

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 2, 2022 | St. Rita 4339 Douglas Ave. Racine, WI 53402 | 262-639-3223 | www.st-ritas.org

Epiphany of the Lord

Desire took the wise men on a journey. Deep within them they burned to find this infant king of the Jews and they went to great lengths to fulfill their desire. In a way, desire controls our lives. It lives within each one of us. There are no exceptions. "We are so overcharged with desire that it is hard to come to simple rest. Desire is always stronger than satisfaction".

We can name this desire as a holy longing because it is placed there by the only one whom we call holy—God. God has created this holy longing within each one of us. That is why there are no exceptions. We all carry this longing deep within us, throughout our entire lives. This desire is so central to our existence that it is not an exaggeration to say that the story of our lives is the story of what we do with that desire.

We're all chasing something or, what is most likely, we are all chasing many things. When we find ourselves travelling down too many paths at the same time, we experience a feeling that life is too much to handle. We have too many irons in the fire. If we find ourselves without any focus, any real center to our lives, then we need to pull back and take a long hard, honest look at where we are heading.

Many of us need to dramatically simplify our lives. We have too much, do too much, and want too much. Our basic desire for God and for completeness has been sidetracked. On the other hand, when we allow our desire to lead us to more compassion, greater kindness, caring for others, faithfulness in our marriage and friendships, then we will have allowed that desire to lead us in the right direction. As God directed the hearts of the wise men, may God also direct our hearts as we continue to seek the one thing necessary.

Peace,
Fr. Michael

Lighter Side

Confession

En route to church to make his first confession, my nervous seven-year-old grandson asked me what he could expect.

"Confession is where you tell all the bad things you've done to the priest," I told him.
He looked relieved.

"Good. I haven't done anything bad to the priest."
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This link can also be found on our web site:
www.st-ritas.org.

Please subscribe to it by going to the link above and clicking on the "Subscribe" button.



Ministers January 8 & 9

Deacon Greg will be assisting at all masses.

Lectors

- 4:45 PM Sharon Gierahn
Jean Weaver Peterson
- 8:00 AM Rosemary VanTreeck
Jo Ann Rosenow
- 10:30 AM Nino Martinez
Georgiana Donohue

Eucharist

- 4:45 PM Jane Hardy
Nancy Mayer
- 8:00 AM David Eberle
Myra Fox
- 10:30 AM Rick Kais
Edith Martinez
Cathy Ramage

Altar Servers

- 4:45 PM Javier Acosta-Arciles
Fernando Acosta-Arciles
- 8:00 AM Noah Salchow
- 10:30 AM Henley Hansen
Ana Martinez-Ponce

Parish Activities

MONDAY 1/3

6:00 PM Scouts - *Cascia Hall*

TUESDAY 1/4

WEDNESDAY 1/5

6:00 PM Building & Grounds - *East Mtg. Room*

6:15 PM K-8th Religious Ed - *School*

THURSDAY 1/6

FRIDAY 1/7

SATURDAY 1/8

3:30 PM Reconciliation - *Church*

SUNDAY 1/9

Parish Staff Directory

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Mass Intentions

Saturday 1/1

Vigil Mass: *Epiphany of the Lord*

4:45 PM † Frank & Mary Rondinelli by Eva Britelle

Sunday 1/2 *Epiphany of the Lord*

8:00 AM † Bob & Gertrude Butler

by the Robert Butler Family

10:30 AM For our living and deceased parishioners

Monday 1/3 *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

No Mass

Tuesday 1/4 *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

8:00 AM † Marco A. Castaldi by John & Mary Rohde

Wednesday 1/5 *St. John Neumann, Bishop*

8:00 AM † Bob & Carol Phegley by their family

Thursday 1/6 *St. André Bessette, Religious*

8:30 AM † Rose Ann Brunzman by the Kerns Family

Friday 1/7 *St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest*

8:00 AM Vocations to the priesthood,
diaconate and religious life

Saturday 1/8

Vigil Mass: *The Baptism of the Lord*

4:45 PM † Catherine Fulmer by her mother

Sunday 1/9 *The Baptism of the Lord*

8:00 AM † Stanley and Marion Janzer by their family

10:30 AM For our living and deceased parishioners

Pray for Our Parishioners

***Courage & Protection
for those serving in the
Armed Forces***

LT Jack L. Ramage (Navy)

CPT Eric Ramage (Army)

LT Colonel Geoff Gorsuch (Army)

AC2 Michael Clingaman (Navy)

***Comfort & Healing
for the homebound,
those who are ill &
for their caregivers***

John Allison, Bill Atkinson, Kay Bauer, Eva Britelle, Claude Caldwell, Linda Fidler, Karen Garbo, Cathy Gross, Rita Hejny, Jack Hollow, Sylvia Hultman, Scarlet Johnson, Joan Kral, Donna Larsen, Diana Lesnjak, Helen Lindgren, Patrick Livingston, Jim Long, Ralph Lorentzen, Ann Johnson Lorenzini, Jerry Lui, Sarah Marquardt, Gabrielle Lee Martinez, Molly Mathew, Andrew Mattes, Dolores Meza, Berneice Otis, Jean Pawlak, Mark Quinn, Riley Rocque, Tom Scherr, Melissa Smith, Germane Suchla, Judi Tomachek, Nick Torzala, Don & Rose Veselik, Dorothy Waltenberger, Kathy Weber, Warner Williams, Lou Woodfill and Kathy Zambo

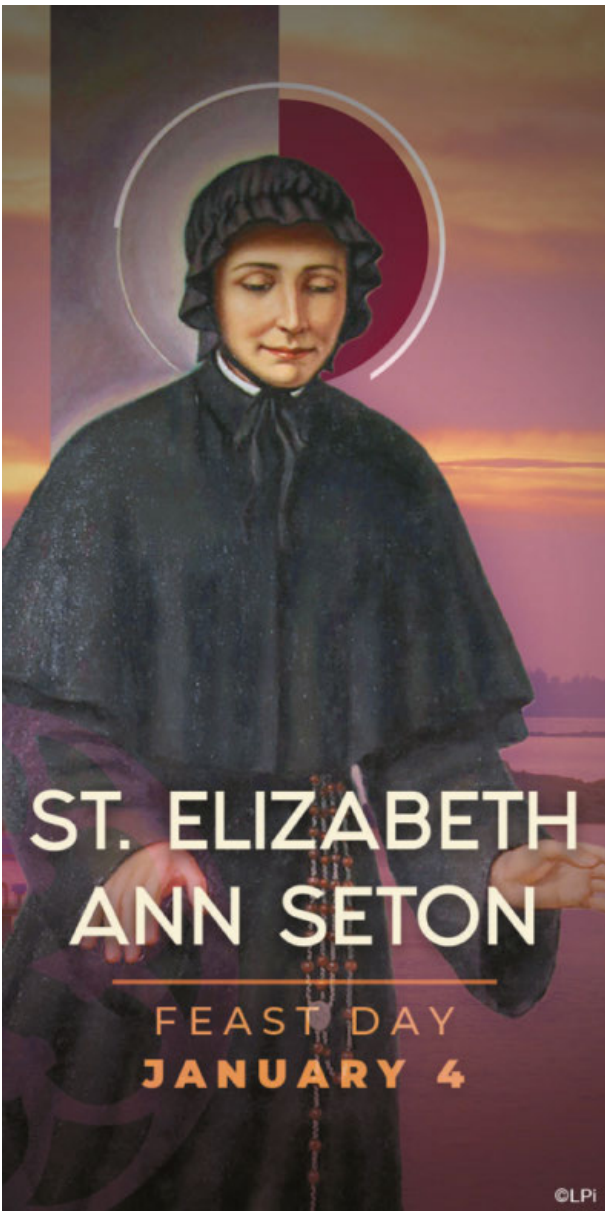
***Comfort & Peace
for our Deceased &
their loved ones***

Cathy Suchla, 83,
passed away on December 16.

Mass of Christian Burial
was held on December 21.

Mass Readings - Week of January 2

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



**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
January 4**

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph’s Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter’s Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of “saint.”

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St. Rita Prayer Shawl Comfort Quilt Ministry

Many people have the idea that the Prayer Shawl/Comfort Quilt Ministry serves only those who are seriously ill. Many years ago when this ministry was started, that was the emphasis. But, here at St. Rita's it has evolved into all aspects of one's life. A recipient recently said to me, but, I'm not ill. My reply, well, we pray for your well being. Everyone needs prayers. As we are sewing or knitting we are praying for whomever receives the item. Another thought that many people have is that the family advises us that they would like a prayer item for someone. That hardly ever happens. We just hear about someone or notice that someone hasn't been around for a while and perhaps they could use a shawl/quilt. More times than not, it's a "Godwink". Many times the family has so much to deal with, this isn't something they think about. If you know of someone you would like us to pray for, do not hesitate to contact the parish office or Betty Majeski 262-886-8634.

We are also in need of plastic bags that sheets and blankets are packed in. If you might have some lying around, bring them to the parish office.

We don't have a lot of expense, but, monetary donations are always appreciated for the costs we do incur.



Recipients of prayer shawls or comfort quilts are very appreciative. These are some of their thoughts.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the care quilts we received. It means a lot to us for the thoughtfulness. Every time we use them we think of the St. Rita family. As former members we know the care and concern. We do feel the love & warmth, & concern....Ted & Phyllis Rapaelian

Thanks, Betty and your knitters for the shoulder throw. They sure are nifty on these chilly nights, especially while recouping. I don't know why God led me through this illness but maybe He's got something good in mind. Thank you for thinking of me....Donna Dombrow

Thank you for the healing blanket. You cannot believe how much I and my family felt when receiving them. Thank you and who ever else help make the...Frank Tomachek

To the entire Prayer Shawl & Care Quilt Ministry, Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. It's very beautiful and very thoughtful. Your work is truly a blessing from God. St. Rita is very blessed to have this ministry. It was a very pleasant surprise and will always be a special memory of our family here at St. Rita!! God Bless all of you..... Ken Olley

Prayer Shawl and Care Quilt Ministry Thank you so much for my prayer shawl. My high school friend received a prayer shawl as well, and thought I would like one. We've been friends ever since we were 16 years old and have seen either though many tough times in life. Not only are we the same age and have shared many of the same life experiences together, unfortunately my friend and I both have brain tumors. She had surgery two years ago and I am facing my surgery in the coming year.

This shawl will give me comfort and a sense of God's presence each time I put it on. I thank you very much for the love and prayers that went into making it. I believe God guided the person who made my shawl to make it...just for me. May God bless your ministry, Pam Kothrade



Religious Ed News

K-8th Grade Classes

Wednesday, January 5 at 6:15 pm
Wednesday, January 12 at 6:15 pm
Wednesday, January 19 at 6:15 pm

High School Classes

Sunday, January 2 at 6:00 pm
Sunday, January 16 at 6:00 pm
Sunday, February 20 at 6:00 pm

Contact Rachel at kroesR@stritaracine.org
if you have questions about our program.



Rosy Rita Kid Zone

PUZZLE

Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

wise-men
child
born

king
star
worship

Mary
gifts
dream

wsie mne	<u>W</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>m</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>n</u>
brno	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
knig	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
derma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
cildh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
wrsohpi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mrya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
gfsti	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
srta	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

MISSION

Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.



Children's Liturgy and Family Resources

This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord or “Three Kings Day” as it is known in some countries. The word epiphany has Greek origins and means manifestation, appearance or showing. It is one of the oldest feast days of the Catholic church on which we remember the fact that Jesus came for the whole world. His identity and mission were revealed to a broader audience with the visit of the three kings or magi. They came bearing gifts that symbolized Jesus' role in salvation history; gold - Jesus' kingship, frankincense - his divinity, and myrrh - his suffering and mortality.

Bringing the Gospel home

Talk about what gifts you have to offer God this year and make a plan to use them in the service of others. Pray that as the magi were guided by a star, you may be guided by God on your journey through life as a family.

This week each time you go on a journey, whether it be to visit family, to school, or to practice, say a prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world who must travel long distances for school, healthcare or food.

Read *Small Camel Follows the Star* by Rachel W. N. Brown
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiJQgCkDrc>

Epiphany reflection for parents


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBP7tf6NiRo>





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