

# 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**

Sunday - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

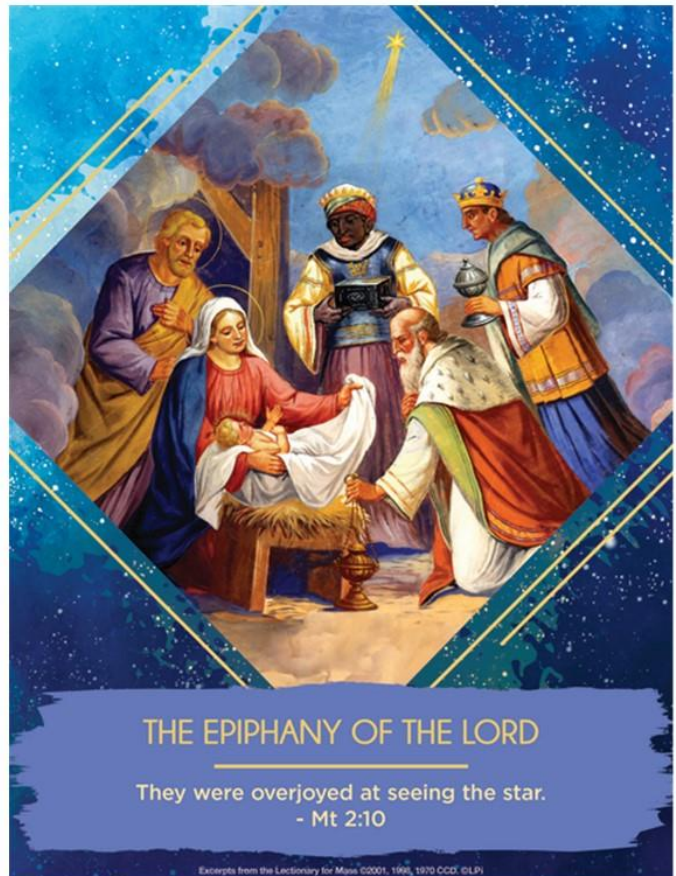
## January 5, 2025 - The Epiphany of the Lord

### Detours that Lead to Purpose

“The Story of the Other Wise Man” by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to “the least of these” he has actually given to Jesus himself.

If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man’s constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go.

If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places.



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

**Pastor | Fr. Peter Anderl**

Cell Phone: (701) 640-6050

Rectory Phone: (701) 538-4608

Email:

peter.anderl@fargodiocese.org

**Secretary | Cindy Jelinek**

Office Hours: Wed. 1:00 - 6:00 pm

Office Phone: (701) 538-4604

Cell Phone: (701) 640-1401

Email: stboniface@rrt.net

**DRE | Melodi Novotny**

Office Phone: (701) 538-4604

Cell Phone: (701) 640-9314

Email:

stbonifacedre@rrt.net

## Weekly Mass Schedule



<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Jan. 4	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Ben Illies
Sunday, Jan. 5	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Special Intention
	12:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	† Doug Spieker
<u>Weekday Liturgies</u>		
Monday, Jan. 6	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Jan. 7	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Donna Spellerberg
Wed., Jan. 8	10:00 am (Dakota Est.)	† Peter & Eva Slabik
Thursday, Jan. 9	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Larry Novotny
Friday, Jan. 10	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Elaine Oster
<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Jan. 11	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Kathleen Schultz
Sunday, Jan. 12	8:30 am (St. B.)	† Gerald Baker
	10:30 am (St. M.)	Pro Popula
	12:00 pm (Sts. P&P)	Special Intention

### **Reconciliation Schedule**

**St. Boniface: Saturday & Sunday** – Before/after Mass  
**Thursday** – after Mass  
**St. Martin: Sunday** – Before and after Mass  
**Sts. Peter & Paul** – Before and after Mass

### **Prayer Requests**

Please keep the following people in your prayers:  
 Dan Schmit - Tony Schouviller - Joan Moerke  
 Shelby Northrop - Peggy Harles - Nick Podliska  
 Rick Kane - Dan Frolek - Brad Meyer - Shirley Ahrens  
 Barb Perry  
 If you have any imminent prayer requests, please call or text Cindy at 701-640-1401.

### **All Parishes**

**Eucharistic Adoration** – Please come and spend time with Jesus on Thursdays in adoration, anytime from 5am – Midnight. We are still in need for someone to share the 9-10 am, 3-4 pm and 6-7 pm adoration slot. Please contact Sharon at 612-790-1211 or 538-7010 if you are able to help.

**CCD/CYO** - There will be class this week.

### **Jubilee 2025 Begins**

Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter Basilica, Rome, on Christmas Eve, and launched the

Jubilee of the Year 2025. Faithful Catholics may receive the Jubilee Year indulgence by visiting one of the Jubilee Sites in the Diocese of Fargo. These pilgrimage sites include:

- St. Mary's Cathedral / Our Lady of Guadalupe Adoration Chapel, Fargo
- Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City
- St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rugby
- The Basilica of St. James, Jamestown
- Carmel of Mary, Wahpeton
- St. Michael's Church, Grand Forks

### **Ecclesia Domestica Women's Retreat (Journey to the Heart of the Father)**

will be held on Friday, Jan. 31 – Sunday, Feb. 2 at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Hankinson. "You are good enough, you are strong enough, you are a beloved daughter of the Father." Come and understand how the beautiful heart of our Blessed Mother can draw us ever closer to the heart of God our Father. To register call (605) 929-2551 or go online at [www.ecclesiadomestica.net](http://www.ecclesiadomestica.net).

### **Follow the Light to Find the King**

This Sunday is The Epiphany of the Lord, when we celebrate the magi that we call "three kings" though they aren't really kings as they travel to see the infant hidden in Bethlehem who really is a king. It gives us a deeper understanding about what the Kingdom of God is all about. Here are five takeaways from the Extraordinary Story podcast and This Sunday columns at this site.

**First: Epiphany Sunday is one of a few key moments where the true nature of Jesus is revealed.**

He is revealed at the Transfiguration in a very obvious way: He shines dazzlingly white and is joined by Moses and Elijah in a vision that the three apostles share. He is revealed at his baptism, also, when his Father's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." But this day's Gospel announces him more subtly, adding layers of details that, with a little background, become more obvious signs.

We know from the Old Testament that David was anointed king by Samuel in Bethlehem. On Epiphany, we see Jesus being honored by the Magi there in kingly fashion.

We know from Good Friday that Jesus is killed as "the King of the Jews." On Epiphany, we learned that he was opposed by Herod, a man who called himself the king of the Jews.

We know from Ascension Thursday that "All authority in heaven and earth" has been given to Jesus. We see exactly how that looks at Christmas and Epiphany.

At Christmas, Jesus was celebrated by the creatures of heaven, the angels, and honored by the creatures of earth, the animals; at the Epiphany, he was honored by the heavens themselves, in the star. At Christmas, he is in the manger, worshiped by shepherds, masters of the creatures of the earth; at the Epiphany, he is in a house, and is worshiped by the Magi, masters of the signs in the

heavens. At Christmas, earthly powers directed Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem; at the Epiphany, the star guided the Magi to the same place.

The Epiphany gifts show Jesus to be greater than all the powers of heaven and earth. As St. Leo the Great said: “With gold they honor the Person of a King, with myrrh that of Man, with incense that of God.”

**Second: The first two readings show that his kingdom is universal.**

First, we learn that the Kingdom of God is a kingdom for Israel. “Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!” Isaiah says in the first reading. “Your light has come; the glory of the Lord shines upon you.” And now, at Epiphany, Joseph is protecting Jesus: Joseph of the House of David, named for the great son of Israel.

But the Kingdom of God is also a kingdom for the Gentiles, as the second reading, from the Letter to the Ephesians, makes clear: “The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.” And sure enough, there, at Epiphany, are the mysterious travelers from the East, leaders in the gentile world.

And if there is any doubt about who this Child is, Herod removes it by assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, who establish that the Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem, information that the “three kings” of the East confirm.

So, what does all this mean for us? It means that the Epiphany is not just a great story; it’s *the* story — the story of God coming to his people to lead us and guide us in the ways of the world he made for us, the world where he is truly the King.

**Third: At first, we feel out of place in the story of the Kingdom of God.**

The Magi seem like a strange intrusion into the Gospel from a foreign place. It’s almost as if characters from *The Arabian Nights* somehow wandered into the wrong story. But if you think about it, don’t all of us sometimes feel like we are out of place in the company Christ keeps? Evelyn Waugh certainly did. He is a British novelist who converted to Catholicism as an adult. In a telling passage from the novel he wrote about St. Helen, the convert-author has his ancient convert-heroine address the Wise Men at an Epiphany Mass. “Like me,” Helen says to the Magi, “you were late in coming. The shepherds were here long before; even the cattle. They had joined the chorus of angels before you were on your way.”

Many of us were late in coming. We have “wandered afar” and spent years miles away from Christ in our life. It doesn’t matter. Like the Wise Men, we will discover that it’s never too late to come closer to Jesus. In fact, we have it on good authority that there is more rejoicing in heaven for the latecomers than there is for the ones who came early and waited.

Next, Helen tells the Magi “How laboriously you came,

taking sights and calculating, when the shepherds had run barefoot!”

Maybe like the Magi, many of us weren’t just late, but we needed to study a lot to even believe it. Some people seem to come naturally to faith. That is a great blessing. For others, it is a difficult process, coming to accept God’s power in their lives. The skeptics of the world get a bad name. Yes, they ask many questions. Yes, they are slow to believe. But when they do believe, they will go to great lengths and great expense like the Magi.

But when they finally get there, they may feel out of place. Helen puts it this way to the Magi: “How odd you looked on the road, attended by what outlandish liveries, laden with such preposterous gifts!” Helen says. “Yet you came and were not turned away. You too found room before the manger. Your gifts were not needed, but they were accepted and put carefully away.”

If we have ever felt like we don’t quite fit in among the band of disciples — our parish, maybe, or whatever fellow believers make up our group — we can rest assured that we are in the best of company. If Christ is truly the center and purpose of the universe — and he is — then we should find all kinds by his side. Even people like the Magi. Even people like us.

**Fourth: But we will find our true home with Jesus after all.**

Perhaps we feel out of place because our world has given so much free reign to the Prince of Darkness that the Kingdom of Truth is the one that feels weird. But it’s not. All it requires is that we share in the virtues of the true kingdom. That means, first, to be generous with him — giving according to who we are and what we have, whether that matches everyone else or not. That’s what the Magi did, and now they look right at home in Nativity sets the world over.

We belong in Christ’s story, too. We too had something missing in our lives, despite all the education and material comfort life in America gives us.

We too read the signs of the secular world — the need for love and the need for hope that it cries out for. We too saw the negative attention the world pays to Jesus, like Herod wanting to crush the rival to his attention. We can also listen to the Church, no matter what our personal experiences with its members are, as it tells us where to find Jesus, and trust that, like Herod’s scribes, it provides real answers.

Then, we can spend time with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in their house and discover that they are family and that this is our true home.

**Last: The Christmas Season is a perfect time to take this journey.** We can do exactly what the Wise Men did: Simply look at the lights, and follow where they lead. They lead to the altar, where the baby Jesus quietly proclaims with his presence that love — divine love — is the thing we have been missing all along.