

# Cathedral of St. Peter

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 2, 2022



## 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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**Most Reverend David J. Malloy, D.D., J.C.L., S.T.D.**  
Bishop of Rockford

**Very Reverend Kenneth J. Anderson**  
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kanderson@cathedralofstpeter.org

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In Residence  
jjaskierny@rockforddiocese.org

**Mr. Robert Mitchison**  
Deacon

**Mr. James Easton**  
Deacon

### *Mission Statement*

Cathedral of St. Peter is a Roman Catholic Church whose mission is that of Jesus Christ: the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls. This is accomplished by preaching the Gospel, celebrating the Sacraments and evangelizing the world around us.



## FROM THE PEN OF FATHER KEN Light to the Nations

When St John speaks of the Word made flesh, he identifies it as the light of the world. Jesus comes as the light and glory of God. Though darkness covered the earth, St. John reflects for us, people preferred darkness over light. The Word of God is persistent in His desire to illumine our lives. No matter what darkness covers our earth, no matter how thick the clouds, there is a hidden glory shining here, a radiance.

From this very familiar story, we can extract a profound spiritual lesson about being attentive, acting, and facing opposition. Like the Magi, we need to recognize His star apart from every other star. If we desire to discover God we must seek the good, true, and beautiful. And, once we have been made aware of evil, we must avoid it by journeying another way.

As the prophets predicted, this Light is the illumination of all the world, the Light to whom all seekers are destined to come. In a world that has seemingly become comfortable with darkness, our trek should be guided by holy things, holy people, and the promise of a place of light, happiness, and peace. Therefore, “your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

St. Paul says that Christ’s life was a revelation for all generations. It was for the Jews and the Gentiles as well. We are all “coheirs, members of the same body.” The star’s light shines on each and every person, precious and irreplaceable in God’s eyes.

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Questions? Contact Emily Schubert at [eschubert@boylan.org](mailto:eschubert@boylan.org) or by phone at 815-877-0531 x226



## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

We are so gracious and thankful to God for having the best volunteers in town! Your generous contribution of time and energy to volunteer work is incredible.

## Your Sacrificial Offering

Financial Blessings, December 19, 2021

Loose Collection .....	\$1,672.00
Offertory Envelopes .....	\$5,476.00
Electronic Contributions .....	\$3,315.73
Total Offertory .....	\$10,463.73

### Other Contributions

Improvement (Building) Fund .....	\$55.00
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Thank you to all of those who have pledged to this appeal. Every pledge brings us closer to our goal. **EVERY** pledge helps.



### St. Peter Widows /Widowers Support Group

The *Widows/Widowers Support Group* is here for anyone looking for support in dealing with being a **Widow/Widower** and losing a partner.

Join the *Widows/Widowers Support Group* on **Tuesday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.**



St. Vincent de Paul Society meets on the 2nd Tuesdays of every month starting at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend! Check out our Face Book page: SVdP St. Peter Rockford

**Our next meeting is scheduled for January 11**



### SAVE THE DATE

**FEBRUARY 5, 2022**  
following the 4:15 pm Mass

Join us as we gather for appetizers, wine, beer and desserts

Further details to come



A big thank you to all of you who helped us out at the Jubilee Soup Kitchen on Dec. 4. From baking cookies, to helping with food preparation, to packing bags, to tying up candy treats, to food donations, you all are wonderful and we appreciate you!!

Thank You.

If you'd like to help next year our dates are:

**Feb. 12, June 4, and Oct. 8.**

We wish you a New Year filled with many blessings!  
Mike and Margaret Lenox"



**Exodus 90 is a men's spiritual life program** app based on three pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. The program begins on January 4 and goes through Easter Sunday. It is a

strict program of prayer, meditation, exercise, a healthy lifestyle, and abstaining from alcohol and other excesses. Men would meet weekly for support (times/dates to be determined) .

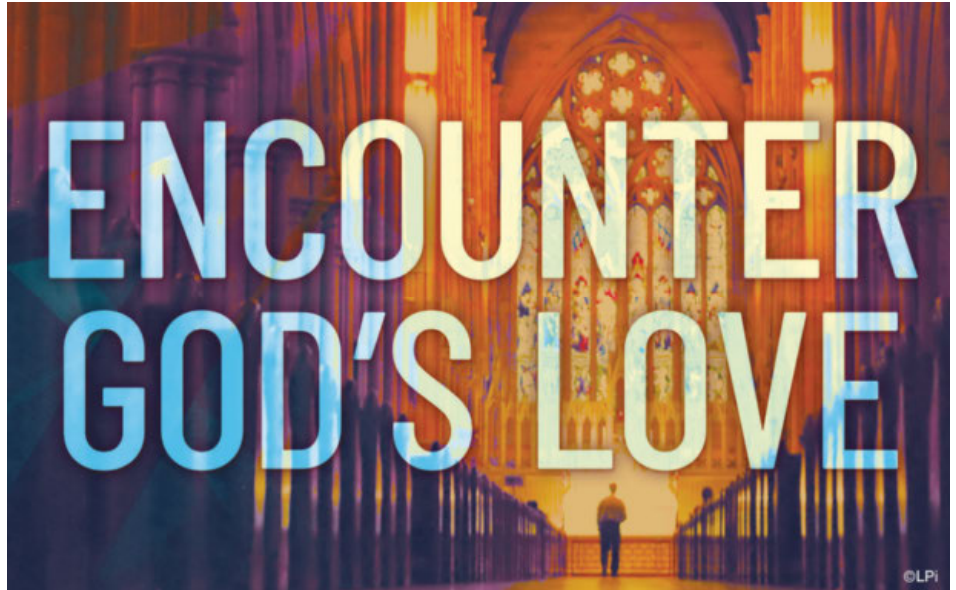
Visit [www.exodus90.com](http://www.exodus90.com) on how it works. The first seven days of Exodus 90 are free. On Day 8, you will be invited to join Exodus Membership for \$90.00/ year or \$10/ month.

Please contact the parish office and join us for a spiritual journey towards Easter.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of



faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that

constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

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## LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Human beings easily get bored. Life’s routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God’s creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

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## The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/ And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon

doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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## What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

This a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled? If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the

area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

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## Saturday, Jan 1, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

9:00 am For the People of the Parish  
 11:00 am +Brad Lashock  
 +Mary Lib Skerkoske  
 5:00 pm **NO MASS**

## Sunday, Jan 2, The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 am +Rosario A. Gaziano  
 +Eunice McGuire  
 9:00 am +Helen Whalen  
 +John Hamaker  
 11:00 am For the People of the Parish  
 5:00 pm +Gerald Magnuson

## Monday, Jan 3, Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 am +Dr. John Barton

## Tuesday, Jan 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 am +Dick Sheehan  
 +Timothy Gilmore

## Wednesday, Jan 5, St. John Neumann

8:00 am +Mary Lib Skerkoske

## Thursday, Jan 6, St. Andre Bessette

8:00 am +John T. Timm  
 +Dr. John Barton

## Friday, Jan 7, St. Raymond of Penafort

8:00 am +Daryl Harmon

## Saturday, Jan 8, Christmas Weekday

8:00 am + Janet DeBruyne

## Vigil Mass:

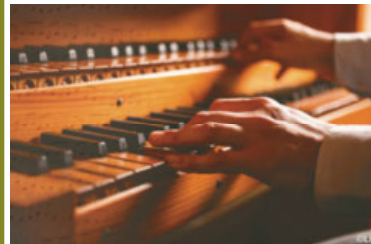
4:15 pm +Patricia Jamison  
 +Mary Lib Skerkoske

## Sunday, Jan 9, The Baptism of the Lord

7:30 am For the People of the Parish  
 9:00 am +John McNamara  
 +James Heim  
 11:00 am +Anne Solar  
 +Sr. Marilyn Brown  
 5:00 pm +Rosario A. Gaziano  
 +Charles & Doris Gough

## Sanctuary Cleaner

Jan 7 **B. Lundin  
 J. Lindstedt**



The Cathedral of St Peter is beginning the process of renovating the organ. This is an outstanding instrument that adds

to the dignity and reverence of the liturgies. Unfortunately, because of the lack of maintenance over the years, it is not up to its full potential. An anonymous donor, who lives in the diocese has offered \$150,000 for the repair. Our Parish needs to support an additional 150,000. We have already contacted a group of parishioners who have been most generous. At this time, we ask for your financial support for this endeavor. As stewards of our church, we want to ensure that many generations will be able to praise and worship God through song and music. The project is extensive, hence the cost, because the organ is more complex than from what we can see.

Please contact us for more detailed information on this project.

## *Sanctuary Lamp*

Our Sanctuary Lamp is burning this week  
 for

## Special Intentions

## Cathedral Staff

**Parish Secretary,**  
Mrs. Rene Flores  
rflores@cathedralofstpeter.org

**Business Manager/Bookkeeper**  
Mrs. Mary Cox  
mcox@cathedralofstpeter.org

**Receptionist**  
Mrs. Connie Murphy  
cmurphy@cathedralofstpeter.org

**Director of Music**  
Mr. Adam G. Singleton  
asingleton@cathedralofstpeter.org

**Coordinator of Religious Education**  
Mrs. Nancy Spahr  
nspahr@cathedralofstpeter.org

**Cathedral of St. Peter**  
1243 N. Church Street  
Rockford, IL 61103  
www.cathedralofstpeter.org

**NFP Contact**  
Mrs. Mary O'Grady, RN  
815-332-3015  
mary.e.o'grady@osfhealthcare.org  
osfhealthcare.org/services/fertility/

**All Saints Catholic Academy**  
409 N. First Street  
Rockford, IL 61107  
www.allsaintsrockford.org  
Phone..... 815-962-8515

**Principal,**  
Mr. Michael Kagan  
**School Secretary,**  
Mrs. Julie Nelson

**Mass Schedule**  
Saturday..... 4:15 pm  
Sunday ..... 7:30 am, 9:00 am  
.....11:00 am, 5:00 pm  
Daily .....8:00 a.m.

**Holy Days**..... 6:30 am, 8:00 am,  
.....12:00 pm and 6:30 pm

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
Tuesday..... 6:30-8:00 pm

**Sacraments**  
**Baptism**  
Most Sundays of the month after the  
11:00 am Mass. Telephone Parish Office  
for program registration.

**Reconciliation**  
Tues. 6:30-7:15 pm; Sat. 8:30-9:00 am,  
3:30 pm-4:00 pm or by appointment.

**Matrimony**  
Please contact the Cathedral Office at  
815-965-2765 or  
office@cathedralofstpeter.org at least 6  
months in advance to begin preparation.

## Parish Office Hours

Hours ..... (M-Thurs) 8:00 am—1:00 pm  
Friday ..... 8:00 am-12:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 7:00 am-11:00 am  
Phone..... 815-965-2765  
Fax..... 815-965-0743



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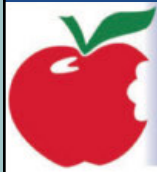
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