

St. Boniface

Catholic Church

stboniface.net

230 1st St. NW - Lidgerwood, ND 58053

Also Serving St. Martin of Tours, Geneseo and Sts. Peter & Paul, Cayuga

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saint Boniface

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

Saint Martin of Tours - Geneseo

Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

Saints Peter & Paul - Cayuga

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.

(Even Numbered Months)

January 8, 2023 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Faith and Fear

When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear. But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

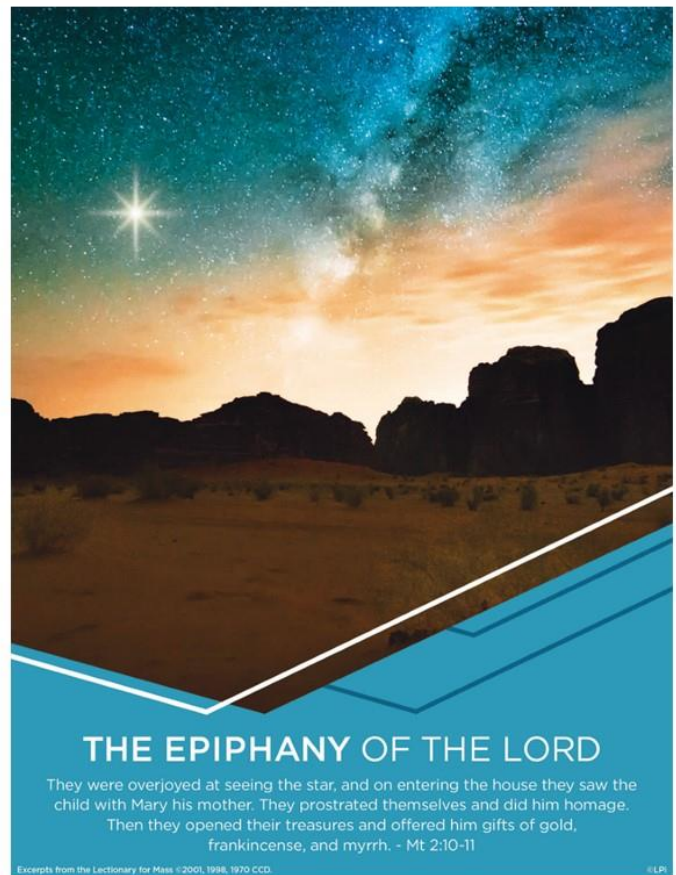
Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed. But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? *"All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him."* — *Psalm 72:11*

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but *something*. It moved him into action.

So, then, it should move us all.

We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage. — *Matthew 2:2*



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1988, 1970 CCD.

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

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Weekly Mass Schedule



Sunday Liturgies		
Saturday, Jan. 7	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Jonah Wettstein
Sunday, Jan. 8	8:30 am (St. B.)	† Henry Prchal
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula
Weekday Liturgies		
Monday, Jan. 9	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Jan. 10	NO MASS	
Wednesday, Jan. 11	10:00 am (St. B.)	Riley Jelinek
Thursday, Jan. 12	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Bob Haas
Friday, Jan. 13	8:30 am (St. B.)	† Deceased Members of Al Polansky Family
Sunday Liturgies		
Saturday, Jan. 14	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Deceased Members of Anthony & Frances Oster Family
Sunday, Jan. 15	8:30 am (St. B.)	† Ann & John Skroch
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula

Reconciliation Schedule

St. Boniface: Saturday & Sunday – prior to Mass
Wednesday – 9:45 am

St. Martin: Sunday – Before and after Mass

Prayer Requests

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- Betty Monson - Peggy Harles - Shelby Northrop
- Shirley Ahrens - Brad Meyer - Beth Stroehl
- Rita Schmit - John Popp - Dejah Anderson
- Rick Kane
- If you have any imminent prayer requests, please call or text Cindy at 701-640-1401.

All Parishes

Join us in Prayer. The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said at the following times: Monday through Friday at 9:30 am. The Rosary for the Unborn will be said on Tuesdays.

Eucharistic Adoration – Adoration is open to all, please come and spend time with Jesus in Adoration anytime on Thursdays from 5am to midnight. We are in need of someone to cover the 6-7pm time slot and would really like to add others to the schedule to help with flexibility. Please contact Sharon to become a regular or substitute at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010.

St. Boniface 2023 Envelopes. Please pick up your church contribution envelopes in the gathering space.

Fr. Anderl's 50th Birthday is on Jan. 13. Join us for a birthday meal following the 5pm Mass on Saturday, Jan. 21 to help Fr. celebrate!

Women's Ecclesia Domestica Retreat is being held on Feb. 3-5 at St. Francis Retreat Center in Hankinson. "Woman Here us Your Son, Here is Your Mother". Grow in faith through great talks, spiritual direction, adoration, etc. To Register: (763) 807-1721 Kevin Olson, www.ecclesiadomestica.net

Men's Ecclesia Domestica Retreat

Now, more than ever we need to stand firm in our faith and hold fast to the Church and her sacraments. We invite you to join us on retreat to renew your calling by the Holy Spirit to be faithful to Jesus Christ and His Church for a weekend of fellowship, healing, and renewal inspiring and being inspired by one another. To register visit www.ecclesiadomestica.net.

Real Presence Radio Banquet will be held on Monday, February 6. Doors open at 5:30 pm. at the Delta Hotel in Fargo. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Ralph Martin. To register call either Elaine Heley at 701-640-0939 or Donna Heley at 701-640-2264.

KC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 8pm.

The Real Ratzinger – *National Catholic Register*

The Joseph Ratzinger I knew for 35 years — first as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), later as Pope Benedict XVI and then pope emeritus — was a brilliant, holy man who bore no resemblance to the caricature that was first created by his theological enemies and then set in media concrete.

The cartoon Ratzinger was a grim, relentless ecclesiastical inquisitor/enforcer, "God's Rottweiler." The man I knew was a consummate gentleman with a gentle soul, a shy man who nonetheless had a robust sense of humor, and a Mozart lover who was fundamentally a happy person, not a sour crank.

The cartoon Ratzinger was incapable of understanding or appreciating modern thought. The Ratzinger I knew was arguably the most learned man in the world, with an encyclopedic knowledge of Christian theology (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant), philosophy (ancient, medieval and modern), biblical studies (Jewish and Christian), and political theory (classic and contemporary). His mind was luminous and orderly, and when asked a question, he would answer in complete paragraphs — in his third or fourth language.

The cartoon Ratzinger was a political reactionary, discombobulated by the 1968 student protests in Germany and longing for a restoration of the monarchic past; his more vicious enemies hinted at Nazi sympathies (hence the nasty sobriquet *Panzerkardinal*). The Ratzinger I knew was the German who, on a state visit to the United Kingdom in 2010, thanked the people of the U.K. for winning the Battle of Britain — a Bavarian Christian Democrat (which would put him slightly left of center in U.S. political terms) whose disdain for Marxism was both theoretical (it made no sense philosophically) and practical (it never worked and was

inherently totalitarian and murderous). The cartoon Ratzinger was the enemy of the Second Vatican Council. The Ratzinger I knew was, in his mid-30s, one of the three most influential and productive theologians at Vatican II — the man who, as CDF prefect, worked in harness with John Paul II to give the Council an authoritative interpretation, which he deepened during his own papacy.

The cartoon Ratzinger was a liturgical troglodyte determined to turn back the clock of liturgical reform. The Ratzinger I knew was deeply influenced, spiritually and theologically, by the 20th-century liturgical movement. Ratzinger became a far more generous pope in his embrace of legitimate liturgical pluralism than his papal successor, because Benedict XVI believed that, out of such a vital pluralism, the noble goals of the liturgical movement that formed him would eventually be realized in a Church empowered by reverent worship for mission and service.

The cartoon Ratzinger was yesterday's story, an intellectual throwback whose books would soon gather dust and crumble away, leaving no imprint on the Church or on world culture. The Ratzinger I knew was one of the few contemporary authors who could be certain that his books would be read centuries from now. I also suspect that some of the homilies of this greatest papal preacher since Pope St. Gregory the Great will eventually find their way into the Church's official daily prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours.

The cartoon Ratzinger craved power. The Ratzinger I knew tried three times to resign his post in the Curia, had zero desire to be pope, told fellow Churchmen in 2005 that he was “not a man of *governo* [governance],” and only accepted his election to the papacy in obedience to what he regarded as God's will, manifest through the overwhelming vote of his brother cardinals.

The cartoon Ratzinger was indifferent to the crisis of clerical sexual abuse. The Ratzinger I knew did as much as anyone, as the cardinal-prefect of CDF and then as pope, to cleanse the Church of what he brutally and accurately described as “filth.”

The key to the true Joseph Ratzinger, and to his greatness, was the depth of his love for the Lord Jesus — a love refined by an extraordinary theological and exegetical intelligence, manifest in his trilogy, *Jesus of Nazareth*, which he regarded as the capstone of his lifelong scholarly project. In those books, more than six decades of learning were distilled into an account that he hoped would help others to come and love Jesus as he did, for as he insisted in so many variations on one great theme, “friendship with Jesus Christ” was the beginning, the *sine qua non*, of the Christian life. And fostering that friendship was the whole purpose of the Church. The last of the monumental figures of 20th-century Catholicism has gone home to God, who will not fail to reward his good servant.

Follow the Star with Pope Benedict

In 2005, Pope Benedict XVI became pope and one of his first major events was World Youth Day. The event took place in and around the cathedral in Cologne, Germany, which houses the relics of the three wise men, so the Epiphany story made an appearance in nearly all of his

remarks. Below find words of his from several Cologne addresses, rearranged according to the themes presented in the Epiphany Gospel.

The Journey We Take

The Gospel says: “And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.”

Pope Benedict XVI told pilgrims to focus first on the Magi's quest. “The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star. It was as if the journey had always been a part of their destiny, and was finally about to begin.”

“Like the Magi, all believers — and young people in particular — have been called to set out on the journey of life in search of truth, justice and love,” he said. “We must seek this star, we must follow it. The ultimate goal of the journey can only be found through an encounter with Christ, an encounter which cannot take place without faith.”

The Answer We Find

Sunday's Gospel says: “Going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.”

We all do the same thing, Pope Benedict said. “In order to find the Savior, one has to enter the house, which is the Church.”

He explained: “Dear friends, this is not a distant story that took place long ago. It is with us now. Here in the Sacred Host, he is present before us and in our midst. As at that time, so now he is mysteriously veiled in a sacred silence; as at that time, it is here that the true face of God is revealed. For us he became a grain of wheat that falls on the ground and dies and bears fruit until the end of the world.”

According to Pope Benedict, “The Magi from the East are just the first in a long procession of men and women who have constantly tried to gaze upon God's star in their lives, going in search of the God who has drawn close to us and shows us the way.”

The Magi's Inner Journey

Sunday's Gospel says: “They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.”

Pope Benedict told young people at World Youth Day that the moment the Magi found Jesus, a second journey started. “Outwardly, their journey was now over. They had reached their goal,” he said. “But at this point a new journey began for them, an inner pilgrimage which changed their whole lives. Their mental picture of the infant King they were expecting to find must have been very different.”

He explained: “The new King, to whom they now paid homage, was quite unlike what they were expecting. In this way they had to learn that God is not as we usually imagine him to be.”

The Gift of Adoration

Sunday's Gospel says: “Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Article continues on bulletin insert.