 9

Newman Catholic Schools

January 11, Sacrament of Eucharist

January 11, DARE Graduation

SOCIAL CONCERNS

World Mission Sunday. (Rev) Woodrow Pace of the Diocesan Mission Office writes: ". . . as a result of World Mission Sunday, St. Mark Parish has helped to support the work of missionaries in over 1,100 areas of the world where the Church shares in the poverty of her members, friends and neighbors. May God bless you for your financial contribution of \$2,154.60 and your prayers. We will forward the total to the National Office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith."

Wisconsin Right to Life (WRL)

<http://www.wrtl.org/>

- Organized into county/local chapters (Chet Rucinski heads the local chapter)

- Involved in political and legislative discussions
 - Firm in its acceptance and teaching of the human person from conception to biological death
 - Leary of promoting a proposed personhood amendment; experience is moving WRL to note that this might/could/would cause strategic harm because of other laws on the book.
 - Predominantly Catholic but has an interdenominational page
 - Promote various fund raisers
 - Organizer of the signature ad and the rose sale
 - The bishops of Wisconsin give tacit approval
- Summary courtesy of Christopher Ruff, Diocese of LaCrosse, Office of Social Justice, 10 January 2013

Join Wisconsin Right to Life . . .

Light the Night for the Unborn
Monday, January 22, 5:30-6:00

Meet at the Forest Street entrance of the Court House
Sign will be provided
Dress warmly and bring flashlight
Parking is available near the Court House or the Mall

Contacts: Chet (715.212.6237, Lana (715.581.9803), Terry (920.493.5293)

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Budget Committee

Operating Income Summary

	31-Dec	1 Jul-31 Dec	2018	Balance
Adult Tithe	7,898.50	299,117.00	575,000	(275,883)
Student	8.00	211.00	600	(389)
Offering	310.00	11,852.60	23,500	(11,647)
Debt Reduction	90.00	6,226.31	13,500	7,274
Totals	8,306.50	317,406.91		(287,919.40)

Adult Tithe Summary

Adult Tithe Budgeted Per Week		11,057.69
Received this Week		<u>7,898.50</u>
Over/Under Budget		(3,159.19)
Adult Tithe Received Weeks 1-27		299,117.00
Budgeted Weeks 1-27		<u>298,557.63</u>
Over/Under Budget		559.37

Other Income/Transfers

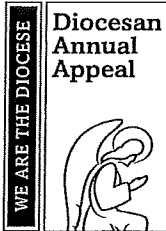
Circle of Joy	0.00	640.00
Retired Religious	20.00	835.00
Christmas	942.00	12,002.00
Votive Candles	10.00	634.76
Endowment Trust (Holding)	0.00	0.00
Ch Organ Replacement Fund	0.00	6,818.75
Christmas Memorial	20.00	505.00

Stewardship of Time and Talent

Volunteer/community involvement this week by parish members, 52 hours.

Attendance

	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	31-Dec
4:30	217	581		136
8:00			121	119
10:00	<u>203</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>195</u>
Total	420	807	272	450



Bring your pledge card with your tithe or to the Parish Offices. To contribute online, enter the parish website at www.smproths.org, then the tab Diocesan Annual Appeal then the link to the secure website of the Diocese of LaCrosse.

Direct questions or concerns to 715-359-5206, Amy L. Tishken (Parish Bookkeeper)

Current Numbers

Target	\$88,410
Total Received	\$50,299.36
Received this week	\$1,608.77

We are at 56.97% of the of the Target from 274 members . . . a gentle reminder that there are 800 plus members who are of the parish. \$75 from each of the remaining 534 members and we would easily make the target. Our balance: \$38,110.64.


FEAST OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany provides serenity
Communicates Jesus' divinity.
Epiphany meaning manifestation
stresses Jesus' natures for Gentile nations.

Though Jesus' ancestry was of David, Jewish,
His redemptive act would be unselfish.
His presence to Magi quickly took place
Giving Gentiles importance in human space.

Magi's wonderful gifts were of old.
Myrrh, frankincense, and precious gold
Perfect gifts from Gentile nations.

The reality of Jesus' divine nature
Epiphany's intended picture.



Clara Whooley, Eau Claire, WI, January 2012

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

150 years ago (3 March 1868) The Diocese of LaCrosse was established by *Pope Pius IX*.

In celebration of this sesquicentennial a diocesan history book has been published. The 450 page book includes the history and photographs of every parish of the diocese as well as diocesan history.

Titled, *Building Upon A Tradition of Faith*, this hard covered copy with pull-outs is available at the Parish Offices now for \$30.00. Pick up a copy for a gift or to learn the history of the Diocese of LaCrosse. Page through a copy in the church entrances or the Parish Offices.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS— Ordinal Time 2

Prayer: Lord God, as I meditate on your holy word, help me to realize that I have been called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Teach me to understand what that call means. May I commit myself more deeply as a disciple of Jesus, he who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

R. (8a and 9a) **Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

I have waited, waited for the LORD,
and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
And he put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.

R. **Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

Sacrifice or offering you wished not,
but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
then said I, "Behold I come."

R. **Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,
to do your will, O my God, is my delight,
and your law is within my heart!"

R. **Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

I announced your justice in the vast assembly;
I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

R. **Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

John 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

Questions

1. How have you been called to be a follower of Jesus? What does this calling mean to you?
2. Have you been called to start anew, to have a new beginning? What has this done to you? Do you feel that your relationship with God through Jesus has deepened during this past year? What shall you do to make this new year a time of greater spiritual growth?

Prayer: Lord God, I give you thanks for the calling I have received through my Baptism. Help me to live more fully as a disciple of Jesus. I make this prayer in his name, he who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

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