

January 8, 2017, Epiphany



The Way Things Are: In the Gospel Reading, by means of heavenly signs God sent the Magi to the baby Jesus. In the end, the signs in heaven were not enough; but there was a special revelation about this child that added the missing element. When they did find the child, the Magi left him rich gifts. And then God warned the Magi in a dream not to return to King Herod to tell him where the baby was. Because of that dream, the Magi went home another way, and the baby was kept safe from Herod.

Just look at all the things God does for this one child! Signs in heaven, miraculously helpful strangers, special messages from God, rich gifts, and warning dreams, divine protection

against powerful bad people.

God will not force anybody to omit what is evil or to do what is good.

How many children die, who might have been saved if even one of these things had been done for them? A sign that brings help from afar, a special instruction from God, huge amounts of money, a dream that protects from bad guys—these things are not enough to keep all children from early death, but surely many children could have been saved by any of these means.

Why does God give all these things to Jesus? Why doesn't God give even some of them to all children? The answer to both questions is the same, I think. The first thing that happens after the Fall is that Abel, one of the children of Adam and Eve, dies at the hand of Cain, their other child. God could have protected Abel from Cain by any of the means God used to help Jesus—but God doesn't do so. From the very beginning of our post-Fall world, God establishes this policy: he will not force anybody to omit what is evil or to do what is good. God will call his people and shepherd them—but he will not force them. And so countless children die because of the evil of other human beings.

But the powerless baby Jesus is God's best hope of healing for human evil. Jesus is God's call of love. And that is why God's power can be used to keep Jesus from dying as a baby. He needs to die on the cross. That death is the last, most powerful call of love.

Eleonore Stump

Question: In response to God's message, the Magi rode camels across half the known world. Is there anything that would cause you to put forth effort like that?

Today's Readings

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Readings Next Weekend

Reading I: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34

This is the last weekend for the 5pm. mass on Saturdays at Sacred Heart. Next weekend the mass moves to Sunday, Jan 15th at 4pm. at Sacred Heart. All are welcome!

St. Joseph Church

01/07 Sat 4:00 pm Anita Pera †
01/08 Sun 7:30 am Gene & Kathleen Tritten †
01/10 Tue 7:30 am Mary Gierek †
01/12 Thu 7:30 am Karl Klingenspor †
01/14 Sat 4:00 pm Int. Erin Ford
01/15 Sun 7:30 am Mass for the People

St Bernard Church

01/08 Sun 10:30 am Int of Cathy Finney
01/09 Mon 12:15 pm Int. Abby
01/11 Wed 12:15 pm James Hary
01/13 Fri 12:15 pm Int. Marge Ford & Nicholas Pepper
01/15 Sun 10:30 am Clarence Enos †

St Joseph Hospital

01/10 Tue 11:30 am Morrison Gardner †
01/12 Thu 11:30 am Ardeen Merry

Stewardship The collection last weekend was **\$3,551**, Solemnity of Mary was **\$556**, and the 4pm Christmas Vigil mass for children was **\$1,745** (collected for SB at Sacred Heart). **The second collection today is for building maintenance.** The 2nd collection next weekend: **The Church in Latin America.** Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean face many challenges when it comes to sharing their faith; yet the light always shines through and hope arises. Your contributions to **the Fund for Church in Latin America** are directed to Dioceses and Parishes there so that programs for education and faith enrichment can be made available.

Pray for the sick: -Redner-Ringwald, Nancy Elgin, Allie, Isela Adams, Evelyn Avila, Jim Avila, Nancy Brunner, Ed Dickinson, Barbara Hayes Elizabeth McCaskill, Paul Shabata, Ashley Suthlund, Nancy Tompkins, Patricia Tritten, Victor Vellejo, Jenie Wood and John Kusters, Wayne Reed, Abby, Mervyn Dody, Yvette Logan, Petra Cortec, Erin Ford, Ryan Pepper,, and Heather Walsh .

Parish News & Events This Week

- 1/08 Sun 8:30 am** Knights of Columbus Breakfast
- 1/09 Mon 6:15 pm** Children's Faith Formation
- 1/10 Tue 7:00 pm** Youth Group Kick-off Social
Sacred Heart Parish Hall
- 1/12 Thu 1:00 pm** Bible Study/Sacred Heart
- 4:00 pm** Finance Mtg/Parish Hall
- 7:00 pm** RCIA/Sacred Heart Rectory

St. Bernard Parish Pancake Breakfast: Prepared by the Knights of Columbus will be held today, Jan. 8th in St Bernard Parish Hall. Time 8:30 am till 12 pm.

Menu is pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham or sausage, applesauce, coffee and orange juice. Cost \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. The proceeds go to the St. Bernard's Building Maintenance Fund.

Children's Faith Formation News

Welcome back!

I pray that your time off for Christmas and New Years has been truly filled with God's grace and hopefully, the moments of peace and love during this time, will continue for a while as we close this joyous time with the feast of the Epiphany. All of the students registered for the Monday (kids) class and the Wednesday (teens) class are back in session this week and myself as well as the teachers are all looking forward to seeing you and hearing about your break as well as return to learning and preparing for sacraments. Peace in Christ, Melanie

Youth Ministry News

Confirmation class will return from break this week, see you all Wednesday at 7! All Youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to our Youth Group Kickoff Social, January 10th 7pm-9pm at Sacred Heart Parish Hall. There will be snacks, games, and more information in regards to Youth Group for 2017! Any questions, please contact me. - In Christ, Analisa

Pastor's Corner: St. Bernard's is looking for a music director as Issa Stemler is moving on. She has played at both parishes and has a great musical talent and we will miss her. If you know of anyone looking for work as a music director, please let either parish office know if you know of anyone interested. It is a paying job.

I apologize for the second collection last week as the Envelope Company made a mistake. As Jan. 1st is always a Holy Day of Obligation and It was on a Sunday this year. The company put an envelope in for the Holy Day and for Sunday. Good thing as we need to keep the collection on Sundays over \$3,400.

I return this Tuesday afternoon from vacation.

I want to thank Fr. Cloney and Fr. Brady for assisting us while I am away. Fr. Tom

Humor: A store that sells new husbands has opened in Eureka where a woman may go to choose a husband. Among the instructions at the entrance is a description of how the store operates:

You may visit this store ONLY ONCE!

There are six floors and the value of the products increases as the shopper ascends the flights. The shopper may choose any item from a particular floor or may choose to go up to the next floor but you cannot go back down except to exit the building! So, a woman goes to the Husband Store to find a husband.

On the first floor the sign on the door reads:

These men Have Jobs. She is intrigued, but continues to **the second floor**, where the sign reads: These men Have Jobs and Love Kids. "That's Nice "she thinks, 'but I want more.' So she continues upward.

The third floor sign reads:These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, and are Extremely Good Looking. Wow,' she thinks, but feels compelled to keep going. She goes to **the fourth floor** and the sign reads: These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Good Looking and Help With Housework.'Oh, mercy me!' she exclaims, 'I can hardly stand it!' Still, she goes to the **fifth floor** and the sign reads:These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Gorgeous, Help with Housework, and Have a Strong Romantic Streak. She is so tempted to stay, but she goes to **the sixth floor**, where the sign reads: You are visitor 31,456,012 to this floor. There are no men on this floor. This floor exists solely as proof that women are impossible to please.

Thank you for shopping at the Husband Store.

PLEASE NOTE:

To avoid gender bias charges, the store's owner opened a New Wives store just across the street.