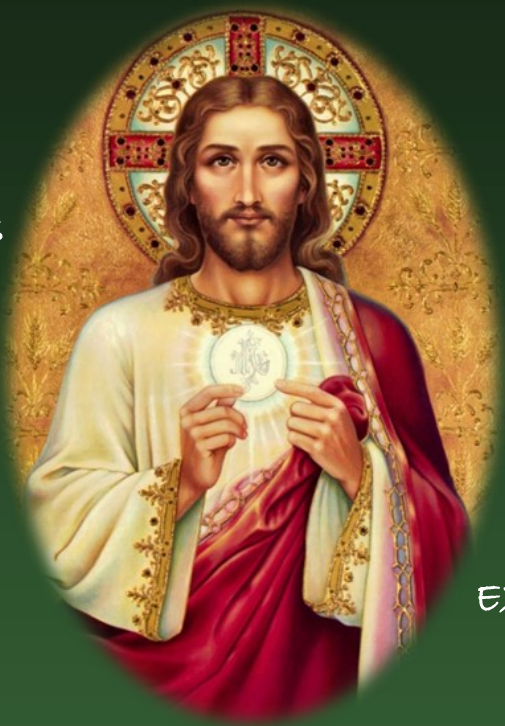


January 7, 2018

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

ORDINARY FAMILIES



EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

ST. BENILDE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1901 Division Street • Metairie, Louisiana 70001

Church Office: (504) 834-4980 • Church Fax: (504) 831-5810 • Church Email: stbenildechurch@cox.net

www.stbenilde.org

CLERGY

Rev. Robert T. Cooper, *Pastor*
Rev. H.L. Brignac, *Sacramental Asst.*
Deacon Biaggio DiGiovanni
Deacon Stephen Gordon
Deacon Clifford Wright

BAPTISMS

First and Third Sundays of the month
at 12 Noon. Please call the Parish
Office for more information.

MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest/deacon
8 months prior to your wedding.

FUNERALS

Arrangements may be made at the
Parish Office.

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil ... 4 p.m.
Sunday ... 9:00, 11:00 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Monday—Friday ... 7:00 a.m.
Monday and Thursday ... 5:30 p.m.
First Saturday ... 8:45 a.m.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

See Inside the Bulletin for Schedule

CONFESSION TIMES

Saturday ... 3:00—3:45 p.m.
Sunday ... 5:00—5:45 p.m.
Monday ... 6:00—6:45 p.m.
and by appointment at the Parish Office

DIVINE MERCY ADORATION CHAPEL

Eucharistic Adoration from 7:00 p.m. Sunday
till 4:00 p.m. Saturday

DEVOTIONS

Holy Hour in Church
Monday, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Following 7 a.m. Mass on Tuesday

NEWCOMERS

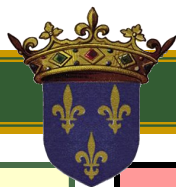
Call the Parish Office to receive a New
Parishioner Registration Packet.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St. Benilde Conference
(504) 233-3246

ST. BENILDE SCHOOL

Michael Buras, Interim Principal
1801 Division Street • Metairie, LA
(504) 833-9894



Ministers of the Liturgy

January 6 & 7, 2018

Saturday - 4 P.M.

Intention: Aubrey St. Romain, Henry Gsell,
Carl A. Guidroz, Jr., Henry P. Kaul, Jr.,
Lena Anderson, Melissa Mendel Zimmerman,
George Spaulding, Russell Joubert, Beverly Manfre,
Merle & Charles Dittmer, Patrick C. McKinney,
Flora Maria Be, Anthony Tyler Fletcher,
Dianne Hernandez, Sal Federico

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

K. Hartdegan, R. Aucoin

Cantor: Trish Foti *Organist:* Jared Croal

Sunday - 9 A.M.

Intention: Parishioners

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

M. Evola, P. Fleming, R. Meche, B. O'Hara

Song Leaders: Traditional Choir

Sunday - 11 A.M.

Intention: Austin Burroughs, Miriam Whitman,
Ronnie & Dianne Z. Harrison, Judith D. Theisges,
Michael Tennyson, Todd Hillburn, Joy Rojas
Emile Fichter, Jr., Paul J. Hymel, Jr.,
Anthony Tyler Fletcher, Kelvin Ducote,
Mary & Melvin Ducote

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

C. & T. Pitre, A. Duersel, R. Oleksik

Song Leaders: Contemporary Choir

Sunday - 6 P.M.

Intention: June & Marvin Ackermann (L)

A. Calongne, B. Henry

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Cantor: Lauren Gisclair *Pianist:* Beth Kettenring

Weekday Masses

Monday	7:00 a.m. Floyd Bangs, Sr. 5:30 p.m. Joy Rojas
Tuesday	7:00 a.m. Rose Ann Walle (L)
Wednesday	7:00 a.m. Pierre Thibodeaux 8:15 a.m. Special Intention
Thursday	7:00 a.m. Gladys Gsell 5:30 p.m. Ray Dunn
Friday	7:00 a.m. Bill C. Johnson

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns in Thanksgiving



The Blessed Mother Votive Lamps burn For Reparations for Sins

The St. Joseph Votive Lamps burn in Thanksgiving for our Priests



Adoration Chapel Sanctuary Lamp burns in memory of Stuart & Gloria Fourroux

Adoration Chapel Candles burn in memory of Joy Rojas



Altar Ladies

Week of January 7

June Leboeuf, Cheryle Grace,
Toby, Gsell, Stephanie Mercatante

Linens

Large - Marion Seeber
Small - Judy Zeringue



The Altar Flowers are in memory of Deceased Parishioners



Stewardship of Treasure

Weekend of Dec. 30 & 31

Totals unavailable due to dearly bulletin deadline.

Totals from December 23 & 24, December 24 & 25,
and December 30 & 31 will appear in
next weekend's bulletin.

Divine Mercy

In the Second Greatest Story Ever Told

A ten-session video/discussion series featuring Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, will be offered at 7 PM in the Teen Center, on Tuesday evenings: January 23, 30, February 6, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3. (No session on February 13 due to Mardi Gras.)

The series is based on Fr. Gaitley's book *"The Second Greatest Story Ever Told."* It reveals the heart of St. John Paul II's witness for our time, building on the prophetic voices of Saints Margaret Mary Alacoque, Thérèse of Lisieux, Maximilian Kolbe, and Faustina Kowalska. The profound connection between Divine Mercy and Marian consecration will be explored. According to Fr. Gaitley, we must prepare for the Lord's final coming, whenever it may be, not with fear and trembling, but with trust in His Divine Mercy.

The cost is \$10 per person for material. Please make checks payable to St. Benilde Church.

To register, or for more information, please contact Val Hebert at valencemet@aol.com or call (504) 427-0327.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

January 13/14

4 PM J. Rodosta, L. Segari

9 AM C. Frederick, L. Director, K. Klapatch, R. Theriot

11 AM N. Bostick, L. Frey, J. & Hutchison, J. Hutchison

6 PM L. Daigle, B. David

Prayer for the Selection of a New Principal

As we conclude the application process for a new principal for St. Benilde School, we ask that our parish/school family offer prayers and sacrifices that the Lord Jesus will send us a new principal to lead our children closer to the heart of Jesus and to continue the tradition of academic excellence and faith formation that have been the cornerstone of the ministry of Catholic education at St. Benilde for the past 50 years.

Christ, our Teacher, You invite Your faithful people to make disciples in Your name and to announce good news to the poor. We thank You for the gift of Catholic schools, where the message of Your life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed, Christian community is experienced, service to our brothers and sisters is modeled, and worship of You is cultivated. Provide for us a principal whose leadership will fulfill that mission and ensure that our children and families can benefit from a high quality Catholic education. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Catholic Schools. Amen.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics

Percentage of high school graduates who attend a four-year college



Source: Broughman, S.P. and Swaim, N.L. (2013). Synder, T.D., and Dillow, S.A. (2015).

New Year's Blessing

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, bring peace into the world. You died to save us all. Raise us to new life with you, and help us to be peacemakers. Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayer, for you are Lord forever. Amen.



FR. COOPER'S CORNER

Epiphany Message 2018

There is something special about the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We are reminded on this day as we celebrate this solemnity within the context of the divine liturgy that the Son of God came for all people, Jew and Gentile alike. His saving love is available to everyone, everywhere, in whatever state of life they may find themselves. There is no one outside of God's thirst for love.

The first sentence of this Sunday's gospel (Mt 2:1-12) presents us with a contrast between three figures: Jesus, Herod the Great, and the magi who search the night for the focal point of a star's light, the newborn king of the Jews. Herod stands in between, not as a bridge but as an obstruction whose evil intent is to destroy the Child the magi seek. Herod represents the opposite of the divine mission of Jesus as well as the goal the magi have in mind in seeking out the Son of God made man. In comparing and contrasting these three figures, we can learn an important lesson about how to live our life.



Let's begin with Jesus. What was He about? Why did the Son of God appear in time? Why did the Son of God become man? Articles of the Catechism of the Catholic Church explain why the Word was made flesh: "The Word became flesh for us in order to save us by reconciling us with God...The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God's love...The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness...The Word became flesh to make us partakers of the divine nature . . . so that we might become sons and daughters of God" (CCC 456-460). The Word became flesh out of boundless love for humanity, that we may have life and have it abundantly (cf. Jn 10:10).

Herod, on the other hand, displayed by his actions something of an entirely different sort. When we think of Herod, we think of tyrants who left terrifying scars on human history--men such as Stalin, Hitler, Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung), and Ivan IV "the Terrible," to name only a few. Herod the Great was part of a non-Jewish (Edomite) family that held political favor with Rome. He first ruled Galilee and then all of Palestine. He took power in Jerusalem in 37 B.C., and was later appointed "king of the Jews" by the Roman Senate in 40 B.C. to replace the collapsing dynasty of Jewish priestly rulers. He held on to his throne until death. He is credited with initiating and completing extensive building projects, of which the renovation of the Jerusalem Temple, which he rebuilt and expanded, is the most well known.

Herod was disturbed by the "star" the magi followed because it recalled Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah. In Numbers 24:17, we read Balaam's prediction: "a star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel." Herod was troubled by this prophecy, since he was an Edomite and knew the same oracle foretold disaster for his family: "Edom shall be dispossessed" (Num 24:18). Herod's unrelenting fear was the loss of his power. That a newborn king had been born was an intolerable threat. With typical worldly maneuvering, Herod seeks to stamp out Jesus and thus yet again secure his political position. As we know, he ordered the death of the Holy Innocents in an attempt to rid himself of this perceived threat. However, Jesus was not the least interested in temporal thrones, worldly power or amassing perishable riches. He wishes not to take anything from Herod. On the contrary, Jesus wants to give something to Herod, something Herod cannot possibly win in any political power-play. Jesus came to give Himself and His kingdom to others. But this is a type of kingdom Herod apparently could not fathom. This kingdom is not of the world. It cannot be taken by force, coercion or political intrigue.

Herod is infamous for his ruthlessness and single-minded devotion to wiping out his enemies, whether friends or family or anyone else who threatened his throne. History records that Herod murdered his favorite wife and three of his sons. By worldly standards, Herod was the accomplished political survivor - the powerful ruler who would do



whatever it takes to maintain his high seat in his own country. Given his building projects, the restoration of the Temple, and his ability to outmaneuver his opponents, some in his time likely saw him as a visionary. But he was not.

The magi were likely astrologers from Persia who were interested in an extraordinary "star" that appeared shining over the location of the infant king of the Jews. However, it was not merely the "star" that caught their eye. For someone had first caught their hearts. While Herod was murderously holding on, the magi were wisely letting go. They were watching and waiting not with intent to murder, but intent on finding new hope and new life. They were surveying the night sky not to insulate themselves but to open themselves to the Divine Other who is Himself the source of life. The magi were looking not merely for a sign from God, but rather for Christ Himself, who is the Word made flesh and the perfect image of the Father. Moved by the promise of what they perceived in the heavens, they left their country behind in search of not merely a star, but THE STAR.

Herod is looking for the wrong things, searching in the wrong places, destroying to shore-up his political position, conspiring to annihilate perceived opponents. But the magi take the humble, submissive and wise approach. They seek what is right and true and beautiful. They journey in search of the good, the wondrous and the ultimate. They head out into the dangerous night, risking their lives in search of Divine Light. The magi are the visionaries. The star they saw was a sign for all people. It is high and in full view. Its light shines down upon the real Star, Jesus Christ, who came to heal, elevate and restore humanity. The light of Jesus Christ, represented by the star over Bethlehem, illuminates the mystery of man, points the way, and reveals the path to salvation and eternal life. While one day the Star will give up its life for many, its Light will never fade.

It is important to ask yourself, "What type of journey am I on?" Who or what do I pursue? What am I willing to leave behind, what am I willing to risk to find God? Am I surveying the night sky to gain power, or to survive in a fallen world, or to live forever in eternal communion with God, held securely in His loving embrace? Perhaps you once sought but no longer. Perhaps the evanescent lure of the world has deflected you from the journey of illumination in Christ, and forced you off course by your own consent toward the path of darkness. Perhaps your vision has become clouded. If so, turn to the Newborn King, whose vision heals and clarifies and restores; turn to Christ whose love heals and gives sight to the blind, bringing light to those who before could not see.

Jesus Christ is THE VISIONARY. His journey is the one to follow. Christ is the Star whose divine light gives meaning to our lives and completes our journey. In Jesus' vision, there is eternal life for humanity; within this divine vision of love, we will be made like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 Jn 3:2). The Son of God became man that we might become like God. There is no greater vision. St. Leo the Great wrote: "Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God's own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God."

After the magi visited Jesus, they are warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and "departed for their country by another way" (Mt 2:12). An encounter with the true King of the Jews changes us forever. We might travel back to our country, but it is no longer the familiar home. We might again inhabit old places, but we no longer truly live there. Perhaps we go back to work, to school or to college, but we are different and things are different. The old self is left behind, the new self journeys onward into the new night devoid of darkness. The illumination of the Star guides our every step and movement; the way is no longer uncertain; we are no longer alone. Life is new. We have found an unwavering and certain security in the Light who is Jesus Christ and the Star who infinitely loves. Life becomes lively, exhilarating and joyful even in the midst of suffering. We become truly free. In an encounter with the true Visionary, we do not simply embrace His vision but become part of it. We become one with Him.



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*February 6, 20, 27 **

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**To register, or for more information,
please contact Val Hebert at
valencemet@aol.com or call (504) 427-0327.**



JANUARY 7, 2018

ST. BENILDE CATHOLIC CHURCH – ID # 113850
1901 DIVISION ST.
METAIRIE, LA 70001
504-834-4980

NANCY CAROLLO
504-834-4980
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAYS - 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
FRIDAYS - 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: