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Rev. Brian P. Christensen ~ Pastor



## Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Each year on the Sunday between January 2 and 8, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany - the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. The word *Epiphany* means manifestation. The gospel for Epiphany is Matthew's story of the wise men from the East (Matthew 2:1-12). Matthew, the most overtly Jewish of all the gospels, records the visit of the wise men from the East,

apparently Gentiles from Persia or Babylonia, as the first to come to worship Jesus. In contrast, Luke tells us about shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem, who would obviously be Jews.

In the early Church, Epiphany was the original celebration of the nativity of our Lord, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the whole world. January 2nd was the date chosen to celebrate the feast by Christians in the East, probably because the Egyptians celebrated their great feast of the winter solstice on that day, in honor of their sun-god Horus.

The Church consciously decided to observe the nativity of Jesus in direct competition with this pagan feast. The Christian feast was primarily a commemoration of the Lord's baptism, as it still is for Eastern Orthodox churches. The feast of Epiphany became known in the West during the fourth century, about the same time as the feast of Christmas came to be celebrated on the 25th of December. Epiphany in the West acquired some of the Christmas associations, particularly the story of the magi's visit, which then became regarded as a manifestation to the Gentiles.

One custom associated with the Epiphany feast was a procession of children dressed as the magi, carrying a star on a pole and going from house to house singing star carols. Another was the baking of a special Kings' cake with a coin in it. Whoever found the coin would be king of the Epiphany Day party. In Latin America, as well as other parts of the world, the feast of the Epiphany is known as the Day of the Kings. It is on this day that Christians exchange presents rather than on Christmas Day, which is appropriate since the Epiphany is the observance of the coming of the wise men with gifts for the Christ child.

Because of the emphasis on the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (non-Jews), the Feast of the Epiphany introduces the need for mission and evangelism, the outreach of the Church with the good news of God's love incarnate in Jesus Christ.

### *The Epiphany of the Lord*

*January 3rd, 2010*

#### Readings

##### **Sunday, January 3rd**

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6  
Ephesians 3: 2 - 3a, 5 - 6  
Matthew 2: 1 - 12

##### **Monday, January 4th**

1 John 3: 22 4:6  
Matthew 4: 17, 23 - 25

##### **Tuesday, January 5th**

1 John 4: 7 - 10  
Mark 6: 34 - 44

##### **Wednesday, January 6th**

1 John 4: 11 - 18  
Mark 6: 45 - 52

##### **Thursday, January 7th**

1 John 4: 19 5: 4  
Luke 4: 14 - 22a

##### **Friday, January 8th**

1 John 5: 5 - 13  
Luke 5: 12 16

##### **Saturday, January 9th**

1 John 5: 14 - 21  
John 3: 22 - 30

##### **Sunday, January 10th**

Isaiah 40: 1 - 5, 9 - 11  
Titus 2: 11 - 14 3: 4 - 7  
Luke 3: 15 - 16, 21 - 22

**Pastor:** Rev. Brian P. Christensen [frchristensen@gmail.com](mailto:frchristensen@gmail.com)  
**Parish Secretary:** Sherri Stoesser [sherri.stjohns@midconetwork.com](mailto:sherri.stjohns@midconetwork.com)  
**Faith Formation:** Lisa Fahey [lisastjohn@pie.midco.net](mailto:lisastjohn@pie.midco.net)

**Parish Support:** Mary Welsh  
**Parish Council:** Carol Pond  
**Finance Council:** Pat Durkin  
**JustFaith:** Pat Storms  
**Grand Knight:** John Lott  
**Altar Society:** Glenda Marks, Lillian Magnusson, Rose Anderson

**Parish  
Team**

#### **ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Lord's Day Masses:**

Saturday - 5:30 PM  
Sunday - 7:30 & 9:30 AM  
Confessions: 1/2 hour before Mass

**DAILY MASS** (see bulletin weekly schedule)  
7:00 AM Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday  
5:30 PM Tuesday  
8:00 AM Saturday (with Eucharistic Adoration)

#### **SS. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH Weekend Masses:**

Saturday - 5:00 PM  
Sunday - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 7:00 PM, ( 11:45 AM Mary House)

## St. John's Weekly Schedule

### **Wednesday, January 6th**

5:45 pm TGIF - All Parishioners are Invited!

5:45 pm Life Teen and Edge

### **Thursday, January 7th**

7:00 pm RCIA

### **Sunday, January 10th**

- Knight's of Columbus Breakfast after Masses.
- Coffee Sales after all Masses.
- **Ladies of the Parish - We need you!**

10:30am - Our Monday night Altar Society meetings do not seem to work for many of us, we will hold a brief meeting after the 9:30 am Mass on January 10th in Padre Hall. Please stop by and give us your input. We are planning a soup dinner on February 21st from 12 - 3pm.

## **Thank you!**

I am very grateful to our Lord for the call that He given to me: the call to priesthood. He has blessed me in so many ways since my ordination in July 1999. For the joys and sorrows, for the successes and setbacks, for the sacrifices and love that I have experienced as a priest and as a pastor, I am sincerely thankful.

For all of you - faithful parishioners of St John's - I thank God. You are a blessing to me. Each and every day, I see God at work in your lives as you sacrifice for your spouses, for your families, for others in need. You reveal the face of God to others through your prayerfulness, your humility, and your willingness to forgive and to serve.

I am blessed by the many kindnesses which you have shown to me. Your prayers, your words of encouragement, your active participation in the life of our parish family are all cause for my joy. Your lives reflect the grace of God at work within you. You bless me with your blessings from God.

This Christmas, I am very thankful for your generous gifts, cards, and thoughtful words. It is my joy and privilege to be your pastor and to serve you as the father of this parish family. God bless you and all your loved ones in this Christmas season. May our Lord bless us as we live and serve one another in His love.

- Fr Brian



**What is an Altar Society?** Who belongs to the Altar Society? What is the mission of the Altar Society? These are fair questions. Let's get some answers! Historically, the purpose of the Altar Society was mainly for the upkeep of all things relating to the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and other liturgical celebrations. The ladies of the Altar Society were attentive to everything having to do with the Mass and the liturgies of the church: baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals. This included the state of the sanctuary, care for the sacred linens and sacred vessels, candles, priestly vestments, altar server cassocks and surplices, altar hosts and wine. Just as the first women disciples prepared everything for Jesus, following His sacrifice upon the Cross, so now the women of the parish prepare everything for the sacrifice of Jesus upon the Altar.

Looking back at the women of faith, who first followed our Lord, will give us an indication of how our associations of Catholic Women - Altar Societies - might look today. First, an Altar Society is an association of Catholic women dedicated to promoting and cultivating fellowship among the women of our parish. Following the example of the holy women in the Scriptures and imitating the saintly women throughout the history of the Church, the ladies of the parish Altar Society are intent on supporting and encouraging one another in the ways of faith. By coming together in prayer for one another, for their families, and for the special needs within the parish, the ladies of the Altar Society foster a deeper friendship with each other and with our Lord. They further the work of Christ through their dedication to prayer.

Secondly, the fellowship or communion of the ladies of the Altar Society is furthered by common activities: social gatherings such as teas, card parties, day trips, and pilgrimages.

Thirdly, the Altar Society sponsors events and activities for the wellbeing of our whole parish family such as the Fall Turkey Dinner and the Spring Soup Supper. These events bring the parish family together in service and fellowship. These events also open up our parish family to the greater community in hospitality and service. Furthermore, they serve as important fund raisers for the Altar Society. Traditionally, the ladies of the Altar Society have used their funds to generously support the work of the Gospel within and outside our parish boundaries.

Throughout the history of St. John's parish (1905-present), the Altar Society has played an important role in the life of our parish family. It is with this vision and tradition in mind, that I would like to visit with all of the ladies in our parish following Mass next Sunday, January 10th at 10:30am in Padre Hall.

Together, let us renew our faith in God and in one another as we renew our vision and commitment to our parish Altar Society and its important mission within our parish life.



### **Football Winners - Week 16**

Vikings: Lynn Fravel, Fort Pierre  
Sunday: Heath Stoesser, Pierre  
Monday: Pat Suedkamp, Pierre



Saturday, January 2nd

5:30 PM + Ray and Ken Lawhon

By: Freda Lawhon

Sunday, January 3rd

7:30 AM Intentions of the Parish

9:30 AM + Mary Corneilson

By: St. John's Parish Family

Monday, January 4th - St Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:00 AM No Mass

Tuesday, January 5th - St. John Neumann

5:30 PM No Mass

Wednesday, January 6th - Blessed Andre Bessette

7:00 AM No Mass

Thursday, January 7th - St Raymond of Penafort

7:00 AM No Mass

Friday, January 8th

7:00 AM No Mass

Saturday, January 9th

8:00 AM No Mass

5:30 PM + Dennis Delaney

By: Steve and Sherri Stoesser

Sunday, January 10th — Baptism of the Lord

7:30 AM Intentions of the Parish

9:30 AM SI Stefanie Zetah

By: Judy Zetah

Sacrament of Reconciliation 1/2 hour before Masses or by appointment

Mon.07 Brooke Severyn, Dale Wiskur

Tue.08 George Biggs

Wed.09 Pam Bergstrom, Brevin Klemann

Thu. 10 Shirley Iversen, Sheila Ricketts, Cody Sporrer

Fri. 11 Abigail Lott, Taylor Maier

Sat.12 Alex Jones, Kristie Maher

**Anniversaries**

Tue.08 Roger and Nila Novotony

Sat.12 Kevin and Mary Neuhauser

Sat. Jan 9, 5:30 PM

PAT FAHEY, GLENDA MARKS  
BRITA BERGESON  
SAM SLOCUM, JACE & MCKENZIE WERNSMAN

Eucharistic Ministers  
Lector  
Altar Servers

Sun. Jan 10, 7:30 AM

JUDY ACKLEY, MEGAN ANDERSON, MARY GIDDINGS  
PAM BERGSTROM  
MATT BOOTH, ADAM & AUSTIN BROWN

Eucharistic Ministers  
Lector  
Altar Servers

Sun. Jan 10, 9:30 AM

IRMA LEFAIVE, PATTY & SARAH LIHS  
JO LAROCHE  
TAYLOR DOWLING, SHELBY GERBER, KELSEY VANDENHEMEL  
MELISSA PUEPKE, MARY A TURMAN

Eucharistic Ministers  
Lector  
Altar Servers  
Counters

**For all the sick and suffering**, Brenda Maxon, Sue Pospisil, Eric Buchmann, Grady Jacobson, Judy Hobbs, Nancy Holub, Maddox Rowland, Kelsey Spurlin, Dennis Carlson, Marie Gibson, Mary Gibson, Eileen Hofer, Barb Brown, Theresa Kirby, Doris Ogan, Jennifer Cink, Dorothy Brown, Doreen Pospisil, Cindy Foreman, Francis Bies, Lois Zimmer, Roland & Mary Hostler, Joe Truett, Jace Nickolas, Loren Pospisil, Leona Jacobsen, James Garrity, Geraldine Kokesh, Bryan Ice, Chance Wagner, Beverly Russell, Kevin Gallagher and all who have asked for our special prayers. If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain call Sue Pospisil - 223-2863.



**SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

Regular Envelopes	\$1,048.00
Student Envelopes	\$ 4.00
Plate	\$ 169.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,221.00</b>

"Give and it shall be given to you. For the measure you measure with will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38



**Our Military Members:** That God's loving hands protect them as they protect us and heal those who have returned to us physically or emotionally wounded.

We especially pray for the safety and well-being of Patrick Hall (Dan & Deb), Melissa Gross (Darrell & Cindy), Brett Anderson (Rod & Megan), David Collins (Mary) and Jocelyn Baker (Megan Anderson - sister).

Please take time to drop a note to our soldiers and thank them for their sacrifice and dedication.

**CW3 BRETT ANDERSON**

HBB 1-147 FA  
APO AE 09337

**SP4 MELISSA MCINTYRE**  
21ST MP CO (ABN) UNIT 031  
CAMP BASRAH  
APO AE 09375

**MAJ JOCELYN BAKER**  
KFOR 12 TF FALCON HHC  
APO AE 09340

**MAJ DAVID S COLLINS**

HHC 41BCT 11D, S-3  
COB Spreicher

APO, AE 09393  
**SPGT HALL, PATRICK D**  
ACO TF BASE 1-35 AR  
JSS 4 CORNERS  
APO AE 09322

**Pilgrimage with Father Brian to the Eternal City of Rome** in October 2010. Participate in the Ordination Mass of one of our diocesan seminarians at St Peter's Basilica. Celebrate Mass in the catacombs, visit the major churches of Rome, visit the cities of Siena, Florence, and Assisi. Pray at the tombs of the saints, see the beautiful county side of Italy, and enjoy the wonderful Italian cuisine. Attend an audience with Pope Benedict XVI. Round trip from Rapid City, all transportation, lodging, breakfasts, and seven dinners included for \$3,629. 12 Days: October 4-15, 2010. For information call Fr Brian at 223-2176 or [frchristensen@gmail.com](mailto:frchristensen@gmail.com).

**Did You Know? Keeping the Promise to Protect**

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* is a comprehensive set of procedures established by the U.S. Conference of Bishops in 2002 to address allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The *Charter* includes guidelines for dioceses to follow in these matters: making effective responses to allegations of abuse, offering healing to victims, and creating a safe environment for children and young people who participate in church activities. For more information about the *Charter*, go to [www.usccb.org/ocyp/charter.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/charter.shtml). Information about the diocesan Safe Environment program is posted on the diocesan Web site at [www.rapidcitydiocese.org](http://www.rapidcitydiocese.org).

**Hail Mary full of grace...**

Please kneel down after Mass and pray Three Hail Mary's for the next person who dies from our parish.



# St. John's January Calendar

## Wednesday, January 6th

5:45 pm - TGIF, Life Teen and Edge - *Prayer: Daily Catholic Devotions*

7:25 pm Divine Mercy in Church

8:00 pm Knight's of Columbus Meeting

## Thursday, January 7th

7:00 pm - RCIA

## Wednesday, January 13th

5:45 pm - Kid's Clubs, Life Teen and Edge

7:25 pm Life Teen Mass

## Thursday, January 14th

7:00 pm - RCIA

## Sunday, January 17th

1:00 pm - Confirmation Retreat - meet in church parking lot.

## Monday, January 18th

6:30 pm - Faith Formation Core Planning

## Tuesday, January 19th

7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee - Padre Hall

## Wednesday, January 20th

5:45 pm - First Communion

5:45 pm Life Teen and Edge, Parent Life

7:25 pm Liturgy of the Hours in the Church

## Thursday, January 21st

7:00 pm - RCIA

## Sunday, January 24th 6:30 pm

ADORE Young Adults Group

## Tuesday, January 26th - Knight's of Columbus Blood Drive

To set a time to donate blood call Dale Wiskur - 567 -3582

6:00 pm Eucharistic Minister Training for new ministers!

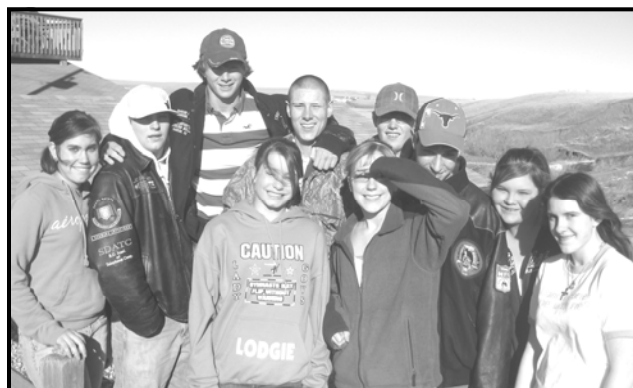
## Wednesday, January 27th

5:45 pm Core Team Spiritual Retreat

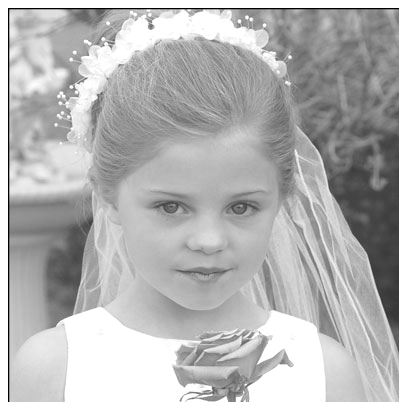
## Thursday, January 28th

7:00 pm - RCIA

## Sunday, January 31st REACH Retreat



Confirmation Retreat 2008



1st Holy Communion