



ST. BARTHOLOMEW, TREMPPEALEAU



ST. MARY'S, GALESVILLE



Sunday Bulletin

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

**January 3, 2021
Year B**

Pastor: Fr. Antony Joseph

Phone: 608-534-6652

Deacon Russ Cabak & Deacon Kent Jacobson

Contact Parish office at: **St. Bartholomew, 11646 South Street, Trempealeau 54661**

Our website: www.saintbartholomew.net

Emails: Father - pastor@saintbartholomew.net; Secretary: Cherie - stmarygalesville@triwest.net

Parish Councils

St. Bartholomew Parish

Finance: Ed Smith, Roger Amundson, Marlene James, Dan Lilla, Larry Sonsalla, Tom Greylak, Patty Behan, Kris Krett, Laurelle Lettner.

Pastoral: Cherie Schwertel, Darlene Schlessner, Roger Amundson, Mary Skroch, Doug Woestman, Daniel Lilla, Rebecca Lamberty, Al Joyce, Mary Leavitt, Candice Guenther.

St. Mary Parish

Finance: Tom Ladwig, Dave Mueller, Becky Harris, Sandy Salsman, Bruce Reedy, Roger Betthausen, Don Teska, Nate Miller.

Pastoral: Kent Jacobson, Dave Mueller, Cindy Baer

THE MYSTERY OF THE MAGI

During the Christmas and Epiphany season, the story of the three wise men is accepted as part of the seasonal charm. In Christmas pageants everywhere (except, perhaps, this year), young boys will dress up in their 'royal' robes and crowns, carrying little boxes, and process behind the Bethlehem star.

But did it really happen?

Thinking the story of the Magi a myth, very few scholars (including one of my favorites) have taken the time to investigate thoroughly the origin and identity of the Magi. However, digging into Near East history and archeology, eventually brings to light an almost forgotten ancient civilization.

Matthew said the Wise Men were "from the East." After Jerusalem's destruction, Christianity's center shifted north and west to Asia Minor, Greece and Rome. Thus, many came to think of the east as Persia. However, Matthew's Gospel was written in Judea to the Jews there. "The East" for them was the Arabian Peninsula. In the Old Testament the "people of the East" were always the nomadic tribes of Arabia. The Persians come from the North. The earliest Christian witness outside the New Testament, Justin Martyr, also from Judea, also states that the Wise Men came from Arabia.

These men would have been diplomats from the neighboring kingdom of Nabatea, whose capital was the city of Petra. Their king, Aretas IV, had every motivation to cement an alliance with Herod the Great. When his magi discerned that a new heir to the Judean throne was born, he sent them as envoys to Herod to pay homage. Their gifts were diplomatic offerings, representative of the Arabian kingdom. And with a Jewish background, knowing the Old Testament prophecies, they would also have been searching for the coming Messiah.

Why is it important to uncover the identity of the three wise men?

It's important because so many people today put the story of Christ's birth into the same "magical box" with the other charming stories of Christmas like talking snowmen, Santa and his elves, flying reindeer, and everything full of fairy dust, twinkle lights, and magic.

Grounding the magi story in the dusty history of the ancient Middle East reminds us that the Gospel stories are not fanciful fictions, pretty Sunday school stories or religious parables.

History matters because truth matters!

Our faith does not rest on "cleverly devised myths" (2 Peter 1:16), but on historical fact and the revelation of God, "like a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts" (2 Peter 1:19).

At that first Christmas, Eternal Truth took on human flesh and entered human history. God is Truth! Thus the truth of the Magi matters.

God bless!
Dcn. Kent

Intentions January 4 – January 10

Monday: NO MASS

Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. St. Mary

Exposition and Confession at 5:00 p.m.

+ Tammy Schindler-Johnson

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

+ Dolores Wojciechowski

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

Exposition and Confession at 9:00 a.m.

+ Joyce Gienza

Friday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

+ Dorothy Chuchna

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. St. Mary

+ Brookes & Dorothy Smith

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. St. Bartholomew

+ Betty & Monica Knepper

The Mass will be live streamed on the Facebook named: MotherMary Galesville so search for this facebook. You can also find the link in the groups of both parishes. If you can't reach this facebook call Father Antony at 6088811401.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR Jan. 9

ST. MARY- 4:00 p.m.

Ushers: Ellen Karow, Sandy Salsman

Lector: Sheila Collom

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR Jan. 10

ST. BARTHOLOMEW - 8:30 a.m.

Ushers: Jim Scherr, Scott Lamberty

Lector: Shannon Krett

CHRISTMAS & LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

	<u>SBT</u>	<u>SMG</u>
Envelopes	\$2,845.00	\$3,395.00
Plate	0.00	22.00
Electronic Dep	193.88	0.00
Christmas Env.	4,989.00	1,295.00
Christmas Plate	232.00	179.00
Christmas Flowers	15.00	0.00
Youth Envelopes	3.00	0.00
Total Offering	<u>\$8,277.88</u>	<u>\$4,891.00</u>

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

ST. BARTHOLOMEW

ST. MARY

TARGET: \$23,300.00
PLEDGES: \$19,691.00
UNDER TARGET: \$ 3,609.00

\$11,520.00
\$ 8,025.00
\$ 3,495.00

ATTENTION ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISHIONERS

- ♦ Religious Education classes will start again on Wednesday, January 13 at 6:15 p.m.
- ♦ PCCW meeting is Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 in the church hall.
- ♦ St. Bartholomew parishioners may pick up their 2021 envelopes in the vestibule of church starting this weekend. If you know someone is not coming to church at this time, please pick up their envelopes and drop them off for them. Thank you.
- ♦ Need prayers for any health or anxiety issue - big or small. Contact the prayer chain, Doreen Backler, 608-534-6118 or Ethel Ouellette, 608-534-6520.
- ♦ Christmas Flowers Donations: **By Evelyn Jessessky** - IMO: Louis Jessessky, Mr & Mrss. Hubert Drugan, Teddy Jessessky, Gen Rognes & Mr. & Mrs. Tom Jessessky; **By Delores Hare** - IMO: Howard Hare.

ATTENTION ST. MARY PARISHIONERS

OUR MISSION: To love God, love others and go make disciples!

- ♦ Religious Education classes will start again on Wednesday, January 13 at 6:15 p.m.
- ♦ PCCW will meet January 12, 6:30 in the church basement.
- ♦ Finance Council will meet January 25, in the rectory.
- ♦ St. Mary parishioners may pick up their 2021 envelopes in the vestibule of the church starting this weekend. If you know someone is not coming to church at this time, please pick up their envelopes and drop them off for them. Thank you.
- ♦ **NEED GOD'S HELP?** Contact St. Mary's Prayer Chain, Ellen Karow 582-2688 or ekarow@hotmail.com.

COMMUNICATION TO ALL

- ♦ **Diocesan Annual Appeal** as you can see from the box on the top of this page that both of our churches have not meet our targets for this appeal. Our parishes need over \$3,000 to reach our target. There has been only **37** families from St. Mary's who have given and only **74** families from St. Bartholomew's who have given. Please take the time and give to the annual appeal today, so that we can reach our target.
- ♦ **St. Mary's parishioners**, we have a big project coming up. Our windows need repairs and we have noticed that there is air coming in through them, making it colder in the building. We will need to raise \$35,000 to \$40,000 to cover the Window Protectors and repairs for this project. As a Pastor, I want you to donate money for this project.
- ♦ **Christ Our Cornerstone** campaign is to restore our Mother Church, St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in La Crosse. The Cathedral belongs to every catholic in the dioceses of the La Crosse. We must make sure that the building is kept up and repaired just like it is our house. Once the repairs are made we should be making visits to the Cathedral at least once a year, because it is our Mother Church. Father Antony will talk about this campaign on January 13 and explain more about it.
- ♦ **Sunday Mass on TV:** La Crosse, Channel 25, **at 7:30 a.m.**
Eau Claire, Channel 18, **at 9:30 a.m.**
La Crosse, Channel 19, **at 9:30 a.m.**

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St. Bartholomew's
PCCW

Next meeting January 12



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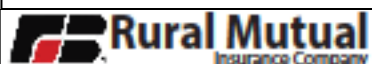
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