

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

The Feast of the Epiphany

“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we have observed his star in the East, and have come to worship him” (Mt 2:2).

With these words, the Magi, come from afar, tell us the reason for their long journey: they came to worship the newborn King. To see and to worship. These two actions stand out in the Gospel account. We saw a star and we want to worship. These men saw a star that made them set out. The discovery of something unusual in the heavens sparked a whole series of events. The star did not shine just for them, nor did they have special DNA to be able to see it. As one of the Church Fathers rightly noted, the Magi did not set out because they had seen the star, but they saw the star because they had already set out (cf. Saint John Chrysostom). Their hearts were open to the horizon and they could see what the heavens were showing them, for they were guided by an inner restlessness. They were open to something new.

The Magi thus personify all those who believe, those who long for God, who yearn for their home, their heavenly homeland. They reflect the image of all those who in their lives have not let their hearts become anesthetized. A holy longing for God wells up in the heart of believers because they know that the Gospel is not an event of the past but of the present. A holy longing for God helps us keep alert in the face of every attempt to reduce and impoverish our life. A holy longing for God is the memory of faith, which rebels before all prophets of doom. That longing keeps hope alive in the community of believers, which from week to week continues to plead: “Come, Lord Jesus”.

This same longing led the elderly Simeon to go up each day to the Temple, certain that his life would not end before he had held the Savior in his arms. This longing led the Prodigal Son to abandon his self-destructive lifestyle and to seek his father's embrace. This was the longing felt by the shepherd who left the ninety-nine sheep in order to seek out the one that was lost. Mary Magdalen experienced the same longing on that Sunday morning when she ran to the tomb and met her risen Master. Longing for God draws us out of our iron-clad isolation, which makes us think that nothing can change. Longing for God shatters our dreary routines and impels us to make the changes we want and need. Longing for God has its roots in the past yet does not remain there: it reaches out to the future. Believers who feel this longing are led by faith to seek God, as the Magi did, in the most distant corners of history, for they know that there the Lord awaits them.

The Magi experienced longing; they were able to worship, because they had the courage to set out. And as they fell to their knees before the small, poor and vulnerable Infant, the unexpected and unknown Child of Bethlehem, they discovered the glory of God.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CCD - Catholic Christian Disciples

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany means “to show to” or “to reveal”. Today we celebrate Jesus being shown to the Magi of the East. They had followed the star to Bethlehem. Epiphany celebrates God's light being shown to all the nations. The light that shown on the Magi shines on us. Jesus shares his light with us and asks us to share it. The light of our faith may seem small but a small light can start the world on fire. Let's follow the star and teach our children to share the light of Christ.

+++ Classes: Wednesday, January 10th

Gilman: Grades K - 5 : 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Grades 6 - 11 : 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Sheldon: Grades K -11 : 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Let's continue to have good attendance each week.

Blessings in the New Year 2018 ! ~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 535.00
Loose	9 5.00
Total	6 30.00
Total from January 1, 2017	1,076.00
Building Fund	4 0.00
Christmas	2 0.00
Solemnity of Mary	201.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 382.00
Loose	3 2.00
Total	4 14.00
Total from January 1, 2017	3 19.00
Building Fund	1 10.00
Christmas	4 5.00
Solemnity of Mary	120.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 559.00
Loose	6 7.00
Total	6 26.00
Total from January 1, 2017	9 35.00
Christmas	3 0.00
Solemnity of Mary	198.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 535.00
Loose	7 0.00
Total	6 05.00
Total from January 1, 2017	6 74.00
Christmas	1 0.00

(Totals include only the basic collection)

2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal

Contributor Status Report as of 12/31/17

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,179.00	\$ 4,570.00	\$ 6,609.00
St. John	\$ 8,721.00	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 6,281.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,249.00	\$ 2,665.00	\$ 2,584.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,509.00	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 539.00

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OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

BURZYNSKI
 INSURANCE & ACCOUNTING
 PHONE (715) 447-8281
 P. O. Box 96 / 285 E. Main St
 Gilman, WI 54433

Contribution Envelopes for 2018 are available in the church entrances. If you did not find a box with your name on it, and you would like to have one, please contact the office.