ST. MARY, CAUSE OF OUR JOY

Notes from Fr. Sean Bonner....

Today's Gospel

Although the Gospels of Matthew and Luke are believed to borrow heavily from the Gospel of Mark, each has a particular audience. Luke was writing to the Greeks. Mark was writing to Romans. Matthew's primary audience was Jews.

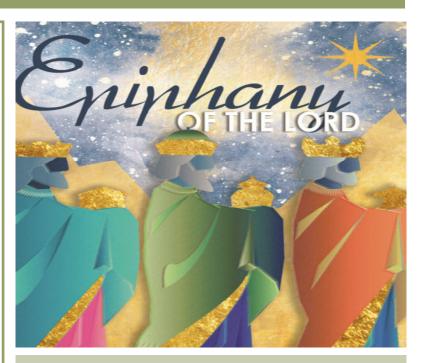
It may seem odd that in today's gospel, the gospel directed to Jews, the first visitors we see to the newborn King of the Jews are foreigners. This event foreshadows the rejection of Jesus by the Jews but also makes clear, from the beginning, that the mission of Jesus is not just to the Jews but to all humanity.

The Three Epiphanies of Christ

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, an epiphany is "an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being" or "a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something." Today, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, when Christ was made known to the Magi from the East. This is the first of three events in the life of Christ that are considered "epiphanies." The second event is the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. The third event is the Wedding Feast at Cana.

In each of these events, the presence of God in our world is made manifest to those who are open to receive. Whether it was the three wise men who traveled from afar to greet the newborn King of the Jews or those who would go on to the Jordan River to repent from their sins in response to John the Baptist, or it was the servants at the wedding feast who followed Mary's command to "Do whatever he tells you to do,"(Jn 2:5) these people saw the glory and the power of God.

An epiphany is usually a "sudden manifestation" of the truth. But we have the truth with us at all times. Our Divine Savior, "the way, the truth, and the life," (Jn 14:6) is with us. We do not have to travel long distances to encounter him. We do not have to go down to the river to encounter him. We only have to go to church to encounter him in the Eucharist.



NOTES FROM PAUL

Happy Epiphany of the Lord! Also celebrated as "Little Christmas" and "Three Kings' Day," this is a day that we remember Jesus being revealed to the world primarily through the visit of the Magi. As is our parish tradition, we have a Nativity Scene Display set up over in the Small Social Hall so that Parishioners can share their little baby Jesus with the world (or at least other Parishioners). We should also have blessed Epiphany Chalk available so people can go home and bless their homes/doors.

New this year, our Family of Parishes will hold an Advent Vespers Carol at St Thomas the Apostles at 4pm on Sunday. I hope all of you can attend. No matter what you do, make this "Little Christmas" an important one in your special way.

In a less liturgical, but just as important note. We will be running a Commitment Weekend over in the Large Hall after Masses this weekend. In addition to going over to look at the Nativity Sets, please stop by the tables and find out about the various Ministries that take place at our Parish. In this time of New Year Resolutions, please consider finding something new to do around our Parish.

God bless, Paul Zbytowski, Pastoral Associate, Evangelization and Christian Service Coordinator

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Jan. 08 12 Noon Leon & Patricia Goonis Req. by Family

Thurs. Jan. 11 9:00am +Richard Heidler Req. by Carol Knoblock

Sat. Jan. 13 5:30pm +Don Niemiec Req. by Maryann Sligay

+Carmen & Brian Kennedy Req. by William Kennedy

Sun Jan. 14 9:00am +Betty Martin Req. by Joyful Women

11:00am +Frank & Eugenia Ozga Req. by Lisa, Scott & Bruce

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, January 08

Mass 12:00pm Noon

Eucharistic Adoration 12:30-3pm

Faith Formation 6pm Youth Group 6pm

Tuesday, January 09

Forgotten Harvest 9-11am

Wednesday, January 10

Rosary 7pm

Thursday, January 11

Mass 9:00am Bible Class 6pm

K of C meeting 7:30pm

Saturday, January 13

Mass 5:30pm

Confession 6:30pm

Sunday, January 14 Mass 9:00am & 11:00am

Coffee 10-12noon

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Liam Francis

Nan Fry

Nancy Abramson Mike Fusco Helen Adams Betty Gable Mel Albright Alisa Gardner Sean Armstrong Judy Gardner Pat Bader Julia Gardner Kelly Beaudry Sonia Gee Fr. Jerry Bechard **Emily Gnacke** William Gnacke, Jr. Joan Bischoff Al Boglarsky Patricia Godvin Jerry Borycz Ora Gomez Don Brune Viola Janus Angela Bunio Jacqueline Hamrick Dan Burke Susan Hancock Hope Carew Eileen Harris Ricky Canini Lauren Hahn Jannisse Chesney Becca Hoffman Evan Costello Christine Humphrey Christina Cowell John Kaminsky Bodyn Crince Chris Karpinski Rose Keena Barbara Deck Ed & Catherine Duff Susan Kellv Larry Edick Gloria Keniz Faith Falzon Marion Kiras Ashley Aaron Farkas Joan Klein Janet & Al Fleis Bob & Dolly Kluba

Julianne Lister Lillian & Sienna Lombardi Ken Macko **Rob Martin** Dennis & Kathy McCann John Meconi Joanne Meister Irene Melady Ann Merchant Andrew Merchant Tony Micallef Selena Montez Debbie Moore Ashley Murphy Liam Murphy Teresa M. Pardo **Keith Pares** Eddie Brian Parker Patrick Patton Geralyn Pawlaczyk Luke Pawlaczyk Jared Perez Fave Pierson Damian Pietszak Deb Pietszak Sandy Popek

Patricia Lickman

Annette Puczkowski Wayne Pringle Kim Quinn Shelly Rizzo Debbie Robarge Bill Rodriguez Ann Sanregret Jean Schmuck Tom Shafer Jack Shea Kathy Sielaff John Socia Anthony T. Natalie Tanana Frank Tiernev George & Jackie Tindall

Lillian Theisen
Donald Thurston
Roberta Troher
Vasati Tupuani
Karen Welch
Bill Wendling
Cathy West
Tamara Wright
Walter Wrone
Nicole Zapinski
Sandra Zannis

If there are any names that can be <u>removed</u> from our Prayer List, please let us know by calling 734-425-4421.

OUR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

John Kolar

John Krokosky

Capt. Tim Duff, U.S. Army; CPT Joey Saunders, U.S. Marines; Marine Sgt. Leven Smith; U.S. Marines; PVT Marcus Rodriguez, U.S. Army; William Albright, U. S. Air Force

Parish Mission Statement

The Parish of St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, inspired by Mary's "Yes" and led by the Holy Spirit, strives to be a faith-filled community, joyfully welcoming all to witness and to celebrate the Gospel.

Queen's Quotes from Religious Formation

New Year Greetings and Salutations,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We hear the story of the 3 wise men, or Magi, who saw a star and came in search of the infant Jesus. The word, epiphany is Greek for "showing forth." When the Magi followed the star, they recognized Jesus as the long awaited Messiah and worshipped him. The wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus. What gifts would you offer to the Christ child that express something about who you are and the talents you have?

As you leave Mass today, please pick up an Epiphany House Blessing kit in the gathering area on the table by the main doors. Bless your house for the New Year!

Faith Formation class sessions resume tomorrow January 8th. Hope everyone is well rested and renewed.

Just for fun...

What kind of dog is always up for taking a bath? A shampoo-dle.

Why did the dog wear a sweater? Because he was a chili dog.

Blessings of good cheer,

Sabrina Queen

20 + C + M + B + 24 SIGNING OF THE DOOR ON EPIPHANY

A popular tradition celebrated on Epiphany is the marking with chalk inside the main doorway of a house with the following: 20+C+M+B=24. The writing on the doorway signifies:

20 = the current century

+ = Jesus' Cross

C = the initial of the Wiseman Casper M = the initial of the Wiseman Melchior

B = the initial of the Wiseman Balthazar

24 = the current year

As a family writes these initials and numbers over the door, each member makes a promise to look for Jesus until he/she finds Him. They are challenged to look for Jesus in the lives of all people who visit their home. The family also promises all who enter may find Jesus in their home as the family practices virtues of consolation, understanding, hospitality, rest, forgiveness and love.

It is most fitting that we should bless the doors of our home every year in January. The first month of the year gets its name from the Roman God Janus whose name means "gate" or "door" and the first month is the door to the New Year. May it be a happy and truly holy one!

MUSINGS FROM THE MUSED

The Parties are over and the presents are given. The decorations have expired, the Christmas cookies remaining gone stale, and the once fresh tree dried. As another year is ignited by our expectations and our ever troubled world, its easy to lose heart in the frigid and barren midwinter. However our God makes all things new, as we marveled at his birth, the sweet innocence of life, the mingling of divinity and mortality.

Let us marvel at the new year, like the cold stillness of morning, the fresh mortal opportunity and divine gift of each day is reflected at a different scale in the new year. In this bleaker post Christmas season we are set to rely on a spiritual food and the warmth and peace our faith gives us through the grace of God. This warmth of course is Love, and how fitting for us in the north juxtaposes Valentine's Day with the Weather of February. Let this same dichotomy turn our hearts into channels of his Love, pouring into the darkness of a dawning new year.

Happy New Year Aidan Rickel, Director of Music Ministry

We Need Your Help!

As many of you know, St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy parish lost a large amount of volunteers after COVID. We are in **great need** for parishioners to step up and become active participants.

This weekend, January 6-7, not only will we be showcasing the different Nativity sets in our social hall, but we will also have coffee and goodies for you and smiling representatives from the parish organizations willing to explain the different volunteer opportunities. Remember, new volunteers bring new ideas to the table.

Please come to the social hall after mass and see what we are all about!

Consider participating in the CSA

If you have not donated or pledged to this year's CSA, please do so as soon as possible. We are very close to meeting our goal. If you have donated/pledged to this year's CSA, you may want to consider adding to your donation or increasing your pledge. The CSA targets the averages of the total of our Sunday and Christmas collections. Any amount that is donated that exceeds our goal is paid back to the parish assessment free and is not factored into the calculation of the CSA target for 2024.

You may mail your completed pledge card in the pre-addressed envelope that was provided you, make your gift to our parish campaign online at givecsa.org or mail your donation to the parish office. Thank you!



Option 1: My Pledged Gift Amount (Please enclose a check for the initial payment amount)	
\$300.00\$200.00\$100.00	
Other: \$	
Initial Pledge Payment: \$ alance: \$	_
Send my statements:MonthlyQuarterly	

Option 2: My One-Time Gift (Please enclose a check for the full amount)
\$300.00
\$200.00
\$100.00
Other:

CARDS AND NOTES TO FR. SHAFIQUE.....

Cards and notes may be sent to Fr. Shafique. The Archdiocese of Detroit will accept cards and letters and forward them to Fr. Shafique. The Archdiocese will NOT open any letters or cards. They will bundle them and send them directly to Fr. Shafique. Please send cards/letters to:

Fr. Shafique % Clergy & Consecrated Life office 12 State St. Detroit, Michigan 48226



ROSARY

Please join us when we say the Rosary on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and on Thursday mornings at 8:30am. We also say the rosary before Mass on Saturdays.

FLOCKNOTE

Are you new to the parish? Do you ever feel like you are missing out on "up to the minute" news? Have you missed the news of a funeral that happened during the week but wished you had known sooner? Or a weather related closing for our parish? You can sign up for Flocknote by going to: https://app.flocknote.com/StMaryCauseofOurJoy or text "COOJ" to 84576

BLOOD DRIVE Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:00am - 3:00pm



Appointments are needed. Schedule online or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Come give Jan 1 thru 31 for chance at trip for 2 to Super Bowl LVIII in Vegas!

rcblood.org/SuperBowl

Thinking of Becoming Catholic?

The OCIA/RCIA is a program or education intended to instruct in the Catholic Faith to those who are seeking to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church through Baptism and/or Confirmation and Holy Communion. If you think you might be interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith, please call the Parish office at 734.425.4421

HEALTH MINISTRY

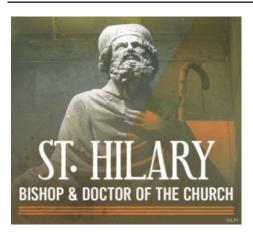
Please join us for our first Health Ministry meeting of 2024! Wednesday, January 10, from 7-8pm, (following the Christian Service Meeting which begins at 6pm).

We will be meeting in the Parish Hall, Rm. 107. Look forward to seeing you there to plan for a Healthy New Year!

The Mary Browe Senior Center in Westland offers a variety of classes and activities that promote Senior Wellness. If you made a New Year's Resolution to Better Health in 2024, they may be able to help.

For more information, see the flyers in the Gathering space, call the Center at 734-419-2020 or check them out online at https://www.wwcsd.net/resources/community/mary-browe-senior-center/





St. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Doctor of the Church | January 13

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phyrgia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

HOLY NAME FRATERNITY

You are invited to commitment weekend in the social hall following Masses January 6 & 7. Learn what HNF is about. And our monthly meeting will in the small hall, Tuesday, January 16, 7pm.

The HNF pancake breakfast will be Sunday, January 21, 830am-1230pm.

HEATING AND COOLING FUNDRAISER RAFFLE WINNERS!

We are ALL winners. Thank you to all who participated by buying a ticket to help raise funds for a new heating and cooling system. A big thank you to Jeff Vernon who stepped up and helped run the raffle.

Here are the winners of the drawing held on Saturday, December 24th at 12:30pm.-

\$5,000 Winner - Steve Bird ticket # 00497

\$1,000 Winner - Mary Zarem ticket # 08759

55" TV Winner - Mike Girolamo ticket # 06463

Christian Service Update:

Forgotten Harvest – Provided the weather cooperates, our next Forgotten Harvest pantry will be in our church parking lot on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024, from 9-11 a.m.** (or until food runs out.) New volunteers are always welcome to join. Volunteers, please be at the parking lot by 8:30 a.m.

Project Linus – The Project Linus blanket collection will continue throughout the remainder of the year. Project Linus accepts all new handmade blankets – knit, crochet, quilt, sewn and no-sew fleece blankets. Finished blankets can be dropped off in the gathering space in the church or at the parish office.

Christian Service Meeting – Next Christian Service Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, at 6 p.m. in room 107 of the parish office building. Looking forward to having some new members join this group.

Forever Young Seniors...

Our next meeting will be tomorrow, January 8th, 2024 at 10:00am in the Small Hall. We will be playing some Happy New Year games, so bring your "thinking caps". Lunch will be provided by Chef Ann Pape.

Bianco bus trips:

Thurs, Feb 8th, 2024 Firekeepers Casino \$48 due by Jan 18th

Wed, March 13th, 2024 Solanus Casey Pilgrimage \$79 **Sold Out** call for Wait List

Sun, April 28, 2024 Meadowbrook Theatre "Route 66" \$127 due by March 25th

Note: the bus trips are open to everyone. See flyers in the Gathering Space for more info.

Maryann Sligay -- 734-525-3737

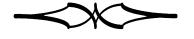


The next Forgotten Harvest pantry is on Tuesday, January 9 from 9:00am - 11:00am.

New volunteers are welcome to join us. If you know anyone who could benefit from this pantry, please let him or her know.

COMMUNION

If you are unable to walk up for Communion and you are not sitting in the handicap section, please notify an usher when you enter Church. A minister will come to you.





St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy

8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan 48185 Phone: 734-425-4421

Email: office@stmarycooj.org

Fax: 734-425-0650

Website: www.stmarycooj.org St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy



Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday: 9am-4pm Tuesday and Thursday: 9am-2pm

Friday: Closed

Please call the office to make other arrangements

Mass Schedule

MON	12:00 pm
THURS	9:00am
SAT	5:30pm
SUN	9:00 am 11:00 am

Confession

Saturdays: 6:30pm

Baptisms

Please call our Parish Office during regular business hours. Parish membership and preparation class required.

Marriage

Arrangements must be made by registered parishioner at least six months in advance to allow sufficient time for instructions and preparation.

Anointing of Sick and Ministry to Homebound

Our pastor is available to visit upon request.

RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
For those interested in becoming a full
member of the Catholic Church. Please
call the office.

Hearing Devices are available. Please see our music director in the choir area.

Bulletin Articles due by 4pm on Friday (9 days prior to publication). Submitted bulletin content is subject to approval.

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Fr. Larry, Priest in Solidum

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Squeen333@gmail.com

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

svdp@stmarycooj.org Ext. 219

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Gina Solon 734-865-0999

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Bethany Garfinkel

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Tuesday 9:00am Wednesday 12:00 Noon Friday 9:00am

Saturday 4:00 pm in Church (and live-streamed) Sunday 9:00 am and 11:00 am in Church

St. Mary in Wayne, 34530 W Michigan, Wayne 48184

Monday 9:00am

Friday 9:00am (English) Saturday 4:00pm (English)

Sunday 8:30am (English), 11:30am (English) 2:00pm (Spanish)

St. Richard, 35851 Cherry Hill, Westland, 48186

Tuesday 9:00am Sunday 10:00am

To know more about our Family please check out our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/NankinFamilyofParishes.

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