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In the Western Christian tradition, there are 12 days of Christmas, the last of which is its culmination, the Epiphany, commemorating the Magi visiting the newborn King, Jesus, announced to them by an enormous “star” in the sky. Interestingly, the only reference to these men in the Bible is in Chapter 2 of the Gospel of Matthew, and they’re not called “wise men,” or “kings.” There’s also no mention of how many there were. Matthew only describes them as “Magi from the East.” Perhaps they were Persian priests who followed the star by divine inspiration. Matthew explains that soon after Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, ruled by the Jewish Roman King Herod, “some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the East, and we have come to worship him.’” According to the Gospel, the men then followed the star to the house where Jesus, Mary and Joseph were and presented him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

These gifts of the Magi, gold represented wealth and power, suitable for a king. Frankincense was a type of incense used for worship in the Temple, perhaps suggesting the high priesthood of Jesus. Myrrh was used as a perfume and in ancient Egypt, in embalming processes, and which Christians have interpreted as foreshadowing Jesus’s death. Whether astrologers, wise men, magicians or priests, the Magi’s occupation as well as their gifts don’t really matter. What is most significant is that Matthew’s gospel, directed to a predominantly Jewish audience, is basically saying that the Messiah for the Jewish people is

the Messiah to *everyone on earth.*

This story is Matthew’s way of claiming that the Messiah, the “King of the Jews,” has come into the world to reach out to *all the world, Gentiles included. The Epiphany, the “manifestation” of God, is God’s disclosure of the divine’s True Self. That manifestation is in the form of a vulnerable newborn infant, who is totally dependent upon human care to sustain his life.*

I spent Christmas with my family in Denver. My daughter, Leah had just given birth to little George on December 7. I gladly spent early mornings feeding George, allowing his parents a few more precious hours of needed sleep. During those dark, quiet times, I felt myself witnessing a miracle of sorts. And I couldn’t help but wonder about the infant, Jesus, absolutely vulnerable, completely dependent on the care of those around him. And my wonder moved on to the question of *why did God choose this particular manifestation of God’s Self?*

I don’t have a ready answer to this question, since it really is a mystery. But it seems clear to me that our God, the one who long ago promised salvation to a small tribe named Israel, has yearned to connect with all people and all creation. Perhaps in the manifestation within a newborn, God has made God’s Self completely accessible to all. No judgment, no intimidation, no power over. Rather, God comes to us as a gentle invitation to become open and trusting just as God is. And may we, like the holy Magi, make our way seeking and journeying in moments of awe and wonder to find the Holy of Holies in the forms of the most vulnerable.

—Cathy Hartrich



## St. Cronan Catholic Church The Epiphany of the Lord January 8, 2023

### Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment

**The Masses for January** will be live-streamed at 10:00 on Sundays and posted on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StCronan/>

**Black Lives Matter Vigil**, takes place the third Friday of the Month at the corner of Manchester and Kingshighway, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. The next vigil will take place on Friday, January 20. Please join us!



**Haulers Needed!** Dorothy Lucey is in need of more hauling help. She has weekday opportunities as well as Saturday. The need is great! Please call Dorothy if you can help with this important ministry. 314-(314) 803-1858.

**Contribution Statements** 2022 Contribution Statements will be going out January 16. Please email Mary at [Mary@stcronan.org](mailto:Mary@stcronan.org) only if you DO NOT want a statement.



**HELP WANTED!** St. Cronan is looking for a Part Time custodial worker. Approx. 8-10 hours per week during reg. business hours. Additional time during winter for shoveling and Spring/Summer for some yard work. If you know a good candidate please have them call or email Mary in the church office. 314-289-9384 or [Mary@stcronan.org](mailto:Mary@stcronan.org). The immediate need is to have shoveling/salting covered for the rest of this winter.

**Parish Ministries:** If you would like to add your talents to any of our ministries, and meet a great bunch of people, please call the church office or visit our website [www.stcronan.org](http://www.stcronan.org) for information. *You are always welcome!*



**Prayers Please:** Kathy Bayless; Trish Curtis' brother; David Gaillardetz' father, Richard; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's daughter, Brigid Costello; Varrietta Anthony; Fr. Jack's brother, Mike; Natalie Johnson and the Johnson family; Diane Calcaterra; Sr. Lynne's friend, Jan Berberich, SSND; Barb Sopp's friend, Joe Sinibaldi; Bob Barnicle; Paul Schmitt; Tim and Else Hirzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Carolyn Coyne's daughter, Molly Maryan; Kathy Hunn's niece, Lisa; Sr. Cathy's friends, Inga Casillo, Don Costello, Mike Bowen, Michelle O'Rourke, Kate Genovese; Judy Gallagher; Sharon Orlet; Bonnie and Warren Wimmer's daughter, Anne; Barry Buchek's friends, Jim Bruno and Jim's daughter Courtney; Mary Truetkin; Marie and Roland Martir's granddaughters, Carrie and Maddie, and friend, Craig; Janice Shayne's cousin, Jane Torretta; Jacob Whitworth; John Gozdziwski; Fr. Gerry's friend, Barbara Parker. *Please let the church office know if your loved one should be removed from the prayer list, or if you would like us to add anyone who needs our prayers.*

**Rosaries Needed:** The Marianist Retreat & Conference Center in Eureka is looking for non-plastic rosaries for their "Rosary Wall" that they've created to provide rosaries for folks who are on retreat. If you have any rosaries that you are not using and would like to donate to a good cause, they would be very grateful. There will be a designated box in the back of Church for the month of November and will take them to the Retreat Center the first of December. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Hunn at kmhunn@aol.com.

**Assisi House Opportunities:** As many of you know, we are currently working to open an Assisi House on Spring Ave. in North St. Louis. We are aiming to open the house in January or February, 2023. Spring House needs a lot of work, and we intend to have volunteer workers there every Wednesday and Saturday for the foreseeable future. If you have questions or are interested in cleaning, painting, scraping, carpentry, drywall work, etc., send an email to our volunteer director, Megan, at megan@assisihouse.org and let her know how you can help. It is very exciting to see this house transforming into a warm, safe living space again. Please consider helping us.

**Parish Center Offices**  
 Mon-Fri 9am-3pm  
 www.stcronan.org  
 Phone: (314) 289-9384

**Pastor: Fr. Jack Schuler**  
 jschuler@stcronan.org

**Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski**  
[diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org)

**Pastoral Administrator: Mary Ward**  
[mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org)

**Music Director: David Dickey**

**Food Pantry Director: Kathy Hunn**  
 (314) 533-0651  
[kathyfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:kathyfoodpantry@gmail.com)

**Mindfulness Class** Many people expressed interest in learning and practicing mindfulness when several members of the health cabinet sent out a survey earlier this year. In response to that, classes will be offered beginning, Tuesday, January 10. you can sign up for the 4 week class directly at [www.marymiddendorf.com](http://www.marymiddendorf.com) or email Mary Middendorf at mary.middendorf@gmail.com. See class description below:



**FOUNDATIONS of MINDFULNESS**

This class is designed to teach you the basics of mindfulness in a caring and supportive environment. Each week we will discuss a particular mindfulness topic, explore a variety of practices, including mindfulness meditation, body scan, and mindful movement to name a few, and gain support in establishing a daily practice. This class is a shorter version of the 6 week "Practicing Mindfulness: Tapping into Peace and Well-Being." It will cover the basics and support beginning or refreshing a contemplative practice. **This 4-week class meets every Tuesday starting January 10 and ending January 31 (1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31)** Meetings take place from 1:00 to 2:30 pm on Zoom (link will be sent upon registration) **NOTE: If you are interested, but would rather meet in person please let me know. Arrangements can be made to teach this class in person if there is enough interest or the next class can be in person when the weather is a little more predictable/pleasant.**

**MEALS PROGRAM AT STS. PETER & PAUL Service Opportunity**

The Meals Program at Sts. Peter & Paul serves the homeless & needy from the 2nd through the 21st of each month. We currently have 2 days a month needing coverage. This service includes preparing and serving the meal to those in need. For more information please contact Rachel Schoenberger at 314-231-9923 or [office@stpeterandpaulstl.org](mailto:office@stpeterandpaulstl.org).

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**PASTORAL REFLECTION**

Epiphany

There is an old Bavarian custom of chalking the letters G M B (for Gaspar, Melchior, Balthasar, the "3 Kings") on the wall of each room of the house on Epiphany morning. In years past, at Cronan's on Epiphany, colored chalk was distributed to parishioners who would mark our own homes with the symbolic message. In my home, we marked the lintel over the back door with GMB and the year's date. The letters ended up there on that lintel for years, and typically we'd forget what the original message was. So what is the real meaning sought by these strange sojourners of the letters?

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