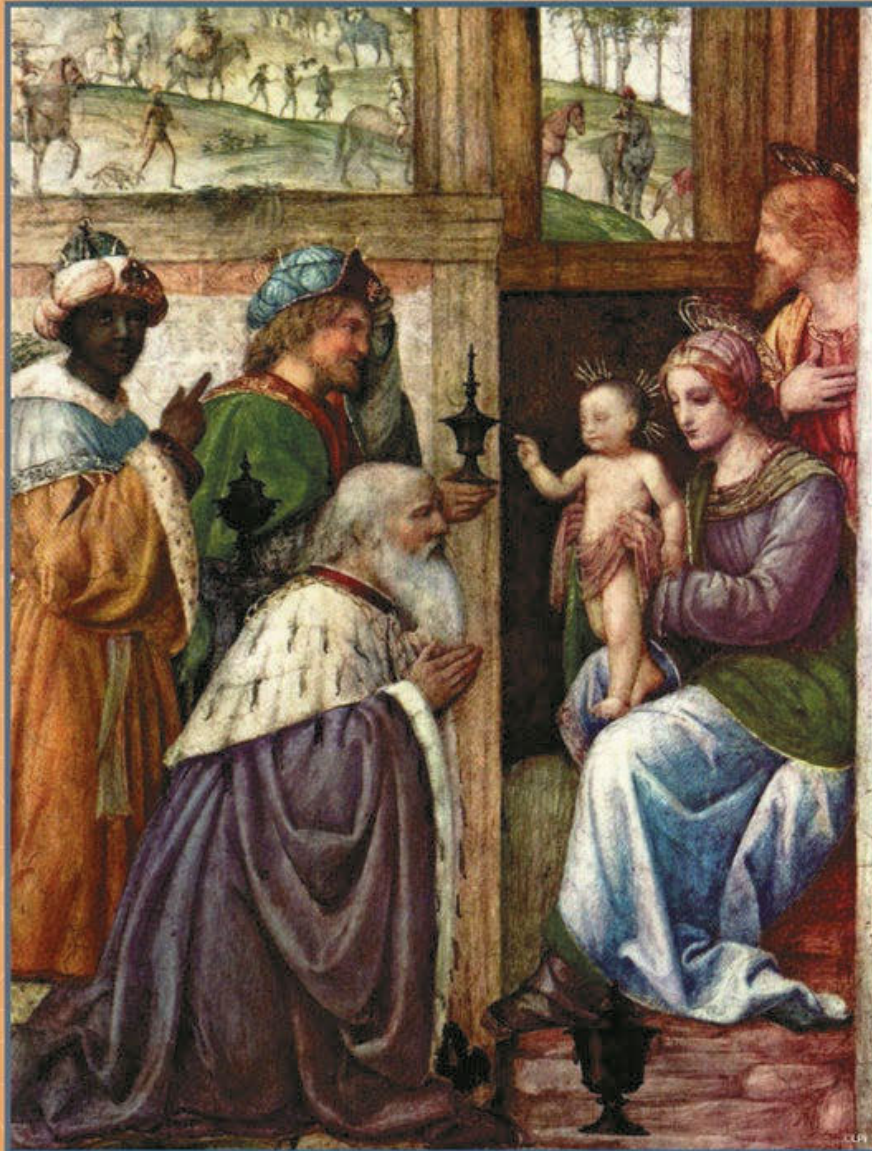


St. Rita Catholic Church



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815.398.0853 • www.stritarockford.org



THE EPIPHANY of the Lord

"Since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel." - Mt 2:6b

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

January 1-2

The Epiphany of the Lord

**Fr. Brian Grady
Pastor**

**Fr. James C. Canova
Associate Pastor**

**Deacon Robert Collins
Deacon Kevin Hunter
Deacon John Huntley**

MASS TIMES

Weekdays

Monday – Saturday8:15am

Weekend

Saturday (Vigil)4:30 pm
Sunday ...8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Confessions

Tuesdays6 - 7 pm
Saturdays 8:45 - 9:30 am and
3:30 - 4:15 pm

Adoration

M - F 3 - 8 pm (Chapel)
Tuesday 6 - 7 pm (Church)

Holy Days: Mass schedule may vary.

Please check bulletin,
website or call the Church Office

Baptisms/Weddings

Please call the parish office to
arrange baptisms and weddings.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday 9 to 5 pm
CLOSED for lunch 12:30-1:30pm

A Christmas Quiz



Here are some questions to see how well the family knows the events of the First Christmas. Read aloud one question at a time. Then go around the family and let each person answer it. When choices are given, read them carefully and give everyone time to think. Some are tricky, so watch out!

1. As long as Christmas has been celebrated, it has been on December 25. **True or False**
2. Joseph was from: **a. Bethlehem b. Jerusalem c. Nazareth d. Egypt e. none of the above**
3. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
a. camel b. donkey c. both walked d. Joseph walked, Mary rode a donkey e. we don't know
4. Mary and Joseph were married before Mary became pregnant. **True or False**
5. Mary and Joseph were married before Jesus was born. **True or False**
6. Mary was a virgin when Jesus was born. **True or False**
7. What did the innkeeper say to Joseph and Mary?
a. There is no room in my inn. b. I have a stable you can use. c. both A and B d. we don't know.
8. Jesus was born in a: **a. stable b. manger c. barn d. we don't know**
9. A "manger" is a:
a. stable for domestic animals b. wooden hay storage bin c. feeding trough d. barn
10. Which animals does the Bible say were present at Jesus' birth? **a. cows, sheep, and goats
b. cows, donkeys, sheep c. sheep & goats d. various barnyard animals e. none of the above**
11. The angel told the shepherds to look for a baby: **a. in Jerusalem b. that was a few days old
c. wrapped in cloths d. sleeping peacefully e. lying in a manger f. all of the above g. C and E**
12. According to the Bible, how did Simon and Anne recognize Jesus?
**a. they heard His name b. an angel told them c. a circle of light around His head
d. we don't know**
13. Who saw the star in the east?
**a. shepherds b. Joseph and Mary c. three kings d. both A & B e. Esther
f. none of the above**
14. The Wise men followed the star in the east for 40 years, arriving in Bethlehem the night of Jesus' birth. **True or False**
15. The Wise men were looking for a:
a. baby in a manger b. man wearing a crown c. little child d. pot of gold

*Submitted by Fr. Jim Canova
(Answers in next week's bulletin)*

Mass Schedule and Intentions



STAY TUNED FOR EXCITING NEWS REGARDING EUCHARISTIC ADORATION!

We are in the process of transitioning how we do Eucharistic Adoration here at St. Rita's! This is exciting news!

The old Pre-K room is in the process of being converted to a Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

Our hope is to have the Chapel up and running in the New Year. Please stay tuned to the bulletin in the weeks ahead for more information.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK AND HOSPITALIZED

The current list of our sick and hospitalized are as follows:

Rosemary Hillmer, Kermit Nyen, Gloria Martelin, Bob & Sandy Harms, Larry McConnell, Valerie Guyer

To add or remove the name of a sick person, please call the parish office at: (815) 398-0853 or email:

parishoffice@stritarockford.org. To protect everyone's privacy, only names emailed or called in by family members will be added. To keep our list more manageable and open to all, names submitted will remain on the list for one (1) month. If you would like an extra month, please call the parish office so that we may add it back on.

St. Elizabeth Center Monthly Collection



For the month of January we will be concentrating on collecting new or gently used linens (sheets, towels, blankets, pillows, etc.). But as you know, they will accept most anything. Remember paper/plastic grocery bags as well as metal clothes hangers are always needed. Thank you for continuing to support this worthy charity that touches the lives of so many people.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIBERS

Your JANUARY issue of the Magnificat is available for pick-up in the Church Narthex. They are in the black box which is on the wooden bench. All issues are labeled and organized alphabetically by last name.

IN MEMORY OF

James Hillmer
(husband of Rosemary, father of Kathy Stewart)

Thomas Stacy
(brother of Charles Stacy)

Monday, January 3• *Holy Name of Jesus*

8:15am † Kathleen Frank (Richard & Camille Haase)

Tuesday, January 4• *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

8:15am † Benedicto Memorando (Janet Memorando)

Wednesday, January 5• *St. John Neumann*

8:15am † Jesus Memorando (Janet Memorando)

Thursday, January 6• *St. Andre Bessett*

8:15am † Maria Vasil (O'Hara Family)

First Friday, January 7• *St. Raymond of Penefort*

8:15am † Clara & Peter Dal Pra (Marietta Henry)

First Saturday, January 8• *Christmas Weekday*

8:15am † Florita Memorando (Janet Memorando)

Vigil for the Baptism of the Lord

4:30pm People of St. Rita

Sunday, January 9• *The Baptism of the Lord*

8:00am † Margaret & John Murphy (Family)

9:30am † Kristin Carroll (S.V.D.P.)

11:00am † Marlin Lundwall (S.V.D.P.)

SANCTUARY LAMP MEMORIALS

Memorial candles are located near the tabernacles and in front of the St. Rita icon. Consider offering a candle in memory of someone special or as a special intention. Candles for the week of Jan. 2 - 8 are being offered for:

Chapel:

Church: † Thomas Castree (Dottie Angileri)

St. Rita: † Jim Hillmer (James & Anna Drog)



Readings for the week of January 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

NEED PRAYER ?

Please call our Prayer Line
(815) 226-4376



How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?

We are a Stewardship Parish

Contributions for December 18 - 19

Stewardship of Treasure (226).....	\$15,900.50
Loose Collection	\$713.00
Electronic Transfers (18)	\$775.00
All Saints (1)	\$5.00
Thanksgiving (2)	\$70.00
Immaculate Conception (5)	\$105.00
Flowers (24)	\$465.00
Christmas (33)	\$3,415.00
Solemnity of Mary (6)	\$93.00
Mission Appeal (2)	\$115.00

St. Rita Calendar Raffle 2021

December 6	Keith & Monique Johnson	\$25
December 7	Kevin Tallacksen	\$25
December 8	Joe & Michelle Peterson	\$250
	<i>(Feast of the Immaculate Conception)</i>	
December 9	Bill & Daina Osborne	\$25
December 10	Josephine Hardin	\$25
December 11	Ed & Lori Wick	\$25
December 12	Marlene Gilszmer	\$50
December 13	Joan Webb	\$25
December 14	Nora Heninger	\$25
December 15	Don Hall	\$25
December 16	Cathy Stewart	\$25
December 17	Seth Gallagher	\$25
December 18	Karen nels	\$25
December 19	Christopher Kline	\$50
December 20	June Bratina	\$25
December 21	Mark & Nelly Burrow	\$25
December 22	Ken & Mary McGinn	\$25
December 23	Susan Verace	\$25
December 24	Mary Gubbe lee	\$25
December 25	Rosa Lo Bianco	\$500
	<i>(Christmas Day)</i>	
December 26	Tim Haug	\$50
December 27	Pete & Abby Stankiewicz	\$25
December 28	Pam Weberski	\$25
December 29	Michael Mc Garry	\$25
December 30	John Polnow	\$25
December 31	Ed & Amy Phillip	\$25

Congratulations to all our 2021 Winners!

2022 Calendar Raffle Tickets are now on sale!

There is still time to buy your raffle tickets. These make wonderful holiday gifts and are a great way to help our school. Completed ticket stubs and donations may be returned to the church office, placed in the weekly collection basket, or mailed to the church office. Please direct calendar raffle questions to: Nikki Collins (815)621-7808,



**SOCIETY OF
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de PAUL**

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svdp@stritarockford.org
All calls are confidential

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, your generous response to donating Christmas cards and stamps to those incarcerated was very much appreciated. We received a thank you from the Rockford Reachout Jail Ministry.

*"Dear Friends,
 Thank you for your generous donation of Christmas cards and stamps for the men and women inside the Winnebago County Jail so they can correspond with their loved ones.
 It always amazes me how the simplest gesture of providing a card demonstrates Jesus' love for them.
 May the Spirit of the season fill your homes with love.
 Chaplin Laura DeVries"*

Our first meeting this month is Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30 in the lower level meeting room. Come join us!




Liam Samuel Holweger
(son of Shane & Verence)




Join fellow Pro-Lifers and St. Rita parishioners at the Rockford March for Life January 15, 2021 at 11AM
Start the day with **8:15 Mass** at St. Rita
Followed by **coffee and rolls** in Wahl Hall
Wear your beanie from last year or pick up a matching beanie to identify us as a group.
 You may carpool if you wish to minimize parking issues.

The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's Name.

RISE UP
YOUTH MINISTRY



**TUESDAY
HANG OUT**



**MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

**3PM - 4:30PM SNACKS & DRINKS,
GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP!**

BL. CHIARA ROOM

RISE UP
YOUTH MINISTRY

**HIGH
SCHOOL**



**TUESDAY
HANG OUT**

**7PM - 8:30PM SNACKS & DRINKS,
GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP!**

BL. CHIARA ROOM

BOYLAN



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REGISTER AT BOYLAN.ORG/SHADOWDAY

**HIGH SCHOOL
PLACEMENT EXAM**
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 / 8:00AM- 11:30AM
CHECK-IN: 7:45AM @ STUDENT ENTRANCE (DOOR D)

Incoming freshmen for the 2022-2023 school year can register now for Boylan's High School Placement Test to help determine best course placements.

REGISTER AT BOYLAN.ORG/HSPT

Questions? Contact Emily Schubert at eschubert@boylan.org or by phone at 815-877-0531 x226

Two Weeks to Celebrate Christmas

by Rev. Francis J. Hoffman

Do you remember when the Apollo 11 astronauts returned to earth? I know, that was 50 years ago, but everyone's still talking about it. That celebration lasted for weeks, with ticker-tape parades all over the country.

Hi, this is Fr. Rocky with another Advent Inspiration. Sending three men into the heavens and bringing them back to earth was really something, but sending God to earth as a man and then back to heaven was even bigger! That's why we celebrate Christmas every year for at least two weeks, from Christmas Day, December 25, until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on the Sunday after Epiphany. And those Twelve Days of Christmas when your true love gave something to you? Go ahead and count them: they are the 12 days from Christmas to Epiphany, January 6.

So how do we celebrate? Easy. Parties, good food, fine wine, singing, movies, games, sledding, tobogganing, fireworks, air horns, visiting relatives, and visiting Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament at your local Church for twelve days just to say thank you!

And ... is it possible to over-celebrate? Yes. If you put on more than twelve pounds in those twelve days, you overdid it. But don't worry, Lent will be here soon enough.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I.



TUESDAY ROSARY JANUARY The Holy Name of Jesus

This month as we celebrate the Feast of Mary the Mother of God. Join us on Tuesday nights at 5:30 PM in the Church to pray the Angelus, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Let us also remember that in January we pray for all those affected by the passing of

Roe vs. Wade especially on Tuesday, January 18, four days before the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. We will pray for all infants who have lost their lives due to an abortion.

Pope Francis's intention for January is:

For true human fraternity: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Consider staying after the Rosary to spend time of prayer in Adoration of Our Precious Lord.



On the Feast of the Epiphany we'll be following the example of the Magi when they brought precious gifts to the Christ Child. All baby bottles and blocks, that you were collecting change during Advent will be collected in the baby baskets placed near the altar. This year the money will be donated to Rockford Crisis Pregnancy Care Center. Thank you for your generosity, If you forgot your bottle or box you can drop it off in the office or bring it next Sunday, January 9.

The Church Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday from December 24 thru January 3. Normal office hours will resume on January 4, from 9 to 5.

There will not be Adoration in the chapel on those dates as well.

Happy New Year!

The Bible story of the Three Wise Men



This Bible story from the gospel of Matthew, regards a group of scholarly foreigners who traveled to visit Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the time of King Herod, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.' When King Herod learned this he was troubled, and all of Jerusalem with him. He called together all the leading clerics and scholars of the law, he questioned them where Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they answered, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and found out from them the precise time the star had emerged. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

As directed by King Herod, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the East went before them until it stopped over the area where the child laid. Upon arriving, they observed the child with his mother Mary, and they kneeled down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. They were then miraculously warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, as he planned to kill Jesus in preserving his authority, and returned to their home by an alternative route.

Accounts told about the Three Wise Men that were given names **Gaspar (or Caspar)**, who wears a green cloak and a gold crown with green jewels on it. He is the King of Sheba. Gaspar represents the Frankincense brought to Jesus.

Melchior, who has long white hair and a white beard and wears a gold cloak. He is the King of Arabia. Melchior represents the Gold brought to Jesus.

Balthazar, who has a black beard and wears a purple cloak. He is the King of Tarse and Egypt. Balthazar represents the gift of Myrrh that was brought to Jesus.

Meaning of the Gifts for Jesus

When the Wise Men discovered Jesus and Mary, they would have been residing in a modest house in Bethlehem, because by this time Jesus would have been aged between one and two. Their gifts seem somewhat unusual to give to a baby, however, Christians consider that they had the following purposes and meaning:

Gold: is affiliated with Kings and Christians believe that Jesus is the King of Kings.

Frankincense: is used in liturgical worship in traditional Churches and represented that people would worship and praise Jesus.

Myrrh: is a fragrance that is embedded on dead bodies to make them smell pleasant and represented that Jesus would endure persecution resulting in his death.

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Finance Council, Todd Hughes..... 815-670-1654
Knights of Columbus #7624, Jason Sturges.....
grandknight7624@gmail.com
Pastoral Council, Mike Peck 815-494-8968
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