

# St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623

Phone: 608-452-3841

Website: [stmarycv.org](http://stmarycv.org)

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley>

## Fr. Matt's Residence:

904 Central Ave

Coon Valley, WI 54623

Cell Phone: 608-738-6806

E-mail: [frmatmarsh@ gmail.com](mailto:frmatmarsh@ gmail.com)

Open office: Thursdays and by appointment. Off on Mondays.

Amy Stafslie, Admin. Assistant

Office: 608-452-3841

E-mail: [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net)

## St. Mary's, Coon Valley

### Weekend Masses

- 4:00 PM Saturday (max 30 people)

- 8:00 AM Sunday (max 30 people)

### Weekday Mass:

Tues. - 6:00 PM and Thurs.- 8:00 AM

### Area Parishes—Mass Times

#### Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua

Sun. 10:30 AM and 5:15 PM

#### St. Peter, Middle Ridge

Sat. 8:00 PM and Sun. 10:30

AM

### New Parishioners: Welcome to our parish!

Please introduce yourself to Fr. Matt and contact the parish office for registration and information. <https://www.stmarycv.org/visit-us>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Before Mass on Sat. or by appointment, call Fr. Matt or on our website under the Sacraments tab. <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Please submit a registration by mail, or e-mail to both [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net) AND [frmatmarsh@ gmail.com](mailto:frmatmarsh@ gmail.com). You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form at: <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>.

**Sacrament of Anointing / Visitation of the Sick:** Please contact the parish office or Fr. Matt when someone you know is in need of a sacrament or a pastoral visit. Requests may also be made from our website under the Sacraments tab. <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>

**Mass Intentions:** Please use the Mass Intention envelopes available in the church.

**Book of Prayer Requests:** Please call or email Fr. Matt to have an intention added during COVID time. General Book of Prayer



"Refugees" by Kelly Latimore

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"Holy Family" by Jen Norton

## Fr. Matthew Marshall

Pastor

December 25, 2020-January 3, 2021

Readings: Christmas-492, Dec. 27-494,

New Years-496 and Jan. 3-497

**St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI**  
*Christmas, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, and the Epiphany of the Lord*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020**

- 1) Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
- 2) Colossians 3:12-21 of 3:12-17
- 3) Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Or in Year B

- 1) Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
- 2) Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
- 3) Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**FOCUS:** *Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.*

On this Feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate God's Incarnation into a human family who loved, protected and taught him. They were holy because they were perfect in obedience and virtue; blessed because they feared the Lord and walked in his ways. We, too, may strive to attain this holiness, in our imitation of the Holy Family's example and through the grace of Christ.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In today's first reading, God promises Abram an heir, even though Abram is very old. Before too long Sarah, his wife, bears him a son. In the second reading, the author of Hebrews tells the story of Abraham (Abram) as an example of true faith in God. In the Gospel, Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The devout and righteous Simeon beheld the child Jesus, and prayed to the Lord that he as the Lord's servant might now be dismissed for he had seen the salvation that had been promised. Simeon also foretold the destiny of Jesus and the suffering Mary would undergo.

**Order Anything on Amazon? Use Amazon Smile!**

You can help increase AmazonSmile donations to St. Mary Parish by shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1218730](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1218730) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app.



<b>Intentions</b>
<b>Dec 24 ~ 4:00 PM - †Kylie Von Ruden</b>
<b>Dec 25 ~ 8:00 AM - †Deceased members of the Roskos and Roningen Families</b>
Dec 26 ~ 4:00 PM - †Edward and Anna Kerska
Dec. 27 ~ 8:00 AM - †Tom, Jim, and Dick Ruff
Dec 29 ~ 6:00 PM - †Fr. Lyle Schulte
<b>Dec 31 ~ 4:00 PM - †Stella Hohlfeld</b>
Jan 02 ~ 4:00 PM - For Peace in our world, country and our homes
Jan 03 ~ 8:00 AM - †Jeanette C. Duda
Jan 05 ~ 6:00 PM - †Steven Thompson
Jan 07 ~ 8:00 AM - †Deceased members of the Roskos and Roningen Families
Jan 09 ~ 4:00 PM - †William, Rosie, Frank and Dennis LeJeune
Jan 10 ~ 8:00 AM - Living and deceased members of the Scholze and Stetzer Families

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021**

- 1) Isaiah 60:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
- 3) Matthew 2:1-12

**FOCUS:** The eternal gifts of joy, hope, and peace are bestowed on those who choose to live in the light of Christ.

The voices of the prophet Isaiah, the Apostle Paul, and the three kings – Balthazar, Caspar, and Melchior – resound today in one joyful chorus. They are reminding us that Christ, our Light, has come to dispel the darkness of sin and death and to remain with us forever.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Isaiah joyfully foretells of the light that emerges from darkness at the coming of Christ. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds his listeners that, whether Gentile or Jew, they are all a part of the one body of Christ, the Church. In the Gospel, the three wise men visit the Christ-child, bearing gifts to pay him homage.

**Upcoming Events/Calendar**

- December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve Mass* 4:00 PM  
signup for attendance
- December 25 ~ *Christmas Day Mass* 8:00 AM  
signup for attendance
- December 25-January 5 ~ Parish Office is closed
- December 31 ~ Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Mass at 4:00 PM, **no morning Mass** this day

Our Sunday Mass Streaming Live on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley>

**Church will be open for private prayer Tuesday through Friday from 9AM until 7 PM and Sunday Noon to 7 PM**  
 (please practice good social distancing)

<b>Giving Last Week</b>		<b>Week 50</b>	<b>12/20/2020</b>
Adult Env.(29)	\$3,639.25	Needed Weekly	\$1,900.00
Offertory	\$74.82	Received This Week	\$4,284.07
Immac.Concep.(1)	\$20.00	YTD Needed	\$96,900.00
Christmas(8)	\$550.00	YTD Received	\$91,550.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,284.07</b>	Difference	(5,349.86)
Retire. Fund. Rel.	\$305.00		

**DID YOU KNOW?**

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can do a **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** of up to \$100,000 a year from your **IRA directly to a charity**. The distribution won't show up in your adjusted gross income and CAN count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). The QCD allows you to be more strategic with your RMD. Consult your tax advisor before making any decisions. If a QCD is for you, please consider St. Mary's Parish as your charity of choice.

**From Fr. Matt:**

- No Bulletin next weekend. This Bulletin is for Christmas until January 10th.
- **Religious Education** programming is on break through January. Rest up, everyone! Merry Christmas to all!
- **Thank you** to everyone for so generously sharing encouraging words and gifts again this Christmas season. Grateful to now see a third Christmas with you all here in Coon Valley. I think these years have seen me really grow as a pastor and a person. Thank you for all you have brought to the table, God's table, with me. **Merry Christmas!**

**Parish Announcements**

**2021 Contribution Envelopes**

The newly designed envelopes are now available for pickup in the church. These envelopes are designed for ease of tracking your contributions and for mailing directly to the parish. Please pick up your booklet after Mass or stop by the church during any of the open prayer times. Thank you for your cooperation so we may save on postage.

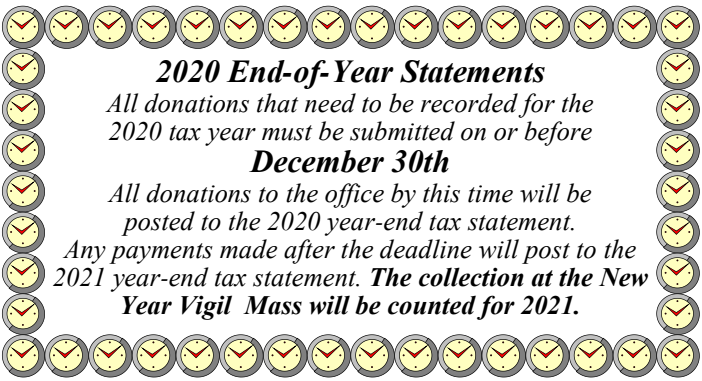


**Thank You for Supporting your Church:**

- Thank you for continuing to make contributions to the Church. We cannot survive without your generous support!
- US Postal Service: mail directly to the parish office.
  - Bill Pay through online banking, add St. Mary's as contact (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number).
  - Use our online service at: [diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley](https://diolc.org/st-mary-coon-valley) (a processing fee will be deducted from your contribution, which averages 3% for debit and credit cards and \$.75 for EFT, ACH your contribution will be recorded for the full amount).
  - Drop you contribution envelope off at either church, Coon Valley or Viroqua and the funds will be directed to St. Mary's

**Staying Connected**

- The parish bulletin is available on our Website—[www.stmarycv.org](http://www.stmarycv.org)
- We are mailing the bulletin to those over the age of 80 (if their age is recorded in our database) or upon request
- Copies of the bulletin will also be available in the church for pickup during private prayer times.
- **If you know of someone who does not have internet and could benefit from having the bulletin mailed to their home, please contact the parish office with the person(s) name(s).**



**2020 End-of-Year Statements**

All donations that need to be recorded for the 2020 tax year must be submitted on or before

**December 30th**

All donations to the office by this time will be posted to the 2020 year-end tax statement.

Any payments made after the deadline will post to the 2021 year-end tax statement. **The collection at the New Year Vigil Mass will be counted for 2021.**

**Welcome the New Year with Holy Mass!**

What a perfect way to ring in the New Year! Come to thank God for the many blessings of 2020. Join in prayer to welcome the New Year. Jesus waits to join you. Come to pray for our families and for peace in our nation and world. **New Year's Eve Mass will be on Thursday, December 31st at 4:00 PM** (There will be no 8:00 AM Mass this day).



Annual Appeal 2020-21		
As of 12/23/20	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$7,220.00	\$6,137.14
Target Amount	<u>\$12,925.00</u>	<u>\$12,925.00</u>
Over Target	(\$5,705.00)	(\$6,787.86)
Percent Pledged: 55.86%, Percent Received: 47.48%		
Number Contributing:	23	

<b>Next Week in Service — Jan 3rd &amp; Jan 10</b>	
If you are not able to server as scheduled below, please find a substitute. Thank you	
Money Counters:	<b>Jan 3</b> -Steve Grabowski and Bernie Roesler <b>Jan 10</b> -Loree Nickelotti and Rodney and Kathy Berg

**Diocesan/Local Announcements**

**Bishop Callahan's recorded Christmas video** message is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkImq9L3rho&feature=youtu.be>

**March for Life** – Jan. 2 in Madison, Jan. 29 in Washington, D.C. While the Diocese of La Crosse is not taking pilgrims to the March for Life this year, you can choose to participate in the March for Life in Madison on Jan. 2 or the march in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 29. For more information on both, visit <https://www.prolifewi.org/marchforlife>. If you plan to attend the March for Life in Madison, please email [cruff@diolc.org](mailto:cruff@diolc.org) or [crogers@diolc.org](mailto:crogers@diolc.org) and we will discuss a rendezvous point for pilgrims from our diocese.

**Marriage Preparation Retreats** - The La Crosse Deanery, which consists of 14 area parishes, will be offering Married Love: Two Becoming One, a marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples, on February 6, April 24, and July 10, 2021. These retreats will take place at Mary Mother of the Church Parish in La Crosse. Couples must register at least one month prior to the retreat. To register for a retreat, please email Mari at [mnerickson95@gmail.com](mailto:mnerickson95@gmail.com) or leave a voice message at 608-518-7655.

(Continued on page 4)

## Diocesan/Local Announcements (cont.)

### In Search of Young Adults!

SPIRITUS is seeking Catholic young adults, 21-29 years of age, to join the SPIRITUS missionary team this August. SPIRITUS ignites the faith in thousands of young Catholics! Missionaries live in community and travel to parishes and schools throughout Wisconsin; they receive training, formation, spiritual direction, lodging, food, a monthly allowance, health insurance and a \$2,000 stipend upon completion of the 9-month program. It is a unique opportunity to serve our Lord and help young Catholics grow in faith. Visit [www.spiritusministries.org/beamissionary](http://www.spiritusministries.org/beamissionary), contact Rachel at [recruiter@spiritusministries.org](mailto:recruiter@spiritusministries.org), or (920) 722-8918 x113 for more information.



### Spiritual Practices for Living With Depression: A Retreat with Monica A. Coleman (via Zoom)

**January 9**, Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon, Investment: \$30 to register call 608-791-5295. This virtual retreat will discuss how living with depression challenges common notions of faith, spirituality and religious teachings. During our time together, we will redefine faith in the context of depression. We will discover beliefs and spiritual practices that support and empower individuals who experience depression. If cost is a barrier to attending, please call our office manager Laurie Swan at 608-791-5279 to request a confidential scholarship. This event is sponsored by The Mental Health Coalition of the Greater La Crosse Area.

### OVERCOMING CHALLENGES WITH GRIT AND GRACE (VIA ZOOM)

**JANUARY 16** • Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. **Presenters:** Kao Kalia Yang, Lisa McCormick, Carolyn Bostrack and Sarah Johnson **Investment:** \$50. Our second annual celebration of inspirational, resilient and spiritual women features keynote speaker Kao Kalia Yang, an award-winning Hmong-American writer, teacher and public speaker based in Minneapolis. Kalia will reflect on her spiritual journey into writing and explore what it means to reclaim something that is no more, in an entirely new language and in a new land, as well as how her journey has helped situate herself in the pains and sorrows of others. This virtual retreat day also will include talks by three local women whose powerful stories offer lessons for all of us. Lisa McCormick of Tomah will share her story of hope and anti-trafficking advocacy in response to her teenage son's tragic death. Carolyn Bostrack of the La Crosse area will offer inspiration for moving from fear into focus to transform your life. Sarah Johnson of Winona will explore the benefits of mindfulness on quality of life, both professionally and personally. **Note:** This event was rescheduled because of COVID-19. Previous registrations will be honored. If this new date doesn't work for you, please call 608-791-5295 to request a refund or to gift your registration to a friend.

### VIRTUAL POETRY CAFÉ (VIA ZOOM)

**FEBRUARY 25** • Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m. **Facilitator:** Sarah Hennessey, FSPA **Investment:** \$5 **Registration deadline:** February 24 Bring your beverage of choice and your favorite poetry, either written by you or by another author, for a time of sharing and reflection. During this dark time of winter, poetry can bring a little light and hope into our lives.

## Family Prayer

God made us a family.  
We need one another,  
We love one another,  
We forgive one another.  
We work together,  
We play together,  
We worship together.  
Together we hear God's Word,

Together we grow in Christ,  
Together we love all men,  
Together we serve our God,  
Together we hope for Heaven.  
These are our hopes and ideals,  
Help us to attain them, O God,  
Through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.



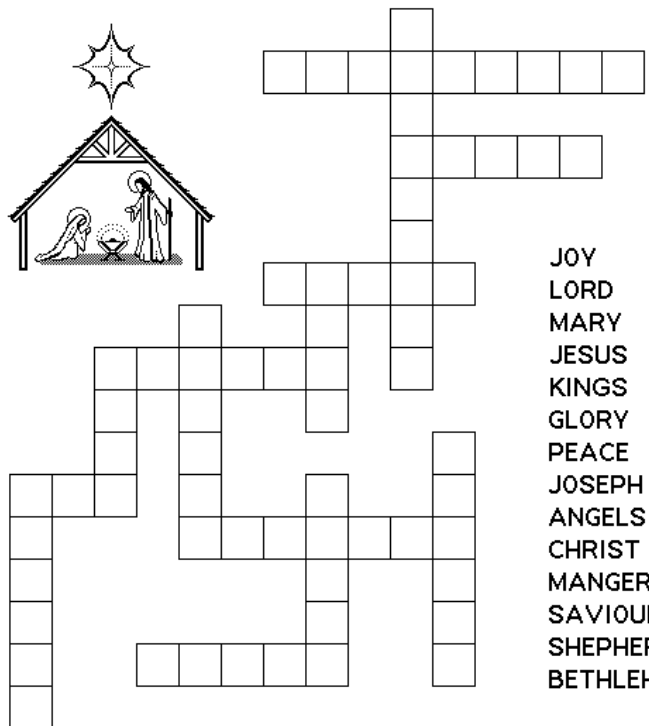
## KIDS CORNER

**Catholic Christmas Movie Recommendations: there are so many Christmas movies with a Catholic/Christian theme! Watch one to celebrate the Christmas season (Yes, the Christmas season goes until January 10th)**

- \* *It's A Wonderful Life: an oldie but goodie*
- \* *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe: based off the C.S. Lewis books, this movie is overt with Christian messages. Who do you think Aslan is?*
- \* *A Christmas Carol: another classic that reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas...you can watch the old one or the newer one with Jim Carrey.*
- \* *A Charlie Brown Christmas: another story that reminds us of what Christmas is all about.*

## Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.



JOY  
LORD  
MARY  
JESUS  
KINGS  
GLORY  
PEACE  
JOSEPH  
ANGELS  
CHRIST  
MANGER  
SAVIOUR  
SHEPHERDS  
BETHLEHEM



# Flower Donations in Memory/Honor Of:

As of 12/23/2020

*Anonymous Donation*

*Gloria Bradley*

*Agnes Larson*

By Keith and Jody Boraas

*Jim and Betty Callan*

*Bob and Leona Welsh*

By Mike and Karen Callan

*Arlan and Virginia Dwyer*

*Rhonda Buckmaster*

*Robert Janiero*

By Keith Dwyer

*Fleming and Ollendick Families*

By Jim and Barb Fleming

*Maria Rabotski*

*Art and Evelyn Gajewski*

By Don and Mary Gajewski

*Larry and Myrtle Geier*

*Chuck Brueggen*

*Mary Brueggen*

By Curt and Jean Geier

*Joseph and Stella Graboski*

*Norbert and Arlene Seichter*

By Steve and Michelle Grabowski

*Jim Mack*

*Jack and Mary Robinson*

*Marj Strait*

*Orland and Judy Steinmetz*

*Mary Sue Ludwig*

By Niki Haugh

*Henry and Myra Hansen*

By David Humfeld

*From Jodie Holdorf*

*Edward and Anna Kerska*

By Robert E. Kerska

*Rosie LeJeune*

By Andrew and Jeana LeJeune

*Bernard, Cecilia, and Larry Humfeld*

By John and Julie Mislivecek Family

*Tony Weiss*

*Paul Hauser*

By Jim and Katie Moser

*Stella Hohlfeld*

By Nancy Peters

*Jeanette Duda*

By Jim and Cindy Prindle

*William & Rose Marie LeJeune*

*Frank and Dennis LeJeune*

By Sandra Ritter Family

*Cheryl Roesler*

By Joe Roesler

*Roskos and Roningan Families*

By Woody and Rosey Roningan

*Peter and Leona Elsen*

*Joseph and Albina Sedevie*

*Eugene Proksch*

By Ray and Mary Sedevie

*Helen and Leyton Stafslie*

*Lucas Seelow*

By Amy Stafslie Family

*Kylie Von Ruden*

By Bruce, Shirley, Chase, and Kenzie  
Von Ruden

Flower donations will be accepted through Christmas Day.  
List will be updated and posted in the back of church. Thank you!

# Weekday Readings

By Kieran O'Mahony, OSA

## **Monday 28 December**

*Holy Innocents*

*1 John 1:5-2:2*

Our first reading stays close to the themes of Christmas, proclaiming Jesus as truly human (blood) and as the light. As our advocate, he continues to intercede for us.

*Matthew 2:13-18*

The so-called “Massacre of the Innocents” serves three important functions. Firstly, on account of the citation from Jeremiah, it brings into focus the Babylonian Exile, adding that to the rich evocation of Old Testament stories in Matthew 1-2. Secondly, it reminds us, even in the Christmas season, of the tragic side of human life — unjust suffering is real. And finally, it looks forward to the final outcome of Jesus’ own life, the death of the Innocent One *par excellence*.

## **Tuesday 29 December**

*St Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr.*

*1 John 2:3-11*

The commandment to love is both new and old. It is old, because the commandment to love God and your neighbor was always there. It is new for two reasons. Firstly, we see the love of God disclosed in a totally new way in Jesus. Second, because of the gift of the Spirit we are enabled to keep this great commandment.

*Luke 2:22-35*

The reading helps us in two ways. Firstly of all, we see the family of Jesus acting in accordance with Jewish tradition: the mother is purified and the baby is presented — following ancient tradition. Secondly, the deeply attractive picture of Simeon shows us an old person, fully of faithfulness and open to the surprise of God.

## **Wednesday 30 December**

*1 John 2:12-17*

The writer addresses different “constituencies” in the community, children, the young and parents. A little care is needed in understanding: the “world” is not creation as such but evil forces which take us away from God.

*Luke 2:36-40*

This story continues yesterday, balancing the genders. Calling Anna a “prophetess” can surprise, but there were indeed women prophets in ancient Israel: Miriam, Deborah, the wife of Isaiah, Huldah and Noadiah. In very old age, for the time, Anna is full of expectation and discernment.

## **Thursday 31 December**

*1 John 2:18-21*

There is an edgy moment in this reading. Clearly some members have defected (and are dismissed), but the final tone is affirmative: It is not because you do not know the truth that I am writing to you but rather because you know it already.

*John 1:1-18*

This great reading was already proclaimed on Christmas Day. We are invited to listen again, with “the ears of the heart” as St Augustine puts it. As you listen, notice that we too are part of the proclamation, part of the Good News.

## **Friday 1 January**

*Mary, mother of God*

*Numbers 6:22-27*

As a new year opens, we glance back over the previous year, looking not only to the outward events, but also to the inward journey. Have I grown in faith? What nourished me this year?

*Galatians 4:4-7*

All of us know from within that we are children of God and, in the Spirit, we can call out Abba, Father!

*Luke 2:16-21*

The portrait of Mary in Luke 1-2 is meant to illustrate and to inspire. Clearly a woman of faith, she appropriates all that happens by treasuring and pondering. Cf. *Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.* (Luke 2:51)

## **Saturday 2 January**

*Sts Basil and Gregory*

*1 John 2:22-28*

The reading reflects profound conflict in the community of the Fourth Gospel over Jesus’ identity. It would seem that at least some did not accept the deep teaching about Jesus as the word made flesh.

*John 1:19-28*

All the Gospels are anxious about the identity of John the Baptist and are keen to relativize his significance. In this late Gospel, John the Baptist sharply denies the various categories used. For this Gospel, he is the *voice in the desert* whereas Jesus is the *Word made flesh*.

## 2021 Epiphany Blessing of the Home

### Blessing of Epiphany Chalk by a priest

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord

R. Who made Heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Bless, + O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to men. Grant that they who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the entrance of their homes the names of the saints, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

*Chalk is sprinkled with holy water.*

(Rev. Philip T. Weller, *Roman Ritual: The Blessings*, Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Co., 1946, p. 39).



*Prepared by the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization  
Diocese of La Crosse*

## The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

*Epiphany* means “manifestation.” The first Epiphany was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. The Magi, who were actually scholars and scientists, came to be associated with kings. Their gifts reveal this holy Child’s identity; *gold* for Christ’s Kingship, *incense* for His divinity, and *myrrh* for His sacrifice on the Cross.

The Feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated as the *twelfth night of Christmas*, on January 6th. In the United States, this feast has been moved to the Sunday, January 3, 2021. In many families, the king figurines are moved a bit closer to the nativity scene every day from Christmas Day until Epiphany. Moreover, it is traditional for parish priests to bless water, chalk, and incense on the eve of Epiphany, and use them for the blessing of homes the next day.

The blessing of homes (schools, places of employment, etc.) on Epiphany revives the beautiful custom of making our homes sacramentals. Sacramentals make us more mindful, receptive and cooperative with God’s grace. This blessing also reminds us that Christ is the One Who enlightens our hearts and homes with His love. He is the source of our hope, our comfort and our joy.

Marking doorways with blessed chalk is also a witness of faith. Use the chalk to mark above the main door and, if possible, over all exterior doors in the following fashion:

- Numerals to consecrate the New Year.
- Initials to remind us of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspas, Melchior and Balthasar—and also to represent the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (**May Christ bless this house**)
- Four crosses to represent the four seasons.
- Example for the year 2021: 20 + C + M + B + 21

## Epiphany Blessing of the Home

If a priest is present, he leads; otherwise, the head of the family is the leader.

All present go from room to room, blessing each room with holy water and praying the following prayer:

**Blessed be all the rooms of this home. May each of them be holy and filled with the spirit of happiness and peace, love and affection. May the spirit of pardon and affection reside with us and be always ready to heal our divisions. May the spirits of joy and laughter, hope and faith, playfulness and prayer, compassion and love be perpetual guests in our home. May God’s holy blessing rest upon us all, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

As the leader inscribes the initials of the three Magi above the exterior doorways using the blessed chalk, the following prayer is prayed:

Inscription for the year 2021: 20 + C + M + B + 21

**Blessed be this doorway. May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us as we welcome them with respect and kindness. May all our comings and goings be under the seal of God’s loving care. May we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, Jesus, Who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.**

