

Epiphany of the Lord - January 2, 2022

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

Faith is not just God and me. As a believer I belong to a community. The joys and pains of the larger group are mine as well. Faith calls me to reveal the presence of a caring God. The Epiphany of the Lord is about revelation: the manifestation of a God who cares in the person of the Son who became man.

Today's first reading uses the images of darkness and thick clouds to describe the frustration of Judah and Jerusalem after the exile around 500 B.C. Hope is symbolized in the light that will shine upon Jerusalem when the exiles return. This light will be for the good of all, because "nations shall come to your light" as the believers reveal their caring God.

The author of Ephesians unveils God's revelation: the Gentiles are in communion with Israel. Thus the Gentiles are coheirs and partners with Israel in God's promise of salvation. Since the Gentiles have also received the Spirit, the wall of separation between Jew and Gentile has been obliterated. To share the inheritance with Israel is to realize one's dignity.

Matthew writes of the pagan magi following the star. The magi represent all those Gentiles who will enter the Christian Church while the Jews, who possess the Scriptures, reject Jesus. Matthew also sees believers as signs of a caring God. The believer who embraces the lonely and sorrowing reveals a compassionate God.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L. Copyright 1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

Epiphany of the Lord - January 2, 2022

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

Gifts. The Magi, these foreign interpreters of dreams, do the following: follow a star, travel a great distance, trust the words of others, bring and give gifts. In some countries, Epiphany and not Christmas is gift-giving day. This twelfth-day (when on the traditional 6th of January) brings to completion the manifestation of Christ – first to the Jews and today to everyone. No one is foreign to God's good grace.

-How will I search diligently for Jesus?

-Because God is merciful to me, what mercy work can I do for another?

-What gifts will I give to others in need?

The Baptism of the Lord – January 9, 2022

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16,21-22



Pastor: Rev Christian Iwuagwu

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

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm

Who knew?

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

In our Gospel Reading, a lot of people came to figure it out.

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 from SLU Sunday site

Vol. 23 # 1 -Epiphany OF The Lord January 2, 2022

Schedule of Masses

Sun Jan 2 8:00 am Mass Billie Anderson

Sun Jan 9 8:00 am Mass

Liturgical Ministers

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Jan 2	S Pobst	V Anderson	B Palmer	M Bergmann, B Palmer	*Joe Nelson, Je Nelson
			<u>Cantor</u> J Starratt		

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Jan 9	M Miller	L Coleman	V Anderson	Vol .	* M McMahan, D Zmada Sr.
		<u>Cantor</u>	C Ross		

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Dec 26, 2021

Envelope (15) \$1045.00,
Holyday (21) \$1355.00
Loose \$80.00
Collection for Needy (13) \$495.00
Masses (2) \$20.00
Electric refund \$34.28
Total: \$3029.28

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

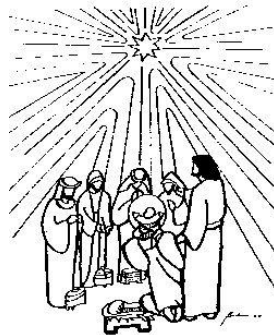
Sun Jan 2 Mass.....8:00 am
Parish Social.....9:00 am

Sun Jan 9 Mass.....8:00 am
PSR classes.....9:00 am

FATHER CHRISTIAN WILL BE OUT OF TOWN JAN 3-7. If you need a priest: The secretary for Fr. Christian at St. Mary's in Harrisburg can be reached at 618-253-7408.

Birthdays

Jan 5 Morgan Bishop
Jan 6 Ruby Widowski



NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 7.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR THREE KINGS: Joe Nelson, Harry Gruszczyk, and Frank Dueker for providing us special epiphany goodies.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE in the Church Foyer. If you can volunteer to deliver a calendar, Christmas book and the box of envelopes to a fellow parishioner who is not able to attend church, it would be greatly appreciated

ENJOY YOUR CHRISTMAS BOOK: *The Wisdom of Fulton Sheen* this New Year. If you would like another copy for a friend, we have extra copies.

FAITH ALIVE WORK DAYS FOR ST. PAUL ARE JANUARY 13-15. Volunteers are urgently needed. . This will be the first week the store will be opened since December 19. Lots of customers will be expected. The store will have brand new flooring. Any time you can spare, even if for two hours would be appreciated.

FORTHCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Tuesday January 11- Wellness Committee meets at 6 pm in the Parish Hall
 Sunday January 16- Council of Catholic Women (CCW) meets at 9 am in Parish Hall
 Wednesday January 19- Parish Council meets after 5:30 Mass in Parish Hall

MAKE *THE MESSENGER* A PART OF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!

The Messenger brings you the stories of real people quietly living their faith through compassion and good works. Inspirational stories that show our Catholic faith is alive and well in southern Illinois. Subscribe to ***The Messenger*** at **618-233-8670**. To subscribe online go to www.bellevillemessenger.org

VOCATION CORNER January 2: What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star – their “call” – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and 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?