

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord. From the early days of the Church, this feast has been considered as an important feast receiving at times more attention than the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. Celebrated on the 6th of January and in some areas on the first Sunday in the month of January, this feast recalls the arrival of the magi or the three kings to Bethlehem in search of the King of the Jews. Originally this feast contained the commemoration of the Nativity of Jesus, the visit of the Magi, all of Jesus' childhood events, up to and including his Baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist; and the miracle at the Wedding of Cana in Galilee. It is also called Theophany, meaning the Manifestation, especially by Eastern Church. At present on the feast of Epiphany only the coming of the Magi is celebrated. The word 'epiphany' comes from Greek word epiphania, meaning a 'showing' or 'manifestation'. Epiphany celebrates God's revealing or manifesting of Jesus' identity as true God, Messiah, and Savior of the world. The Gospel Reading of today gives us the story of the three wise men that followed the star that led them to the Child Jesus. To the Magi, the light of the star was a symbol of hope, of joy and of peace. To them, the star was but a small reflection of the fullness of the Light of the world that awaited them at the end of their journey. When they saw the child with Mary his mother, they prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Like the Magi, let us offer Jesus our gifts on this feast of Epiphany and every day: (a) Gift of our life by offering it on the altar during the Holy Mass and by offering it to God every morning as soon as we get up, and asking for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to do good and avoid evil during the course of the day. b) Gift of relationship with God by talking to Him in personal and family prayers and listening to Him by reading the Holy Bible every day. c) Gift of friendship with God by experiencing His presence in everyone we come into contact with and offering each our humble service, and by getting reconciled to God every night asking His pardon and forgiveness for our sins and failures during the day.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Today, on Epiphany Sunday, we celebrate how God manifested his glory to the Magi. First, they saw a star and chose to follow it all the way to Jesus. Second, when they found Jesus, the Magi knelt down to worship him and pay homage. Third, the Magi went home changed.

This pattern can be the same for your life. God visits the earth on a daily basis. You might say he never left! Every day he stands at the door of your heart and asks "Can I come in?" (Revelation 3:20) The Magi didn't have to follow the star. They chose to follow the star. You have the same choice to open the door to God. (*Word of God*)

+ Classes: Wednesday - January 9th, 16th, 23th & 30th

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.

Blessings & Peace ~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 893.00
Loose	56.00
Total	949.00
Total from December 31, 2017	630.00
Building Fund	140.00
Christmas (2018 total)	2,296.00
Solemnity of Mary	438.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 380.00
Loose	135.00
Total	515.00
Total from December 31, 2017	414.00
Building Fund	15.00
Energy	50.00
Christmas (2018 total)	1,069.50
Solemnity of Mary	288.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 780.00
Loose	112.00
Total	892.00
Total from December 31, 2017	626.00
Christmas (2018 total)	786.00
Building Fund	100.00
Donations	2,500.00
Solemnity of Mary	298.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 215.00
Loose	37.00
Total	252.00
Total from December 31, 2017	605.00
Christmas (2018 total)	786.00
Solemnity of Mary	20.00
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>	

Called to Become Saints

Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

Our annual Catholic Services Appeal has begun throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility for the coming year is listed below. As of December 1st, we have collected:

2018/2019 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$5,650.00	\$5,743.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$3,880.00	\$5,278.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$2,695.00	\$2,539.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$1,345.00	\$1,444.00

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

(715) 452-5685 Bruce Burmeister

Burmeister Logging

30690 CTY HWY G
SHELDON, WI 54766

Buyer of standing timber and timberland