

Dear friends in Jesus Christ,

As Christians we know that the central figure of all our liturgical celebrations is none other than Jesus Christ. Last weekend, we celebrated the solemnity of the Holy Family, and the Holy Mother Church reminded us that it is the presence of Jesus, who is the important figure of the Holy Family. A couple of days before, we had a beautiful celebration of Christmas, where we reflected about the extraordinary birth of Jesus. Thus, the real purpose of all these special liturgical celebrations is to invite us to experience and manifest the presence of Jesus through our lives. The celebration we have today is the Epiphany of the Lord or the manifestation of Jesus as the Savior of the world.

Today, as we celebrate the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we have three wise men coming from the east to visit Jesus. It is important to note here that these wise men are not Jews, but they are Gentiles. The King Herod was a Jew, the chief priests and the scribes of the people were among Jews, but none of them cared about the birth of Jesus. This is what the Gospel of John 1:11 says "He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him". Dear friends, this comment of Jesus and the visit of these three wise men of Gentiles, are placing a great challenge before each one of us. How do we respond to the call of God? Every day or every weekend we come together as Christ's people to celebrate this beautiful sacrament of the Eucharist, and do we really experience Jesus in our lives and manifest His presence through our lives that Jesus is our Savior? Yes, Jesus is coming to us through every sacrament, but Jesus is making this comment "He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him". The wise men looked for Jesus and they found Him, what are we looking for through our celebrations? Let us not forget the experience of Joseph and Mary on missing Jesus during the celebrations in the Jerusalem Temple.

The arrival of three wise men from the East is unfolding many truths about Jesus. Their question to King Herod-"Where is the newborn king of the Jews", very clearly affirms that there are different kingdoms; King Herod represents the earthly kingdom, and Jesus represents the Heavenly Kingdom. This is what Jesus says in the Gospel of John 18:36 "My Kingdom is not of this world". This is what we read in Philippians 3:20 "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ". Dear friends, now who is the king in our life? Let our thoughts, words and actions manifest the king of our lives!

Again the gifts of the three wise men, adds the qualities of Jesus. They had the gift of Gold in their hands, normally offered to kings and thus they

proclaim to the world that Jesus is the King. They had the gift of frankincense, normally used for religious rituals and thus they proclaim to the world that Jesus is the priest and He is the High priest in the New Testament. Finally they had the gift of Myrrh, normally used for the dead. We are all born to live, but in the case of Jesus, He is born to die, and through His death He is promising a new Life, an everlasting Life. Thus, we see three wise men who offered their gifts and did Him homage and had the experience and the vision of God and thus departing to their country by another way.

Dear friends, as we participate in this Holy Mass, let us diligently look for Jesus and a personal encounter with Him, so that our offering of this Mass will be acceptable to Him and we may receive more and more blessings in our lives. **May the Good Lord Bless you.**

Lazarus Retreat | Feb. 18-20, 2022 | Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center

We are pleased to announce a retreat opportunity for high school youth of the Diocese of Owensboro called the Lazarus Retreat. **The Lazarus Retreat will be held Friday, Feb. 18-Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022 at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. The cost is \$50 and the deadline to sign up is Monday, Feb. 7, 2022.** There are registration forms on the table in the hall. Drop off will be at 5:00PM on Friday and pickup will be at 12:30PM on Sunday. The goal and theme of the retreat is an intentional invitation to our young people to life in Jesus Christ.

Financial Peace University St. Pius X, Owensboro

St. Pius X Catholic Church will be offering the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Class starting on Sunday, January 16, 2022 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm in the Resource Room at St. Pius X. There will be nine (9) consecutive classes on Sunday nights with free baby setting available. COVID 19 protocols will be followed. For more information, contact Gary Estes at 270-314-4419.

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

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| Financial Report – December 26, 2021 | |
| St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,883.56 weekly | |
| Regular Collection | \$ 4,173.61 + 1,290.05 |
| Christmas Offering | \$ 850.00 |
| Emergency Fund | \$ 255.00 |
| Special Collections | \$ 60.00 |
| Tornado Relief | \$ 123.00 |

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| Financial Report – December 26, 2021 | |
| St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,058.22 weekly | |
| Regular Collection | \$ 750.00 - 308.22 |
| Christmas Offering | \$ 665.00 |
| Special Collections | \$ 70.00 |

Mass Schedule January 2 – January 9

Sunday – The Epiphany of the Lord
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Thomas & Bernice Hobbs
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Bill & Jacinta Garinger

Monday – Christmas Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Crystal Simon

Tuesday – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious (Memorial)
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Robert Vollman

Wednesday- St. John Neumann, Bishop (Memorial)
-6:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Tichenor - Leachman Families
-6:30pm – *Faith Formation*

Thursday – Christmas Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian - *Alvin Bickett*
-5:30pm – Mass at St. Charles
Bill & Jacinta Garinger

Friday – Christmas Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian - *Joe Bickett*

Saturday – Christmas Weekday
-3:00pm - Confession
-4:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lee & Joan Warren

Sunday – The Baptism of The Lord
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joshua Calhoun
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Robert Allen Head

Ministry Schedule January 8, 2022

St. Sebastian Lector: Michael Cooper

St. Sebastian Euch. Min: Cathy Burden
Lector: Gail Clayton & Drew McCarty
Money Counters: Kim Cooper & Gail Clayton

St. Charles Euch. Min: George Rhodes
Lector: Marsha Logsdon & Ann Renfrow
Money Counters: David Albin & Derek Miller

CDC Recommendations for Covid-19 Pandemic

- All Vaccinated and Unvaccinated over the age of two are strongly recommended to wear a facemask properly.
- If you are feeling ill or concerned about exposure to the virus, be encouraged to remain home.
- Gathering spaces to be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Continue with proper hand washing and/or sanitizing.
- No social gatherings or meetings are permitted in the church buildings.
- Eucharistic Ministers should be masked and sanitize their hands after receiving the Eucharist.
- Please continue to be diligent.

Mark Your Calendars Please!

St. Charles - January 9th After the mass
- February 13th After the mass

St. Sebastian - January 16th at 5:00pm
- February 20th at 5:00pm

Parishioners from each parish are kindly requested to attend the meeting scheduled for each parish without fail. Thank you

St. Charles - Happy Birthday



Stephanie Fee - January 2

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday



Jennifer Ferguson - January 1
Tracy McMahon - January 2
Jacob Alexander - January 4
Caroline Hudson - January 4
Lisa Vaught - January 5
Georgia Crabtree - January 7
Margaret Dant - January 7
Georgia Abigail Durbin - January 7
Louise Waters - January 7

Please Pray for our Military

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, 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, and Corpsman Aly Franklin.

Prayer List for Members of our Community

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, Callie Hayden, Tom Schutte, Evelyn Drury, Bill Abney, Debbie Dunn, Ben Dunn, Tommy England, Louis Dant, Becky Cheatham, Lisa Vaught, Lance Green, Neil Hayden, Serena Cooper and Jeff Husk.