



The Epiphany of the Lord



January 8, 2017

Happy Epiphany everyone. This weekend we celebrate the great Solemnity of the "Manifestation of Christ to the Nations".

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

We can't see well in the dark, if at all. It is light that allows us to see, to perceive realities around us. The Epiphany, a word meaning "revealing", is all about seeing and not-seeing, about what is visible and invisible, about what is hidden and what is revealed to us.

The darkest hour, they say, is before dawn. Now, at the time of year when there is the least sunlight, we celebrate the appearing of the One who is the Light of the World. The thick darkness that covers the earth is the blindness caused by our sins, the evil we allow to flourish. We started Christmas in the intimate scene of the manger at Bethlehem, a place outside human community and hospitality - "because there was no place for them at the inn" (Luke 2:7). This represents in a real way how sin allows for no place to be given to God.

God, however, didn't want the story to end in that cave - in us descending into the pit of despair and ultimately into hell. No. Instead, angels appear; they who are the messengers of God, and the invisible realm becomes visible, for a blessed moment, to the Shepherds. The Glory of the Lord shines around them - and so what might have passed us by, as it passed by the Court of Herod, is made known to the ordinary folk (Luke 2:8-14). The shepherds go to Bethlehem, find the Christ Child, and they in turn make known the message of the angels to others, then they return, glorifying and praising God, to their work (Luke 2:15-20). The shepherds take on the role of messengers, they become the first evangelists of the Christ. Then later, the magi appear on the scene, "and going into the house **they saw** the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him" (Matthew 2:11). These magi were court wizards, astrologers, advisors, totally outside the practice of the Jewish religion, but they recognize - **they see** - the Christ and the true meaning of this birth and they "ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name", they "bring an offering and come into his courts" (Psalm 96:8). The nations right from this moment, come to the light of Christ (see Isaiah 60:3).

The Liturgy too, for us, is an epiphany of God. Every Mass we have these same elements. The visible and the invisible and, I might add, the audible and the inaudible. What our senses can and cannot perceive in the Mass puts us in the same position as the shepherds and magi - we must see by Faith - as Saint Paul says, "we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18). Later, in that same Letter he says, "we walk by faith and not by sight", (5:7) but that same Faith actually gives us true sight, the kind of sight that goes beyond nature and perceives the Divine; that can say, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory!" In the Blessed Sacrament, what we can see appears to be bread and wine, but we know that what **we truly perceive** in the sacred species, though invisible to us, in all its glorious substance, is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus - the whole Christ. Thus we too must fall down and worship - for here is that same Christ who, as a little child, was made manifest to the shepherds and magi. What we cannot see surrounding us, but know to be there, also, is that same host of angels who as over the fields around Bethlehem, are praising God right now with us, and who join in singing as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will!"

Nigel McBain, Director of Music and Adult Faith Formation

PARISH COLLECTION



Envelopes:	\$11,140.00	(277 parishioners)
ACH:	\$ 3,927.67	(31 parishioners)
Loose:	\$ 1,129.00	
Children:	\$ 91.20	

Total collected last week: \$16,287.87 Thank You!

* * * * *
AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS (ACH): If you would like to have your church contributions automatically deducted from your bank account each month, call the parish office at 996-3639. Forms can also be found on our website, www.holyfamilymitchell.com (under FORMS) that you can fill out and return to the parish office.

* * * * *
Statements will be mailed out by the end of the month to those who have contributed to Holy Family Church in 2016.

* * * * *
ATTENTION Ladies of the Altar Society... Please note the blue envelope included in your January support envelopes to be used for your annual Altar Society dues. Thank you.

* * * * *
PARISH MEMBERSHIP: We welcome those who are new to our parish and ask them to call the parish office for registration information, or if you are moving, please also notify the parish office at 996-3639.

BAPTISM: Last Sunday of the month after the Saturday evening Mass (6:15pm) or Sunday after the 11:30am Mass (12:45pm). Please notify the parish office and a Baptism Information Form will be provided.

† PARISH NEWS

NO MORNING MASSES JANUARY 10-13 - FATHER WILL BE AWAY



NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH OR 5:30 PM CONFESSIONS

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR BUSINESS ON MONDAY'S UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.



* * * * *
We Welcome through the Living Waters of Baptism: **LYDIA JEAN**, daughter of Cory & Destiny (Phyle) Marek. May God shower you with an abundance of His grace and blessings.



* * * * *
Holy Family extends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Rita Busmus who went home to the Lord. May our Lord comfort you in your time of grief.



* * * * *
REMINDER: Volunteers are needed to help take down the Christmas decorations in the Church and Gathering space TODAY, Sunday, January 8th at 1:00 PM.



* * * * *
Anyone wishing to take a poinsettia plant home from the Church or Gathering space may do so after Mass today. Please do not take the plastic dish that the plant is setting on. There will be bags on hand to cover the poinsettias.

JOB OPENING: Holy Family is seeking a person to fill the full-time position of Financial Secretary. Interested persons should inquire at the parish office, 222 North Kimball St., Mitchell, SD for an application and job description. Office hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Tue. - Fri.



For we have seen his star in the East and are come to worship Him.

† PARISH NEWS CONT....

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Poster Contest Awards Given

Congratulations to the following students, from John Paul II School who received awards from the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest.

Katie Robinson, Rian Douvier, Sara Mauszycki, Jillian Dirkes, Taylor Love, and Bella Husmann.

Congratulations students!

* * * * *

MITCHELL FOOD PANTRY



January is Holy Family's month to help restock the Food Pantry. At this time, items most in need are Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Tuna, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Pasta (Spaghetti O's), Mac & Cheese, Canned Vegetables and Dinner Sides, Cereal and Hamburger. Donations may be left in the bin located in the foyer of the main entrance to the Gathering Area or you may bring them directly to the Food Pantry (Please mark donations "Holy Family" so our church gets credit for them). If you would like to make a monetary donation, please mail to: Mitchell Area Food Pantry, PO Box 815, Mitchell, SD 57301.

S.C.R.I.P. IS BEING SOLD IN THE GATHERING SPACE AFTER ALL MASSES



Mitchell Foundation for Catholic Education

Nicole Fuhrer (605) 999-9127
Development Director mfce@mit.midco.net
1510 West Elm www.mitchellfce.com
Mitchell, SD 57301 "Like" us on facebook!

Scholarship eligibility letters for the John Paul II PTO Scholarship and the Marilyn Peschong Memorial Scholarship were mailed this week to former John Paul II School students who are graduating seniors. If you did not receive a letter, and believe you should have please contact Nicole in the Foundation office as soon as possible. You must have attended John Paul II School for a minimum of three years, and graduated sixth grade there. The application deadline is April 15, 2017.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MEALS ON WHEELS - Drivers still needed for:



- Route 1:** January 30 - February 3
- Route 3:** January 30 - February 3 and February 6 - February 10
- Route 4:** January 30 - February 3 and February 6 - February 10
- Route 5:** January 23 - January 27, January 30 - February 3 and February 6 - February 10

Routes are from Queen of Peace, Monday to Friday, meals picked up at 10:45 am. Approximately 40 - 50 minutes per route start to finish. Please call Kathy at 996-7977 or 630-0448 if you can help out.

* * * * *

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS Court Margaret Mary will be meeting on Thursday, January 12 at Holy Spirit Gathering Space. Mitchell attorney, Trudy Morgan will be speaking at 7:00 PM, on *Estate and Financial Planning*. The meeting will follow the program. Thanks to Trudy for sharing her expertise with CDA! Members are also reminded that their annual \$25 dues are DUE by January 31. Please pay at the meeting or mail to Tonya Meaney - 948 Kippes Cove - Mitchell, SD 57301. Thank you!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

- 01/10 No Mass - Intention rescheduled to 3/30/17 at 8:00am
- 01/11 No Mass - Intention rescheduled to 4/12/17 at 8:00am
- 01/12 No Mass - Intention rescheduled to 5/17/17 at 8:00am
- 01/13 No Mass - Intention rescheduled to 5/24/17 at 8:00am
- 01/14 5:00pm d. Ann Wacker
- 01/15 8:30am For John & Betty McNeil
- 10:00am d. Kenneth Steichen
- 11:30am For Holy Family Parish

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers

- 01/14 5:00pm L-V Redder; EM-Deacon Graves, D Petersen, M Redder, K Rubendall, J Schreiner
- 01/15 8:30am L-D Nesheim; EM-A Deinert, J Schlimgen, J Schroeder, B&E Sullivan
- 10:00am L-A Novak; EM-K Hohn, D Price, W&M Puetz, C Symes
- 11:30am L-K Ewing; EM-H&B Kelly, J Hunt, D&S Heesch

Mass Servers

- 01/14 5:00pm G Rubendall, B&T Sabers
- 01/15 8:30am Volunteers
- 10:00am E,M&S Novak
- 11:30am A,K&T Mika (Subs requested)

Ministers of Hospitality

- 01/14 5:00pm J&N Fradet, J&J Fritzeimer, A&O Vermeulen
- 01/15 8:30am C Hegg, E McGregor, J Miller, L&M Reyes, H Titze
- 10:00am J&C Beatch, K Larson, E Mauer, Miiller, H Morgan
- 11:30am B&L Schleich, L Sparks, L VanDrongelen, Z Mohr (Sub request), K Nelson (Sub request)

WEEKLY BULLETIN BOARD



- 1/08 Church decorations taken down - 1pm
- 1/09 Parish Office Closed
- KC Business Mtg - 7pm - KC Hall (Steaks at 6pm)
- 1/10-13 No Daily Mass - Fr. Stevens on Retreat
- 1/10 No Eucharistic Adoration or Confessions
- Men's Choir Rehearsal - 4pm - Music Office
- Children's Choir Rehearsal - 5pm - Music Office
- Women's Choir Rehearsal - 6pm - Music Office
- 1/11 John Paul II School Mass - 9am - Holy Spirit Church
- Faith Formation Classes - K-6 5:30pm/7-12 6:45pm - JP II School
- Full Choir Rehearsal - 6pm - Music Office
- RCIA - 7:30pm - Nazareth Rm
- 1/12 CDA Mtg - 7pm - Holy Spirit Gathering Space
- 1/14 Confessions - 3:30pm

Parish website: www.holyfamilymitchell.com

Please visit our parish website. There have been several updates recently that you may find helpful to you in your Faith journey. We invite you to explore the material and offer your constructive feedback.

Holy Family has a Facebook Page!

Make sure to "Like" it to receive updates and posts.
<https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilymitchell/>



The Lamb Catholic Radio 91.3 KSJT
Hartford/Madison/Mitchell/Yankton
Catholic Radio for South Dakota

"Bringing people to Christ and Christ to his people"