

WELCOME to ST. JOHN EVANGELIST PARISH



JANUARY 3, 2021 - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The canopy doors will be unlocked from 7:30 am until approximately noon Tuesday through Friday for private prayer.

MASS INTENTIONS

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|-----------|------------|-----------------|----------|--|
| Saturday | January 2 | Blessed Trinity | 4:00 pm | †Victor & Helen Kampmann, †Irene Mancl by Jim & Wanda Sabel |
| Sunday | January 3 | St. John's | 9:00 am | Mass for Parishioners |
| Sunday | January 3 | Blessed Trinity | 10:30 am | †Norma Ausloos by Blessed Trinity Staff, †Tony Daharsh by Bereavement Committee |
| Wednesday | January 6 | St. John's | 7:00 am | †Ted Biskup |
| Thursday | January 7 | Blessed Trinity | 9:00 am | †Bob & Jean Rothwite by Donna Plageman, †Arline & Bill Ehrien |
| Friday | January 8 | St. John's | 7:00 am | †Laurie Beatty by Chuck & Jane Waldoch |
| Saturday | January 9 | Blessed Trinity | 4:00 pm | †Irene Mancl by Jim & Donna Willfahrt, †Fr. Winkler by Mary Klover & Buechler Brothers |
| Sunday | January 10 | St. John's | 9:00 am | †Joseph Ehren by St. John's Staff |
| Sunday | January 10 | Blessed Trinity | 10:30 am | Mass for Parishioners |

RECONCILIATION: at Blessed Trinity on Saturday, January 9 at 3:00 pm.



JANUARY HOSTS & WINE: In memory of Lewis & Louella Conway by the Katchkey family.

FINANCIALS: December 26/27
Collection: (contribution envelopes, electronic giving and loose offering): \$10,388.00
CHRISTMAS: \$11,618.00

BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE: Juergen Pietzner passed away on December 25. Please remember Juergen, his wife Francoise and his entire family in your prayers.

MISSION SOCIETY: Resumes quilt making on Tuesday, January 5 at 8:30 am. Everyone is welcome!



New Year's Message

Hello Everyone,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May the Lord bless you all with God's peace and joy and guide you through difficult times towards hope and prosperity. May you be content all through 2021 and beyond.

Our sacred scripture teaches us that there is a time for everything. "*A time to break down, and a time to build up, a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.*" Ecclesiastes 3:3b & 3:6

Of course, the year 2020 was hard on humankind. The pandemic has taken away joy and peace from many. Many faced starvation, sickness and even death. Isolation created distances even for family members. Children and young adults lost the precious time to learn and enjoy the company of each other. But those who trusted in the infinite mercy of God could paddle through the murky waters rather smoothly. Let us put our trust and hope in that infant in the manger. He came to offer true liberation and redemption. So, let us courageously step into 2021. Happy New Year!

I would like to thank you all for being members of our parishes, praying together, helping one another, and strengthening each other's faith. Thank you for your prayers, kind words and gifts. Thank you all.

Fr. Joe

SHEBOYGAN FALLS FOOD PANTRY

Please bring your non-perishable food to the multipurpose room by **Sunday, January 3**. The canopy doors will be open Tuesday - Friday until noon. **Please do not bring any pasta or pasta sauce.** Food will be delivered at 9:30 am on **Monday, January 4 by Paul & Celeste Nugent and Matt & Jennifer Walton**. Thank you to all the people who have contributed food items this year as well as all the people who have delivered it to the food pantry.

Just a reminder that the Sheboygan Falls Food Pantry is open every Thursday morning from 9:00 - 11:00 am for anyone who may need some assistance. They are located at 529 Giddings Avenue in Sheboygan Falls. Please bring a photo ID and a recent utility bill, along with paper grocery bags when visiting. They will not be open Christmas Eve. If you have any questions, please call 920-917-2335

LOOKING FOR IDEAS OF PANTRY ITEMS TO DONATE: Please consider purchasing the items listed below on your next grocery store trip to help avoid the collection of expired food. Low sodium, low sugar and low syrup foods are welcomed. Also needed:

- Canned Soup
- Canned Tuna/Chicken
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Canned Fruit
- Rice
- Hygiene Items

The Epiphany: Come and Adore

This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany when Jesus is revealed to all the nations as the Son of God. We hear in the Gospel Reading according to Matthew, the story of the coming of the Magi – the wise men from the East who followed a star and came to adore Jesus. It contains so many messages and images for us to consider. Here are a few:

- ♦ **The Magi observe signs.** The Magi are led to Jesus because they are observant of a sign—the star. We too are called to be observant of the many signs of God's presence in this world.
- ♦ **The Magi seek direction.** The Magi are not too proud to stop and ask for directions from others so that they can find the newborn king. We are also called to seek direction and look to others to help us find Jesus in our lives.
- ♦ **The Magi offer gifts.** The gifts that the Magi offer are of great value. Of no less value are the gifts that we offer to our Lord. We offer our time and talent to serve him, and we offer our teaching abilities to bring others to him. In essence, we offer our very selves.
- ♦ **The Magi departed by another way.** After encountering the newborn king, the lives of the Magi were forever changed. They followed a different way. We are also called to ongoing conversion, that we may continue to follow a different way—Jesus—who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- ♦ **No doubt the Magi shared their epiphany with others.** Although Scripture does not tell us this, it is no great stretch to imagine that the Magi, who traveled so far at such great expense, shared the story of their epiphany with others. We too are called to share our own epiphanies with others—those times when God has been revealed to us—so that others may be led to their own epiphanies of God, Emmanuel, who is truly with us.

Star of wonder, star of might, star with royal beauty bright – westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to the perfect light.

Adapted from: Loyola Press. "Leading Others to Epiphany", Joe Paprocki.

MyCatholicKids website. "The Epiphany: Come and Adore", Monique Sammut, January 5, 2019.

-Jeanne Bitkers, Coordinator of Religious Education 4K - Grade 6

The star...
came to
rest over
the place
where the
child was.

Matthew 2:9, ESV



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 4K - GRADE 6 UPDATE: It's not too late to enroll your child/ren in our IN-SCHOOL 4K-Grade 6 Religious Education Classes that are held at St. John's two Wednesdays a month from 4:15 to 5:15 pm. We have had 6 classes prior to Christmas and will have 8 more during this second semester beginning in January. We have an excellent team of Catechists working with and sharing their faith with these young students, class sizes are small, all health and sanitization requirements are being followed, and social distancing procedures are in effect.

Sacrament Preparation Plans for all Second Grade children and also for older students who have not been Baptized, received their First Communion or participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation are also held at this time.

Please contact Jeanne Bitkers, 4K-Grade 6 Religious Education Coordinator at jeanne@btsje.org or 920-452-9623 for more information or to enroll your child/ren.





MISSION Statement

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE:

In September, the Strategic Planning Committee held 14 listening sessions which invited all parishioners to provide feedback on the purpose of St John Evangelist parish. A total of 64 parishioners participated. The goal of this first listening session was to develop an updated mission statement for the parish. The main themes that emerged from the sessions included

- To evangelize
- To provide faith formation
- To serve
- To provide community

The Strategic Planning Committee's goal was to craft a statement that is inclusive of these main themes while ensuring an engaging statement that is relevant to all parishioners. The committee developed the following statement:

As a Catholic community, St. John Evangelist Parish of Kohler together praises God, grows in Christ, and carries the Holy Spirit forth in our community.

We thank everyone who participated in the listening sessions and we encourage parishioners to share your thoughts on this draft statement before it is voted on by the pastoral council in January 2021. Comments on the mission statement or requests for information on the strategic planning process can be sent to Julia Rodemeier at julia.rodemeier@gmail.com or phone 414-774-7780.



One Percent Prayer:

The beginning of 2021 is right around the corner, and we want to encourage you to start off this New Year by getting closer to Christ. Our offices at the Archdiocese have put together this simple initiative for you to take 1% of your day for 30 days to get to know Jesus better in personal prayer and daily scripture reading. Will you join us? You can find out more information and sign up with the link:

https://www.archmil.org/one-percent-prayer?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=website

THANK YOU!:

St. John's Religious Ed students in grades 7-11 would like to thank our generous parishioners for once again donating toys to the Salvation Army Toys for Tots program. We filled two bins with new toys and games to make Christmas more joyful for families in need. Bless you for your kindness, Jen Vallo, RE Coordinator for grades 7-11.

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| Monday JANUARY 4 <i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious</i> 1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 |
| Tuesday JANUARY 5 <i>St. John Neumann, Bishop</i> 1 Jn 4:7-10 Mk 6:34-44 |
| Wednesday JANUARY 6 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:11-18 Mk 6:45-52 |
| Thursday JANUARY 7 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Lk 4:14-22a |
| Friday JANUARY 8 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:5-13 Lk 5:12-16 |
| Saturday JANUARY 9 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:14-21 Jn 3:22-30 |
| Sunday JANUARY 10 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> Is 55:1-11 1 Jn 5:1-9 Mk 1:7-11 |

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Sunday, January 3, 2021 St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors of the Church:

Born in Asia Minor, these men are two of the four great doctors of the Eastern Church (with Athanasius and John Chrysostom) because of their preaching, teaching, and defense of the faith against the Arians. Basil (330-379) was a hermit, but so many joined him that he created a form of common life that influenced both Eastern and Western monasticism. He became archbishop of Caesarea and influenced Gregory (329-390), who was named coadjutor bishop of Nazianzus, bishop of Sasima, and archbishop of Constantinople. May we imitate their desire to proclaim the truth that Jesus is both divine and human. (The Feast is celebrated on January 2.)

Return to Mass Guidelines (Updated 12/06/2020):

We are currently in Phase II of the Catholic Comeback. Please see the guidelines below for weekend Masses. As we move through the phases, updates will be provided. Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Joe or the Parish Office.

Prior to Mass/Entering Church:

- ◆ Only the canopy doors will be unlocked. Doors will be propped open so that the minimal number of people will need to touch them.
- ◆ There will be prayer sheets available from the ushers. **Please leave the prayer sheet in the pews. We will collect them Monday morning and dispose of them.**
- ◆ There will be hand sanitizer available at the entrance. Please use it when entering.
- ◆ Please see an usher who will help with seating. Attendance is limited to maintain social distancing (6 feet apart, unless part of the same household) in relation to church capacity so seating as many people within guidelines is important.

Offertory Collection:

- ◆ Ushers will be wearing masks and gloves while taking the collection.
- ◆ A basket will be placed in the gathering space to drop your envelope if you would prefer to not place it in the collection basket.
- ◆ Collection baskets with handles will be used. Baskets will not be passed down the pew.

Communion:

- ◆ Communion will be distributed by Father Joe only and one lay distributor in the back.
- ◆ Communion can be taken in the hand only. No precious blood will be distributed.
- ◆ Please keep a distance of 6 feet away when coming to the front for communion. This is approximately a pew between people.
- ◆ There will be hand sanitizer available for use prior to receiving communion.

Conclusion of Mass/Leaving church:

- ◆ Ushers will lead in an orderly dismissal of pews.
- ◆ There will be no congregating in the gathering space.

General Information:

- **In accordance with the orders from the State of Wisconsin, face masks are now required during Mass. There will be limited masks available at the entrance to church. If possible, please bring your own.**
- Daily Mass Schedule at St. John Evangelist is: Wednesday and Friday mornings at 7:00 am. Due to construction, Blessed Trinity will not have public daily Mass until further notice.
- It will be the responsibility of those who are capable and not prohibited by other circumstances (see next bullet point) to attend Sunday Mass. Those who deliberately fail to attend Sunday Mass commit a grave sin. Fear of getting sick, in and of itself, does not excuse someone from the obligation.
- If a person is ill, especially during this pandemic, they should remain at home. Likewise, if a person is at risk because of age, underlying medical conditions or a compromised immune system, one would be excused from the obligation. If a person is caring for a sick person, even if they are not sick, they would be excused from the obligation out of charity.
- It is up to each individual to weigh their own circumstances through an examination of their conscience and determine, by use of their conscience, whether or not they are excused from the Sunday obligation. Remember, a well-formed conscience is upright and truthful.
- No physical contact during the Sign of Peace is allowed.
- No holding hands during the Our Father.
- Parishioners are advised to wash their clothes following Mass.
- Masses will continue to be recorded and on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/btsje/>