

WHAT A BLESSING YOU WERE, SR. MARY JO MIKE

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our beloved Sr. Mary Jo Mike. We are grateful for the many years Sister served as principal at our beloved Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Elementary School. But we are also grateful for her being an active member of our Cathedral Parish Community. Yet Sister Mary Jo’s leadership extended even beyond the confines of church into the City of Biloxi. She was beloved by the City Administration, and both the Police and Fire Departments. May the Lord lead you into paradise, Sr. Mary Jo. May the angels guide you to the bosom of Abraham. You will be sorely missed.

THE MAGI HELP TO MAKE KNOWN GOD’S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD IN A PARTICULAR WAY

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany today, we hear the familiar story of the Magi. The Magi, who help to make know God’s presence in the world in a particular way. They are the first visible and tangible recipients of the mystery of which Saint Paul speaks. A mystery now revealed...by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

We are often so enamored by this familiar story of expectation, wonder, joy and faithful homage that we may forget something essential to the importance of the story: The Magi were not Jewish. They were Gentiles! They were not children of Abraham, people of the Covenant, or Israelites. They were “foreigners,” most likely Persian, whose religious affiliation and actual occupation have not yet been settled by biblical scholarship.

Yet, they knew about Jesus. They knew about the coming of the Messiah. And they had the fearlessness to approach the Roman-appointed King of Judea – that is, Herod, then the current “king of the Jews,” and ask him: *Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.* Asking such a question – essentially implying Herod’s successor and perhaps even deposer – could have been inferred as a threat, if not outright treason. But that did not deter the Magi in their quest.

Their journey in faith, and their strength in following God’s prompts and witnessing to his faithfulness, is a model of our own discipleship. With one exception: God is already made manifest to us – we do not have to seek him out; he seeks us out. And when we respond to his call, there are things we can count on – as if they were a star in the sky – to help us make our way to him: his word; his sacraments; his grace; and the gifts he has given us that we might in turn offer back to him. We are not alone in this endeavor.

As the Magi were a community of support for each other, so we, too, gathered here, are a community of support and belief. We have come here because we have heard about the coming of the Messiah and we wish to offer our gifts to him. Gifts that will be returned to us in the gift of Christ’s body and blood, making his presence just as substantially real to us as he was to the Magi. What a powerful, mysterious gift that transcends time.

May this and every encounter with Christ empower us and direct us to go forth and witness to the faithfulness of God’s promises, and his enduring presence within and among us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Jan 07	1 Jn 3:22—4:6, Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tues	Jan 08	1 Jn 4:7-10, Mk 6:34-44
Wed	Jan 09	1 Jn 4:11-18, Mk 6:45-52
Thu	Jan 10	1 Jn 4:19—5:4, Lk 4:14-22a
Fri	Jan 11	1 Jn 5:5-13, Lk 5:12-16
Sat	Jan 12	1 Jn 5:14-21, Jn 3:22-30
Sun	Jan 13	Is 42-1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Lk 3:15-16, 21-22, Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7, Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$	9,636.90
Maintenance	\$	1,713.00
Capital Improv.	\$	170.00
Nativity Elem.	\$	50.00
Christmas Collections	\$	210.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	11,779.90

Thank you for your generous contributions!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 07** Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan 08** Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
BINGO, 5:30 p.m.
RCIA, 6:00 p.m., SHC
- Jan 09** Cleaning Team “D”
CCD, 5:30 p.m. SHC
- Jan 10** Greenbriar Mass, 10:00 a.m.
Adoration, 6:00 p.m.
- Jan 11** Mom’s Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., SHC

Nativity Life Teen/Youth Ministry/CCD

Life Teen and CCD Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Thank you to everyone that supported our fall fund raisers! Wishing you and yours a very Blessed and Happy New Year! Please keep our youth and adults in your prayers as they prepare for their pilgrimage to March for Life in Washington D.C. January 16-20, 2019.

RCIA

Please continue to pray for our Catechumens, Candidates and their Sponsors during this Christmas Season. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

Saint Stanislaus Admission Testing

Saturday, January 26, 2019 8:15 AM

Students currently in the 6th grade

Saint Stanislaus’ admission testing for prospective students who will be in the 7th grade next year is scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2019.

In order to sit for the admission test, please submit a completed Admission Application on or before January 18th. *Testing day check-in will be from 7:30 AM until 8:15 AM and students must be checked in by 8:15 AM in order to test.* The test is used to give us an overview of the students’ academic abilities. Please also remember to mail in or bring a check or cash in the amount of \$125, which will cover the \$100 Saint Stanislaus Application Fee and the \$25 Placement Test Fee.

An application can be completed online on the Saint Stanislaus Admission page at <http://ststan.com/admissions/apply-online/>. For more information or to request a paper application, please contact Richard Gleber, Admissions, at richard@ststan.com or 228-467-9057, ext. 249.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Jan 12 4:00 pm 1. Barbara Ziz 2. Andrea Gilich 3. Sondra Ahern 4. Kathleen Coskey 5. Dale Dorcik	Jan 12 4:00 pm Jim Compton	Jan 12 4:00 pm Sam Burke
Jan 13 7:00 am 1. Marcia Mayfield 2. Linda Stewart 3. Nancy Powell	Jan 13 7:00 am Joe Powell	Jan 13 7:00 am Wyeth Stewart Alex Stewart
9:00 a.m. 1. Belinda Corley 2. Vicki Howard 3. Linda Welter 4. Traci Kessler 5. Michael Kessler	9:00 am Maggie Landry	9:00 am Sophia Carreon Tristan Davis Kingston Davis Army Gollott
11:00 am 1. Sandy Steckler 2. Judy Steckler 3. Sondra Williams 4. Robert Moniot 5. Susan Toche	11:00 am Rhonda Clark	11:00 am Justin Useforge Jamey Useforge Brady Barhonovich Victoria Barhonovich
5:30 pm 1. Janice Thornton 2. Teresa Ballinger	5:30 pm Mary Townsend	5:30 pm Taylor Yasar Breanna Smith
	CANTORS	
	Jan 12 4:00 pm KC Arnold & CATHEDRAL CHOIR	
	Jan 13 9:00 am John Welter	
	11:00 am Elizabeth Cobb	

	6:30 AM	8:00 AM
Mon Jan 07	Tod Masters	Stanley Dellenger
Tue Jan 08	Sr. Mary Jo Mike	Hugh Kavanagh
Wed Jan 09	Collins-Sims Fly.	Hugh Kavanagh
Thur Jan 10	Barbara Maynard	Irene Collins Tucei
Fri Jan 11	Sr. Mary Jo Mike	Gaspar/Mary Pisarich
Sat Jan 12	8 Josh Bozeman	4 Mercy Cross Six
Sun Jan 13	7 - Delores Lee	9 - F. T. P.
	11:00 - Yvonne Cobb	5:30 Annette Luther (S. I.)

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Phil Beining, Mable Viator, Buck O'Gea, Nicholas Rodolfich, Marsha Marie, Nick Pass, Cooper Williams, Sue and Gene Daudelin, Lesa Walker-Kirkman, Rose Collins, Elie Hebert, Jerry Ellis, Lehmon Skrmetti, Helen Gutierrez, Annette Luther, Macklin Holloway, Mary Wimberly, Candy Widener, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Betty Hilton, Norma McMahan, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollott, Greg Hotaling, Jack Joachim, Jr., Michael Zorich, Sr. Fatima Starks and Karen Skremetta.

From the Music & Fine Arts Ministry:

CHILDREN'S CHOIR SCHEDULE: The Children's Choir will celebrate the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 27th in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHEDULE: The Cathedral Choir will resume their regular Wednesday evening rehearsals on January 9th at the normal time of 7:00 p.m.

"GLORIA IN EXCELSIS": Our Cathedral/Diocese's Choral Society will resume their rehearsals on Tuesday evenings starting on January 15th at 7:00 p.m. All interested singers – Catholic or non-Catholic - are cordially invited to attend.

MUCH GRATITUDE: As 2019 begins, I – as your Minister of Music – wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have been so encouraging and supportive of me and our Music & Fine Arts Ministry this past year. Your words of encouragement and constructive thoughts have been very helpful to me. I am tremendously grateful to those individuals who have made contributions to the Music and Fine Arts Ministry as memorials. These contributions assisted in the financing of instrumentalists and the purchase of new music for our choirs. With much sincerity, I thank you for your support of our efforts! Finally, I am tremendously grateful for the dedication/devotion of our Children's & Cathedral Choir members and our Cantor Corps that serves with such devotion and sacrifice! May 2019 be a Blessed and Good Year for each and every one of you and for our Beloved Cathedral!

For more information regarding our Music & Fine Arts Ministry Programs - please contact: Terry D. Maddox, M.M. – terrydalemaddox@gmail.com &/or 251 406-1454.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

If you are interested in serving our Cathedral Parish as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, please contact Fr. Dennis at dcarver@biloxidiocese.org or by calling the rectory at (228) 374-1717. Because our Cathedral Parish celebrates 5 weekend Sunday Masses, we need sometimes as many as 25 Eucharistic Ministers and 5 Lectors per weekend. We are blessed to offer so many Sunday Masses to our community and visitors. Please help fill this most important and worthy need by volunteering as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our Robotics Teams: Team Tsunami and Team Thunderclouds. Both did well at the Regional Tournament, held recently at St. Patrick's High School. Team Thundercloud scored second and will advance to the State Tournament later in the year. Team Tsunami scored fifth. Thank you to the adult and high school mentors who worked so hard with them.

Mark your calendars! Nativity School's annual Open House will be held on Sunday, January 27th from 10:00 until 2:00 p.m.

WEEKLY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

January 10, we will have our weekly Thursday Adoration from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. This week Adoration will be in the CATHEDRAL. Adoration is a special time to spend with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. You don't have to spend the whole hour, our Lord just wants to be with you.

BINGO MANIA:

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for January 8th, 2019. Wijdenes (Daniel & Kati), Williams (Troy & Melissa), Wilson (Aaron & Jacqueline), Wimberly (Trey & Shannon), Wood (Joseph & Amanda) and Zidek (Patricia). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND

ENTRANCE HYMN	#103
OFFERTORY	#104
COMMUNION	#110
SENDING	#101