January 3, 2021 Epiphany of the Lord

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BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE All articles for the bulletin are due by noon on
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Michael articles to stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net. The business office reserves the
right to edit articles as time and space allows.

From Father Kasel

Praised be Jesus Christ through Mary! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The month of January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus: let us reverently pray His Holy Name and make reparation to our good Lord for the many times that His name is spoken with irreverence! This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. I share with you a reflection on the Epiphany. I encourage you to reflect over this message a few times this week:

"The Epiphany of our Lord: Epiphany means manifestation. In today's Solemnity the Church commemorates the first manifestation of the Son of God made Man to the pagan world, which took place during the adoration of the Magi. This Feast proclaims the universal dimension of the mission of Christ. Christ came into the world to fulfill the promises made to Israel and to bring to fruition the salvation of all people.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany was born in the first centuries of Christianity in the Orient at which time it was known as the *Theophany* or *the Feast of the Illumination*. It was made into a universal feast of the Church in the fourth century. The Feast has traditionally been celebrated on January 6.

Corresponding to Grace: For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him. The star over Bethlehem shown down upon all mankind. Its brilliance could be perceived from every corner of the earth. From his first moments as a man, the new-born Jesus began to spread forth His light and His riches to the world, making use of a star in the heavens to draw men from distant lands to Himself (Communion Antiphon, cf. Matt. 2:2). Epiphany means 'manifestation'. On this Feast, one of the oldest Feasts in Christianity, we celebrate the universality of the Redemption. The people of Jerusalem who witnessed the arrival of the wise men from the East may well have recalled the prophecy of Isaiah which we find in today's First Reading of the Holy Mass: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar... (Is. 60:1-6)

The three wise men, the Magi, represent all the races and nations on earth. They have arrived at the end of their long journey. They are men with a *thirst for God*, a longing which has led them to put aside comforts, earthly goods and satisfactions *so as to adore the Lord God*. They have allowed themselves to be guided by an external sign, a star which shone with a special light. The star was in some sense *clearer and more brilliant than the rest so much so that it captured the attention of those who looked upon it. It seemed*, (cont. on pg. 3)

Welcome to the Churches of



We are happy that you are here! If you are new to our parishes, please call or stop at the Parish Office. We would love to meet you and answer any questions that you might have!

SACRAMENTS

Confession - Saturday 4:00pm at St. Michael; Sunday 8:25am at St. Paul and 8:00am before daily weekday Holy Mass at both parishes. **Baptism -** Please contact the parish office.

Matrimony - Please call Father Kasel at least six months prior to make arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick - This is for someone who is seriously ill, dealing with major surgery or infirm. Please contact Father Kasel to make arrangements.

WEEKEND HOLY MASS SCHEDULE:

Church of Saint Paul - Sunday Confessions at 8:25am, Rosary at 8:25am, Mass at 8:45am

Church of Saint Michael - Saturday Confessions at 4:00pm, Rosary at 4:35pm, Mass at 5:00pm

Church of Saint Michael - Sunday Mass at 7:00am, Rosary at 10:05am, Mass at10:30am

WEEKDAY HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

Church of Saint Paul - Tuesday and Thursday
Confession 8am & Mass 8:30am, Rosary at 8:10am before Mass
Church of Saint Michael - Wednesday and Friday
Confession 8am and Mass 8:30am

Epiphany marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual-adapted for 2021 is simple: use the blessed chalk received after Mass on Epiphany Sunday and write the following above the entrance of your home: 20 + C + M + B + 21 and say the prayer accompanying the chalk.



The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "21" at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request that Christ to bless those homes so marked that he stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year. The chalking of the doors of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of welcoming the Magi gave to Jesus. We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

Holy Hour for Men will be on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Church of St. Michael in Pine Island. There will be an opportunity for Confession. We will have Dr. John Shirger as our guest speaker. He will share with us the experiences of his parents in, during, and after World War II; their life in a concentration camp and then under Communism. All men are invited!

CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL NEWS

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL FAITH FORMATION

The Next Session: Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30-7:45pm TOPIC for January: The Call: Are You Listening?

(Vocations and Holy Orders)

Your Soul: Designed To Be A Temple for Prayer

"Besides the material temple where the Lord wants to receive the homage of our prayers, Jesus has another spiritual temple, where He wants to be honored, and this is our heart... It must be the sanctuary of the Lord. There, His praises must resound, and fervent acts of love and constant prayer must rise to Heaven like perfumed incense. Woe to us if we dare to profane it... Might not our heart become a den of thieves, if we let worldly and natural affections, attachments to worldly vanities and things enter, while, as true Temples of God, we should only let in holy thoughts and affections and let Jesus reign as absolute master, while throwing out all those who would want to come in and take control?

If you sometimes find yourself so troubled and disturbed that you cannot find peace, turn immediately to prayer and persevere in it, in imitation of Jesus Christ our Lord, who prayed three times in the garden, to show us that prayer must always be our recourse and refuge. Thus as much as you feel saddened and faint-hearted, you must not distance yourself from prayer, until your will is conformed to God's, and, consequently, is fervent and peaceful and at the same time entirely quickened and undaunted in order to accept and embrace what you formerly feared and abhorred. Unite your prayer to that of Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament and offer God the action of your Divine Spouse Jesus, to make reparation for every defect and loss of time that you have committed; unite your praise to that of Jesus and, uniting yourself to His Holy Intentions, offer them to the Divine Father in place of your own." Blessed Clelia Merloni - Blessed Clelia Merloni († 1930) founded the Congregation of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart.

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"What are you doing, O Magi? Do you adore a little Babe, in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags? Can this Child be truly God?... Are you become foolish, O Wise Men... Yes, these Wise Men have become fools that they may be wise." St. Bernard of Clairvaux For by gold the power of a King is signified, by frankincense the honor of God, by myrrh the burial of the Body; and accordingly they offer Him gold as King, frankincense as God, myrrh as Man." St. John Chrysostom

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: Heaven on earth, earth in Heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny Body.

As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a King, myrrh for One who is to die." St. Peter Chrysologus

"Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the earth, in order to be carried in a woman's arms." St. Augustine

"Give me, therefore, I pray Thee, this gold, this incense, and this myrrh. Give me the gold of Thy holy Love; give me the Spirit of holy prayer, give me the desire and strength to mortify myself in everything that displeases Thee. I am resolved to obey Thee and to love Thee; but Thou knowest my weakness, oh, give me the grace to be faithful to Thee!" St. Alphonsus Liguori

Rochester Rosary Rallies: Our country continues to need fervent prayer. The next two Rosary rallies will be at 3pm on January 3 & 10 near the Rochester Government Center at the corner of 4th St. SE and 3rd Ave. SE.

<u>Pine Island Food Shelf:</u> The items requested for **January:** Tuna, Hamburger, or chicken Helpers; Boxed Mac & Cheese

WEEKLY TITHING for December 26-27, 2020

 Envelopes:
 \$ 1,498.00

 Plate:
 \$ 597.35

 EFT:
 \$ 507.50

 Total:
 \$ 2,602.85

Christmas Collection: \$ 9,280.00

Exodus 90 at St. Michael

We are asking men of the parish to prayerfully consider an opportunity for a slightly different New Year's resolution heading into the new year. Exodus 90 is a program focused on building a closer relationship with God, finding peace, and providing freedom from life's distractions. It focuses on increasing daily prayer and scriptural study via works of asceticism and group accountability. It is a challenging program, but many who undertake it, find it to be lifechanging. Details about the program can be found on the website https://exodus90.com. The 90 day Exodus will begin January 4th and end on Easter Sunday. There will be weekly meetings every Wednesday at 8:30pm at St. Michael.

If you are interested in joining the group and/or would like to learn more, go to the website above, download the app, set a start date for January 4th, and begin looking through the "Field Guide".

Man was created for greatness—for God Himself; he was created to be filled by God. But his heart is too small for the greatness to which it is destined. It must be stretched" Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

PRO-LIFE QUOTES:

"Beautiful is God, the Word with God... He is beautiful in Heaven, beautiful on earth; beautiful in the womb, beautiful in His parents' arms, beautiful in His miracles, beautiful in His sufferings; beautiful in inviting to life, beautiful in not worrying about death, beautiful in giving up His life and beautiful in taking it up again; He is beautiful on the Cross, beautiful in the tomb, beautiful in heaven. Listen to the song with understanding, and let not the weakness of the flesh distract your eyes from the splendor of His beauty." *St. Augustine of Hippo*

†ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT†

Can you spend an hour with Jesus? Adoration is held at St. Paul,
Zumbrota on Tuesdays from 9am-5pm and
St. Michael, Pine Island on Wednesdays from 9am-5pm.

HOLY MASS TIMES

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass (also live-streamed)

9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

8:00pm (EF) Holy Mass –Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Friday, January 8, 2021

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass (also live-streamed)

Saturday, January 9, 2021

4:00-4:50pm Individual Confession

5:00pm Holy Mass

Sunday, January 10, 2021

7:00am Extraordinary Form Holy Mass 10:30am Holy Mass (also live-streamed)

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

January 6, 2021 †Bob Braaten (T & J Meyer)

January 6, 2021 †Charles Sherlock January 8, 2021 Bauer Family

January 9, 2021 McCutcheon Family January 10, 2021 (EF) Special Intentions

January 10, 2021 Parishioners



CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL NEWS

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL FAITH FORMATION

he Next Session: Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30-7:45pm TOPIC for January: The Call: Are You Listening? (Vocations and Holy Orders)

(From Father Kasel...from pg. 1) only logical that something so marvelous would have some special significance (St. Leo the Great, Sermons on the Epiphany, I, 1). These men were astronomers dedicated to the study of the heavens. They were accustomed to look for signs in the sky. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east... Perhaps they had become aware of the coming of the Messiah through the Jewish people of the Diaspora, but we may also speculate that they had been inspired by an interior grace from God to follow the star. As St. Bernard has observed, He who was to show them the way to Bethlehem has already been their instructor for quite some time. He who led them by the help of a star, He it was who had been guiding them in the intimacy of their hearts (St. Bernard, On the Epiphany of the Lord, I, 5). The Feast of these holy men is a good opportunity to examine whether our lives are headed directly towards Jesus. Are we living up to the graces we receive from the Holy Spirit, especially that most important gift - that of our Christian vocation? We look upon the Child in the arms of Mary. We tell Him: My Lord Jesus, grant that I may feel Your grace and (grant) it in such a way that I empty my heart, so that You, my Friend, my Brother, my King, my God, my Love... may fill it (St. Jose Maria Escriva, The Forge, 913). The paths that lead to Christ: Upon their arrival in Jerusalem the wise men may have thought that they had come to the end of their travels. But they did not find the *One born King of the Jews* in this great religious capital. Since they were looking for a king, we might expect that they would have gone directly to the palace of King Herod. Yet the ways of men do not always correspond to the ways of God. The wise men were led to ask the people of Jerusalem: Where is He? When we really want to find Him, God shows us the way. He may even use means which seem least appropriate. Following the footsteps of the Wise Men in search of Christ, we ask ourselves where He could be. He cannot be present in the pride that separates us from God, nor in the lack of charity which cuts us off from others. Christ cannot be there. In that loveless state man is left alone (St. Jose Maria Escriva, Christ is Passing By, 31).

We need to find the true signs which will lead us to the Child-God. The wise men are representatives of all humanity, past, present and future. As we come closer to Christ by dint of our daily struggle we can certainly find something of ourselves in these men and their noble effort. St. Bonaventure has observed that the star which guides us is composed of three parts: *Holy Scripture, Our Blessed Mother and the grace which we receive from the Holy Spirit* (St. Bonaventure, *On the Epiphany of the Lord*). Accompanied by this assistance, we will never lose the trail which leads to Bethlehem and the child Jesus.

The Lord has put into our hearts the longing to find Him: *You did not choose Me, but I choose you* (John 15:16). We will find our way to Him by reading the Holy Gospel, by living as good sons of Our Blessed Lady, by being faithful to our life of prayer and devotion to the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. Our Mother in Heaven beckons us to pick up the pace. Her Son is eagerly awaiting our arrival.

At some moment in the future, perhaps not very far off, the star will come to shine perpetually upon us. We will at last find Jesus seated upon His throne at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus will be clothed in all the fullness of power and glory. Close by we will surely find His Mother. This indeed will be the perfect *epiphany*, the radiant manifestation of the Son of God.

Renewing our Apostolic Spirit: The Solemnity of the Epiphany should move us to renew the apostolic spirit which (cont. on pg. 4)

WEEKLY TITHING for December 27, 2020

Envelopes: \$ 1,590.00 Plate: \$ 55.00 **Total:** \$ 1,645.00

Christmas Collection: \$ 4,469.00

Please pray for the repose of the soul of <u>Margaret "Therese"</u> <u>Huneke</u>, who passed away December 21. 'Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen'.

Archdiocesan Synod Prayer to St Joseph

Year of St Joseph— December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021 Heavenly Father,

who gave St. Joseph to Jesus and Mary as protector and guide, grant that our Archdiocesan Synod, under his protection and guidance,

may help us discern your direction for our Church.

May we listen as he listened,

trust as he trusted,

obey as he obeyed, receive as he received,

love as he loved,

and share in his life of devotion to Jesus and Mary. Amen. St.

Joseph, pray for us. archspm.org/synod/stjoseph

Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord Jesus, Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we pray that this New Year will bring us closer to You. May we take the time to get to know You. Help us to truly celebrate the gifts You have graciously given us and use them to serve You and spread Your word. May we also see and love you in all the people we meet, so that in turn, they can see You in us. We know that all human relationships take time if they are to become stronger. This is also true of our relationship with You, the Father and the Holy Spirit, which You desire to have grow throughout our lives. In this new year, grant us the grace to realize that every action of ours, no matter how small or great enables us to grow in friendship with You. Help us accept You into our lives, as the Way, that shows we loyal friends to You; as the Truth, to be courageously shared; as the Life, to be lived as a sign to the world; as the Light, to expel the darkness of our world; as the Love, to open the hearts of others; as the Joy, that consoles and strengthens our souls; as the Peace, that the world cannot give and only You can; as the Sacrifice, to be offered our of love for You, our relatives, friends, neighbors and all people. Amen.

HOLY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass

9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, January 7, 2021

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass

Sunday, January 10, 2021

8:25am Confessions/Rosary

8:45am Holy Mass - On 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month Holy Mass will be versus populum; 2nd & 4th ad Orientem

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

January 5, 2021

†Gloria Bradley (St. Paul CCW)

January 7, 2021 McNam January 10, 2021 Parishio

McNamara Family & intentions Parishioners



NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from pg. 3) we received from the Lord. From the earliest days of Christianity this Feast has been considered the first manifestation of Christ to all mankind. With the birth of Jesus a star has been lit up in the sky. It is a most luminous vocation. It inspires caravans of people to take to the road (cf Is 60:1 ff). New paths have been opened up for mankind, paths which lead to Christ. Christ has become the heart for a new system of circulation which will last forever. By merit of being our Redeemer, Christ has become indispensable to us... Christ wants to be announced to the world... (St. Pope Paul VI, Homily, 6 January 1973) Today's Feast is yet another reminder that we have to bring Christ into the mainstream of our society. We can do this by means of our example and our conversation in family life, in hospitals, in shops, in the university, in our workplace...

Lift up our eyes round about, and see... your sons shall come from afar... From afar, from every conceivable place and nation where men and women can be found. Our hearts resound with the invitation made by Our Lord: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19) Our families, friends and colleagues may or may not be from afar in relation to the Lord. Yet the grace of God is all-powerful. With His help, they may come to join us one day in adoration of the child

On this feast day we cannot go to Jesus empty-handed. He does not need our gifts since He is the Creator of all things. But He wants us to be generous so that we may receive more graces and gifts from Him. Today we put at His disposal the gold of our charity. This is our desire to love Him more, to treat others with more love. We will present Him with the frankincense of our prayers and good works. We will give Him the myrrh of our sacrifices united to the Sacrifice of the Cross as renewed in the Holy Mass. In this way we become co-redeemers with

Him.

The *Three Kings* are in Heaven. They can certainly intercede for us. What, then, shall we ask of them? Surely we will not ask for gold, frankincense and myrrh? We can ask them to guide us along the path to finding Jesus, to help us not to lose heart along the way. When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy (Matt 2:9-10). Theirs was the incomparable joy of discovering God after a long and demanding search and effort.

And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh (Matt. 2:11). These gifts were highly valued at that time in the Orient. The same Christ who in Bethlehem, as a Child, accepted the gifts of the Magi Kings, is still the One to whom men and whole peoples 'open their treasures.'

The gifts of the human spirit, in the act of this opening before God Incarnate, take on a special value (St. Pope John Paul II, General Audience, 24 January 1979). Everything takes on a new value when it is offered to God." (From: In Conversation with God, by Francis Fernandez)

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Paul, and the Three Magi, may God grant us the grace to be devoted to the Light of Christ given us through Scripture, our Blessed Mother and the Sacraments! In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Kasel



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(651) 291-4475

Safe Environment: The Archdiocese of St. Paul/ Minneapolis requires all volunteers who interact with minors or vulnerable adults to complete the Essential 3 (background check, Code of Conduct, and VIRTUS training) before beginning their service, and to renew every three years while serving. Please contact the Safe Environment Coordinator for details on how to register for a VIRTUS class, complete the Essential 3, or do updates.

Parish Safe Environment Coordinator: Sara McNamara

St. Michael: 507-356-4280 stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net

St. Paul: 507-732-5324 stpauls@hcinet.net

Church of St. Michael Church of St. Paul Cemeterv

For Plot Information Call the Parish Office 507-356-4280

Cemeterv

For Plot Information Call the Parish Office 507-732-5324

"Remember To Pray For Our Beloved Departed."