JANUARY 08, 2017 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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MASS TIMES
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 8:45 & 10:30 am (ASL)
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - 7:30 am
Wednesday - 9:30 am
Dear Friends:

Pope Francis has spoken often of his disdain for what is known in my business as "clericalism," that is, the idea of some ordained people that they are something special and set apart and to be treated with particular reverence and honor just because of who they are, rather than for what they do in service. Clericalism has been one of the great scourges of the priesthood in the past thirty years, in my opinion, and it is still alive and well in many quarters of our church. Several years ago a Jesuit priest, George Wilson, produced a prophetic little book titled, "Clericalism: Death of the Priesthood." What I found most insightful about it was his insight that in order for systems of clericalism to "work" it is required that everybody buy in to the myth. In other words, it isn’t sufficient for a self-important person to walk in to a room and to say that he is somebody special; it also requires that all the other people in the room are persuaded to agree with him/her about that. Otherwise, the system of clericalism can’t hold. And that’s true for "clerical" relationships far beyond the church.

I was made to reflect upon that again during the annual media turn-of-the-year remembrances of the many celebrities who died in 2016: Prince, Carrie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds, David Bowie.... I had two responses to all that. First, people die all the time. And although several of the stars who died last year were quite (or, as the media would say, "too") young, I’m not sure why such occurrences are treated as if they are shocking. Especially when considering the lifestyles of some of the celebrities, early death is hardly a surprise. The professed amazement and public agony over such events seems a little contrived, or maybe just a sad statement about us. And the fact that elderly people like Arnold Palmer or John Glenn die after having lived full and long lives does not contribute to making 2016 a "bad" year. (A lot of other things contributed to that, for sure, but not these celebrity deaths.)

But the second and far bigger question is this: Why do people get so caught up in the lives of celebrities in the first place...people whom they have never met, whose moral examples are often terrible, and who live in ethereal worlds that are far removed from normal human beings? I am aware that right up to about the time that my grandfather was born there was no such thing as a celebrity, in the sense that we use that word today. That’s because there were no movies or TV or professional sports organizations or ways to put a famous face in front of a whole mass audience. And life went along, as it had for tens of thousands of years before. I take it as a point of pride that if Angelina Jolie or Ryan Seacrest were to knock at my office door tomorrow they would have to introduce themselves to me and would have to explain why they are "important," because I would not recognize them nor know the answer to that question. I am not a willing partaker in that kind of celebrity clericalism.

The point here is that we often hand over a lot of moral authority to people who have no business receiving it, just because they are a name or a face that we recognize as famous or glamorous. And because they request that we revere them as such. Advertisers depend on this instinct in us. Arnold Palmer was doing TV ads for blood thinning drugs right up to the day he died. (I don’t know if he died as the result of anything related to blood thinners, but I do know that there’s a major class action lawsuit now open against the product he was pitching.) Arnie was a most excellent golfer, and apparently a fine human being, but I wonder why I or anyone should have regarded him, for that reason, as a wisdom figure in pharmacology.

Very, very often, whether in matters religious or cultural or political, some of the last people we ought to trust are the ones who clamor, "Look at Me!" That was not Jesus’ way either. Celebrity cultural can be decadent, and let’s us at least be aware of that.

Fr. Mike Byron
ST. PASCAL’S SCHOOL NEWS

Upcoming Enrollment Open Houses

Winter Open House for NEW families
PreK, Jr. K, and Kindergarten Roundup
Thursday, January 12 from 5:30 - 6:30 PM
Catholic Schools Week Open House
ALL families—New & Current
Sunday, January 29 from 10:00 - 11:00 AM
PreK - 8th Grade students

2017-18 Registration Dates & Information
The parish, school governing board and school administration ask that families register early for next school year in order to provide enough time to prepare for scholarship and tuition assistance funding, curriculum programs, staffing, and overall budget.

Current Preschool Families—Early Preschool and Jr. Kindergarten registration is now open on TADS. We expect classes to fill quickly for next year based on this year’s preschool enrollment and outside inquiries. Let St. Pascal’s save a spot for your child! Take advantage of registering early before registration opens up to the broader community on January 11.

Preschool families enrolling in Jr. Kindergarten next year may also enroll younger siblings into the preschool program during this registration period. Current preschool families will receive priority registration through January 11.

Online registration opens on TADS
January 11, 2017 (Preschool - 8th Grade)
Current K-8 grade families—register online by Friday, February 3 to be entered for multiple scholarship drawings. More info coming soon!

For a full schedule of registration and financial aid dates, please visit the school website at school.stpascals.org.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Seeking Dismissal Leaders for RCIA
This year we have two young people preparing to celebrate baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Beginning sometime in January and up through Holy Thursday, we need dismissal leaders at various Masses. Following the homily, the dismissal leader and our catechumens (those to be baptized) will be dismissed and go to reflect on the Scripture readings of the day. If you are able to help with this important ministry or would like more information, please contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

Grace Within: An Empowering Journey to Your Inner Self
Tuesdays, February 21-April 25
6:30-8:30 PM in Room 107, St. Pascal Baylon
Open to women from St. Pascal’s and Blessed Sacrament... an invitation to understand how you can grow spiritually and become who God created you to be. Cost is $25 and includes materials, refreshments, child care. Limited to 10 participants. Registration ends on Tuesday, February 14 or when full. Contact Kim Roering in the parish office for more information.

Mexican Dinner and Silent Auction
Saturday, February 4 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Join us for tacos, Spanish rice, black beans, chips and cheese, dessert, and more!
Adults: $8 | Children 6-12: $5
Children 5 and under: Free!
Family Rate: $30
Silent Auction items include certificates to some of your favorite hotels, restaurants, and businesses and will be available to view/bid on the weekends of January 21/22 and January 28/29, and at the dinner. Dinner tickets will be available for purchase after weekend Masses beginning January 21, and at the door.

Francis on the Family—
An Evening of Reflection on “Amoris Laetitia”: The Joy of Love
Tuesday, January 24 from 7:00-8:30 PM in Brioschi Hall with Fr. Mike Byron
“Amoris Laetitia” is Pope Francis’ post-synodal apostolic exhortation on family life. Signed on March 19, 2016, it is the conclusion of a two-year synod process discussing both the beauty and challenges of family life today. Join us to explore some of the insights of this document and what it means for families and the Church today.
Please call the parish office by Monday, January 23 if you plan to attend so we can prepare appropriately for hospitality. If you can bring treats or help with set up/serving/clean-up, please contact Kim Roering in the parish office.
Interested in delving into the document? A 4-week small group study of the document may become available based on interest following Fr. Mike’s presentation. Please contact Kim Roering in the parish office to express your interest.

Parish Contact Information
Parish Office 651.774.1585
Fax 651.774.9152
Email church@stpascals.org

Parish Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:00 - 4:30 PM
Holidays as announced

After Hours Emergency Number
For death, dying or anointing of the sick
651.280.9239

School Contact Information
School Office 651.776.0092
Fax 651.774.9152
Email: laurie.jennrich@stpascals.org

School Office Hours
September - May
Mon - Fri 8:00 - 4:00 PM
June - August
Tue & Wed 9:00 - 2:00 PM
Summer hours also by appointment

Parish Councils
Parish Pastoral Council
Ann Karner, Chair
Meetings - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM

Parish Finance Council
John Knoll, Chair
Meetings - 4th Thursday at 6:30 PM

Sacramental Information

Reconciliation
Saturday at 4:00 and by appointment

Baptism
Pre-baptismal classes are required. To register for classes or to schedule a celebration, call the parish office.

Marriage
Arrangements must be made with the Pastor at least six months in advance of the desired date.

Parish Prayer Line
8:00 - 10:00 AM 651.735.0004
Mary Butler-Levine
4:00 - 6:00 PM 651.774.3248
Pat Kackman

Parish Communication

Bulletin Notices
Please email notices to the parish office by 3:00 PM Monday—hard copy notices must be in by 2:00 PM. Email to thea.munoz@stpascals.org.

Bulletin inserts for St. Pascal parish and school events only are limited to 3 inserts per weekend

Mass Announcements
Direct to the parish office by 3:00 PM on Wednesday.
Prayer Vigil for Hope, Healing and Mercy

January 21, from 7:00 - 11:00 PM
St. Mary’s Chapel at The Saint Paul Seminary
University of St. Thomas Campus—2260 Summit Ave., Saint Paul

Free parking in the Seminary parking lot

For over forty years, legalized abortion has left many men and women empty, confused and longing to be whole again. This vigil is open to all and is a special invitation to those who have been hurt by abortion.

7:00 PM Mass with Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda is followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

For more information, visit www.archspm.org or contact Sonya Flomo at 291.4515.

44th Annual MCCL March for Life

January 22, 2017
2:00 PM March in front of State Capitol
2:30 PM Program on Capitol front steps

Join thousands of Minnesotans at this inspiring event to march for justice, for women, for life! Your presence will send a clear message to state lawmakers and public officials that a majority of Minnesotans believe in a founding principle of this country—the ‘Right to Life.’ Visit Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life at www.mccl.org or contact us at 612.825.6831 or mccl@mccl.org.
SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Today’s Readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is one of universal recognition of Christ as Savior. The images of a light rising in the east and of a star guiding wise foreigners to a simple home are full of symbolism. Yet it is a very earthy reality. One bright star in a dark winter sky can attract our attention. The morning sun rising in the east is a promise of a new day, when the darkness of night is ending. It is a global experience and a very human experience that underscores the depth of Christ’s coming.

Sunday, January 8, 2017
Every Nation on Earth Will Adore You

For whom has Christ come? Who will recognize him? On Epiphany, we are drawn to a broader meaning for each of these questions. In the opening lines of the First Reading, Isaiah announces: “Your light has come,” and then, “nations shall come to your light.” In the dark and cold of winter, notice that Christ can be found in simple places, in complex people, and often in unexpected exchanges with those who are foreign to us. Epiphany is our opportunity to welcome guests from afar, to open our doors and our hearts to unexpected wisdom from strangers.

Chalk the Door
20 + C + M + B + 17

Gracious God,
as a shining star once guided the Magi,
Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar,
to the home of the infant Jesus,
bless this home and all who live here with your loving and welcoming presence.
May all who follow your star
and dwell in your love
become a light for the world.
May your love be our inspiration,
your wisdom be our guide,
and your peace be our blessing.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Monday, January 9
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
The baptism of Jesus by John is a pivotal event, in which the Spirit not only descends from the heavens, but propels Jesus into his public ministry. Our Baptism does the same. We are anointed by the Spirit to serve others, to live our lives publicly as sons and daughters of the living God. May we reflect the power of the Spirit as did Jesus by “going about doing good” (Acts 10:38). Today’s Readings: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or Acts 10:34–38; Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 9–10; Matthew 3:13–17.

Tuesday, January 17
St. Anthony, Abbot
St. Anthony (251–356) was a hermit, living and praying in the desert and caves of Egypt. While he longed to live a solitary, ascetic life, he was integrally connected to the world. His insights as a spiritual leader drew other monks and hermits to him, and his healing power was widely known, drawing the sick and destitute to him as well. His biographer and bishop, St. Athanasius, sought him for advice, and even Emperor Constantine wrote to him, asking for prayers. Humble in his popularity, Anthony simply directed everyone to God, Scripture, and prayer. Today’s Readings: Ephesians 6:10–13, 18; Psalm 16:1–2a, 5, 7–8, 11; Matthew 19:16–26.

Saturday, January 21
St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
Today in Rome the Pope blesses two lambs, a tradition held since the sixth century. “Lamb” is the English translation of Agnus, which is so close to Agnes that many would mix up the two words. While St. Agnes is frequently depicted in artwork holding a lamb, the Latin name is the only connection with her life and martyrdom. The wool from the lambs blessed today will be woven into palliums and given to new archbishops this summer. Today’s Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:26–31; Psalm 23:1b–3a, 4, 5, 6; Matthew 13:44–46.

Thursday, January 26
Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
Discipleship underscores the feast of Sts. Timothy and Titus, both companions of St. Paul during his years of travel and ministry. Timothy served as bishop in Ephesus, while Titus became bishop in Crete. Just as Jesus appointed the seventy-two (Luke 10) to spread the Good News and do good works, Paul wrote letters to both men, commissioning them to continue to serve in these two diverse areas of ancient Christianity. Today’s Readings: 2 Timothy 1:1–8 or Titus 1:1–5; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 7–8a, 10; Luke 10:1–9.

Thursday, February 2
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Candles are at the center of today’s feast as we liturgically close a focus on the childhood of Jesus and emphasize that Christ is the Light of the World. A solemn candlelight procession is the ritual centerpiece for the feast. In the home, families could light candles during a prayer celebration that would focus on the light Christ brings to the world. Today’s Readings: Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40.

Monday, February 6
St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Today the Martyrs of Japan are remembered, twenty-six of whom endured a 600-mile death march, public abuse, and finally crucifixion in 1597. The suffering and faithfulness of these Japanese individuals is epitomized by Paul Miki. A Jesuit brother, he preached from the cross upon which he died, his words continuing to strengthen his companions and provide witness to the world. These martyrs lived the words of St. Paul in today’s Second Reading: “I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.” Today’s Readings: Galatians 2:19–20; Psalm 126:1bc–2ab, 2cd–3, 4–5, 6; Matthew 28:16–20.
Wine & Beer Tasting

Parish Mixer
Tuesday, January 17th
6:30 PM

Join us and bring a friend!

Sponsored by Women’s Club & Sarracks Liquors
Each year, the General Mills Foundation and UNCF present an annual MLK Holiday Breakfast at the Minneapolis Convention Center to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With the help of countless volunteers, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul hosts breakfasts at nine neighborhood locations, featuring a live broadcast of the General Mills event as well as a hot breakfast and local programming.