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Mission Statement:

Established in the Spirit of Jesus Christ with an Afro-centric focus, Blessed Sacrament Chapel is committed to spreading the "Word" through fellowship and good works.

Sunday Mass: 10:00AM

Reconciliation: 1st Sunday 9:30AM

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Office: 270-683-6525

Rector: Fr. Jerry Riney, jerry.riney@pastoral.org

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN
sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org

Parish Life Coordinator:
Sr. Jeannette Fennwald, SSND
jeannette.fennwald@pastoral.org

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).



The Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2019

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.



**Blessed are they who walk in the way
of the Lord.**

From the desk of Father Sinoj



Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings of Epiphany!!! We have one more week in the Christmas Season. Hope all of you had a fruitful season and a sweet experience of God's Love in different spheres of life. I really celebrated my first Christmas and New Year in USA. Thanks to all the people who were part of making our celebrations at the Church colorful.

Today the Feast of Epiphany reminds us that if God permitted the Magi – foreigners, representing the whole world– to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that would keep God from bringing us to Jesus. There were three groups of people who reacted to the Epiphany of Christ's birth. The first group, headed by King Herod, tried to eliminate him, the second group, priests and scribes, ignored him, and the third group, represented by the shepherds and the Magi, came to adore him.

Let us make sure that we belong to the third group: a) by actively worshipping Jesus at Mass with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility and the frankincense of our adoration; b) by giving a new direction to our lives. Just as the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, let us choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud, unjust and impure thoughts, evil habits and selfish behavior; c) by becoming stars leading others to Jesus, as the star led the Magi to Jesus. Let us remove the darkness of the evil around us by radiating Jesus' love through selfless service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate care..

(☺☺☺) Always
(☺☺☺☺) Keep
(☺☺☺☺☺) Smiling!

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath,

January Birthdays

- 7—Jacques Williams II
- 10—Whitney Williams
- 14—Burnell Hamilton
- 17—Adaira Hatchett
- 20—Janet Clark
- 22—Javaughn Williams
- 25—Louise Johnson
- 28—Frank Adams
- 30—Pam Wilson



Thanks to our Church decorators for the Christmas season

- * Hugh Joseph Mor-
- * Barbara Hammond
- * Janet Clark
- * Dennis Mayfield
- * Charlene Meadows
- * Vivian Higgs
- * Father Sinoj

Mass Intentions:

- Jan. 6 Les Bumm
- Jan. 13 Michael Carrico
- Jan. 20 Barbara Horsley
- Jan. 27 Dorothy Fultoon

Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those who are in the process of dying. Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory.

Our thoughts and prayers are with: SICK Martha Kramer, Ruth Coble, Carol Hatchett, Loretta Wathen, Beverly Chilton, Kathi Skidd, Larry Clark, Maggie Sheenan, Shelby Webster, Frank Adams, Rose Chapman, Father Pat Ryan, Charlene Meadows, Larry Leachman, Philip Moorman, Sr., Camilla Greer, Jim Moorman, Louise Johnson, Larry Allen, Phillip Moorman, Jr., **If you know of anyone seriously ill who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

THE HOMEBOUND:

Ruth Coble is at Heritage Place on Buckland Square. Beverly Chilton is in her home but can no longer join us for Sunday Mass and activities. A phone call or a card can cheer the homebound if you can't visit.



Coming Events

CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Jan. 6—Parish meeting A look ahead
Jan. 24—BSC Nite at McDonald’s 4-7 PM
Feb. 17—Gospel Explosion 2 PM
March 2 Italian Dinner

Diocesan Happenings

Jan. 11-13 Retrouvaille (for cold marriages)
at Mount St. Joseph
Feb. 2 Diocesan Men’s Conference at
RiverPark Center
March 8-10 Youth 2000



Thank you for your contributions.

Dec. 23 &24—\$1521
Weekly Budget —\$875
Dec. \$5015.38
Dec. budget \$4375
Year to date—
\$24,162.77
YTD budget—\$23,625

May each of us give according to what we have been blessed with.



GIFT

You are a gift for many people. Thank you for the many ways you show hospitality and love to so many. May God bless you abundantly during 2019 as you continue to be the beautiful people you are. I am blessed to be here with you.

Sister Jeannette



Thanks to Father Ray Clark for his donation of the new nativity set. It is from Bethlehem carved from olive wood. He donated it in memory of Frances Johnson. He appreciates all the kindnesses and the welcoming spirit of Blessed Sacrament Chapel members. During his homily he mentioned that BSC was the means God used to restore his Catholic faith. YOU ARE GIFT TO MANY.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
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 6:45-52
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 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord;
Blessing of the Home;
National Migration Week
Monday: St. Raymond of Penyafort;
Julian Calendar Christmas

ROOTEDNESS

The flower does not bear the root. The root bears the flower. The rose is merely evidence of the vitality of the root.

—Woodrow Wilson



FINDING GOD

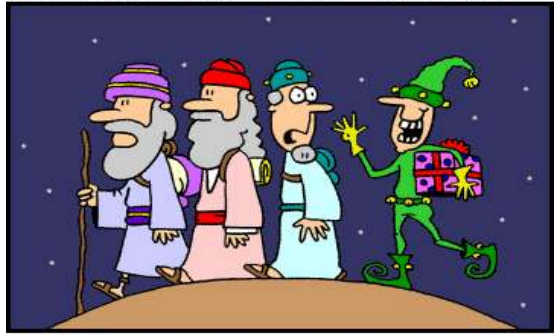
The splendid magi, all sparkle and dash and solemnity, march right up off the pages of Matthew’s Gospel and into our churches today. Matthew alone tells us this grand and seductive story so that we might see the light and know that the child these magi visited is the fulfillment of prophecy, the king of the world that stretches to the magi’s home country and beyond, right down the ages to us.

We too see and understand anew. Like the magi, our patron saints for this day, we see in the newborn child the king of the universe and light of the world. Like the magi, we find in ourselves a new faith and a new life. Like them, we return to our home by a new route.

We are asked to come away from this festive season ourselves renewed and awake to the presence of God among us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found, to be attentive and surprised and ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts.

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HEADS UP FELLAS, I THINK WE GOT TROUBLE

12-25-1998

Lectors

January 13: Gloria Adams

Von Williams

January 20: Austin Gough

Audrey Mezur

Eucharistic Ministers

January 13: Payton Sanford

Misty Sanford

Barbara Bisel

January 20: Vivian Higgs

Greg Gough

Cindy Clark

Ushers/Offertory

January 13: Dylan Sanford

Yasmeen Williams

January 20: Pam Wilson

Michelle Jones

Reach out to all who are seeking the Lord as the Magi sought Him.

When was the last time you invited someone to join you at Church?



Discipleship Reflection

Today's familiar Gospel story tells us how the magi "opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." The kings followed the signs that lead them to the newborn Jesus; there they offered Him their treasures in homage. Consider the gifts we receive from God (and yes, we all receive them!). Do we believe that Jesus loves the gifts we offer to Him, whether large or small? Do we refrain from sharing our time, talent, and treasure because we think they are insignificant compared to those we assume are given to other people? Like the magi, we can pray to see the signs that lead us to knowing Christ in our lives. And we can offer our gifts to Jesus and in service to one another.



New Year's resolutions such as healthy eating and exercising are great ideas for taking care of our bodies. Try adding resolutions that will benefit your spiritual life!



Make time for daily prayer: Begin with 5 or 10 minutes. Ask the Lord to bless your day; offer him your joys and sorrows. · *Practice gratitude:* Give thanks to the Lord each day; express gratitude to someone in your life. · *Be kind to others:* We don't know what burdens others might be carrying. Offer a smile or a kind word. · *Be a good friend:* Let your friends know you appreciate them! · *Strive for work/life balance:* Life requires a balance of work time and leisure time to avoid burnout and reduce stress. · *Prayerfully review the blessings you receive from God:* Everything we have—possessions, health, talents, and treasure—are gifts from God. Are you giving a portion of your treasure you feel is acceptable to God? Are you sharing your talents with our parish and community? Participating in ministry helps us feel useful and connected to our parish fami-

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Monday of this week is Christmas Day in Russia and in much of the Orthodox world. This curious difference in schedule has a lot to do with how calendars have been developed and changed over the years. In the year 45 B.C. Julius Ceasar gave the empire his Julian Calendar, with the winter solstice on January 6. This put an end to a system in which officials called "pontiffs" were able to tweak the calendar by adding extra days in as needed. He invented two new months at that time, December and January; and in order to correct the mess the pontiffs had made, forced a year of 445 days on the empire in what he named "The Last Year of Confusion." The new months varied in number of days according to a complex schedule, but the calendar was still off by nearly twelve minutes a year, and lost a full day every 130 years.

Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1583, but not everyone appreciated his efforts. England held out for two hundred years. The year 1700 was a leap year in England, but not in France; they were eleven days apart! George Washington was really born on February 11; when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in the English colonies shortly before the Revolution, he had to move his birthday to February 22. Now the calendars are thirteen days apart, which accounts for Russia's Julian calendar Christmas. And Caesar thought he had brought confusion to an end!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

