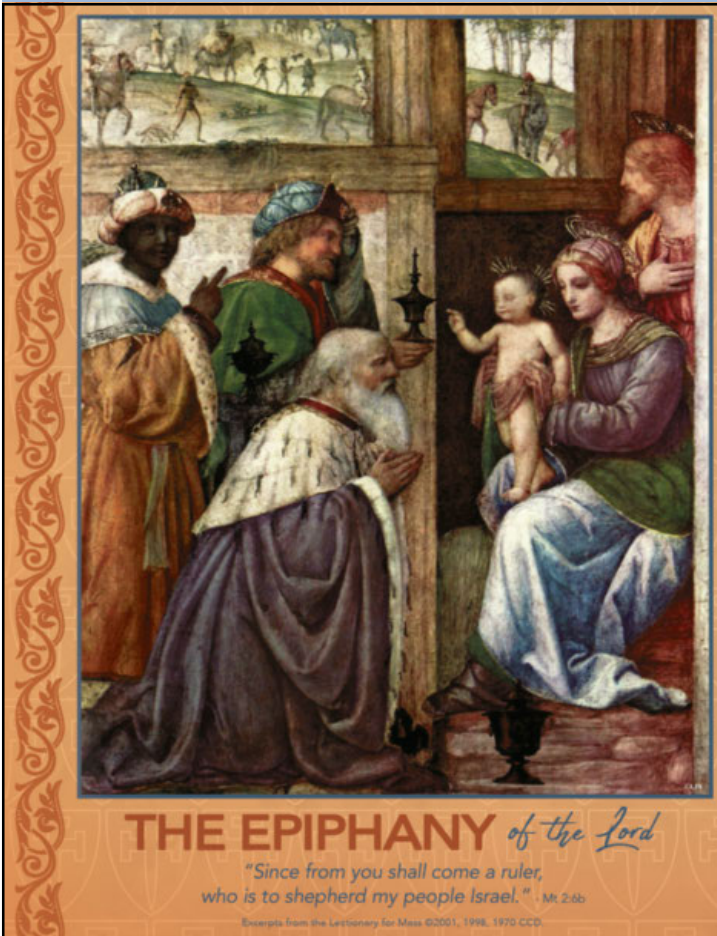


St. Mary/St. Patrick

Catholic Church

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 2, 2022

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WELCOME

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you.
For information about the parish or to register for the parish
Check us out at: www.stmarystpatrick.org

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

EUCCHARISTIC 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

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

OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Thrs 8-4, Fri 8– Noon

Reflection of The Epiphany of the Lord, by Deacon Steve Pulkrabek

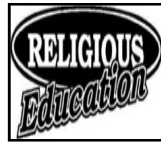
The Greek word Epiphany means appearance or manifestation or showing forth, is used to describe Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles. Today's readings reflect the first Gentiles recognizing the Messiah from the Old Testament prophecies.

In the first reading the Prophet Isaiah, consoling the people in exile, speaks of the restoration of a New Jerusalem from which the glory of Yahweh becomes visible even to the pagan nations. "Jerusalem," the prophet Isaiah cries out, "your light has come in the midst of darkness and thick clouds covering the earth; the glory of the Lord shines upon you."

Exactly what "magi" are is not clear. Perhaps they are learned men; perhaps they are ancient astronomers. We often think of them as kings, the text in today's Gospel does not call them kings, but rather "magi." Psalm 72 (read in today's Mass) speaks of kings coming from the East bearing gifts of gold and frankincense. The sixth century Italian tradition that the Magi finding Jesus were three Magi, Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior, is based on the fact that three gifts are mentioned in Matthew's Gospel: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew nowhere says that there were three wise men from the East. Tradition holds each of them came from a different culture: Melchior was Asian, Balthazar was Persian, and Caspar was Ethiopian - thus representing the three races known to the ancient world.

Stars were believed to be signs from God, announcing important events. A commentary on the Torah by Jewish rabbis suggests that a star appeared in the sky at the births of Abraham, Isaac, and Moses. Likewise, in the Book of Numbers, the prophet Balaam speaks of "a star that shall come out of Jacob." The star is revelation of the Messiah to the Gentiles. The star is the light for the Magi's journey.

I will end with Pope Francis' reflection. "The Gospel account of the Magi describes their journey from the East as a journey of the spirit, as a journey toward the encounter with Christ. They are attentive to signs that indicate His presence; they are tireless in facing the trials of the search; they are courageous in deducing the implications for life that derive from an encounter with the Lord. This is life – Christian life, is a journey but being attentive, tireless and courageous. A Christian journeys like this. Journey attentively, tirelessly, courageously."...Pope Francis – Angelus, 6 January 2015



Religious Education class will be held next Sunday followed by the 16th and 23rd.

Second Grade Parents, if your son or daughter will be receiving First Holy Communion this April, please attend the **Parent Meeting** next Sunday, **January 9th at 9 a.m.** in St. Mary Church Hall.

It is true. **Jesus is a demanding friend.** He points to lofty goals: he asks us to go out of ourselves in order to meet him, entrusting to him our whole life: “Whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it” (Mk8:35). The proposal may seem difficult, and, in some cases, frightening. But I ask you-is it better to be resigned to a life without ideals, to a world made in our image and likeness, or rather, generously to seek truth, goodness, justice, working for a world that reflects the beauty of God, even at the cost of facing the trials it may involve?

Saint John Paul II, Pope
 Message for World Youth Day, 1996

MASS SCHEDULE - JANUARY 1-2, 2022

Jan 1 (Sat.)	Mary the Holy Mother of God 9:00 am Mass, St. Mary Church
Jan 2 (Sun.)	Sunday Obligation and the Epiphany of the Lord 8:00 am Mass, St Mary Church 10:00 am Mass, St. Patrick Church

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | January 4

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” and she’s the patron saint of Catholic schools.

The Durand Food Pantry will open for food box pick-up on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 4:30-6 p.m. and on the 4th Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran in Durand.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is held on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and on the first Saturday of the month from 11-11:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church.
- Requests for Anointing of the Sick can be made by calling 815-248-4428.
- For Religious Education information please give us a call at 815-248-2490, or visit www.stmarystpatrick.org. To register for a Wedding or Baptism, register as parishioners, reserve a Mass intention, request Anointing of the Sick, memorial candles or flowers, or for any other parish matters, please stop by or give the office a call, 815-248-2490.
- The Parish Office will be closed January 3, 2022.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

Who Am I to Judge? This month we will begin an **eight-week small group study program** we’ll explore the classical view of morality and find that it’s not merely a set of guiding principles for theoretical situations– it is an entire way of life. What is “right” and wrong”? Is what’s right for you right for me? Is there a right and wrong for everyone, all the time? These are difficult questions to discuss in our culture. We live in a society that supports the opinion that each person should make his or her own morality– that there is no moral truth that applies to everyone. Maybe some of us wonder whether there really is an absolute right and wrong for everyone. Or maybe we accept that there is a moral standard for all, but we don’t know how to explain our moral convictions to others. Maybe some of us are afraid of saying something is immoral because we’re afraid of offending others or of being labeled intolerant. How do we talk about morality in a relativistic world? If you would like to facilitate a small group, please call the office. **Sign up will begin next week with the small groups meeting the week of January 24th.**

Join us for the Rockford Walk for Life! Saturday, January 15th, 11 a.m., Rockford Federal Courthouse: 327 S. Church Street, Rockford, 61101. We will begin with prayer, a rally and then walk several blocks past the State of Illinois building, and back to the Federal Courthouse to conclude in prayer. Since January 1973, over 62 million unborn babies have been killed through legal abortion. Join us in this peaceful and prayerful walk to end the killing of our innocent brothers and sisters in the womb. The speakers for the event are confirmed. Join us to unite for love of Jesus and His children.

At this time there is a need for a couple of substitute Religious Education catechists and aides. The parish is also in need of a High School Religious Ed Catechist and an Aide for January through May of 2022. In the past, catechists and aides have come from various professions and backgrounds, but what they all had in common was a desire to pass the faith to the next generation of young Catholics. Please prayerfully consider whether you may be called to this essential ministry.

Living Faith Daily Devotional booklets for January, February, and March 2022 are available now for all.

A Message from Bishop Malloy:
January 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

Your support for the 2022 National Appeal in the Diocese of Rockford empowers local communities, shares the Gospel message with our neighbors, and cares for elderly religious. Through this combined appeal collection on January 15-16, we continue the work of building the Kingdom of God right here in our own country and within our own Diocese. Rather than make separate collections for the requests in this appeal, and the many other needs of the church, our Diocese has opted to combine these requests into three separate appeals spaced throughout the year. The National Appeal is the first of these combined appeals in 2022.

Benefited by the National Appeal are more than 26,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who are living witnesses to the Gospel. After long lives of service to Catholic schools, hospitals, and communities, many of these retired religious now volunteer in ministry, while others are frail and need assistance. Our combined collection helps care for these elderly men and women, including in our own Diocese, who have given so much to the Church.

Our National Appeal aids The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC in providing academic scholarships to students and meeting other needs of the university. The school was founded by a papal charter in 1887 and is the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States. By giving to this collection, you help support our country's future Catholic leaders – both religious and lay – in receiving educations rooted in faith.

The Catholic Communication Campaign receives funding through our combined appeal, as well, with half of the contributions directed to this campaign remaining in our own diocese. These local efforts share the Gospel through the televised Catholic Mass as well as “Top O’ the Morning” weekday broadcasts, periodic livestreamed Masses from our diocesan Cathedral, Be Reconciled Day and other communications projects. Another portion of this appeal supports the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. Of those contributions made toward the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, 25% will remain in our diocese to empower those locally living in poverty to transform their lives and our very own communities in the process.

Finally, the National Appeal directly benefits our Catholic elementary schools throughout the Diocese of Rockford and our 40 retired priests, most of whom continue to serve our parishes as they are able. These funds are used to support our grade schools that directly impact the religious and moral formation of our future Church and our retired priests' pensions. Thank you for considering generous support of the 2022 National Appeal.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford



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 which is in the bulletin, please call the Parish Office: 815-248-2490. If you would like someone added to the Parish Prayer Chain, which is a group of parishioners who pray for parish members and their intentions, please call Mary Borgmann, 815-865-5555 or Margie Flynn at, 815-494-4288.

Please remember our homebound parishioners and those in Medina Manor, along with Glenn Busjahn, Ryan Bergschneider, Adrian Book, Regina Borg, Art Block, Terry Brogan, Dave Brown, Lisa Carlson, David DiGvonna, Christine Gignac, Tristan Hendler, Kevin Henze, Carol Hertzner, Jennifer Hicks, Judy Hollenbeck, Kenneth Jason, Tony Jason, Carrie Kieilty, Shelly Wenger Jauch, Mary Joyce, Samantha Kaldohl, Emmanuel Kilb, Nancy Kalina, Carol Kirchner, Joanne Komprood, Bill Kussner, Keith Ludolph, Dominick & Rose Lomanto, Stacey Ludkowski, Mary Terese Lynne, Judy Lynde, Vicki Marshall, Vicky Mathew, Raymond McDade, Theresa Mikosz, Jeff Miller, Isabelle Morales, Kurt Mills, Deacon Dick Mulcahey, Barb Neuzil, Kathy Nielsen, Gracie Nicolosi, Erline Nipps, Holgeir and Karen Oksnevad, Patty Page, Kelli Palmer, Sandra Pauley, Joe Peiffer, Tom Peiffer, Eleferious Prevett, Louis Ropilla, Carol Rosko, Frances Salvato, Brock Scarpetta, JoEllen Sharer, Dennis Shippy, Eugene Siwinski, Dean Simmer, Betty Sorg, Dawson Thomas, Amber Hill Thompson, Lana Todd, Marcie Turner, Jean Walsh, and Laurie Walsh.

Remember our service men and women 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. (11/10/21)

If you or your loved one no longer need our prayers then please let us know so that we can keep the Prayer Tree and Prayer Chain current. Parish Office number: 815-248-2490.

If you would like to occasionally assist with decorating the church then please give a Terry at the office a call. 815-248-2490 Thank you.

Faith is always demanding, because faith leads us beyond ourselves. It leads us directly to God. Faith also imparts a vision of life's purpose and stimulates us to action...Christ has commanded us to let the light of the Gospel shine forth in our service to society. How can we profess faith in God's word, and then refuse to let it inspire and direct our thinking, our activity, our decisions, and our responsibilities toward one another?

St. John Paul II, Pope

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jan. 8 4:30 p.m. Deacon Steve Pulkrabek
 Jan. 9 8:00 a.m. Fran Waller
 Jan. 9 10:30 a.m. Jeanine Schwab

LECTORS

Jan. 8 4:30 p.m. Lisa Flynn
 Jan. 9 8:00 a.m. Lydia Johnson
 Jan. 9 10:30 a.m. Tom Liszka

USHERS

Jan. 8 4:30 p.m. Pat Flynn, Molly Flynn
 Jan. 9 8:00 a.m. Dave & Kate Kinney
 Jan. 9 10:30 a.m. Angie Clark, Shirlee Jasien

ALTAR SERVERS

Jan. 8 4:30 p.m. Armando Batista
 Jan. 9 8:00 a.m. Sean Miller
 Jan. 9 10:30 a.m. Allison Liszka, Lola Robertson

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Jan. 9 Fran Waller, *Lydia Johnson

SACRISTAN, ST. PATRICK CHURCH

Jan. 8 SP 4:30 p.m. Peggy Stewart

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Collection Totals

1st Week of December 2020	1st Week of December 2021
Mail-in & drop-off \$5587.00	Envelopes \$4569.00
Loose: \$90.00	Loose \$110.00

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 the Diocesan Appeal, National Appeal, International Appeal, and Mission Appeal.

Financial statements for 2021 for St. Mary/St. Patrick Catholic Church will be mailed upon request. Call the Parish office to request at, 815-248-2490. Please have all donations into the Parish office by December 31st and dated no later than December 31st to have them applied to 2021. Thank you.

9After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. 10They were overjoyed at seeing the star, 11and 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. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Matthew 2:9-12 USCCB.org

PLEASE PRAY



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jerry Johnson, who passed, December 18, 2021. May God grant him eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 1-The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
9:00 a.m. **SM** +Jean Brogan

Sunday, January 2-Epiphany of the Lord
8:00 a.m. **SM** +Otto & Janice Lasack
10:00 a.m. **SP** The People of the Parish

Monday, January 3-Holy Name of Jesus
7:30 a.m. (SM) Holy Communion Service

Tuesday, January 4-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
7:30 a.m. (SM) +Joy Rittmeyer

Wednesday, January 5-St. John Neumann, Bishop
7:30 a.m. +Bob Vormezele

Thursday, January 6-St. Andre Bessette, Religious
7:30 a.m. +Jim Fritzel, Sr.

Friday, January 7-St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest
7:30 p.m. +Judith Zimmerman

Saturday, January 8
4:30 p.m. **SP** +Helen Daniels

Sunday, January 9-The Baptism of the Lord
8:00 a.m. **SM** The People of the Parish
10:30 a.m. **SM** +Al Jose

“+” denotes a Mass intention for the deceased.

Mass intentions can also be for the living.

(SM) St. Mary Church, Durand

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

MEMORIAL CANDLE INTENTIONS

Lighting candles is an ancient practice we continue today to signify our hope and prayers we offer for a particular intention. The intended person could be living or deceased. 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.



Mary Icon Candle

Tabernacle 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.

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