



January 3, 2021

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

FROM OUR PASTOR

Happy New Year!! I am sure many of you are looking to leave 2020 behind. I believe the hope is that 2021 will hold many good things in store for us to look forward to being a part of. Nonetheless one thing that 2020 has taught us is that we are not in charge. One of the few things that we can really change is ourselves, with God's grace.

January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This great feast reminds us of God at work for us and our salvation in ways we would not expect. So we look to Mary the handmaid of the Lord. Through her the Father brings the Son, in the flesh, into the world. Yet the scriptures tell us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Heb. 13:8.

The richness of our faith calls us to reflect deeply on the ways God works in our lives. The saints have their role. The sacraments have their place. Prayer and the scriptures are powerful tools that God can work through. The most difficult piece that God has to work through is our own will. Are we open to what God is preparing us for?

This weekend is the celebration of the feast of Epiphany. We look forward to seeing the Magi. We don't have a long biography on these three kings. But their fame and remembrance of their gifts have remained with us. A key aspect is that they represent the different nations, the Gentiles, and the reality of God reaching out to all the world through His Son.

It is one thing to send angels and to invite shepherds who are a part of the chosen people. They would have known and been waiting for the coming Messiah promised by the prophets. But the three kings are a whole other story. One the Jewish people would not have expected.

So it is in our lives. God is at work. Probably not in the way we planned. God works in bigger ways and ways we are not seeing. So as we look forward to 2021 and perhaps we plan a few resolutions for the upcoming year, I encourage you to open your hearts to the Lord and His plan and work for you. The saints call us to trust in the Lord. They did and their lives were not the same or what they had hoped. It was far more than they could have imagined.

I encourage you to reflect on two of the prayers taken from the Mass setting for the feast of Epiphany.

"Renewed by sacred nourishment, we implore your mercy, O Lord, that the star of your justice may shine always bright in our minds and that our true treasure may ever consist in our confession of you."

And

"Look with favor, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ."

May your New Year be happy and holy.

Father John

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays ~ 5 PM
Sundays ~ 8 AM & 10 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 5:30 PM
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 AM
First Saturdays 8:00 AM

DAILY ROSARY

Before 8 AM Mass at 7:25 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays ~ 4 PM—4:45 PM
& Following 1st Saturday 8 AM Mass

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

First Fridays beginning at 12 Noon
Benediction at 6:00 PM
All other Fridays beginning at 3:00 PM
Benediction at 4:00 PM

Mass Intentions for the week of January 3, 2021

Sat. Jan. 2	5:00 PM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Art Vinopal</i>
Sun. Jan. 3	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Donald Janecek</i>
	10:00 AM	For <i>our Parishioners</i>
Tue. Jan. 5	5:30 PM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Andrew Petrowitz</i>
Wed. Jan. 6	8:00 AM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Bud & Zona Wafle</i>
Thu. Jan. 7	8:00 AM	For <i>Therese Gunther</i>
Fri. Jan. 8	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Jeri Delgado</i>
Sat. Jan. 9	5:00 PM	For <i>our Parishioners</i>
Sun. Jan. 10	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Don Strack</i>
	10:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>James Johnson</i>

Pray for the health of Max Teumer, Ben Reynebeau, Julie (Watry) Stoner, Rosemary Lehnen, Vivian G., Russell Fairchild, Deb Beyer, Diana Hunt, Jessie Norton, Tricia Demmin, Joe Dolphin, Bill Chase, Kiley Hackel, Shari Randall, Helen Euclono, Ethel Passer, Sid Mead, Steve, Marie Hersil, Becky Fredrickson, Mary W., Bob W., Therese, Mary Sauer, Pete Ruland, Audrey Gillen, Rita Kueppers, Cindy Mueller, Lucille Ryczek, George Gabay, Jim Smith, Sadie Ravenscroft, Anne Nancolas, Rosemary Wier, RM, Floyd Babcock, Payton, Veronica, Kathryn Doughty, Patricia, the Moore Family, JM, Carl Wier, Carole Hayes, Tillie Schumacher, Ralph Hamm, Millie Hovde, Bill Eisch, Mary Lechleiter, Bernadine Seitz, Marie Boehm, Marsha Hamil., MMB, AAB, EMM, Brenna, Randall Stanke, Jerry Neve and Corwin Tralmer.

Pray for those in the military serving our country: Jason Witkowiak, John Miller, Tera Walsh, Casey Chamberlain, Chris Dvorak, Paul Knudtson, Jon Taylor, Jessica Burch, Mandy Gardner, Aaron Hoogland, Janie Asberry, Jessica Tremain, Andrei Klika-Sampe, Zachary Bader, Will Post, Adam Field and Bailey Granger.

Eternal Rest, Grant Unto Them, O Lord. We offer our prayers and condolences to the families and friends of Dallas Enz and Clifford Bader Sr. who passed away recently. May perpetual light shine upon them.

Have you ever wondered if the Lord is calling you to be a priest? To begin the conversation or to inquire about what it means to be a priest, please contact me: Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667. God bless you!

**Stewardship Corner ~ December 24th—27th 2020
(521 Registered Families)**

	WKLY BUDGETED	ACTUAL
Adult Envelopes	\$12,868.42	\$12,468.00
Christmas		\$ 5,995.00
On-Line Giving		1,763.00
Children's Envelopes	15.67	10.00
Loose Offering	688.68	502.00
Total Weekly Offering:	\$13,572.77	\$20,738.00
Budget Contingency Fund		\$ 205.00
Year-to-date* budget requirement		\$366,464.79
Year-to-date amount contributed		\$237,101.17

*Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to current date

We ask you to join us in praying sincerely for guidance and success in helping to meet the temporal needs of our Church so that we can carry on our spiritual mission.

Weekly Calendar

Thursday	Jan. 7	2:00 PM	Rosary Makers—RH
		5:15 PM	Cath. Ed. Committee—RH

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK ~

You can watch with your free parish subscription by simply selecting our parish's name during registration at formed.org/signup.

WATCH

**GOD'S DOORKEEPER:
ST. ANDRÉ OF MONTREAL**

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!

Save the Date! January 30 – Pro-Life Virtual Afternoon of Reflection: "Walking with Mom's in Need" Some people accuse pro-lifers of caring only about the child in the womb and not women in need. Not true at all, as you will see from this virtual afternoon of reflection on January 30, 2021, with keynote speaker Bob Perron, Executive Director of JMJ Pregnancy Center in Orlando, FL. You will also hear about the fourteen Pregnancy Care Centers in the Diocese of La Crosse and what you can do to help one near you. This afternoon of reflection will have broad appeal for families, adults and teens. More details coming soon!

MAUSTON COMMUNITY SHARING PANTRY NEWS ~ All of us at the Mauston Community Sharing Pantry wish to express our most humble appreciation to all of those who have stepped forward to assist us in feeding all those families in need. We got new volunteers, many new clients, and many new donors. Our community support is just plain awesome! For us, all your prayers were extremely important. Although we all long for the good things of the past, when change is needed, we can adapt for the safety and assistance of all. Thinking of others is why we are here! As we look forward to a new year, many of these things will remain in place for a long time. In February and March of 2021, we will have all the year-end stats available for you to enjoy. For now, please know that you were there when we needed you most and we will be forever grateful! ~ *Kathy Green, Director*

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord ~ January 6th

Epiphany means “manifestation.” The first Epiphany was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. The Magi, who were actually scholars and scientists, came to be associated with kings. Their gifts reveal this holy Child’s identity; *gold* for Christ’s Kingship, *incense* for His divinity, and *myrrh* for His sacrifice on the Cross.

The Feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the *twelfth night of Christmas*, on January 6th. In the United States, this feast has been moved to the Sunday, January 3, 2021. In many families, the king figurines are moved a bit closer to the nativity scene every day from Christmas Day until Epiphany. Moreover, it is traditional for parish priests to bless water, chalk, and incense on the eve of Epiphany, and use them for the blessing of homes the next day.

The blessing of homes (schools, places of employment, etc.) on Epiphany revives the beautiful custom of making our homes sacramentals. Sacramentals make us more mindful, receptive and cooperative with God’s grace. This blessing also reminds us that Christ is the One Who enlightens our hearts and homes with His love. He is the source of our hope, our comfort and our joy.

Marking doorways with blessed chalk is also a witness of faith. Use the chalk to mark above the main door and, if possible, over all exterior doors in the following fashion:

- Numerals to consecrate the New Year.
- Initials to remind us of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—and also to represent the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless this house)
- Four crosses to represent the four seasons.
- Example for the year 2021: 20 + C + M + B + 21

Epiphany Blessing of the Home

If a priest is present, he leads; otherwise, the head of the family is the leader.

All present go from room to room, blessing each room with holy water and praying the following prayer:

Blessed be all the rooms of this home. May each of them be holy and filled with the spirit of *happiness and peace, love and affection*. May the spirit of *pardon and affection* reside with us and be always ready to heal our divisions. May the spirits of *joy and laughter, hope and faith, playfulness and prayer, compassion and love* be perpetual guests in our home. May God’s holy blessing rest upon us all, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the leader inscribes the initials of the three Magi above the exterior doorways using the blessed chalk, the following prayer is prayed:

Inscription for the year 2021: 20 + C + M + B + 21

Blessed be this doorway. May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us as we welcome them with *respect and kindness*. May all our comings and goings be under the seal of God’s loving care. May we *seek and serve*, in everyone we meet, Jesus, Who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

HIS CHURCH IS YOU AND ME

Our Diocesan Annual Appeal 2020-2021:
Goal—\$41,710
Pledged to date—\$25,499.00
Families—79

Thank you to those families who have already returned their pledge cards. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, please give the rectory a call and we will send one out.

2021 calendars will not be available at the church this year.

If someone you know becomes hospitalized and would like a visit, please call Cassandra at the church office. To be included on the prayer line or to be listed in the bulletin prayer list, you may also call the church office at 847-6054.

January Anniversaries

2 years	January 12	Ryan & Lindsay Ryczek
20 years	January 18	David & Jennifer Randall
23 years	January 22	Chris & Andrea Bires
39 years	January 2	David & Ann Hoffmann
39 years	January 9	Greg & Donna Ryczek
43 years	January 28	Randi & Nona Carpenter
44 years	January 7	James & Anna Vinopal
46 years	January 24	Steve & Kim Hesprich
48 years	January 20	Jack & Connie Lobenstein
48 years	January 6	Tom & Judy Schoettler
48 years	January 6	Gary & Peggy Van Pee
50 years	January 16	Jim & Ann Van Pee
52 years	January 30	Walter & Monica Stock
54 years	January 7	Rick & Donna Ravenscroft
57 years	January 18	Bernard & Mary Resch

January Birthdays

January 15	Bob Severson
January 16	Jerry Niles
January 19	Genevieve Cowan
January 24	Mary Lou Arens
January 24	Lorraine Vodvarka
January 25	Mary Mead
January 27	Ed Hamil
January 27	Ralph Hamm
January 29	Rosemary Lehnen

Receive the Holy Spirit and let Him lead you to an encounter with the “Friendly Fire” at St. Theresa’s in Union Center on Saturday mornings. Confession/Rosary/Mass at 9 AM. For more information, call Bev at 608-572-1266.

ON LINE GIVING—If you have not tried on-line giving, please check it out! It’s safe, secure and simple! You can find the link on our website: stpatricks-mauston.com (Click on the green triangle in the upper left corner.)

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