

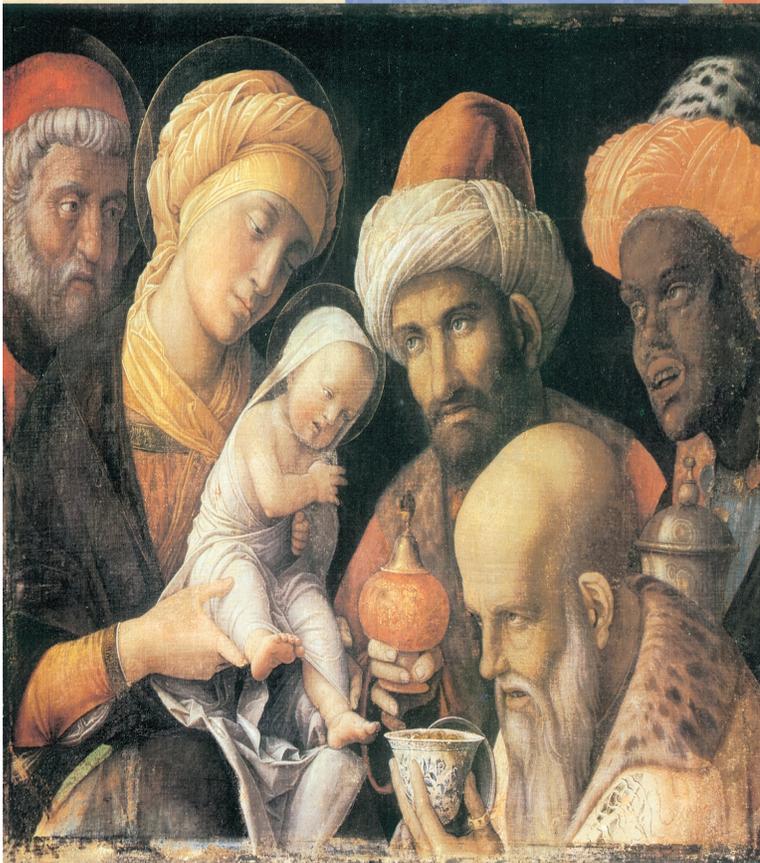
St. Mary Help of Christians Church

24588 County Road 7, St. Augusta, MN 56301

January 3, 2016



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



PARISH: 320-252-1799
SCHOOL: 320-251-3937
WEBSITE: www.SMHOC.org

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jose Edayadiyil, *Pastor*
Ken Roshka, *Deacon*
Kelly Kirks, *Principal*
Shelly Gohmann, *Secretary*
Jan Minke,
Faith Formation Director
Deb Klaverkamp,
Youth Coordinator
Kathy Waletzko,
Music Director

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 & 10:00 am
Tuesday 6:00 pm
Wed. Thurs. Fri 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday - 4:00-4:30pm
(New Sacristy) or by
appointment

NEW PARISHIONERS

Call the parish office for
more information.

RCIA "RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS"

Anyone interested in
becoming a member of
the Catholic Faith call
the Parish Office.

BAPTISM PREP CLASS

February 8, 2016 at
7:00pm. Call the Parish
Office to register.

MARRIAGE PREP

Arrangements must be
made at least 6 months
before wedding. Call
the Parish Office.

MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the people of St
Mary Help of
Christians Parish,
are called to love and
serve the Lord through
our lives.*

*Established in 1856, the
church is the
cornerstone around
which we have built our
community of faith.*

*We encourage all to
participate through
worship, education, and
sharing of their gifts
and talents.*

*With the strength of
our families, the
optimism of our youth,
and the wisdom of our
seniors, we strive to be
advocates of the
"Good News"
as we continue to grow
and change.*

Jan. 3, 2016 – Epiphany - Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3a,5-6, Mt 2: 1-12

After the visit of the lowly shepherds, it is the wise men (they were not Jews, but foreigners, the gentiles) who found their way to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn King (Mt 2:1-2). In their thirst and search for God, they willingly left everything, their home and country and undertook an arduous journey. It reminds us of our father in faith, Abraham, who left everything when God called him. Giving up everything in pursuit of God's call is a universal phenomenon. It is at the core of spirituality. The diligent search brought the wise men to the source of all knowledge, to Jesus, the Light, the Wisdom of God. When they found the newborn King, they humbly worshiped him and gave him gifts fitting for a king (Mt 2:11). It shows the result of a perennial search of humanity. Human beings always were in search of a savior, this is especially true in the situation of darkness of all kinds.

The Magi, offering their gifts acknowledge Jesus as the promised one for all humanity. The Kingdom of God is open to all. All people of good will see the glory of God in Jesus. The wise men from the East who were surely not Jews are among the first to see God. Why? They are open to God. To know and to encounter God means to know Jesus personally with an open heart.

In relation to the biblical episode of the Magi we have very many stories. Here is the story "The Other Wise Man" by Henry van Dyke. It's about a fourth wise man who is supposed to accompany the other three on their journey in search of the newborn King. This fourth one is Artaban. As he prepares for the journey, he takes with him a bag of precious stones to give to the baby King.

On his way to join the other three wise men, Artaban stops to help a poor person. The delay is just enough to make him miss the company of the others. Artaban never does catch up with them. He constantly runs into people who need help. And he always stops to help them – he was always a Good Samaritan on the way.

Eventually he reaches Jerusalem. He is old and poor and has used all his treasures and resources to help the poor and needy, except for the one last precious pearl. The day he arrives in the city, it is brimming with excitement. The authorities are about to execute a criminal so as to save the nation and the religion. When Artaban heard about the criminal, he felt terrible pain and his heart skipped a beat. Something tells him this is the King of Kings, one who was born in Bethlehem, for whom he has been searching all his life. Artaban thought: "The ways of God are stranger than the thoughts of men, and it may be that I shall find the King, at last, in the hands of his enemies, and shall come in time to offer my pearl for his ransom before he dies."

Suddenly a slave girl approached him crying for help. He trembled and hesitated. He took the pearl from his bosom - the last pearl. Never had it seemed so luminous, so radiant, so full of tender, living lustre. He laid it in the hand of the slave girl. "This is thy ransom, daughter! It is the last of my treasures which I kept for the King."

As Artaban was about to die the slave girl heard a still silent sound and Artaban responding to it: "Not so, my Lord! For when did I see thee hungry and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When did I see thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee? When did I see thee sick or in prison, and came unto thee? Thirty three years I have looked for thee; but I have never seen thy face, nor ministered to thee, my King."

And again the maid heard the sound, very faint and far away. But now it seemed as though she understood the words: "Verily I say unto thee, inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me." His journey has ended. His treasures were accepted. The Other Wise Man had found the King of Kings through a life of mercy.

The visit of the wise men reminds us that we all have a gift we can give to the King of Kings – our own lives – a life of love and service. The story of "The Other Wise Man" reminds us that our gift of ourselves is far more precious than those of the three wise men. Our gift is not a one-time gift of gold, frankincense, or myrrh. It's a full-time continuous gift of love and service seeing the will of God and saying "yes" to it. Is it foolish to give? If anybody thinks so, it is only because they don't know the end of the story. The story will end with Jesus saying to each one of us what he said to Artaban: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me.... Whatever you did for one of these least of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:34-35, 40). ~Fr. Jose~

Readings for This Sunday, January 3

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Readings for Next Sunday, January 10

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Banns of Marriage:

I, II, & III Mark Frahm & Amy Martin

\$10,000 Raffle: Tickets are still available. Stop by the Parish Office and see Shelly to purchase one.



Nursery Next Sunday, January 10th:

Lisa & Brandon Roshia



Parish Support Wknds of Dec. 20th & Dec. 27

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Adult | \$11,796.30 |
| Youth | 79.51 |
| Christmas | 19,513.84 |
| Christmas Youth | 79.35 |
| Solemnity of Mary | 70.00 |
| Dec. Auto Withdrawals | 3,350.66 |
| Food Shelf | 700.00 |
| Religious Retirement | 190.00 |
| Fall Collection | 250.00 |
| Votive Lights | 91.10 |
| Funeral Fund | 34.81 |
| Organ Restoration | 2.00 |
| School Endowment | 2.00 |

Ushers/Greeters - Month of January

- 5:00pm Richard & Joan Jendro
- 8:00am Jerry & Karen Powell
- 10:00am Jim Schmidt & Bruce Braun

Ushers/Greeters - Month of February

- 5:00pm Roger & Pat Kunkel
- 8:00am Tom Denne & Doug Kilanowski
- 10:00am Dale & Amy Hurrle

Servers This Weekend, Jan. 2nd & Jan. 3rd

- 5:00 pm Brooke Wilson & Kendra Wilson
- 8:00 am Trey Toenjes & Truman Toenjes
- 10:00 am Everett Yarke & Thatcher Yarke

Servers Next Weekend, Jan. 9th & 10th

- 5:00 pm Alexis Streit & Morgan Streit
- 8:00 am Tyler Gohmann & Logan Gohmann
- 10:00 am Logan Haselkamp & Luke Ashbrook

Mass Intentions

- 4 Monday - No Mass
- 5 Tuesday 6:00 pm +Wendy & + Ryan Kiffmeyer
- 6 Wednesday 8:00 am +Hubert & +Alvina Fruth Family
- 7 Thursday 8:00 am +Lloyd Hinkemeyer
- 8 Friday 8:00 am +Dorothy Korman
- 9 Saturday 5:00 pm +Jeanette Cater
- 10 Sunday 8:00 am Nocturnal Adoration
10:00 am Parishioners



Tuesday, January 5
Quilting Resumes

Saturday, January 9
2:00pm Wedding: Mark Frahm & Amy Martin

Next Sunday, January 10
Nocturnal Adoration Members Breakfast following 8:00am Mass
6:00pm Mass with Contemporary Music



Greetings from SMHOCS...

The students and staff will be on Christmas break through today. I am looking forward to all the learning that will happen in 2016.

Our first student assisted liturgy of the New Year will be on Thursday, January 7th at 8:00 a.m. The students in grade two will be assisting with the music and readings. Please come and celebrate the Eucharist with the school community.

Mass with Contemporary Music - Coming the evening of January 10th, at 6pm! Let's fill the pews and raise the roof in praise! Contact Kelly Kirks or Deb Klaverkamp for more information!

New Year's Blessings to all of you – Kelly Kirks, Principal



Faith Formation: Jan Minke

Happy New Year!! May God bless you and your families throughout all of 2016! The joy of the Christmas season lifts us into the new year! The challenge is to keep that joy in Christ alive *all year*.

Parents of 2nd graders- Parent meeting today Jan. 3rd following the 8:00 Mass. You will receive materials for preparing your child for 1st Holy Communion and sign up for Mass times.

Classes this week, Wed. Jan. 6:

1st-6th gr. 6:15-7:30p.m.

7th-9th gr. 7:25-8:30p.m.

Zieglmeier's Conf. class- 6;45p.m.

Confirmation Retreat for 2nd year Confirmation students will be on **Sunday, Jan. 24 at 12:30 in the Parish Center**. All students wishing to be Confirmed this spring must attend. Parents and sponsors please join us for a prayer service and potluck dinner. More information is coming. We will be having a teaching Mass for Confirmation students on Jan. 31st. Mark your calendars!



Youth Group - Deb Klaverkamp

This week we will have YES Night at the school! If you want to help on the YEP team – let Deb know and come at 5:30 to prepare and pray for the evening!

Youth Group resumes on January 13th. Anyone in grades 7-12 are welcome to join us for food, fun and faith!

Donut Sunday is coming up on Sunday January 24th. Contact Deb at 828-0807 if you want to help with this fun fundraiser!

Condolences to: *Bernie Gohmann* and family on the death of his brother-in-law, Victor Rothstein; *Patty Jo Peterson* (1st grade teacher at SMHOC School) and family on the death of her father-in-law, Cecil Peterson; *Family and friends* of Bob Lintgen; *Barb Koshiol, Theresa Schmidt, and Dan Laudensch* and their families on the death of their sister-in-law, Irene Laudensch.

Thank you to all those that helped make the Parish Breakfast on December 13th a success. The hardworking team served 280 people with a profit of \$1,325. With all the busy events in December the cleanup crew went above and beyond, you are amazing! Thank you also to those who came and enjoyed the breakfast. The next Parish breakfast will be January 17th.

Thank you - The Breakfast Committee.