

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Today we are celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord. The word Epiphany means manifestation. This feast is all about Jesus' revelation to the Gentiles." Epiphany" refers to God's self-revelation as well as the revelation of Jesus as His Son. Today's gospel tells us the story of the magi's encounter with the evil King Herod. The encounter symbolizes three reactions to Jesus' birth: hatred, indifference, and adoration. The Gospel narrates three different groups of people and their reaction when they came to know about the birth of Jesus. **The First** group headed by King Herod who made plans to destroy Jesus. **The second** group composed of priests and scribes who ignored Jesus. **The third** group was the magi – who came to offer homage to Child Jesus.

Today, as we are celebrating the manifestation of Jesus-how does this manifestation make an impact in our lives in relation to these three groups of people? As we go through the whole Bible we understand that God is manifested to each one of us in different ways and His manifestation is very actively present in our day-to-day lives too. In the Bible we see, God makes his manifestation through the **WORD**, the second manifestation we see-Word became **FLESH** (Jesus), and the third manifestation we see-the flesh became the **BREAD**, the Eucharist. Now what is our approach to these three divine mysteries in relation to the three groups of people we find in the gospel?

A close journey with these three groups of people will enable us to understand, to which group we each one belong to. The first group is called **IRRITATION**, the group of Herod. Do I make enough time to taste and see the word of God in my life? Or instead do I get irritated like Herod when I read the Bible? Do I get irritated and troubled when I see the face of the other in my life? Do I hate myself, my body and my life? Do I give respect to my body? What is my attitude towards food? What is our attitude towards the Holy Eucharist? Do I get the feelings of Herod when I interact with the Word of God, the other person and the Holy Eucharist?

The second group of people could be called the group of **HESITATION**. Although the chief priests and Scribes knew about the birth of Jesus they do not make any attempt to see and experience Him. Coming to our own life, as Christians we know that the word of God has got power, and we have this source of power with us in the Bible, but do we hesitate to read and enjoy the Bible? Do I hesitate to go out and help the needy in my life and share their happiness and sorrow? Do I hesitate to go for Holy Mass, other sacraments & sacramental's and thus purposely ignore the opportunity for glorifying God?

The third group of people could be named the group of **VISITATION**. Here we have wise men who came from the East looking for Jesus, to experience and pay homage. God wishes every one of us to be

part of this group, and it is the call of every individual Christian too. But do I make it to this group? This group of people willingly read the Bible everyday and share the spirit of the Good News to the other, just like the wise men who proclaimed the birth of Jesus to King Herod, who was unaware of it, and also to the chief priests who pretended to be unaware. Secondly this group of people will be able to see Jesus in others and give needed attention and care to the other-wife, husband, children, friends etc.,? They are the peace makers of this world. Thirdly, this group firmly believes that Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist and pays utmost importance and attention to the Holy Eucharist, other sacraments and sacramental's. They believe and proclaim along with the Acts of the Apostles that "it is in Him we live and move, and have our being."

My dear friends, we have the freedom to choose to be part of any group. But it is a challenge to be part of the third group of Visitation. Are you ready for the challenge? Remember we Christians are not just Ordinary people counted among any other ordinary people, but rather we are consecrated and extra ordinary people in Jesus Christ, and we need to take up the challenge to glorify God. Otherwise all celebrations we had for Christmas will be meaningless. So as we are celebrating this great feast of the Manifestation of Jesus, let us not ignore the different manifestations God makes in our lives for our well being. May the Good Lord Bless you all.

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center
Virtual Christmas Camp December 28th - 30th
7:00 - 9:00pm Free

For Christmas Camp this year we're taking it to Zoom! We will dive into the topic "Christ is Alive!" and what it means to be young people on fire for the Resurrected Christ. Christmas Camp is for students in 8th-12th. Register at [http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/!](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/)

Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless & Be Safe.

Financial Report - December 27, 2020
St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 2,041.00 - 897.09
Christmas Offering	\$ 1,255.25
Emergency Fund	\$ 140.00
Diocesan Good Works	\$ 120.00

Financial Report - December 27, 2020
St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 950.00 - 197.46
Christmas Offering	\$ 635.00
Emergency Fund	\$ 100.00
Diocesan Good Works	\$ 55.00

Mass Schedule
January 3 - 10

- Sunday - The Epiphany of the Lord**
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Merrit & Janice Hobbs
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Charlie Wedding
- Monday - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious (Memorial)**
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Robert Vollman
- Tuesday - Saint John Neumann, Bishop (Memorial)**
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Martin Hamilton
- Wednesday - Christmas Weekday**
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Ruth Reed
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles
Bill & Minnie Logsdon
- Thursday - Christmas Weekday**
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Bickett
- Friday - Christmas Weekday**
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lisa Young
- Saturday - Christmas Weekday**
-4:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lydia Payne
- Sunday - The Baptism of the Lord**
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Hayden
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Bill & Minnie Logsdon

Prayer List for members of our community:
Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Jacinta Tichenor, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, and Callie Hayden.

Please pray for our Military
MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zarembo, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey & Corpsman Aly Franklin

Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings Outside the Liturgy

- Limit the persons in attendance to no more than 25.
- Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household.
- Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask for the duration of any event or meeting held on parish property. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age (the CDC does not recommend those under the age of two to wear a mask), health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home.
- Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.
- Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms.
- Encourage those at high risk to stay Healthy at Home.
- Maintain a record of all persons attending the event/meeting and their contact information.
- Follow State of Kentucky Healthy at Work Requirements for Restaurants and Bars for any form of food service. A summary follows:
 - o No indoor food or beverage consumption.
 - o Carryout and delivery encouraged.
 - o Outside tables or booths should be placed six (6) feet apart.
 - o Only those living within the same household should sit together.
 - o Use disposable napkins, tablecloths, utensils and condiments. Condiments must be single-use, disposable packages.
 - o If non-disposable linens (such as cloth napkins, tablecloths, wiping cloths) are used, they must be laundered between uses.
- Ensure that gloves are worn by employees/volunteers who clean or handle high-touch areas of the gathering space.
- Encourage volunteers and attendees to frequently wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer, provided by the event organizer.
- Use appropriate disinfectants to clean frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.
- Use signage to alert attendees of required occupancy limits, six feet of physical distance and the facial covering requirements.
- Parishes should add a rider to rental contracts specifying that the renter is bound to abide by all government and diocesan restrictions that are in place at the time of the event.

St. Charles - Happy Birthday
Robert Baggett - January 10

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday
Jacob Alexander - January 4
Caroline Hudson- January 4
Lisa Vaught - January 5
Abi Crabtree - January 7
Margaret Dant - January 7
Sabrina Hoover - January 7
Louise Waters - January 7
James Ferguson - January 8

Natural Family Planning – FREE instruction offer!
Through a partnership with the St. Augustine Foundation, the Diocese of Owensboro is offering FREE instruction in the Billings Method of Natural Family Planning to any Catholic married couple in the Diocese throughout 2021! This offer is for the Billings Method only, for couples where at least one spouse is a practicing Catholic, and covers five teaching sessions, starting January 1st, 2021. A list of trained Billings instructors in our Diocese can be found at Owensborodiocese.org/billings-ovulation-method.