

# ST. ALPHONSUS

# ST. PETER

DAVENPORT

BUFFALO

**Pastor: Rev. Paul J. Appel**

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**Office Hours:** Monday — Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
**Paige King** — Administrative Assistant  
**Susan Marshall** — Bulletin

**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH**

**Religious Education Director**

Mary Ann Hagemann..... 391-8593

**RCIA Director**

Sister Susan Rueve, O.S.F..... 323-1502

**ST. ALPHONSUS EARLY CHILDHOOD**

**EDUCATION CENTER**

Shelly McIntosh, Director..... 323-3204

**ST. PETER CHURCH — BUFFALO**

406 4th Street, Buffalo, IA 52728

**Deacon Larry Dankert**..... 381-2741

**Parish Council President**

Larry Cawiezell..... 381-5288

**Religious Education**

Elementary - Nancy Stalder..... 381-2058

Intermediate - Scott Heskett..... 381-4991

**PARISH SACRAMENTS**

- **Baptism:** Baptismal preparation class by appointment.
- Please contact office for more information.

- **Weddings:** Make arrangements pastor at least six months before the wedding date. Dates and times for wedding in both parishes must be scheduled by contacting the pastor.

- **RCIA:** Classes begin mid-Sept for adults wishing to join the Catholic church and/or wanting to enter more fully by receiving the other sacraments. Please contact the parish office to register.

- **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING:** Call Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178 and if it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, the Victim Assistance coordinator, 563-349-5002; vac@diodav.org

**MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Saturday</b>	4:00 PM	St. Alphonsus
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 AM	St. Alphonsus
	10:00 AM	St. Peter @ St. Alphonsus

Confessions beginning at 3 pm on Saturdays before 4:00 PM Mass.  
 Available by appointment, please call the parish office.



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**JANUARY 3, 2021--THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

# GENERAL NEWS

From Father's Desk

## Goals for the New Year

The other day I came across a prayer card in an old book here at the parish. It is dated 1925 and comes from a parish in Dubuque. The card is titled "Remembrance of the Mission" and gives the reader a list of things to keep in mind following the parish mission. I have reproduced the list below for your consideration in the New Year:

1. Say your morning and evening prayers every day. Make an act of faith every morning and at night an examination of conscience and an act of contrition.
2. If possible, attend Mass every week day.
3. Let nothing prevent you from attending Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.
4. Become a member of a sodality or society (KCs, Altar and Rosary, Legion of Mary etc.) connected with your parish church, especially such sodality where members receive Holy Communion regularly in a body.
5. Contribute to the support of the church and secure a pew if your means permit.
6. Let the mission cross be a valuable reminder to you. Renew the good resolutions which you made in your confession and ask the help of the crucified Lord to be true to your vows.
7. Pray daily for the grace of a happy death.
8. Remember -Death-Judgement-Heaven-Hell and persevere so you may not fall in sin.

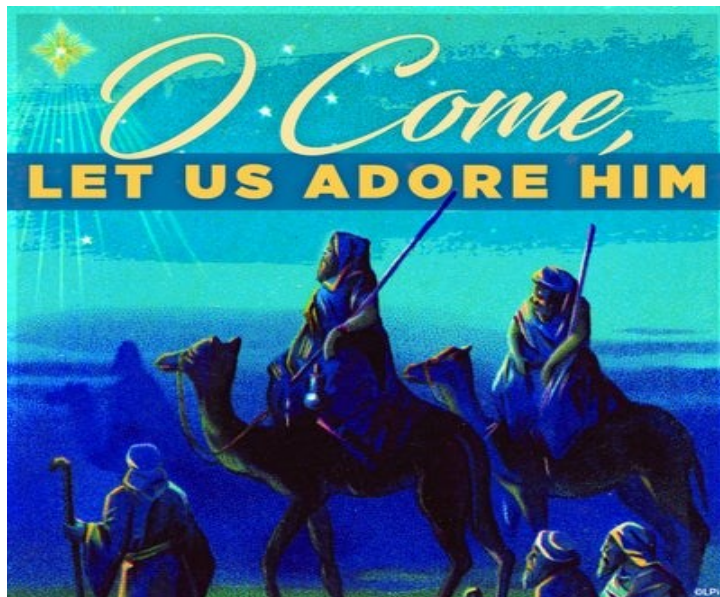
While some of the language is a bit dated, these are all good things we can still do today (except buying pews- we don't offer that anymore). Even if you don't have a "mission cross" you can still keep a small crucifix or rosary in your pocket as a reminder of God's plan for you. If you don't see one of your friends from your parish organization at Mass, invite them to attend with you next week. Our parish organizations are supposed to offer mutual support and accountability to all members. Here is an Act of Faith if you don't know it:

### Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

-Fr. Paul

### EPIPHANY



### Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Is 55:1-11/ Is 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6/  
1Jn 5:1-9/ Mt 1:7-11**



# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

## ST. ALPHONSUS – DAVENPORT

Parishioners will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday's at 3 p.m.

### MASS INTENTIONS - JANUARY 4 - 10

<b>Mon.</b>	8:00	Kay Lent†
<b>Tues.</b>	8:00	Dale Degen†
<b>Wed.</b>	8:00	Dale Claeys†
<b>Thurs.</b>	8:00	Irene Wolfe†
<b>Fri.</b>	8:00	Carol Laughlin†
<b>Sat.</b>	4:00	Mercedes Parker†
<b>Sun.</b>	8:00	Randy McIntyre†

## ST. PETER – BUFFALO

### MASS INTENTION - JANUARY 10

**Sun.** 10:00 Pro Populo

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Today Jan. 3</b>	<b>The Epiphany of The Lord</b> 08:30 AM NO Elementary Religious Ed/ St. Peter
<b>Wed. Jan. 6</b>	06:30 PM Religious Ed/ St Alphonsus
<b>Sun. Jan. 10</b>	<b>The Baptism of The Lord</b> 08:30 AM Elementary Religious Ed/ St. Peter

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!" Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flings stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!

