



St. Clare

236 S. Beach Boulevard

Catholic Church

Waveland, MS 39576

Sunday, January 1, 2023

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God.”



Today we celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of God, the one who brought the Son of God into the world. And as much as we honor Mary today, we also honor Jesus, her divine Son.

At first glance, it may seem odd that today’s Gospel focuses on the shepherds who came to see the newborn Jesus and left praising God. But surely Mary would want us to join them in their songs of praise! In everything she did, Mary led people to glorify her Son for the salvation he would win for them.

In every age, Mary has sought to bring all people to Jesus and to urge them to praise and worship him. In fact, it is probably her greatest desire for us as we begin a new year. She knows that we have so many reasons to praise her Son. We can praise him for becoming a man and teaching us to pray. We can adore him for offering himself on the cross to

save us. We can glorify him for giving us his Spirit and making us children of God. We can *never* run out of reasons to praise Jesus!

So make this your goal: to praise Jesus more in 2023. It’s not always easy to include praise in your daily prayer, especially if you’re not accustomed to it. You might not know what to say. But you can begin by thanking Jesus for your blessings. You can also praise him for forgiving your sins. And you can rejoice in his faithfulness and unending love.

As you add praise to your prayer, you can always ask Mary, Mother of God and your Mother, for help. You can use the Magnificat, her own song of praise, as a model as you set out to magnify the Lord (Luke 1:46-55). And you can take comfort knowing that Mary is praising Jesus right along with you — all year long!

~ The Word Among Us

Our Mission:

To live a Gospel way of life

***Simply *With Humility *Out of Love of God and Neighbor**

Readings for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God

- ◆ 1st Reading— Numbers 6: 22-27
- ◆ 2nd Reading— Galatians 4: 4-7
- ◆ Gospel Reading— Luke 2: 16-21

Pastor:Fr. Jacob-Matthew Smith, OFM
Deacon:Deacon Mike Saxer / (228) 216-5028
DRE:Paul Pitts, Jr. / (228) 216-0091
Choir Director:Cathy Allain
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Parish Office:(228) 467-9275
Parish Email:StClareCatholic@yahoo.com
Website:www.StClareWaveland.com
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Clare-Catholic-Church>
Church Office Hours:.....
 Monday through Friday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Holidays change these days and hours.)

CONFESSION: Saturday - 1 hour before Vigil Mass, by appointment, or anytime during office hours. Call the office ahead of time.

*In the spirit of giving,
 we thank you for
 your generosity!*

**Last week's collection was:
 Regular Offertory:**

\$3,605.25

All are welcome to stay and pray the Rosary after morning Mass and after the 6 p.m. Mass Wednesdays.
 For weekend Masses, the Rosary will be recited 30 minutes **before** Mass.



Altar Flowers are a great way to remember a loved one on a special day. Envelopes are available to give us their name, special event and any donation you wish to make.

Intentions available for the living (SP) or Deceased (+). Check with the office for date availability.



Mass Intentions

Monday, January 2	8:30 a.m.	Buddy Simmons (SP)
Tuesday, January 3	8:30 a.m.	Dan Harrigan +
Wednesday, January 4	6:00 p.m.	Harry Lynch +
Thursday, January 5	8:30 a.m.	Buddy Simmons (SP)
Friday, January 6	8:30 a.m.	Judy Therrell (SP)
Saturday, January 7	4:00 p.m.	Richard Noonan +
Sunday, January 8	8:30 a.m.	Sick of the Parish
	11:00 a.m.	Diaconate class of 2025 (SP)
	5:30 p.m.	Walter 'Honey' Turcotte, Jr +



January 1	Pope Francis
January 2	Father Satish Adhav
January 3	Father Vincent O. Ajayi
January 4	Father Godfrey Andoh
January 5	Father Charles Arthur
January 6	Most Reverend (Bishop) Louis F Kihnemann III
January 7	Please pray for an increase in Vocations



Alan & Lana Noonan, Alan Atkins, Althea Aucoin, Angel & Buddy Zimmerman, Anita Johns, Annette Haas, Anthony Richardson, Arlene Johnson, Arron Sand, Ashley & Chip Dupiere, Baby Smith, Barbara Brunett, Beverly Cassebry, Beverly Emerick, Bill & Mary Gillen, Bill Bradford & family, Blondine Duvall, Bob & Donna Martin, Bobby Owens, Branden Butera, Brian Mollere +, Brian Roe, Bruce Necaise, Buddy Bonney, Buddy Simmons, Casey Holfus, Caspian Smith, Charlotte & John Johnson, Cindy Pitts, Claudine Cushion, Cody Smith, Connie Jordan,

Connie McCain +, Cooper Dupiere, Dan Richards, Dana Parker, Danny & Daren Reinhart, Dawn D Ferry, Deacon Mike & Janet Saxer, Deb Cranmer; Deb, Jim & Jimmy Bourgeois, Debbie, Debbie Lee, Diane Perkins, Donald Casey, Donald McFall, Donna & Kenny Kennedy, Donna Kay Scianna, Earline Caarambat, Eddie Fayard, Edward Harrison, Elaine Favre, Eleanor Lott, Ellen & Claire Palmer, Ellen Ferry, Elyssa Favre, Eric Cranmer, Erica Palmer; Erin, Amanda & Preston Cloyd, Finnigan Michael Maulding +, Gail France, Dloria Duvieilh, Gwen & Rusty Price, Harriet Lynch Cloyd +, Haydell family, Helen Centanni, Hope Reos, Iris Wareham, Janeal & Patrick McKee, Janet Palmer, Jerry Lott & family, Joe Newman, Joshua Haas, Judy Gomila, Judy Smith +, Judy Therrell, June Ledet, Justin Haas, Katherine Lang, Kathleen Thriffiley Sammons, Ken & Niki Martin, Kevin & Hazel Ramond, Kevin Nicosia, Kristie Roper, Kristy Simmons Bias, Krystal Martin, Laura Arnold, Laura F White, Laurie Lusk, Layla Harrison, Lefevre family, Lolita Casey Loretta Hunter, Louis Bourgeois, Louis Smolensky, Lynn & Cookie Naquin, Margie Schmitt, Maria, Marie Beaugez, Marilyn Grillo, Mary Ann Andrews, Mary Ann Becnel, Mary Anna Carrell, Mary Ann Ferry, Mary Ann Gambino, Mary Brault, Mary Lou & Gene Ferry, Marry Ann +, Maulding family, Michael & Tom Starita, Michael Bisband, Sr., Michael Duvieilh, Michael Hunter, Michelle Favre Harrison, Mike & Melanie Smith, Mike Maddox & family, Nicosia family, Nona Mumme, Norma Reed, Patty Steele, Payton Moore, Payton Piazza, Peggy Parker, Phillip Ferry, Phillip Haas, Rachel Weeks, Renee Fauchaux, Robert & Christina Baylis, Rose Marie Ginn, Roserita Lefevre, Roxanne Colson, Russel & Donna Bodin, Rusty Bodin, S Mattis, Sara S Ford, Sharon & Gilbert Tosso, Shawn Quigley, Sheila Poolson, Sid Falk, Stacy Stanek, Susan McFall, Tammi McKinney, Tanya McKinney, Tiffany Garvey, Toni Cyan-Brock, Toots Portera, Trudy Hodgson, Tyler Reos, Victoria Stains, Will Lott & family, William Caddell, Wyatt, Zoey Reos.

PARISH MINISTRIES

ALTAR SOCIETY: Open to men and women, envelopes are available to pay \$5.00 membership.

BAPTISM: To schedule an appointment to setup a Baptism date, please call Sheryl Colson (228) 342-8134. Parents and godparents should also attend a Baptism class.

CENACLE OF DIVINE MERCY: Meet each Friday at 10:00 a.m., a group meeting to study the Diary of St. Faustina and incorporate with Scripture and the Catechism. Contact Suzan Cox at (601) 209-6811 or suzan713@gmail.com.

GRIEF MINISTRY: Meets to support, encourage and equip those grieving the death of a loved one. For more information leave a message at the Parish Office or contact Sherry at (228) 332-0256.

HOME BOUND: Volunteers bring Communion to the Home Bound. Volunteers must be trained as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. Contact Paul Pitts, Jr. for more information (228) 216-0091.

KINIGHTS OF COLUMBUS/LADIES AUXILIARY: Meet every 2nd Tuesday in the Parish Center—6:30 meeting. The Assembly meets on the 2nd Tuesday after the council meeting. **Ladies Auxiliary** meet every 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

MARRIAGE PREP: Please contact Leslie and Terry Asher (228) 467-9275 if you are engaged and wish to be married at St. Clare. Marriages must be scheduled 6 months in advance.

OVER 50'S GROUP: All parishioners over 50 are invited to join (no charge) Luncheons 2nd Wednesday & Bunco 3rd Tuesday. Call Janis for details (228) 324-8715.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ST CLARE CONFERENCE: (228) 342-4117/stclaresvdp1@gmail.com. Utilities help and limited food pantry available. In-person interviews Tuesday and Wednesday 10 am-1 pm.

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED: We invite all parishioners to join St. Clare as we embark on this journey together. For more information, and to ensure you receive news and updates, please contact: Linda Walden, OFS at (228) 304-2305 or lwalden855@gmail.com.

PARISH NEWS

Congratulations to Lynn Naquin and Susan Ferry, they won the handmade (by Bruce Necaize) Afghans! Thank you to all who helped to make the Bake Sale a great success, \$1,093. The Altar Society uses these proceeds to buy altar linens, candles; birthday, ordination and Christmas gifts for Father Jacob and Deacon Mike and much more!! Altar Society Meeting will be Tuesday, 1/3/2023 at 6:00 pm.

Second Collection
January 7 & 8, 2023
for Aged & Infirm Priests



Following the
8:30 a.m. Mass
on Friday,
January 6, 2023

Letter of annual donations for tax purposes are available by request. All requests should be emailed to finance@stclare-catholic.com.

OVER
50^{RS}
GROUP

* **Wednesday, January 11 at**
11:30 am
— Lunch at Yun Long Buffet in Waveland

* **Tuesday, January 17, at**
5:00 PM
— BUNCO at St. Clare Church



The Hancock Food Pantry needs additional volunteers to help provide free food to so many low income Hancock County families. The Food Pantry is currently open two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday. Volunteers would work from 8:30 am to 12 noon.

Some of the work is somewhat physical such as putting bags of food into grocery carts and placing the grocery bags into the clients cars. It may be physical, but also very gratifying. If you can help even one day a month, please call the Food Pantry's Volunteer Coordinator Peg Walton at 228-586-6288. If there is no answer, please leave a message.



The Rum Kitchen will be hosting the 5th Annual Krewe of St. Clare Mardi Gras Bash on Friday, January 6th at 5:30 PM! A \$25 per person entrance fee includes special food items, drinks and even some dancing. All tips + 1/2 proceeds to benefit St. Clare Catholic Church.

Senior Friends Luncheon

The 3rd Thursday of each Month

January 19, 2023 ~ Lunch is at noon!

Put on your thinking caps as we start the new year with a "brain game." Lunch of chicken fried steaks, white gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert. Juanita Shiyou is the contact person. Her number is 228-467-9855

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Jacquelyn Lassiter, Deborah Schweitzer,
Zachary Rabalais, Caroline Warden,
Jake Frommeyer, Stace McRaney,
Hillary Roth, Howard O'Gwin

Saint

Of the Week

St. André Bessette

Feast Day: January 6

Patron Saint of Family Caregivers

Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was the eighth of 12 children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith—all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War.

At 25, André applied for entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, "Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!"

When he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of healing powers began to spread. When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. "I do not cure," he said again and again. "Saint Joseph cures." In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year.



For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother André and others climbed the steep hill and planted medals of Saint Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected \$200 to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying Saint Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes and braces grew.

The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at 92. He is buried at the Oratory. He was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2010. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint André "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."



Adoration Chapel at St. Clare hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 am—3:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am—3:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday during Mass hours

The influence by Prayer and Worship of the Eucharist in a Jewish Context.

As a Jew, Christ was formed in and influenced by the prayer and worship traditions of his people. The Last Supper is described as the Passover meal, which traditionally celebrates God's liberation of the Jewish people and the continuing covenant with them. Such a celebration offers a model for understanding Christ's liberation of the world from sin through his death.

The ways in which Jews prayed to God in the Temple and in the synagogue were also a rich heritage that influenced Jesus' prayer at the Last supper. The bread and cup in the Religious meals of Jews were accompanied by a berakah (Heb.), a blessing and thanksgiving to God for all the benefits received. Some scholars detect this type of prayer in Jesus' actions (he took the bread and cup and blessed and thanked God). Other scholars point to another form of prayer, the Todah (a "sacrifice of praise"), in which a thanks offering of leavened bread and prayers of praise were offered.

This meal sacrifice with prayer was another way to celebrate and renew the covenant with God. This type of meal could have provided a way interpreting Jesus' death as a new covenant with God. Although these scholarly discussions

continue, all agree that the Last Supper is a religious meal that theologically interprets and explains Christ's death on the cross.

The meals of Jesus with sinners, as frequently described in the Gospels, also have a profound meaning within the Jewish tradition. In the Hebrew Scriptures the reign of God at the end of time is depicted as a festive meal. This image is continued by Jesus in his parables and his actions.

A frequent criticism by Jesus' enemies is that he eats with sinners, an action a pious Jew would avoid. Yet Luke's Gospel in particular emphasizes these meals with social outcasts (e.g. tax collectors, prostitutes) as a prophetic action showing that God's mercy and reign were open to anyone who would repent.

The Last Supper should be understood within the important context of meals with sinners in Christ's public life and reconciling meals in eating scenes with his disciples after his Resurrection.

How did the first century Christians celebrate the Eucharist? Next time.....

— *The Harper-Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism*

My Catholic New Year

Resolutions

for the year _____

1 Virtue I'd Like to Grow in _____

1 Sin I'd Like to Eliminate _____

1 Book of Scripture I'd Like to Read Through _____

1 Spiritual Book I'd Like to Read _____

1 Prayer I'd Like to Learn _____

1 Way to Improve My Sacramental Life _____

1 Saint I'd Like to Get to Know Better _____

Any Special Intentions for the Year _____

Thought for the week!

Kind

do you know
that one of your
greatest strengths
is simply being kind?
yes, kind.
you can change a life
being kind.
you can give hope
being kind.
you can bring joy
being kind.
so listen, today choose
to be kind.

*...and by what more than
being kind?*

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God Our Father,

Watch over our priests,
brothers, sisters & deacons;
who have labored long in your
Kingdom, give them Peace in
this life and the Joy of eternal
life, when they enter your
Heavenly Home, we ask this
through Christ our Lord, Amen

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EPIPHANY

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

History

The word *Epiphany* comes from the Greek, *epiphaneia*, meaning “manifestation” or “appearance.” This feast originated in the Eastern Church and was celebrated on January 6th to commemorate the many instances of “God shining forth,” including the birth of Christ, the visit of the Magi, and Christ’s baptism in the Jordan. It was also considered by many to be a Christian fulfillment of the Jewish *Festival of Lights*. In the West, the Nativity developed as a separate and specific feast, with official references to the Epiphany not coming until 361. Epiphany concluded a twelve day festival—“the twelve days of Christmas”—that has also been called *Christmastide*. Catholics in the United States now celebrate Epiphany, not on January 6th, but on the second Sunday after Christmas. The Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany and marks the end of the Christmas season.

The Light of Christ

Theologically, the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of the Messiah to the Gentiles. The Magi story appears exclusively in Matthew’s Gospel because this evangelist emphasizes the universal nature of Christ’s message. Thus, Epiphany helps establish and inspire the Church’s mission of evangelization. The light of Christ is not to be hidden or hoarded: “Your light must shine before others” (Matthew 5:16). Epiphany is also about enlightened awareness, as when we have an “epiphany moment.” Upon viewing the baby Jesus, the aged Simeon proclaims the twin grace of the Messiah as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

The Search Continues

What was true for the Magi remains true for us today as we continue our search for God. In the darkness of our lives, we look for a star—as in the beloved Christmas carol, *We Three Kings*—to “guide us to thy perfect light.” Many are distracted by the artificial lights of fame and fortune, but true and wise believers open themselves to the experience of being drawn to God’s presence in themselves and their lives. The Epiphany proclaims the truth that we are called to a life reordered by our experience of God’s presence.



THREE MANIFESTATIONS OF CHRIST

Traditionally, three separate Gospel readings were integral parts of the Epiphany liturgy: the Magi worshipping the baby Jesus, the baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast of Cana. In Cycle C of the liturgy, these Gospel passages follow one another each week beginning with Epiphany. Each of these three events expresses something of the depth and breadth of the mystery of Incarnation as it unfolds in the life of Christ and in us.

The Visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the Gospel for Epiphany Sunday, is most commonly associated with the manifestation of Jesus' divinity to the whole world.

The Baptism of the Lord (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22) is Christ's revelation to the Jews and prefigures his descent into his own death and rising in the resurrection.

The Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1-11) is Jesus' revelation of the power of his own divinity to his apostles and disciples. The new wine, the best wine saved for last, symbolizes the message of the Gospel.



Epiphany Morning Prayer

Father, you revealed your Son
to the nations by the guidance of a star.
Lead us to your glory in heaven
by the light of faith.

We ask this through
our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen

—*The Liturgy of the Hours*

MATTHEW'S MAGI STORY

Matthew's magi story (2:1-12) reads like the gospel in miniature. Its themes echo the rest of the gospel: Jesus comes into the world—and also into each person's life—demanding a decision about how to respond to his presence and invitation to a relationship. Some will reject him and some will accept him, as do these wise foreigners who studied the stars and saw in them the new star-sign of a great king who was worthy to be worshiped by all people.

So they journeyed to an obscure village in the Roman province of Judea where they found a child to whom they gave gifts as tokens of his royal birth. For the first time, the Gentiles honor the Jew who was God's promised messiah, and in fact, the Son of God, who in turn offers them the gift of salvation.

WHO WERE THE MAGI?

The story of the Magi traveling from the East to see the Christ child appears only in Matthew's Gospel. The word *Magi* (Greek *magoi*) means a learned scholar or sage. The Magi (possibly Zoroastrian astrologers from Persia) interpreted a bright star in the Eastern skies as a sign that a great king was to be born. According to St. Ignatius of Antioch (who lived in the first century AD), "A star shone forth in heaven above all the other stars, the light of which was inexpressible, while its novelty struck people with astonishment" (Letter to the Ephesians, 19). The wise men followed this star to Bethlehem of Judea, and upon arriving they worshipped the infant Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Numerous traditions not directly based on Matthew's Gospel have grown up about the Magi. Typically we think of there being three wise men because of the number of gifts, but Matthew doesn't disclose the exact number. Since the third century, Christian writers have referred to them as kings, even though Matthew doesn't specifically tell us that they were royalty. Their names, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar date to the 6th century and are generally thought to represent kings from India, Persia and Arabia respectively.



WHERE IS YOUR STAR?

For the Magi, following their star led to their cherished reward. They found their king, offered their gifts, and then got involved in a plot that required not only their quick-thinking but also their dedication to a king and a cause that they knew very little of.

Like these Magi, someone or something has been the star that sparked our interest in Jesus, that drew us either rapidly or reluctantly to him, and that involved us in a life and death story that demands all of our gifts and our full dedication so that he might live and rule!