

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Epiphany

January 3rd, 2021

Calendar:

- **01/06/21 Wednesday:** NO Faith Formation
- **01/07/21 Thursday:** 5-7PM Public Visitation Richard Balek Aakers Funeral Home Lakota
- **01/08/21 Friday:** Men's Prayer Breakfast St John's 5:30am
- **01/08/21 Friday:** 10:30am Family Funeral Richard Balek Sts. Peter and Paul

2021 Epiphany Proclamation

Dear brothers and sisters, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return.

Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall the year's culmination, the Easter Triduum of the Lord: his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial, and his rising celebrated between the evening of the Ninth of April and the evening of the Eleventh of April, Easter Sunday being on the Twelfth day of April.

Each Easter – as on each Sunday – the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death. From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the Twenty-sixth day of February.

The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on Thursday, the Twenty-first day of May.

Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on the Thirty-first day of May.

And, this year the First Sunday of Advent will be on the Twenty-ninth day of November.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God the First of January, in the feasts of the Apostles Peter and Paul the Twenty-Ninth of June and All of the Saints on the First of November, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed on the Second of November.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever.

AN EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Masses for Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year.

The home blessing can be done as follows: Using the blessed chalk, mark the current year and the initials of the Magi above the outside doorways of your home. Place a cross between each of the letters. It should look something like this:

20+C+M+B+21

After completing the above markings, pray the following prayer:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the New Year. Amen.

Then say the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

The traditional names of the three Magi are: Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar. The initials C+M+B also stand for the Latin words, "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means: "May Christ bless this home." The markings over the doors should be left all year round as a sign that yours is a Christian home.

- Thank you to everyone who has thoughtfully and generously given to our three parishes for end of the year giving. The giving patterns have been unusual this year due to Covid, but many of you have remembered at the end of the year and helped with all three parishes' financial needs. **Thank You!**

St. John Nepomucene, St. Joseph, and Sts. Peter & Paul, Pray for Us!

The Covid Virus is making its way through our parishes at this time. Please keep all in daily prayer, especially the most vulnerable, and those who are suffering through its effects. Wearing face masks is encouraged. Keep in mind good personal hygiene, appropriate physical distance, and the Covid protocols. If one feels ill, especially if there is a slight sore throat or low grade fever or loss of the sense of smell or taste, please err on the side of caution and refrain from attending Mass or other public gatherings.