

Parish News

Winter Weather School Schedule

With the winter weather now upon Central New York, I will keep the families informed via email and through WKTV as to whether classes will be cancelled due to the weather.

I am watching this weekend's forecast and will decide as to whether there will be classes tomorrow. Please review your emails.

Stewardship-December 3, 2023

Operating expenses for the Parish on a weekly basis are \$6,200.00. Collection for December 17th- Collections \$6,514.33

Hope Appeal

2nd Collection at weekend Masses is for the Hope Appeal and will continue in order for the Parish to reach the 2024 Goal

Goal: 38,468.00 Received to date \$13,343.02

Parish Giving-

The Parish is pleased to introduce "Enhancing Stewardship through Electronic Funds Transfer. It is convenient no more searching for a checkbook or Sunday morning stops at the ATM. To excess simply Log on the parish website www.sacredheart-saintmary.org and click on the Parish Giving Log and follow the easy registration instructions. It is Secure.

Events at other Parishes in our area

Please remember we are all a Catholic Community and need to support each other.

Youth Ministry Nights

January 8th, 2024

The Senton Center/Mary Mother Savior Parish

6:30pm-8:00pm

Winter Olympics

January 13th @ Annunciation Church, Clark Mills

Grade 7-12

Dinner, Bonfire, Indoor/Outdoor Games

Dress for the weather

A traditional New Year's Dinner/Dance

January 20, 2024-Ukrainian Auditorium

6 Cottage Place

Dinner 6pm-Dancing @ 8pm

Midnight New Years Eve Toast

Adults \$75 Children under 16 \$20



As always, I like to share the deep traditions and meaning of our Church. What a great way to learn as a family and learn more about this great Faith of ours.

This Monday January 8th is the Baptism of Our Lord which begins Ordinary Time in our Church. Why is this such an important day in our Church?



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." [Luke 3:21-22](#) (Year C)

The Feast of the Baptism of Christ marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It's a feast of transition from Jesus' hidden life to that of His public ministry. It also echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing Jesus' divinity to all of His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist.

First of all, it needs to be pointed out that Jesus did not need the baptism of John. John was baptizing as a call to and sign of interior repentance. Jesus had no need to repent. But, nonetheless, He comes to John. John resists at first but Jesus insists. Why did He receive baptism?

First, by accepting the baptism of John, Jesus affirms all that John has said and done and affirms his sacred role of preparing the way for Jesus and for a new era of grace. Therefore, the Baptism of Jesus acts as a bridge between the Old Testament prophets (of which John was the last) and the New Testament era of grace and truth.

Second, it has been said that when Jesus entered the waters of baptism, He was not baptized by the waters, rather, His Baptism was one in which all the created waters of this world were, in a sense, "baptized" by Him. By entering into the waters, Jesus sanctified water and poured forth His grace making all water the future source of salvation.

Third, the Baptism of Jesus was an epiphany. It was a moment of manifestation. As He emerged from the waters, "Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" This manifestation of the sonship and divinity of Jesus took place in a physical, audible and visible form so that all present would know, without question, that Jesus was the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world.

As we prepare to begin Ordinary Time, reflect, today, upon these words of the Father at the Baptism of Jesus. Hear the Father speaking to You about the divinity of His Son. Turn your eyes to Jesus and prepare yourself to follow Him

and to heed every word He speaks. He was sent into this world to draw us to the Father, allow Him to fulfill that mission in your own life.

Lord, I believe that You are the Son of the Eternal Father and the Savior of the World. I believe that You have brought about a new era of grace and truth and that I am called to follow You wherever You lead. As we begin this liturgical season of Ordinary Time, may it be a time of extraordinary grace in which I daily heed Your voice. Jesus, I trust in You

Catholic Food for thought





With the change in the Mass schedule there will be a slight change regarding the start time for the Pre-K to Grade 6 Program. Classes will be from 9:50am to 10:55am. Families will be welcome to attend the 11AM

Classes resume on January 7th 2024 (depending on the weather-please check emails if cancelled)

Any child who will be making First Holy Communion or Confirmation a copy of the Baptismal Certificate is required.

Important Dates for children making Sacraments.

First Reconciliation/First Communion

First Reconciliation will be on March 3rd after the 9am Mass.

Blessing Cup-looking at April 13th from 12pm-2pm

First Communion May 5th @ 11am Mass

Confirmation Students

On January 28 there will be an enrollment ceremony for the students @ the 11AM Mass. The Parents and Sponsors are to be present as well.

March 9th @ 10:30 am -Confirmation Retreat @ St. Paul's Whitesboro

March 3rd -Sponsor information and Confirmation Name due

In lieu of the last formation class, Confirmation students will have lunch with Fr. Mark after the 11am Mass

Church Masses



Sacrament of Reconciliation: Will be offered the first Wednesday of every month after the 12:15 Mass

Saturday 4pm

Sunday's

7:30am 9AM and 11AM

Weekdays 12:15 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Friday.

There will no Mass on Thursday

Let's remember that as Catholics, the importance of attending Sunday Mass. At Mass we stand mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship.

The Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6

Psalm: PS 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3A , 5-6

Gospel: Mt: 2:1-12

While these are wonderful reflections, please remember that they are not to be a substitute for the wonderful sermons of Father or Deacon Kirk at Mass.



This week's reflection comes from Devotional Christian - Eugene H Peterson

In the opening verses of Matthew's gospel, we are introduced to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This introduction sets the tone for the rest of the gospel, which is focused on Jesus' ministry and teachings. One of the most important teachings that Jesus teaches is the importance of repentance. Repentance is a word that is often used in the Bible, and it means to change your mind about something. In the context of the gospel, repentance means changing your mind about your relationship with God. When we repent, we admit that we have sinned and we want to make things right. Repentance is an important part of our relationship with God, and it is something that we should always keep in mind.

In the opening verses of Matthew's gospel, we are introduced to Jesus' birth. This event is significant not only because it marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry, but also because it foreshadows his coming death and resurrection. In this passage, we are also given a glimpse into the heart of Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph.

As we read through this passage, we are encouraged to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' birth. For example, did you know that the star that guided the wise men to Bethlehem was actually a sign from God? Similarly, the fact that Jesus was born in a manger instead of a palace speaks to his humble nature.

Finally, we are urged to meditate on the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. In particular, we are reminded that through his death, Jesus conquered death and brought us into a new life. Likewise, through his resurrection, Jesus has given us hope for the future.

The purpose is to provide reflection and devotional meaning on Matthew 2:1-12. In this passage, Jesus is born in a manger, and the shepherds come to visit him. The shepherds are astounded by what they see and are filled with wonder. They ask Jesus what he is doing and where he is going. Jesus replies, "I am going to the place where the Son of Man will be seated on his glorious throne." This passage speaks to our hearts and minds, reminding us that Jesus is coming back one day. He is coming to judge the world and to set things right. We can be filled with wonder at his coming and rejoice in his presence.

Reflection on Matthew 2:1-

As we read through the first chapter of Matthew, we are introduced to a new and exciting event in the life of Jesus. After being born in a manger, Jesus is visited by the shepherds and is led by them into the hills to be presented to the Lord.

This event is significant not only because it marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, but also because it is the first time that Jesus is seen by humans. In this moment, Jesus is seen as a divine being, and his followers are filled with awe and wonder.

As we read through the passage, we can gain a great deal of reflection and devotional meaning. First and foremost, this event reminds us that Jesus is a divine being who is worthy of our worship. Second, it reminds us that Jesus is always with us, and that we can always turn to him for guidance and support. Finally, this event reminds us that we should always be humble before God, and that we should live our lives in accordance with his will.

The Magi's Journey

The Magi's Journey is a story of hope and faith. It is a story of how a small group of people, who were strangers to one another, were able to come together and follow their hearts. They were able to do this because they were guided by a divine force.

The Magi's journey is a reminder to all of us that we are not alone. We are all part of a greater community, and we can all be guided by the divine. This story is a reminder that no matter what our circumstances may be, we can always find hope and faith.

The Magi's Gifts

The Magi's Gifts

Matthew 2:1-12 Reflection and Devotional Meaning Explained

The Magi's gifts were a sign of their great respect and admiration for Jesus. They were also a way of showing their willingness to follow Him and do whatever He

asked. The gifts were also a way of expressing their joy and happiness at being able to meet Jesus.

Herod's Response

Herod's response to the news of Jesus' birth was one of disbelief. Herod was not only a pagan king, but he was also a man who had many wives and was known for his cruelty. It is interesting to note that Herod's response is not mentioned in the Bible, but is mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew. According to the Gospel of Matthew, Herod was so angry at the news of Jesus' birth that he ordered the killing of all the children in Bethlehem under the age of two. This event is known as the Massacre of the Innocents. It is interesting to note that even though Herod was a pagan king, he was also afraid of the power of Jesus.

Devotional Meaning of Matthew 2:1-

In the opening verses of Matthew's gospel, we are introduced to Jesus' first visit to the holy city of Jerusalem. On this occasion, Jesus is accompanied by his mother, Mary, and his brother, Joseph.

As they walk through the city, they are met with hostility from the people, who throw stones and abuse them. In response, Jesus turns to his mother and says, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. And behold, we are going to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the hands of the Jews, and they will kill him. But before they kill him, they will scourge him, and kill him."

This passage from Matthew speaks to the fear and anxiety that many of us feel when faced with difficult situations. Jesus is reassuring his mother that everything will be okay, and that he will be delivered over to the Jews in spite of their anger and hostility.

This passage can be used as a reminder that even though we may face difficult times, we can always count on God's protection and favor.

The Magi's Faith

The Magi's faith is an example of how faith can lead to change. When they arrived in Bethlehem, they were strangers, and they were not from around there. But because of their faith, they were able to see the baby Jesus and they were able to bring Him home. Their faith was a powerful force that changed their lives and the lives of those around them.

The Magi's Obedience

The story of the Magi is a beautiful example of obedience. The three wise men were from a faraway land, and when they saw the baby Jesus, they were so amazed by His beauty that they wanted to bring Him gifts. They followed all the instructions that were given to them by the King of kings, and when they arrived in Bethlehem, they presented Jesus with the most precious gifts of all – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The story of the Magi is a reminder that we should always obey God's instructions. We should be careful not to be amazed by the beauty of the world, but instead focus on God's amazing creation. We should also be willing to give our gifts to God, even if they are not the most precious things in our lives.

God's Protection

God's protection is a constant reminder that He is with us always. In the story of Jesus' birth, we see this protection in action when the angel tells Joseph that his child is safe. This assurance is a reminder that no matter what happens, God is always with us. In the story, Joseph also receives a message from Mary that tells him to take the child and go to Egypt. This message is also a reminder that God will take care of us. Even in difficult times, we can trust Him.

The Christmas season is a time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the new year. In Matthew 2:1-12, we see the birth of Jesus Christ. This event is celebrated annually as a holiday, and it is a time to celebrate the coming of a new era of peace and goodwill. Christ's coming is a reminder of the importance of faith in the face of difficult times.

Summary of Reflection and Devotional Meaning

In Matthew 2:1-12, Jesus is born in a manger, and is visited by the shepherds. The shepherds are astounded by what they see, and they tell the wise men from the east what they have seen. The wise men come to see Jesus, and they bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The gifts represent the three main virtues: wisdom, faith, and love. The wise men are symbolically representing the three aspects of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The shepherds are symbolically representing the people of God. The baby Jesus is symbolically representing the new covenant.

The visit of the wise men is a sign that Jesus is the Messiah. The gifts represent the things that Jesus will bring into the world: peace, salvation, and eternal life. The visit of the wise men is a sign that Jesus is the one who can bring peace and salvation to the world.

Call to Action

In Matthew 2:1-12, we see a call to action from Jesus Christ. He wants his followers to go and preach the gospel to all nations. This call to action is important because it shows us what we should do in order to be saved. We should go and tell people about Jesus Christ and what he can do for them. This is a reflection of our faith in Jesus Christ. We should also take time to read and reflect on the devotional meaning of this passage.



Each week I include this week's Scripture to be shared for children who may be too young to attend the program.

Children's Sermon: Seeking the Savior (Matthew 2:1-12)

(Make a simple map from your starting place to two other places in your room. This will be your "Seeking the Savior Map. Hide the star stickers somewhere in your room. Place a star sticker on your map for that place. Choose two other places where your map will take kids in your room. Then use symbols on your map to signify those two places, such as a book for a bookcase. After your map has three places on it, wad it up and unwad it to make it look more realistic.)

If we were planning to go visit someone in another town, we might first ask someone who knew how to get there to give us directions. They might give us some general directions and suggest the best roads to take. Another thing we might do is look at a map or use our GPS to show us exactly how to get where we want to go.

Today we have a map to help us seek or find something. (Show kids the map.) I have two things you need to do. #1: You will go with me to seek the star that is hiding in our room. And #2: Every time you hear me say the word "star," raise your hands and say "Shine, shine, bright star." Ready?

Let's look at our map and go to the first place. Where do you think we go based on this first picture?

(Lead children to that area.) After Jesus was born, some wise men, also called Magi, saw a star (Pause for kids to say "Shine, shine, bright star.") in the sky which they believed announced the birth of a king. They traveled to Jerusalem and began to ask, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star (Pause for kids to say "Shine, shine, bright star.") as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

Get all the materials for this sermon (free today)

(Have children look at the map and then go to the second area.) Herod heard about the Magi and their search for a king and he was deeply disturbed. So Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men and said to them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

(Have children look at the map and then go to the second area.) As you know, the wise men did not have a map to guide them to Bethlehem, but they had something even better — they had a star (Pause for kids to say "Shine, shine, bright star.") to guide them. So the wise men followed information that the priests had given to Herod and the star (Pause for kids to say "Shine, shine, bright star.") that God had given to guide them and it led them right to Jesus. When they found him, they gave him gifts and bowed down and worshiped him. (Matthew 2:1-12)

(Have children look at the map and then go to the third area to find the star. Give each child a star sticker when they find them.) Wise men, women, boys, and girls are still searching for Jesus. There are people who want to help -- people like pastors and Sunday school teachers. The Bible is the map and star (Pause for kids to respond say "Shine, shine, bright star.") that will lead to Jesus. All of us can read it every day to make sure we are headed in the right direction to find Jesus!

Dear Jesus, we seek you today because we want to worship you and crown you as our King. Thank You for the Bible that leads us to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Weekly Prayer

As we are still in the Christmas Season until this Sunday, when I read this prayer it gave me peace in knowing that through His birth came peace, joy and love.





Diocese of Syracuse

From Notre Dame Schools:

Notre Dame Schools 12th Annual Raffle is underway. This year's Grand Prize is \$100,000. With a Second Prize of \$10,000, Third Prize of \$10,000, and an additional \$10,000 in smaller prizes! Tickets cost \$100 each and include admission for 2 adults to the Drawing Party on April 23, 2023, featuring free food, door prizes, and 50/50 raffles. Doors open at 12 Noon and the main drawing will be at 3pm. Call 315-724-5118 to purchase your tickets today! Flyer is attached.

Join us for a Women's Retreat with Kathy Meus

Friday, Jan 26-Saturday, January 27

"How Do You Walk Humbly with Your God?"

The prophet Micah tells us what is required: "To do the right, to love goodness, and to walk humbly with God." Together we will explore this simple yet profound message and what it means to be humble as we journey through life. The retreat begins on Friday evening January 26th with dinner at 6:00 and ends on Saturday January 27th with dinner. Space is limited. Kathy Meus will be facilitating this retreat. Retreat begins with check-in on Friday, January 26 at 5 pm. Dinner is at 6 pm. Retreat ends after Dinner on Saturday.

Offering: \$150 and \$120 for commuters. For reservations go to www.ckretreat.com or call 315-446-2680.

Lynn M. Springer
Director of Faith Formation
Sacred Heart/St Mary's
315 527 8399
Lspringer@syrдио.org