

**Saint
LUKE**
University Parish
Epiphany

January 8, 2017

Allendale, Michigan

Gospel and Reality Therapy

The heart of my Christmas homily, and by the way – if you’ve not heard it from me yet – Happy New Year too! The heart of my Christmas homily was saying we need to think of Jesus as a human baby. In no way was I denying that Jesus Christ was divine, but if you want to see the full power of divinity you must see Jesus’ full acceptance of his humanity.

Any of you who have experienced a new born baby, the sounds, the sights, the smells – know that babyhood is a unique part of our humanity. And I think it is very helpful for us to understand the full power of Christ by embracing the full part of his humanity. Jesus and visitors and family interactions are probably not well depicted in our crib scenes and entertainment presentations of a holier than thou group of people with halos and fixed gazes with googly eyes.

The truth of the birth of Jesus, and the family scene with Mary & Joseph, is as near to us as our own families and our own interactions with newborns. If you want a link to the Holy Family and your family – think messy, think unpredictable, think spontaneous.

Today, Epiphany, it is equally important to use reality to take us to the true message of the Gospel. If any of you have ever had the experience of getting the last room in a hotel, or having to take the 2-star room after trying to book the 4 star – Jesus, Mary and Joseph are stuck in the stable because of no room at the inn. And they were not celebrating Christmas, they were there for census.

I’m sure the birth of Jesus changed their plans a bit – first, I’m guessing the Holy Family would plan to stay awhile. Joseph was a carpenter and could ply his trade anywhere, so no problem there. Mary, needed some time post-birth, and being so close to Jerusalem would allow her to complete the various Jewish rituals. And if they were to stay, they either got upgraded to a room status, or moved in for a while with relatives in the area. I think that makes sense.

But we usually presume that the Magi came to “the” stable, and it was a fairly quick trip; even though we’ve been hearing for years that it may have taken months. We don’t know how many Magi there were (it only says 3 gifts), or when the arrival actually occurred. And if you followed my idea of a real newborn situation above, then we have a slightly older Jesus scenario, with a working Joseph and Mary surrounded by a crowd of curious neighbors. Surprise! Magi! Wouldn’t that make your day on a carpenter’s salary (probably barter and trade)?

My invitation as we start our New Year, and the first year of a new building coming, use Gospel reality therapy to see what your faith and what the Gospel story truly means. Find hope is seeing Gospel in the sticky, messy situations of your everyday life. Look for the Gospel around the politicians you elected or the ones you didn’t elect. I’m not saying that everything is Gospel – I am saying that the Gospel is present in every life situation and that it is work to find it. The Gospel’s not (usually) going to beat us over the heads with clarity, but if we use the faith we’re constantly being taught, and pray and work together as a community of believers, the Gospel will be revealed in its fullness – much like a bright star’s light!

Happy Epiphany folks!

Fr. Brad



Readings for January 8 - 15

Sunday Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6;
Mt 2:1-12

Monday Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29; Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday

Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 1:21-28
or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12; Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday

Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday

Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday

Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34



Parish Center Office

10144 42nd Avenue

Georgetown Township, MI 49428

616-895-2247

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

lukespot.com

Campus Office

Cook-DeWitt Center Rm 120

GVSU

616-313-3131

Monday - Thursday 1:30-4 p.m.

GVSUcatholic.org

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Saint Luke University Parish
GVSUCatholic.org

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January 8, 2017

Epiphany of the Lord

Volume 11, Number 7

Ministry of the Paulist Fathers

Happening this Week in Our Parish

Sunday (1/8) Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m.	Mass + Chuck Meehan	Cook-DeWitt
9:15	Faith Formation (K-2)	Cook-DeWitt
10:30	Mass Those to be Baptized this year	Cook-DeWitt
5:30 p.m.	Mass For Our People	Cook-DeWitt

Monday (1/9)

7:00 p.m.	Exposition and Adoration	Cook-DeWitt Greenroom
7:00	Reconciliation	Cook-DeWitt Rm 120

Tuesday (1/10)

7:30 p.m. K of C Officer's Meeting

Wednesday (1/11)

5:00 p.m.	Mass	Vocations	Parish Trailer
5:30	Reconciliation		Parish Trailer
6:00	Youth Group (6-12)		Kirkhof Thornapple Rm
7:30	Choir Practice		Cook-DeWitt

Thursday (1/12)

8:00 p.m.	Catholic Student Ministry	Kirkhof 2215
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Friday (1/13)

9:30 a.m.	Parish Breakfast Club	Grand Coney
5:00 p.m.	Mass Deceased Members of the Paulist Fathers	Parish Trailer
5:30	Reconciliation	Parish Trailer

Saturday (1/14)

1:00 p.m.	GVSU Student Volunteer Event	St. Anne's Home
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Sunday (1/15) 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m.	Mass	Cook-DeWitt
9:15	Faith Formation (K-2)	Cook-DeWitt
10:30	Mass	Cook-DeWitt
5:30 p.m.	Mass	Cook-DeWitt

Ministries for Jan. 15

Lectors

8:00 a.m.	Elyse Underhill (1st), Nanette Casha (2nd)
10:30	Deb Morello (1st), Joe Morello (2nd)

Altar Servers

8:00 a.m.	Ethan Thomas, Isaac Perry
10:30	Brandon Van Wyk, Levon Gaiser

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8:00 a.m.	Kim Thomas, Kim Oostindie, AJ Sujkowski
10:30	Elaine Briar, Sabrina & Tom Van Wyk, Jeanne Staub, Jon Noworyta

Ushers

8:00 a.m.	Dwayne Thomas (lead), Jerry Casha
10:30	Isaiah Van Wyk (lead), Jason Staub, Jeff Staub

Fund Raiser Church Vehicle

Do you hate taking back your pop & beer cans? Problem solved! Just drop them off to Diane Emelander's home at 10301 68th Ave. Allendale.

Financial Update

	December	Envelope	Online	Combined	Budgeted	Over/Behind
Total for Month	\$ 12,045	\$ 7,880	\$ 19,125	\$ 23,440	\$ (4,315)	
Christmas			\$ 11,023	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,023	

Christmas Season thank you!

- The saying *many hands make light work* is true! A truly appreciative word of thanks to all who, since we have moved, have helped transport things from the campus office to the auditorium stage or to the Grand River Room; do set-up/tear-down, and bring everything back; as well as choir members and musicians (youth and adult), lectors, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, and servers. Your efforts helped us to welcome one another and all our visitors, as well as remind all present that the church is more than just a building, it is the people!
- Fr. Brad and Fr. Chuck add their thanks to all who gave them cards, gifts, prayers, words of encouragement, or donations to the building fund or general collection.



Things Liturgical

Today, the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Epiphany**. Traditionally seen as the visit of the Magi to the Holy Family in recognition of "the newborn king of the Jews", it also represents Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles (non-Jews).

Tomorrow, the Church will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, which ends the Christmas Season. Ordinary Time (green vestments and altar appointments) is *the thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays* (Universal Norms, 43).

Pray for our Paulist & Diocesan Seminarians

Loving God,
Raise up dedicated leaders who will shepherd your people and guide them to your Son. Give generous and willing hearts to the seminarians who have heard your call to live a life of service to the Church. Help us to encourage and support them as they strive to become priests who are models of discipleship, possessors of wisdom and on fire with love for your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Matt Berrios
Deacon
Home Town:
Grand Rapids, MI



Stephen J. Durkee
Deacon
Home Town:
Caledonia, MI

SCRIP

Thank you for using St. Luke's Scrip Program for your holiday shopping. The rebate earned in November/December was \$2,125.98. I invite everyone who used scrip, for the first time, during these months to continue to participate in the program by purchasing your weekly gas and/or grocery cards. You know how easy it is. You've met and talked to other parishioners using it weekly. What's stopping you?

Did you know the rebates you earn for the parish are tax deductible? 2016 scrip tax statements will be ready on Jan. 29. Stop by the scrip table and pick them up.

Paulist Fathers' News

Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord... Two members of the Paulist Fathers died during the month of December. Fr. Lionel DeSilva died in New York City on Dec. 6. A member of the mission band, he preached parish missions and retreats throughout the United States, Canada, and South Africa. Fr. Lionel was 87 years old, a member of the Paulists for 64 years, and a priest for 57 years.

On Dec. 24, Fr. Dave O'Brien died in Columbus, Ohio. Fr. Dave was a respected campus minister, pastor and Paulist Community leader. He served in various administrations of the Paulists as First Consultor, Vice-President and member of the General Council. He was 88 years old, a Paulist for 65 years, and a priest for 60 years.

More information about these Paulist priests can be found at paulist.org. Please remember Frs. DeSilva, O'Brien and all who have died in your prayers.

Annual Paulist Appeal

On Sunday, Jan. 29, Paulist Deacon Matt Berrios will be our guest homilist to preach the Annual Paulist Appeal. This special collection directly supports senior Paulists and their health care, the education and formation of our seminarians, as well as our ministries that are not able fund themselves fully. Deacon Matt is a graduate of GVSU and will be ordained a priest on May 20.



PAULIST FATHERS

2017 ANNUAL PAULIST APPEAL

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT



Missions & Ministries



Vocations & Priestly Formation



Senior Paulist Care



Paulist General Fund

To Give:

(800) 472-8547 | development@paulist.org | www.paulist.org/APA