

PASTOR'S DESK

Showing Up and Showing Others

Today is the Epiphany, and the word means to show forth, to reveal. Many countries have a "Freedom of Information Act", because people today want information, but so often they feel they never get the answers.

Well, Isaiah says Jesus is that Answer, but he comes as a different kind of Liberator: "Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench..."

Do you ever feel like a "smoldering wick"—barely hanging on, about to go out, tired of hoping and waiting for justice? Maybe we or a friend have even felt abandoned by the church at some point—especially if we were terribly wounded by clergy sexual abuse.

Even though we believe we will ultimately be freed from our dungeons of abandonment and pain, by God's ultimate justice and mercy—still, we have to keep "showing up" to live our lives, often in the midst of evil situations. Some people abandon organized religion, but that is not the answer either—because there is both evil and good in all institutions.

We have to be like the "wise men"—seekers from far away, different from others, strangers in our own land, perhaps—but we are still open to knowing God's truth. Jesus wants to show himself to us as God's love. And he wants us to show the good news of salvation to everyone. Take heart--believe and know that God is coming to all who are desperate for new life.

Go in peace to love and serve our God!

Fr. Rick Niebending, C.P.P.S.

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH - MINSTER, OHIO

*January 8, 2012 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord
Daily Masses and Intentions*

Monday *The Baptism of the Lord*
8:00 a.m. Mass

Tuesday
8:00 a.m. Edwin-Dorothy Riethman

Wednesday
8:00 a.m. 2nd Grade Students-

Thursday
8:00 a.m. Special Intention

Friday *St. Hilary*
8:00 a.m. Melvin Schmiesing
1:30 p.m. Ralph Schmit

Saturday
5:00 p.m. For the Parish

Sunday
8:00 a.m. All Souls
10:00 a.m. Lyn Belcher
11:30 a.m.

~Ministries below for the coming week ~

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. : J. Steinemann, A. Philipot,
C. Schmidt, S. Dorsten, C. Kuether,
K. Kitzmiller, A. Luthman

Sunday 8:00 a.m. : J. Schmiesing, A. Jutte,
T. & B. Roetgerman, J. Schmiesing, L. Jutte,
B. Trzaska

10:00 a.m. : *K. D. D. Prenger, J. Sherman,
K. Thobe, B. & K. Poepelman, A. Sommer

11:30 a.m. : L. Bornhorst, D. Stucke, S. Forsthoefel,
A. Klosterman, N. Kemper, A. Sherman,
K. Wuebker

Lectors:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. : D. Knapke

Sunday 8:00 a.m. : B. Roetgerman

10:00 a.m.: P. Schumann

11:30 a.m.: J. Stammen

Babysitting:

Sun. 11:30 a.m. LR Borgerding,
M. Eilerman, K. Richard,
M. Koverman, S. Huwer,
C. Barhorst, Z. Heid, C. Wuebker,
D. Miller, C. Borgerding

Servers:

Wed. 8:00 a.m.: S. Luthman,
J. Niemeyer

Sat. 5:00 p.m. : E. & A. Oldiges,
M. Hackemoeller

Sun. 8:00 a.m. L. & L. Roetgerman,
J. Heuker

10:00 a.m. K. Heitkamp,
B. Hoelscher,
A. Lehmkühl

11:30 a.m. M. C. S. Schmidt

CLUSTER ANNOUNCEMENTS - cont'd

PROGRAM AT ST. CHARLES CENTER: Deacon Hal Belcher and Barry Mersmann will give an overview and answer questions about the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program or the Deaconate Formation Program on Sun. Jan. 29th from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Have you ever been curious about these programs? For more information call 419-925-5022 or email: smdeanery@bright.net

MARIA STEIN OF THE HOLY RELICS: St. Peregrine Cancer Prayer Service for those who have cancer or who care for them. Sun. Jan. 15th at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Winter Blues? Saints Inspiring Hope: Day of reflection for those who are feeling blue and need a lift. Sat. Jan. 28 9:00 am – 2:30 pm. Contact info: 419-925-4532
a.mcguire@MariaSteinShrine.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is held on Mondays in St. Augustine Church. Opening begins at 9:00 a.m. and closing is at 9:00 p.m. The Right to Life members will be leading the Rosary on Monday, January 9th, 2012. Everyone is welcome.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUP meets at 7:30 am in the rectory basement on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month. New members and walk-ins are always welcome. For more information call Jeff Stammen at 419-628-3889 or email: stammenjl@nktelco.net

MEALS MINISTRY provides meals for those in our community who may need some help. For more information contact Sandy: 419-628-3136, Betty: 419-628-3242, Monica: 419-628-405

ANNOUNCEMENTS ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH

COLLECTION for the week of January 1, 2012 **Your generosity is always appreciated!**

January 1, 2012: **\$7853.35** Loose: **\$922.00** Envelopes returned: **319** Children: **\$60.00**
Christmas Donations: **\$2515.00** Retirement Fund: **\$25.00**

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER...

When considering your contributions to St. Augustine/St. Joseph, parishioners may want to look at the option of donating appreciated shares of stock, especially as we begin formal fundraising for air conditioning at St Augustine Church.

With better performance in the markets through most of 2010, this may be a more attractive option than in the past few years and carries many benefits:

- You receive credit for a charitable contribution for the full value of the stock contributed at the date of donation.
- Donors incur no tax for any increase or gain in stock value from the date of purchase through date of donation.
- We are able to coordinate the transfer of stock (or mutual fund shares) directly with your individual broker or financial advisor (with your permission.)
- You provide much needed assistance to your Parish Community.

If you have any questions about this topic, please feel free to contact Steve Eiting at Minster Bank at 419-628-2351

PARISH CENTER NEWS

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

With a new year upon us, a concerted effort will be made to emphasize Adult Faith Formation.

With that being said, the need for an Adult Faith Formation Team is crucial to the success of Adult Faith Formation. The involvement of/the ownership of as many people as possible is recognized as key to successful planning and implementation of vision/goals. Peter Senge in *The Fifth Discipline* talks about two kinds of visions:

- A **sowed vision** is one developed by only one person. One person's vision is foisted on others. People are not invested. In this reality, when there's any difficulty, they will abandon the vision.
- A **shared vision** is collaborative. People work together to come to the vision, so they are committed. They will fight to the death to accomplish the vision.

For this reason, the *National Directory for Catechesis* strongly encourages committees for the purpose of the writing of catechetical plans/visions so people are working together; that there's a place for all voices at the table.

We're not asking anyone to "fight to the death" to accomplish our goal for Adult Faith Formation, but we are asking for committed adults to help us. If you're interested in learning about the "Nuts and Bolts" of our team, come and join us on:

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION TEAM INFORMATIONAL MEETING –
Monday, January 16 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center.**

EDUCATION COMMISSION

An Education Commission meeting on Monday, January 23 at 7 pm in the Parish Center. All are welcome to attend.

PARISH CENTER NEWS, cont'd

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Solemnity of the Epiphany - Week of January 8, 2012

Reading I: [Isaiah 60: 1-6](#) Your light has come!

- The showing forth of God's glory is apparent in today's passage from Isaiah.
- All nations will walk by Jerusalem's light, the glory of God within it.
- The prophet announces to the people that even in the midst of darkness, they will forever be enlightened by the presence of God.

Reading II: [Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6](#) We all share the same promise!

- The earliest Christians, mostly Jews, struggled with the realization that even Gentiles are included in God's plan of salvation.
- Today's letter points out that people in former ages did not understand that God's mercy extended to all people. Gentiles and Jews are one body in Christ.

Gospel: [Matthew 2: 1-12](#) They opened their coffers and presented him with gifts.

- Matthew's Gospel clearly demonstrates that all the prophecies of old have come to fulfillment in Christ.
- As promised, Gentile wise men recognize Jesus as Messiah even when the Jerusalem sages do not.
- The official priests and scribes quote the messianic prophecies that identify Bethlehem, the city of David's birth, as the birthplace of the Messiah. However, they do not follow their own wisdom.

Theme: The mystery of the incarnation. ~Look into your life.~

Question for adults: How this week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?

Question for children: In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend.

Activities of the week:

- The word epiphany means to reveal or to be manifest. What have you learned about God from your family? Cut star shapes out of white paper, one for each family member. Have family members write their responses to the question on the paper stars. Older family members can write for younger children. Hang the stars in your home as a reminder of God's presence.
- Help your family experience a true epiphany. Spend time this week looking for God. Go out for a walk, or look for God in your home. See where God leads you.
- Epiphany is a traditional time for the blessing of homes. It is a time to celebrate the fact that God can be found in our everyday environment. We know that we are part of the family of God and that God dwells in our home. Plan a blessing of your home. Use the following format: Read John 1:14 from the Bible. Then go in procession from room to room, blessing each room with holy water.
- Discuss these questions: What stops us from seeing God's presence in our world today? What helps us see God's actions and presence in the world around us?

Coming Soon - Lent 2012

Another Bible Study, called "The Mass In Scripture", will begin in Lent. This program will continue our previous study of the Mass by focusing on the Scriptural references to our liturgy.

We will again meet for six weeks beginning around Ash Wednesday (February 22), and concluding by Easter.

Many people make New Year's resolutions, but many Christians also make Lenten resolutions. Please consider making "Bible Study" your resolution. Sign ups will begin the weekend of January 28/29.

