

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- 11:00 AM—Mass (The Hamer Family, living & deceased)
- 12:00 PM—Coffee and donuts

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seaton, Religious

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

Saint John Neumann, Bishop

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Christmas Weekday: *Saint Andre' Bessette, Religious*

- 9:00 AM—Communion Service, followed by Coffee
- 6:30 PM—K thru 8 Faith Formation
- 6:30 PM—High school youth meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

Christmas Weekday; *Saint Andre' Bessette, Religious*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8,

Christmas Weekday

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Christmas Weekday



And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 2:9

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

Monday

1 Jn 3:22—4:6
Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a
Mt 4:12-17

Tuesday:

1 Jn 4:7-10
Ps 72:1-4, 7-8
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday

1 Jn 4:11-18
Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13
Mk 45-52

Thursday

1 Jn 4:19—5:4
Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17
Lk 4:14-22a



Friday

1 Jn 5:5-13
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday

1 Jn 5:14-21
Ps 149:1-6a, 9b
Jn 3:22-30

Sunday

Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30
Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Jan. 14—Knights Dinner and Meeting
- Jan. 17—Retreat for Confirmation Candidates, Parents and Sponsors
- Jan. 19—Social Action Committee Meeting
- Jan. 21—Finance Council Meeting
- Jan. 28—Liturgy Committee meeting
- Jan. 28—Parish Council Meeting
- Feb. 6—Knights of Columbus Dinner and Basket Auction

Thank you!

Thank you to those who helped with the snow situation these past couple of weeks. To the person who cleaned the walks on Christmas Eve afternoon, who ever you were. To Brad and Phil for taking care of the parking lots. It was a great help.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Classes will meet this week, Jan. 6, at 6:30 as usual.



Thank you!

A big thank you to all who worked so hard to make our Christmas celebration so wonderful. First of course to Fr. Thom Hennen for celebrating with us. To the liturgy committee and all who helped to decorate our church so beautifully. To the choir for their wonderful music. To all who served as liturgical ministers. And especially to all of you who attended to our guest. You are the ones who make it special. It was a beautiful celebration of a beautiful season.



Youth Ministry News

The high school will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 6:30 as usual. All high school youth are welcome and urged to attend.



Thank you to Coburn Funeral Homes for Providing us with 2016 Calendars

Pick yours up in the gathering space. Take as many as you can use.



Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over... Thank you for your gifts.

Collection	\$11,232.24
(\$1,568.00 auto-giving)	
Retired Religious.....	\$20.00

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**BASKET AUCTION, DINNER AND RAFFLE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

Tickets are on sale before and after mass in the gathering space and are available from any Knight. See you there.



FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

On Sunday, January 3, 2016, the Church celebrates the feast of Epiphany. In popular tradition, this day commemorates the arrival of the three kings at the stable in Bethlehem where Christ was born. The gospel reading for the day—Matthew 2:1-12—tells the story.

Over the years, a lot of tradition has grown around this story. Many people will tell you that the magi were three kings, named Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior, and they may note that Caspar is traditionally depicted with darker skin. But if you read those twelve short verses from Matthew's Gospel, it becomes clear that we really know very little about the magi. We don't know their names. We don't know where they came from—Matthew only says "from the east."

We don't even know that they were kings. The word used by Matthew is "magi," meaning someone learned in esoteric knowledge. Some translations call them "astrologers," but the only basis for that is the statement that they were following a star.

And even the star itself is a mystery. Astronomers can chart the movement of the stars back in time, but they can't seem to agree about the existence of an astronomical event that would explain the reference. And even the most casual observer would have a hard time explaining what it would mean for a star to move through the sky and then stop over a particular place.

Regardless of who the magi were and how the star showed them the way, the most significant part of this event is the identity of the one who is made known—Jesus, the newborn king, who is worthy of homage by all men and women. The meaning of the epiphany that occurs in this gospel passage is that the "the newborn king of the Jews" is revealed to and recognized by people from far and distant lands. The appearance of mystical signs in the sky makes the point that all of creation is changed by the appearance of Christ. Because God has chosen to become human, all creation and all the people of the earth can experience the redemption he has come to bring.

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God's abundant blessings

Dc. Joe

Blessing on Anniversaries

If you are celebrating a special anniversary (30,40,50, or 60) please contact Dc. Joe if you would like to receive a blessing.

A Stewardship Moment

The Epiphany of the Lord

Today we hear Saint Paul proclaim that he exercises stewardship of "God's grace" for the benefit of the Christian community. Earlier in this letter to the Ephesians, he prayed they would come to realize the actual value of "these riches" of God's grace they inherited. This letter was written to remind, encourage, and spiritually motivate this Eucharistic community to appreciate just how immeasurably wealthy they had become to inherit a life in Christ. What value do we place on our life in Christ? If someone asked us to put a price on this life in today's currency, how would we respond? \$100 million? \$100 billion? Priceless? Do we live as though our life in Christ is priceless?

SAINT OF THE WEEK ELIZABETH ANN SETON 1774–1821

Memorial—January 4

Raised Episcopalian in colonial New York City, little Elizabeth lost her mother at age three. At age 19, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, a merchant. The couple had five children. In 1803, William died in Italy, where he had sought treatment for tuberculosis. While there with him, Elizabeth learned about Catholicism from the family who gave her hospitality. During this time, wars bankrupted the Seton's shipping business. In 1805, after returning to New York, Elizabeth became Catholic, but the now-poor widow was abandoned by old friends. She accepted the offer of a Baltimore priest to open a school for girls. In 1809, she founded the US Sisters of Charity, whose schools and orphanages grew in number. After much work for poor children and orphans, she died of tuberculosis at age 46. In 1975, she became the first native-born US citizen to be canonized a saint. She is the patron of converts, the loss of parents, widows, and those ridiculed for their piety



Prayer for Vocations

Compassionate God, You speak your word to us through prophets of long ago and you continue to reveal your message of love today. With great expectation we look to your Spirit empowering us to serve you as Jesus did.

May we listen for your word and respond generously to your call. Renew in us the grace of our baptism. Strengthen married couples, single men and women, deacons, priests, sisters, and brothers as they seek to serve you by sharing their love and compassion.

Grant wisdom to those who are discerning their call. With gratitude we proclaim the Good News of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Liturgical Ministers Schedule
Ministers: January 3, 2016—11:00 AM

Lectors: Meta Hill & Linda Barnum
Eucharistic Ministers: Claire Williams & Rita Krueger
Altar Servers: Alexis Dross & Sharon Jones
Greeters: Van Dusseldorp Family
Ministers: January 10, 2016—11:00 AM
Lectors: Joe Hayden & Brad Hagarty
Eucharistic Ministers: Cathy Hayden & Karen Van Dusseldorp
Altar Servers: Irma Bell & Mackensie Brown
Greeters: Ed & Mary Dell Flattery



Pray for God's Peace and Joy

Please pray for:

Greg Ernst, nephew of Rita Krueger
Julia Jorensen, niece of Mary May
Wes and Donna Koebrick (parents of Linda Barnum)
Jeannette Weldon, mother of Irma Bell
JoAnn Besler, sister of Karen Van Dusseldorp
Michael John Nelson, cousin of Mike Wood,
nephew of Diane Wood
James and Edward cousins of Janette Baldwin and
Claire Gillan

For our parish and our faith formation program.
For all who have died and for vocations.



THE LORD'S LAUGHTER

"The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing." Psalm 2:4
Holy Humor

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

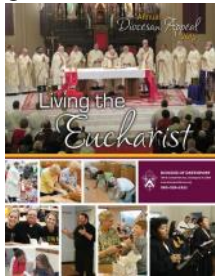
"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," And there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."



ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

We are getting closer!
We have pledges for \$16,005.00
Our Goal is \$17,840.00

We are 90% of the way to our goal
Thank you to all who have pledged. You are very generous as always. Those who have not yet had a chance to pledge, please do so soon.

Scholarships Opportunities to St. Ambrose University

St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, is expanding Catholic scholarships, which may be awarded to students who are active members of parishes, who graduate from a Catholic high school and/or who intend to be involved in campus ministry during their time at St. Ambrose. An online scholarship application is available at www.sau.edu/CatholicScholarships. Priority deadline is Jan. 15, 2016. Admittance to the university is required for eligibility. Prospective students may qualify for multiple scholarship opportunities, grants and financial aid. For more information, call 563-333-6300.

Auto-giving

Have you considered signing-up for auto-giving. Your contribution can be automatically credited either monthly or weekly. No hassles writing checks or remembering to contribute if you miss a week. **And it is green—good for the environment.** When you sign-up for auto-giving, we can cancel your envelopes saving paper, the energy to deliver them and the cost to the parish. It is fast, easy, and safe. Consider signing up today. Applications and FAQ are available in the gathering space or on line at www.immaculateconceptioncolfax.org



Wounded by Abortion? Project Rachel Can Help:

Project Rachel understands the emotional pain that follows an abortion. Please call the Helpline: 800-362-2178 or 1-888-456-HOPE. Calls are answered personally and confidentially Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Voice messaging is available all other times. Calls will be returned promptly and directly.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

To report child abuse contact: Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178 and if it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, 563-349-5002; vac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.