



Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett
Phone (618) 658 – 4501
E-mail: spccil@frontier.com
Website: www.stpaulvienna.org



Mission: Live Catholic teachings,
Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Weekdays – Tue 11 am, Wed

6:30 pm & Friday, 12 pm

Who knew? Who knew the Messiah was born as the baby Jesus in Bethlehem in that wintertime?

In this Sunday's Gospel Reading, a lot of people came to figure it out.

The shepherds in fact outranked the king and all the others.

The chief priests and scribes knew where the Messiah would be born because they could interpret the parts in the Old Testament that predicted the Messiah's birth. The magi from the East knew that the Messiah had been born, because they could interpret the presence of the star in the sky. When the magi followed the star to Bethlehem to see for themselves, Herod the King ordered them to come back and tell him too.

For all these people, there was a way to know the birth of the Messiah. The priests could interpret Scripture, and the magi could read the stars. King Herod had the political power to command their knowledge and wisdom for his own purposes.

But what about people who lack the advantages of the priests and magi and who have no power to command others? How are they to know? Does God make provision only for the fortunate?

Consider the shepherds. They lacked the money needed for education, and so they lacked the ability to use Scripture or stars to know the birth of the Messiah. They had no power to command others to share the fruits of their education with them either.

But it isn't powerlessness or poverty that keeps a person from knowing the birth of the Messiah. In the end, it was not the shepherds but the powerful and wealthy King Herod, with his evil-hearted intentions, who didn't know the baby Jesus was the Messiah. The magi didn't tell him, because God warned them in a dream not to. And so Herod the King didn't know.

In spite of their lack of all worldly advantages, the shepherds in fact outranked the king and all the others. They were by the side of the Messiah first, and they didn't have to figure it out for themselves either.

The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted, too. And so they knew Christ Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem that cold winter night because they heard the angels sing.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 22 #1 **Feast of Epiphany** January 3, 2021

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Jan 3	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Diana Pruemmer
Tues	Jan 5	11:00 am	SP	No Mass
Wed	Jan 6	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Jan 8	6:30 pm	SP	Chris Ray
Sun	Jan 10	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Irene Kojder

Birthdays

Jan 5 Morgan Bishop
Jan 6 Ruby Widowski

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul..... Jan 3, 8 am Mary Treat **Jan 10, 8 am**
10am Madonna Slife **10 am**

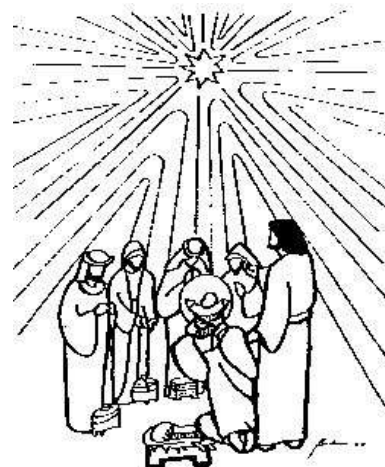
STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Dec 27, 2020

Envelope \$ 775.00 (14), Loose 20.00, Christmas 10.00, Dio Needy 70.00, Masses 70.00
Total \$945.00

Note: No offering basket is passed around at masses due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Instead a canister marked 'Envelopes' is on the gifts table for the collection or envelopes may be delivered through the mail. Thank you to all who have faithfully continued your envelope contributions.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Jan 3 Epiphany Home Blessing Kits
Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
(Recorded Mass available on facebook, St Paul Youtube channel)
Tue Jan 5 Clergy Spiritual Day (Mt Vernon).....10:00 am
Wed Jan 6 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
Thr-Sat Faith Alive Thrift Store staffed by St Paul.9am-3pm
Fri Jan 8 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
Finance Council Mt.....5:30 pm
Sat Jan 9 Faith Alive Board Mt.....10:00 am
For reservations at Jan 10 masses,
contact the rectory by phone or e-mail
Sun Jan 10 Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
PSR Class.....11:00 am
Parish Council Nominee Discernment....11:15 am



EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING KITS will be made available January 3 for families to mark their home threshold and to be mindful of making their home a place of welcome and hospitality.

CLERGY SPIRITUAL DAY Fr Tom will be attending a diocesan Spiritual day for priests on this Tuesday. Note that there will be no Tuesday 11 am mass.

FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE will be staffed by St Paul Parish volunteers on January 7-9th. Store hours on Thursday and Friday are 9am to 3 pm; on Saturday, 9am-12 noon. Any member of the parish is welcomed to participate. A sign-up sheet is available on the church bulletin board or you may call Arlene Dueker 559-7803 or Madonna Slife 967-5164

FINANCE COUNCIL will have quarterly meeting on Friday, Jan 8, 5:30 pm.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2020 will be available on January 17th. Any contributions for 2020 must be delivered by January 10th.

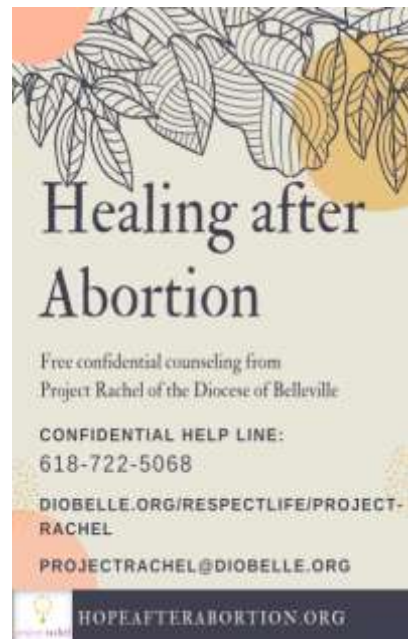
PARISH CHRISTMAS GIFT BOOK is I Heard God Laugh by Matthew Kelly. He offers guidance and insight on how to make daily prayer central to a person's life. Copies not picked up at Christmas are available in household labeled envelopes in the prayer room of the parish hall (door on left facing main entrance, which is always unlocked). Discussions by chapter are planned. A survey sheet is on the bulletin board for your input on most beneficial format—bulletin insert or facebook or Zoom virtual meetings, in person sharing before or after mass.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS Three positions will be open on the Parish Council in January 2021, two three-year and one one-year terms. A discernment process on January 10 will be used to select new council members. An informational flyer will introduce nominees. An affirmation vote will be held on January 17.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 17 Council of Catholic Women meeting in hall ..11 am
- 20 Parish Council Meeting in hall...6:00 pm
- 22 Day of Penance and Reparation for Sanctity of Human
- Jan 24 Emergency Preparedness talk – Fire... after mass
- 31 Liturgy Committee Mt...9:00 am

VOCATION CORNER What a wonderful Gospel account the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star their “call” – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night no one else really did. Perhaps we need to embrace the “night”, the stillness, to “see and hear” our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness – in living our vocation as man, woman or child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?



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Feast of Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Believers are first and foremost recipients of the light who are challenged to penetrate darkness. Today's readings understand community members as the bearers of gifts to others. To share one's gift is to overcome the darkness and usher in the light.

During the gloomy days after the exile, the prophet we call Third Isaiah sought to energize his Judean community. In this world of despair the one point of light is Jerusalem because God's presence illuminates it. The intensity of this light attracts foreign nations. They not only see God's glory but become Yahweh's missionaries carrying the message to distant peoples, opening up the treasures of Israel's faith to others.

The author of Ephesians speaks of Paul as a steward who was entrusted with God's great plan for all of humanity. The Gentiles have received the Spirit and are partners with Israel in the covenant responses. As a steward, Paul is compelled to share this divine insight with others.

Matthew writes at a critical moment in the life of the community. Many Gentiles were entering the community, but many Jews were leaving (see Matthew 21:42-43). Matthew tells the story of the astrologers in order to show that the admission of the Gentiles is part of God's plan. The pagan astrologers are the first to come and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews. The Jewish leadership rejects this king. The story eases community tensions.

The celebration of Epiphany demands that the Christian raise the question: Who experiences darkness and needs light? Instead of formulating a grandiose scheme to evangelize the atheists, the modern believer is well advised to search closer to home. If there are members of the family who suffer economic hardship, light takes the form of financial and emotional support. If there are people at work who suffer from chemical dependency, light takes the shape of encouragement to seek professional help. If there are persons in our faith community who have doubts, light takes the appearance of sharing their pain and attempting to aid them through the crisis. In these and similar situations the message of Epiphany is clear: Share the light.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

The Epiphany of the Lord, January 3, 2021

Isaiah 60:1-6. Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6. Matthew 2:1-12.

Copartners in the Promise. The readings and this solemnity are filled with competing images and persons. Darkness and light. Christians of Jewish heritage and Gentiles. Chosen people and coheirs, copartners. Herod and the Magi. Epiphany teaches us this: all are members of the same body. all are coheirs of God's goodness, all are copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus.

- ◆ Like the Magi, how will I give homage to Christ today?
- ◆ Whom do I look down upon that I must see as a copartner with me?
- ◆ What treasure will I give away, will I offer to another?

The Baptism of the Lord,-- January 10, 2021

Isaiah 55:1-11. Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6. 1 John 5:1-19. Mark 1:7-11.