

CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2017

The Epiphany of the Lord

Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." – Mt 2:1b-2



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Parish Staff

Rev. Robert Kelly, OP, Parochial Administrator
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Deacon Gregg Sroder
Sister Anne Becker, Pastoral Ministry
Cindy Hoffman, Parish Bookkeeper
Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary

Liturgy Schedule

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 8:00 am
Tuesday 8:00 am Word & Communion Service
Thursday - 9:30 am at Community of Saints School
Saturday - 4:00 pm
Sunday - 10:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm and by appointment

Sacraments

Please contact the Parish Office regarding baptism, marriage, first communion or confirmation information.

Prayer Line

651.457.0228
651.455.5473

Parish Center Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Address: 490 Hall Avenue
St. Paul MN 55107

Bulletin

Announcements are due on Monday by 10:00 a.m. for that Sunday's bulletin.

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Website: st-matts.org

Readings for the Week of January 8, 2017

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29/Mt 3:13-17
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Ps 8/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

We the Magi



Today we are celebrating The Epiphany of the Lord. "Epiphany" is a Greek word which means "manifestation," "appearance," or "revelation" of a divine person. In the Greek translation of the Jewish scriptures "epiphany" was used to describe the times that Yahweh appeared to the Chosen People. Consequently, it is easy to understand how the word "epiphany" was applied to Jesus as he was manifested to the magi. The observance of Epiphany as a feast day started in the Eastern Church and at first it focused on two events in Jesus' life—his baptism and his changing the water into wine at Cana of Galilee. At both these events Jesus was recognized as a divine person.

When the observance of Epiphany spread to the Western Church, it became associated with a number of different stories. For example, there is story about how the star of Bethlehem was the first sign to reveal Jesus Christ as the Son of God. When its job of guidance was finished, it fell into a well at Bethlehem. It is still there today and can only be seen by those whose hearts are simple and pure.

Other stories from the Eastern Church talk about twelve wise men. But through the centuries the story of Epiphany has become universal and we have settled on the idea of only three wise men because there were only three gifts that were given to the baby Jesus—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (I wonder if there were more than three wise men but only three showed up with gifts or if there were less than three wise men and one who brought more than one gift.)

According to legend, the first wise man was Melchior. Melchior was the oldest and the smartest of the wise men with a long flowing white beard and hair. The name Melchior comes from the Latin language and it means "king". It was Melchior who brought the gift of gold to the Christ child. Gold is the king of metals so to give gold to Jesus was to say, "You are a king!"

Second there was Balthazar. Balthazar was a middle age man whose beard was short and dark. The name, Balthazar, comes from the Arabian language and it means "protector". It was Balthazar who brought the gift of myrrh to the child Jesus. Myrrh is resin that comes from a tree in Arabia and it used to protect people's bodies after they die. Everyone dies so to give Jesus myrrh when he was just a baby was to say, "You going to die for a special reason!"

Third there was Gaspar. Gaspar was a young man who wasn't old enough to grow a beard. The name Gaspar comes from the Persian language and it means "treasure holder". It was Gaspar who brought the treasure of frankincense to the child Jesus. Frankincense is used by priests when people pray to God. The name priest comes from the Latin word "pontifex" which means bridge-builder. So to give frankincense to Jesus was to say that he was a bridge-builder between God and us.

Through the story of the magi, three diverse and incomparable people, we are told that a messiah, who is different and more surprising than anyone expected, has come to save all people. How through our life story is the messiah made known?

News and Events

Church Bells

The St. Matthew's church bells will ring on the following days in honor of:

January 9	Marian Wolters
January 13	Doris Schillinger
January 20	Marian Wolters
January 28	Mary Leibl
January 31	Joanne Smith

In Sympathy

The Church of St. Matthew's extends its' condolences to the family of Henry Koenen who died on December 18, 2016. Mr. Koenen was a long time member of our parish. His Funeral Mass was on Monday, December 26, 2016 here at St. Matthew's. Please remember him in your prayers. May Mr. Koenen and all the faithful departed rest in God's peace and love.

Council Meetings

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Thursday, January, 12th at 4:30 p.m. and will be followed by a meeting of the Parish Council at 6:00 p.m. Both will meet at the Parish Center.

Christmas Items are Needed

for the 2017 Fall Festival and December Rosary Society Christmas Tea, Boutique and Bake Sale. As you put away this season's Christmas items, please consider donating items that are in good working condition that you no longer use to these two events. You can drop off any items you wish to donate at the Parish Center during the hours it is open. Thank you in advance for your donations.

The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra

returns to Saint Matthew's and will be performing an hour long family friendly free concert on **Sunday, January 29th at 3:00pm**. The concert is a birthday tribute to composer John Williams, and will feature music from Raiders of the Lost Ark, ET and Star Wars. Children are welcome and after the concert they will have an opportunity to see the musical instruments up close and talk to the musicians. Coffee and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation classes resume on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, at 6:30 PM with drop-off at St. Matthew Church and pick-up at 7:45 PM from the adjacent Parish Center building.

Encounter – on Relevant Radio

Tune-in to 1330AM for this program dedicated to the Holy Spirit and featuring a unique look at Holy Scripture and prayer. It's your 30-minute weekend retreat! Featuring hosts Fr. Michael Becker and Sheryl Moran. Saturdays, 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. and Sundays 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. (online, on-air, and on the app)

Weekly Contributions Report December 25, 2016

Parish Family		Extended Family	
Basket	\$2,308	Religious Retirement	\$142
Envelopes	\$4,758	Alumni & Friends	\$26
Christmas Envelopes	\$2,433	Total	\$168
Vigil Lights	\$50		
Christmas Flowers	\$185		
Immaculate Conception	\$7		
Bells	\$10		
Stole Fee	\$350		
Total	\$10,101		

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 7

4:00 pm Our Parish
Joseph Karas, Sr. †
Joseph Karas, Jr. †

Sunday, January 8

10:00 am Our Parish
Rachel Snaza †

Monday, January 9

8:00 am James Schleicert †

Tuesday, January 10

8:00 am Word & Communion Service

Wednesday, January 11

8:00 am Tony Rivera, Special Intention

Friday, January 13

8:00 am Priest's Intention

Saturday, January 14

4:00 pm Our Parish
Pamela Stickler. †
Robert J. Stickler, Sr. †
Lucille Stickler †

Sunday, January 15

10:00 am Our Parish
Gregory Thompson †

Calendar Of Events

Saturday, January 7

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 8

10:00 am Mass

Monday Jan. 9- Fri. Jan. 13

5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes

Monday, January 9

Noon-5:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic

Tuesday, January 10

Wednesday, January 11

8:00 am – 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic

8:00 pm Men's Club Meeting SH

6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes resume

Thursday, January 12

9:30 am Mass at St. Michael

4:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting PC

6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting PC

Friday, January 13

Saturday, January 14

4:00 pm Mass

5:00 p.m. Fix it Fund Raiser Dinner SH

The Visit of the Magi Children's Corner

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).

Y W A Y L X P H C H H M Q D H
K N N T Y I G R Q V O E G M B
W I U A W C N N I R U W R Y R
O V N R T E A C H E R S R O G
R W Q G X T R V E K S A O M D
S O M C H R I S T N M T E K E
H R O V B G H V L M S H S O H
I S T Y L O O U G I E E H C Q
P H H U A D U O B L E B R Y J
E I E Y Z V S E H N M A G I D
D P R O N Y E T V A E G H L Q
G B O R N H E E A S T R I B T
T P B K F B G A V E R H W C E
P M W I C I N E J Y C S T A R
M M B Q D D L V M V T X L X Y

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD

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