

## Epiphany of the Lord Jan 8, 2023

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. Copyright 1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

### Vocation Corner January 8:

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 living our call to Holiness – our vocation as a man, a woman or a child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?



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**Mission: Live Catholic teachings,**

**Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community**

### **ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH**

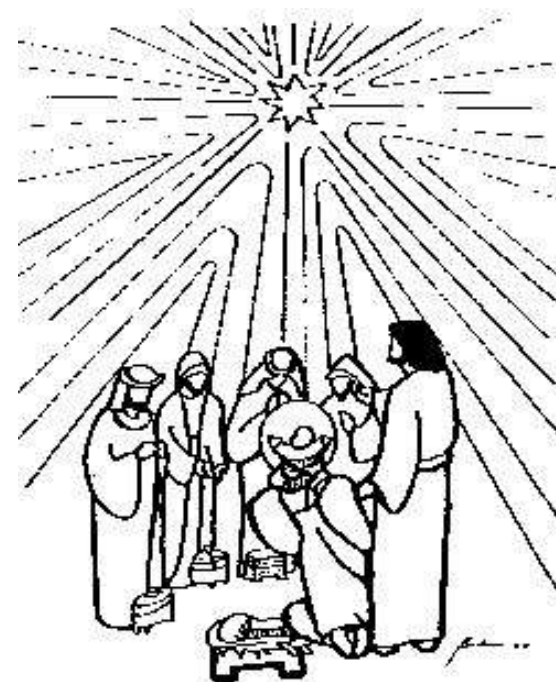
2020 State Rte. 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Parish Council Chair: Becky Bowers

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm



Vol . 24 #6 January 8, 2023  
EPIHANY OF THE LORD

Schedule of Masses

Sun Jan 8 8:00 am Mass  
Sun Jan 15 8:00 am Mass-Terry Kirkeeng

Liturgical Ministers				
Jan 8 Lector	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
S Pobst	B Porter	A Dueker	Vol	*M Slife, R Weeks
<u>Gift Bearers</u>	S & P Widowski		<u>Cantor</u>	J Starrett
Jan 15 Lector	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
J Nelson	C Johnson	P Widowski	Vol	*M McMahan, J Bergman
<u>Gift Bearers</u>	V Anderson, L Coleman		<u>Cantor</u>	Z Garrett

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Jan 1 2023

General (16)	\$4475.00
Loose	\$10.00
Christmas for Needy (2)	\$35.00
Christmas (4)	\$350.00
2023 Initial Offering (7)	\$150.00
Donation Kof C	\$50.00

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5070.00</b>
BLDG Maint. (1)	\$100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Jan 8 8:00 am Mass  
Adult Bible Study 9:00 am  
Sun Jan 15 8:00 am Mass-Terry Kirkeeng

INTRODUCING THERESA CECCHI

Our new office manager and cleaning person.

Deadlines for announcements are Wednesday at noon. Contact Theresa via email and or phone/text at [spccil@frontier.com](mailto:spccil@frontier.com) or 331-234-0658.

SAD NEWS

Of the death of Claudette Bergmann, mother of Jared Bergmann. Please keep the family in your prayers.

HELP US BE MINDFUL AS WE MEET AND GREET IN THE FOYER BEFORE MASS.

Our conversations carry into the church and disrupt what is meant to be a quiet and contemplative space before Mass. Thank you.

TODAY IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE YOUR NAME OR ANOTHER PARISHIONER FOR CONSIDERATION AS A ST PAUL PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER.

Two positions need to be filled. Commitment includes a monthly meeting and willingness to be a liaison and/or help with the ministries of our parish. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. Nomination forms are in the church foyer. Completed forms may be placed in the offering basket or designated container in the foyer. For questions, contact Matt Slife at 618 534 6978 or Becky Bowers at 270 210 9519

ADULT BIBLE STUDY MEETS TODAY AFTER MASS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR 2023 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES.

We have January 2023 contribution envelopes in the church foyer. Please remember to pick them up. We hope our envelope company will have our 2023 order in soon. Thank you for your patience.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE WANTS YOU TO KNOW

each household is eligible for 4 free at home Covid-19 tests. You can order these online at Covid.Gov/test or call 800 232 0233 for these free tests.

FROM OUR DIOCESEAN NEWSPAPER STAFF.

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