

# St. Mary/St. Patrick Catholic Church

The Epiphany of the Lord,  
January 3, 2021

606 W. Main Street · Durand, IL 61024 · 815-248-2490 · [stmarystpatrick.org](http://stmarystpatrick.org)



## 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, 1979 CCD.

### WELCOME!

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you!  
Let us know if you have any questions about our parish or the Catholic faith.

### MASS SCHEDULE:

**Saturday**, Vigil, 4:30 p.m.

Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends - St. Mary Church  
September-May - St. Patrick Church

**Sunday**, 8:00 a.m. - St. Mary Church

10:00 a.m. - Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends - St. Patrick  
10:30 a.m. - September-May - St. Mary Church

**Monday**, 7:30 a.m. Communion Service - St. Mary Church

**Tuesday thru Friday**, 7:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary Church

### RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:

Sunday, 7:30 a.m. - St. Mary Church

First Saturday, 11-11:30 a.m. - St. Mary Church

### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - St. Mary Church

Benediction, 4:00 p.m. - St. Mary Church

**THE BULLETIN:** View the bulletin online at [stmarystpatrick.org](http://stmarystpatrick.org)

Very Rev. Matthew M. Bergschneider, Pastor  
Deacon Dick Mulcahey, Deacon Steve Pulkrabek

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Thursday 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.– 12 p.m.

### A Reflection on The Epiphany, by Deacon Steve Pulkrabek

Today we have a variety of ways to guide us in our journey. But we also have many other distractions keeping us from our purpose. Asking for help has gone by the wayside, unless the GPS directs us to a parking lot that looks nothing like our anticipated destination. Some may say that the Magi were particularly wise since they stopped to ask for help. The Wise Men knew the purpose of their journey, they followed the prophesy of the coming of a newborn King. They were seeking the newborn King of the Jews. Their journey reveals their purpose in life and their following the plan God had set before the beginning of time.

Last year, Pope Francis gave a homily that reflects of the feast of the Epiphany and can help define our journey and give us direction in our lives. The star of Jesus gently invites. There are other brighter stars such as success, money, career, honors, and pleasures that do not point the way. Like meteors they blaze momentarily and fade, but the Lord's star, the Holy Father said, "does not promise material reward, but ensures peace and grants... joy".

Shake off worldly comforts. Just as the Magi set out on their journey after seeing the star, the Pope said, the star of Jesus demands that those who seek Him "leave behind the armchair of worldly comforts and the reassuring warmth of hearth and home." "In other words," he said, "if we want to find Jesus, we have to overcome our fear of taking risks, our self-satisfaction and our indolent refusal to ask anything more of life."

Giving freely, the Magi do as Jesus does: they bring costly gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. The Pope said the Gospel becomes real when the journey of life ends in giving. "To give freely, for the Lord's sake, without expecting anything in return" is "the sure sign that we have found Jesus," the Pope said. Giving freely, the Pope further explained, means "to do good without counting the cost, even when unasked, even when you gain nothing thereby, even if it is unpleasant. He said, "We give a gift pleasing to Jesus when we care for a sick person, spend time with a difficult person, help someone for the sake of helping, or forgive someone who has hurt us."



Remote Religious Education class will be held today followed by the 10th, 17th and 24th. Links to join are on the individual class webpage.

**Second Grade parents...** If your son or daughter will be receiving First Holy

Communion this April, please attend the **Virtual Parent Meeting** being held next **Monday, January 11, at 7 p.m.** The link is on the class webpage.

Please be sure to include the second grade Religious Education students in your prayers as they prepare to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. They are:

Colin Dolan, Ivy Elmer,  
Luna Elmer, Alivia Johnson,  
Lane Kraft, Liam Lange,  
Maya McLevige, Thomas Nestler,  
Ryan Todorov and Jason Scherer.

### ST. ANNE'S CCW

This is to let everyone know that St. Anne's CCW will NOT be meeting in January due to C-19 restrictions for gathering. More information will be published when it is made known. Thank you.

#### What is the difference between chastisement and a punishment?

The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As [St. John Paul II observed](#), "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, what we do can be opportunities for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them. ©LPi

### FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and from 11 - 11:30 a.m. on the 1st Saturday of the month at St. Mary Church. Due to the Re-open Guidelines, it will take place in the priest sacristy behind a free-standing partition. Distancing of 6', mask-wearing, and disinfecting procedures are followed.
- Requests for Anointing of the Sick can be made by calling 815-248-4428.
- For Religious Education information, to register for a Wedding or Baptism, reserve a Mass intention, Anointing of the Sick, memorial candles or flowers, or any other parish matters, please stop by or give the office a call, **815-248-2490**. You can also visit the parish website at [stmarypatrick.org](http://stmarypatrick.org). Thank you.

*House of gold, pray for us.*

### THE SEARCH SESSION 1

This week we begin The Search with Session 1: What Do You Seek? One of the quotes we will discuss this week is, "Happiness is "the cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it" and it "is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves." Christ Stefancik, quoting Blaise Pascal. It's not too late to participate in the Search. If you would like to see a preview of this week's video, head over to the Adult Education page on the parish website.



## AN INVITATION

Our Lady came down to Fatima in 1917 and said, "Pray the Rosary daily." The rosary is what Saint Padre Pio referred to as his "weapon", against temptation. What does the Mother of God and what did the saints know about the holy rosary that we don't know? This meditative prayer focuses on Jesus' earthly ministry in the gospels and on the perfection of Mary because of what the Lord has done for her. This is an invitation to this ancient prayer of the church. Guides and blessed rosaries are available at the entrance to both churches.



Not ready to take the step toward praying a whole rosary? Feel free to contact Peggy Stewart 815-894-2910. She will give you one mystery/decade to pray per day. Other parishioners are already signed-up and praying specifically for the intentions of the people of the parish.

January 3, 2021

### The Epiphany of the Lord

"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!" Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for! ©LPi

## PARISH PRAYER TREE AND PRAYER CHAIN



Our Parish Prayer Tree and Prayer Chain offer a network of support and prayers not only for our parish, but for the community at large. If you would like someone included on the Parish Prayer Tree in the bulletin, then please call the Parish Office: 815-248-2490. If you would like someone to be added to the Parish Prayer Chain, please call Mary Borgmann at 815-865-5555 or Margie Flynn at: 815-494-4288.

Please remember our homebound parishioners and those in Medina Manor, along with Dorothy Anderson, Glenn Busjahn, Ryan Bergschneider, Adrian Book, Regina Borg, Terry Brogan, Lisa Carlson, Brad Crawford, David DiGvonnii, Matt Dolan, Tom Dolan, Tim Floyd, Debbie Forsell, Bill Furman, Rev. Karl Ganss, Frieda Geiken, Marcella Helwig, Tristan Hendler, Kevin Henze, Pat Hertzner, Carol Hertzner, Jennifer Hicks, Bonnie Hnilicka, Gene Hnilicka, Judy Hollenbeck, Gail Jayger, Kenneth Jason, Tony Jason, Carrie Kieilty, Shelly Wenger Jauch, Mary Joyce, Samantha Kaldohl, Emmanuel Kilb, Nancy Kalina, Carol Kirchner, Joanne Komprood, Kathy Lenhardt, Keith Ludolph, Dominick & Rose Lomanto, Stacey Ludkowski, Mary Terese Lynne, Judy Lynde, Vicki Marshall, Vicky Mathew, Raymond McDade, Theresa Mikosz, Jeff Miller, Isabelle Morales, Deacon Dick Mulcahey, Barb Neuzil, Kathy Nielsen, Gracie Nicolosi, Karen Oksnevad, Jana Olsen, Kelli Palmer, Sandra Pauley, Joe Peiffer, Tom Peiffer, Eleferious Prevett, Susan Roach, Frances Salvato, JoEllen Sharer, Dennis Shippy, Eugene Siwinski, Dean Simmer, Betty Sorg, Steve Sorg, Dawson Thomas, Amber Hill Thompson, Marcie Turner, Bob Tykal, Jean Walsh, Laurie Walsh, Steve Walsh, and Paul Wojcik.

Remember our service men and women currently serving, including; Nic Blum, Will Devore, Will Francis, Lucas Graves, Rev. Bob Keener, Landon Ketchum, Garrett & Jason Kirk, Ashley Kochanski, Chris Miranda, Matthew Moser, Mark Shram, Zeth Willard, and Charlie Wojcik. Please let Mary Borgmann or Margie Flynn know of any changes you need for the Prayer Chain. (12/16/20)



**MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Jan. 9 4:30 p.m. Margie Flynn  
Jan. 10 8:00 a.m. Deacon Steve Pulkrabek  
10:30 a.m. Dave Rieman

**LECTORS**

Jan. 9 4:30 p.m. Bill Flynn  
Jan. 10 8:00 a.m. Bernie Walsh  
10:30 a.m. Jane Rieman

**USHERS**

Jan. 9 4:30 p.m. Jack & Lisa Walsh  
Jan. 10 8:00 a.m. Bob Nielsen. tbd  
10:30 a.m. Jim McClellan, Wayne Plasmier

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Waiting to resume

**COLLECTION COUNTERS**

Jan. 13 Lydia Johnson, Cindy Tannehill

**SACRISTAN, ST. PATRICK CHURCH**

Jan. 10 Margie Flynn

=====  
Collection Totals

3rd Week in November 2019		4th Week of November 2020	
Sunday Envelopes	\$5631.00	Envelopes	\$4165.00
Offertory	\$273.00	Loose	\$75.00

Your contribution to the parish is part of your sacrificial giving back to the Lord. Not only are you helping the parish meet its financial obligations, but you are also demonstrating to God, your generosity and thankfulness. Contributions to charitable organizations may be tax deductible. Please have donations submitted December 31, 2020. Thank you.

**END OF YEAR TAX DONATIONS TO DIOCESAN APPEALS**

The letters for donations to Diocesan Appeals will be sent from the Diocesan offices directly to all donors. This is the same as last year. This includes our Diocesan Appeal, National Appeal, International Appeal, and Mission Appeal.

**PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2020**

Financial statements for 2020 for the Parish will be sent to those who request it, as soon as they are available. Please call or message the Parish office to be placed on the list to receive this statement. The state for this statement which will be mailed directly from the parish to the donors. Thank you and have a blessed New Year.

## Mass Intentions

A (+) denotes a Mass intention for our beloved deceased.  
A Mass intention can also be for the living.

**Saturday, Jan. 2 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**

4:30 p.m. (SP) +Chris Price

**Sunday, Jan. 3 Epiphany of the Lord**

8:00a.m.(SM) +Butch Slocum

10:30 a.m. (SM) The People of the Parish

**Monday, Jan. 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

7:30 a.m. (SM) Communion Service

**Tuesday, Jan. 5 St. John Neumann, Bishop**

7:30 a.m. (SM) +Jim Thomas

**Wed., Jan. 6 St/ Andre Besette, Religious**

7:30 a.m. (SM) Special Intention

**Thursday, Jan. 7 St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest**

7:30 a.m. (SM) For the Intentions of Barb Gladfelder

**Friday, Jan. 8**

7:30 a.m. (SM) +Andrew Joseph Helwig

**Saturday, Jan. 9**

4:30 p.m. +Hedy & Vernon Simmer

**Sunday, Jan. 10 Baptism of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. (SM) +Larry Henning

10:30 a.m. SM The People of the Parish

(SM) = St. Mary Church, Durand

(SP) = St. Patrick Church, Davis/Irish Grove

## MEMORIAL CANDLE INTENTIONS

Lighting candles is an ancient practice that we continue to today. A lit candle signifies the hope we have in our hearts and the prayers we offer for a particular intention. In our parish we have two special ways of burning candles for the sake of prayer. Seven-day candles burn before the Tabernacle and the Icon of The Blessed Virgin Mary inside of St. Mary Church. These candles are available to be lighted for your intention and will burn for one week. While we do ask for a donation of \$10, this cost should not be a prohibiting factor. Please call the parish office, at 815-248-2490, to schedule.



Mary Icon Candle

## TABERNACLE FLORAL MEMORIALS

Floral memorials dedicating the two bouquets on either side of the Tabernacle at St. Mary Church are available for loved ones—living and deceased or for special intentions such as holidays, anniversaries or other special events.



A donation of \$15 per vase will help offset the cost of these flowers and enable you to have a beautiful floral tribute for one week. Please call the parish office at 815-248-2490, to schedule. **Tabernacle Flowers**

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