

EPIPHANY

CATHOLIC

CHURCH

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 26, 2021



Vision Statement: "To offer every person in our community a life-changing encounter with Jesus."

FROM POPE FRANCIS

A CONSISTENT ETHIC ON HUMAN LIFE



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Gaudete et Exultate, 101-108

Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. **Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned**

and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. [84] We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty.

102. We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants, for example, is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the “grave” bio-ethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian, for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their

We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty.

lives to offer a future to their children. Can we not realize that this is exactly what Jesus demands of us, when he tells us that in welcoming the stranger we welcome him (cf. Mt 25:35)? Saint Benedict did so readily, and though it might have “complicated” the life of his monks, he ordered that all guests who knocked at the monastery door be welcomed “like Christ”, [85] with a gesture of veneration; [86] the poor and pilgrims were to be met with “the greatest care and solicitude”. [87]

103. A similar approach is found in the Old Testament: “You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you yourselves were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Ex 22:21). “When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress

him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Lev 19:33-34). This is not a notion invented by some Pope, or a momentary fad. In today’s world too, we are called to follow the path of spiritual wisdom proposed by the prophet Isaiah to show what is pleasing to God. “Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn” (58:7-8).

The worship most acceptable to God

104. We may think that we give glory to God only by our worship and prayer, or simply by following certain ethical norms. It is true that the primacy belongs to our relationship with God, but we cannot forget that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is what we have done for others. Prayer is most precious, for it nourishes a daily commitment to love. Our worship becomes pleasing to God when we devote ourselves to living generously, and allow God’s gift, granted in prayer, to be shown in our concern for our brothers and sisters.

105. Similarly, the best way to discern if our prayer is authentic is to judge to what extent our life is being transformed in the light of mercy. For “mercy is not only an action of the Father; it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are”. [88] Mercy “is the very foundation of the Church’s life”. [89] In this regard, I would like to reiterate that mercy does not exclude justice and truth; indeed, “we have to say that mercy is the fullness of justice and the most radiant manifestation of God’s truth”. [90] It is “the key to heaven”. [91]

106. Here I think of Saint Thomas Aquinas, who asked which actions of ours are noblest, which external works best show our love for God. Thomas answered unhesitatingly that they are the works of mercy towards our neighbour, [92] even more than our acts of worship: “We worship God by outward sacrifices and gifts, not for his own benefit, but for that of ourselves and our neighbor. For he does not need our sacrifices, but wishes them to be offered to him, in order to stir our devotion and to profit our neighbor. Hence mercy, whereby we supply others’ defects, is a sacrifice more acceptable to him, as conducting more directly to our neighbor’s well-being”. [93]

107. Those who really wish to give glory to God by their lives, who truly long to grow in holiness, are called to be single-minded and tenacious in their practice of the works of mercy. Saint Teresa of Calcutta clearly realized this: “Yes, I have many human faults and failures... But God bends down and uses us, you and me, to be his love and his compassion in the world; he bears our sins, our troubles and our faults. He depends on us to love the world and to show how much he loves it. If we are too concerned with ourselves, we will have no time left for others”. [94]

Continued on Last Page

FROM FATHER ERIC

OCTOBER: RESPECT LIFE MONTH



On the first Sunday of October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Sunday, and priests and deacons are encouraged to preach on the Church's teachings on human life.

As Catholics, we believe that every human person is made in the image and likeness of God. Every human life is therefore sacred and inviolable and should be protected and cherished from conception until natural death.

Practices such as abortion, assisted suicide, and capital punishment violate the dignity of the human person and must be rejected.

We are also in the midst of celebrating the Year of St. Joseph. So, this year, we are looking to the witness of St. Joseph as a defender of life. He didn't hesitate to follow God's will of faithfully caring for and protecting Jesus and the Blessed Mother. St. Joseph's example reminds us that we are also to care for, protect, and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

During this Respect Life Month, we can start to become more like St. Joseph by asking ourselves a few questions and reflecting on them: Do we realize how precious every person is? As we go about our day, do we treat people accordingly? How can we help those in our society who are struggling to welcome new life, like moms who are pregnant or parenting in difficult circumstances? How can we reach out to those having a hard time seeing the worth of their own lives? How do we reassure those at the end of life who are afraid they are a burden or feel like their lives don't have meaning?

When human life is threatened, when our brothers and sisters need support welcoming or embracing life, may we lovingly respond with the faithfulness of Joseph.



CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

SACRAMENTS SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Incense is used at 9:30am Sunday Mass. Ministers have Gluten-free Hosts. 7:30 am Sunday Mass is Broadcast on Facebook at Epiphanyparish.com, with drive up Communion till 8:30am (Canopy). Masks and social distancing required indoors. *9:30 Mass now outside behind Church, weather permitting. Simultaneous Communion Service inside.

Sunday, Sept. 26, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Kay Shilgalis
9:30am* Clara and Issa Benyamin
11:30am People of the Parish

Monday, Sept. 27, St. Vincent de Paul, Priest

7:00am Alma and George Karcher
Lector: Deacon Cleary and Karen Overby
EME: Deb Willenborg

Tuesday, Sept. 28, St. Lawrence Ruiz, Martyr

7:00am George and Lorraine Sweeney
8:15am Thomas Dittmer
Lector: Kris Angles
EME: Dorothy Meier

Wednesday, Sept. 29, The Archangels

7:00am Taimooraz Taimoorazy
8:15am Mary Ellen Novak
Lector: Chris Niebur
EMEs: Lynda Arnold, Ed and Newze Nnakwe

Thursday, Sept. 30, St. Jerome, Priest

7:00am Steve Schultz
8:15am Luigi Carriero
Lector: Jennifer Kamradt and Mike Lootens
EME: Darly Menke

Friday, Oct. 1, St. Therese of the Child Jesus

7:00am Margo Schmitt
Lector: Mathew and Katrina Kinata
EME: Aggie Hatc25

Saturday, Oct. 2, The Holy Guardian Angels

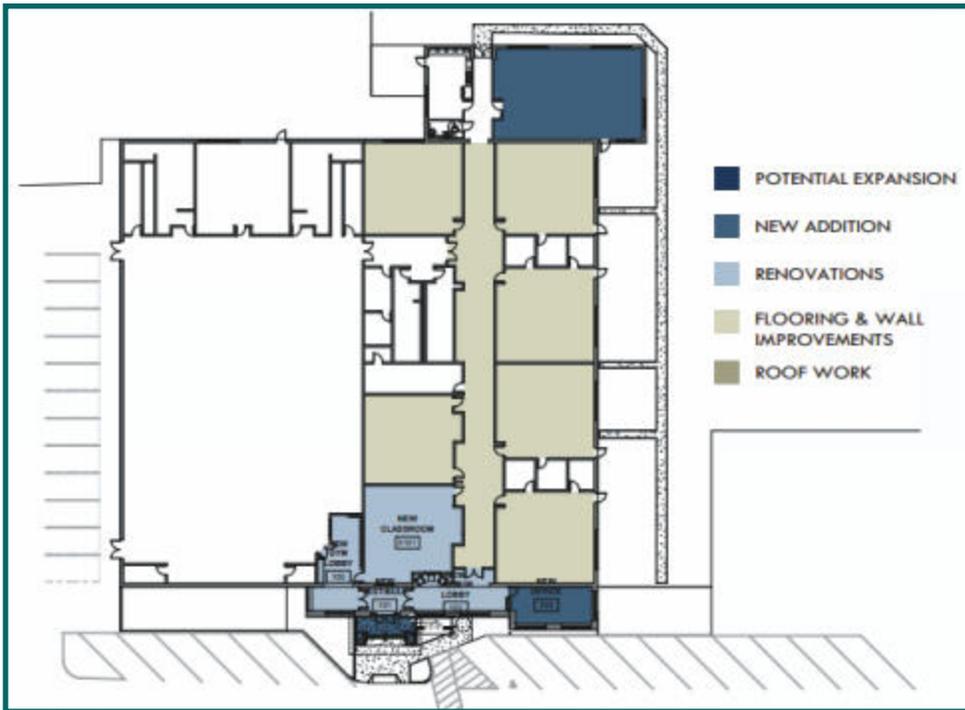
7:30am All Souls' Day Memorial Society
4:00pm Garret and Tom Van Deven
Lector: Steve Gruenwald
EME: Barb Burdett, Mary C. and Keith Walljasper

Sunday, Oct. 3, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Mike Dentino
9:30am* Bill Cunningham
11:30am People of the Parish

Confession Times

7:30am M-F 7am,3pm SAT 7am,9am,11am SUN



Since our major parish-focused capital campaign in 2008, which raised **\$4,200,000 (\$5,300,000 in today's dollars)** our Parish and School have been working diligently behind the scenes to renovate the Elementary School building summer by summer, classroom by classroom, with the help of a local contractor. These summer projects were funded from our parish/school capital improvement budgets. We have spent about \$3,500,000 on these projects (2010 to the present).

We are now at the final step in this overall renovation process—principally, the Junior High building. After considering possible scenarios for accomplishing this task, the Finance Council and I believe that this effort is better tackled as one major project using a major contractor that will guarantee the shortest possible disruption of students and staff of the Junior High.

In addition, we hope this approach will save both time and money by completing the balance of our projects all at once. Please don't be startled by the figures at play. It's amazing what inflation has done in the 13 years since our

last campaign. Equally startling is what is happening now with inflation (as reported in the news).

It behooves the parish and school communities to attend to these major projects at this time. Delay will see even worse inflationary pressure than we have seen in the past 13 years.

- Renovation will permit us to continue to offer our school and CCD families a safe (a paramount concern), clean and exceptional learning environment for education and Catholic formation.
- Completing the renovation of our school facilities is a form of stewardship owed to generations of parishioners and school families who first laid our cornerstones and then built up our facilities over successive generations.
- Part of the project is to attend to parish maintenance and other needs that have surfaced in the twelve years since our Church renovation. This too is a form of stewardship to you and other donors over generations.

The goal of our 2021 Campaign is \$3,500,000 (\$2,750,000 in 2008 dollars).

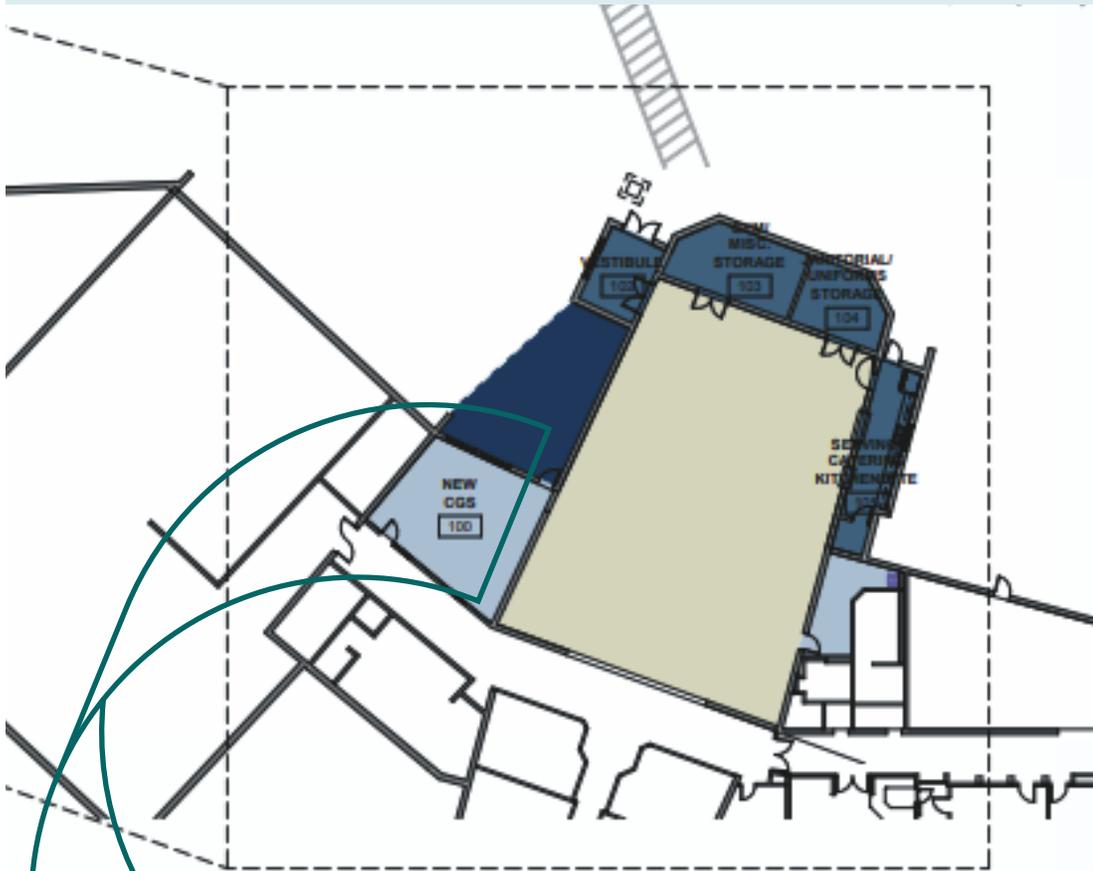
Upon completion of this campus renewal plan, no other parish/school campaigns are anticipated for the foreseeable future.



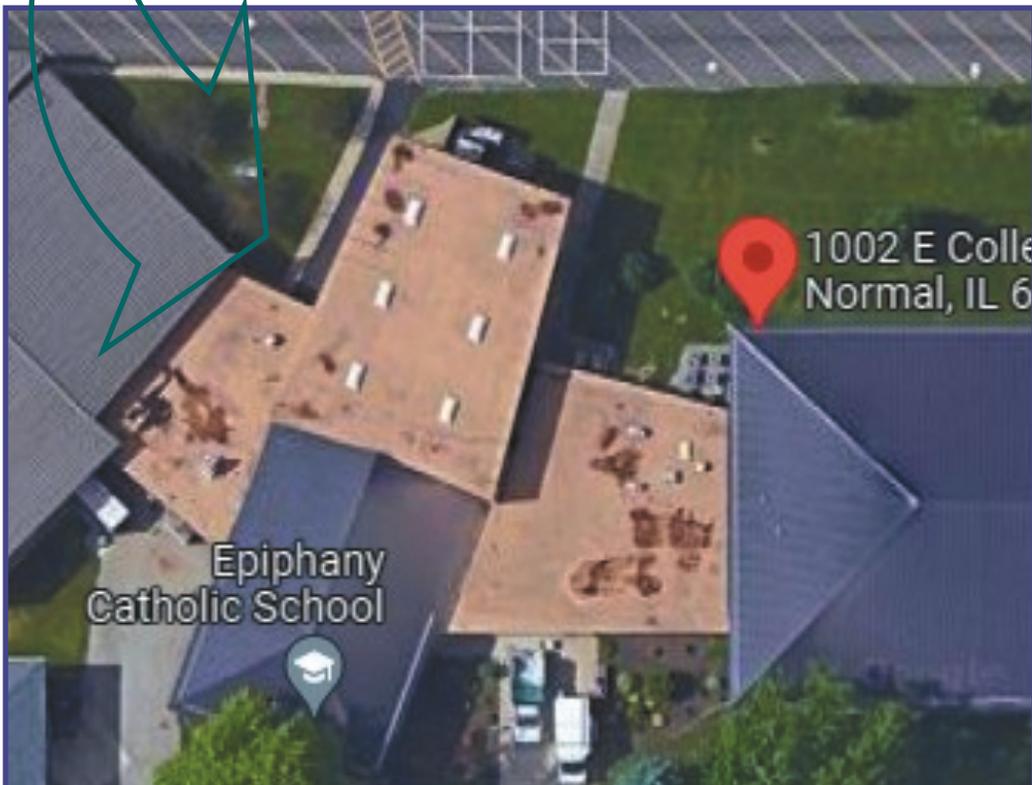
2021 Campaign Timeline:
Early-October: Letter to our Community.
Mid-October: Flocknote Message to our Community.
Early-November: Brochure with Pledge Information to our Community

2021 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

OUR GOAL IS TO WRAP UP BY THANKSGIVING 2021



Please Note: the 2021 Annual *Diocesan Appeal* and 2021 Annual *Parish Appeal* will be included in this Campaign.



The principal goal of the project is a thorough renovation of the Junior High Building.

In addition, there are several projects related to the elementary building, in the small gym area, that are incorporated in this project.

We will round out our campaign efforts with several parish-side projects including replacing the front doors for church facing College, which have warped over the years due to exposure to the elements.

Women's ACTS Retreat

WOMEN OF THE PARISH!

RETREAT NEXT WEEKEND! The Epiphany Women's ACTS Retreat will be held Sept. 30 – Oct 3, 2021. We invite all women who have not attended an ACTS retreat to join us. If you have previously attended, please consider inviting a special woman in your life.

The cost of the retreat is \$195 but financial hardships should not prevent you from

attending – we can help! The registration form and information about the retreat, as well as contact information, can be found on the Parish website under Featured Events. We hope to see you there!

The ACTS weekend is presented by Catholic laymen and laywomen from Epiphany with the support of the clergy. The goals of the weekend retreat are to strengthen your faith, to renew yourself spiritually, to build purpose in your prayer life and to build strong lasting friendships within your church community.

EPIPHANY PARISH
Women's
ACTS RETREAT

At the name of Jesus
every knee should bend
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

PHILIPPIANS 2:10

September 30 - October 3, 2021

Ask us about our health and safety protocols

RECLAIMING FRIENDSHIP



Women of Epiphany Parish it's time to reconnect!

Epiphany will be offering The Walking with Purpose Bible Study,

Reclaiming Friendship, God's Plan for Deep Connection.

Starting October 19th - Nov 23rd, 2021

We will meet on

Tuesdays for 6 weeks in the Parish Hall

Mornings 8:30-10:00am or

Evenings 6:30- 8:00pm

Whether this opportunity is new to you or you are returning for another season, this study couldn't have better timing. The Holy Spirit is calling you to journey in friendship and faith.

See epiphanyparish.com for details & registration.

Please contact Kathleen Phillips kmp1319@aol.com or
Karen Kraft kukraft@yahoo.com with questions or concerns

Walking with Purpose's mission is to provide Bible studies that enable women to know Christ through Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

PARISH UPDATES

CATCH UP HERE

Epiphany Youth Ministry

High School Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings to grow in our faith and have fun together. Contact Kara for more information about High School and Junior High Youth Ministry: kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com

Junior High Youth Group is for 6-8th graders and meets once a month. We had a blast this last Friday—our next Junior High Youth Group is Friday, October 15th from 7-8:30pm.

October is Respect Life Month

The parish Sanctity of Life committee will be organizing the following events to promote respect for human life: All through October we will be raising money for Birthright, to support pregnant women in need of assistance in our community. Baby bottles for collecting donations will be distributed on October 3. Life Chain will take place at 2pm on October 3, on the sidewalk along College Avenue in front of the church. Life Chain is a peaceful, prayerful, pro-life witness. Signs will be provided. We will pray the rosary in the grotto each Sunday in October following the 11:30 Mass. On October 20 at 7pm, we will pray for the protection of human life during an Adoration hour in the chapel. On October 20 at 7pm, we will pray for the protection of human life during an Adoration hour in the chapel.

Taking Prayer Quilt Requests

We all need prayer from time to time. Perhaps you know someone who has a special or particular need at this time. Prayer quilts are a gift of prayer for those needs. Anyone can request a prayer quilt. Request forms are available in the Parish Office and on the Parish website under Service.

Married Couples Small Group

Kathy and Leroy Jenky are leading a small group study through *Beloved*, a marriage enrichment program. This will run for 6 weeks on Monday evenings in the Parish Rectory Room from 6:30-7:45 pm starting September 20th! We would love to see you there! RSVP to Kathy Janke at kathyjanke60@gmail.com.

Cover Art: Christ Crowned with Thorns and the Mourning Virgin, Adriaen Isenbrant, 1535, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In this austere and haunting image, Christ is depicted in the form of an *Ecce Homo*—presented to the people of Jerusalem by Pilate, the Roman prefect of Jerusalem, prior to being led off to be crucified. He wears a crown of thorns and on his exposed torso bears the wounds from his flagellation. The hostile crowd, however, is omitted. Seen up close, in half-length and nearly life-size, Christ and his mother have been isolated for devotional contemplation. They are presented directly to *the viewer*, who becomes Christ's judge as well as a participant in the Virgin's grief.

Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Study

Women of Epiphany Parish it's time to reconnect! Epiphany will be offering The Walking with Purpose Bible Study, Reclaiming Friendship, God's Plan for Deep Connection. Starting October 19th - Nov 23rd, 2021 We will meet on Tuesdays for 6 weeks in the Parish Hall, Mornings 8:30-10:00am or Evenings 6:30- 8:00pm. Whether this opportunity is new to you or you are returning for another season, this study couldn't have better timing. The Holy Spirit is calling you to journey in friendship and faith. See epiphanyparish.com for details & registration. Please contact Kathleen Phillips kmp1319@aol.com or Karen Kraft kukraft@yahoo.com with questions or concerns. Walking with Purpose's mission is to provide Bible studies that enable women to know Christ through Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

News from Central Catholic High School

Check Out Central Catholic September 29, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Showcase Central** is your chance to learn everything you need to know about Central Catholic. Parents of 7th and 8th grade students spend the evening with us and learn how students progress from freshman through senior years and meet our faculty, staff, and coaches. This is your best opportunity to learn about everything Central Catholic has to offer. **High School Placement Test October 1:** BECOME A SAINTS SCHOLAR. Eighth grade students interested in coming to Central Catholic are invited to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) On Friday, October 1. New this year: The Top Ten scorers on our HSPT will be named "Saints Scholars" and receive \$2,500 annual scholarships for their four years at Central Catholic! Drop your student off in our circle drive by 7:30 a.m. Testing begins promptly at 8:00 and ends at approximately 11:30. Students should be picked up in the circle drive as well. Register at www.blmcchs.org.com

Habitat for Humanity Build

We are looking for 10 volunteers to help work on a house for a parish



family!! We are helping to insulate their home for winter! Date of build: Saturday, October 2nd. Time: 8:00-12:00. Location: 822 E Monroe St., Bloomington. Go to our website: Epiphanyparish.com to sign up and get more instructions. (Must be 16 years or older for this build.) This is the ACTS retreat weekend, if you are not on the ACTS retreat we would love your assistance!

Knights of Columbus Coat Drive

Epiphany's Knights of Columbus seek new or gently used coats (also jackets and hooded sweatshirts) for those in need as the weather turns cold. You have two ways you can help: (1) bring coats to Mass on September 25-26 or October 2-3; (2) send coats with your Epiphany School kids the week of September 27-October 1. The class with the most coats collected will have a pizza party! Epiphany's Knights of Columbus will collect and deliver the coats to the St. Vincent DePaul Society for distribution. We know from many stories that people truly cherish these sources of warmth and comfort!

America Needs Fatima Rosary

When: Saturday, October 16, 2021. Arrival Time: 11:45 a.m. Prayer begins at Noon. Location: Center Street and Chestnut, Bloomington, across from Holy Trinity Church. Parking: St. Vincent de Paul parking lot, former junior high school building, entrance on Chestnut Street. We prayerfully bring our petitions to Our Lady of Fatima for the needs of our country, in public witness of our Catholic faith. We will join over 20,000 public square prayer rallies happening at noon local time across the country. Prayer sheets will be provided. Questions: Call Sandy at 309-662-1717

Young at Heart

Join us in Arthur for the Amish Harvest To Home Event: Fri, Oct 8, 2021 9:30 AM Meet at Yoder's Kitchen, 1195 E Columbia St, (Rt. 133) Arthur, IL; for Brunch and then, on to the Amish Heritage Center for tours, activities, and field demonstrations. Displays of Amish farm machinery, early engines, blacksmithing; as well as tours of the buildings will be available. There will be Amish food vendors, buggy rides and a 'train' will transport attendees around the grounds. Admission at the Center is \$10.00 per person or \$20 per car load, so car pooling is encouraged. After, you may wish to visit Beachy's Grocery, the Great Pumpkin Patch, or many of the numerous shops in the area. Reservations: Call Mary-Margaret McHugh, 309-452-7976 Save the date: November 14, Community Players, "Elf, The Musical".

Carmelite Spirituality Group

Do you feel drawn to Carmelite spirituality and want to learn more about the Carmelite way? Do you have a special devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and other Carmelite saints? Is God calling you to become a Third Order Lay Carmelite? Lay Carmelites are called to live a life in full allegiance to Jesus Christ with our role models Mary our Mother, sister and Patroness, and Elijah the prophet of zeal. If you are 18 years or older, and a Catholic in good standing, you are invited to attend the meetings held every 1st Saturday of the month. On Saturday, October 2nd at 10AM-12PM the "Carmelite Spirituality Group" will meet at Historic St. Patrick's Catholic Church in the parish hall, located at 1209 Locust St. in Bloomington, Illinois. We will be discerning the Lay Carmelite vocation that may lead you to profession as a full member in the greater Carmelite family. For details, please contact / RSVP - Lorrie Schmidt T.O.C. (Third Order Carmelite) at: LittlewayofCarmel@gmail.com

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office

(309)452-2585
Epiphanyparish.com

School Office

(309)452-3268
Epiphanyschools.org

Parish Staff

Fr. Eric Powell (Pastor)
pastor@epiphanyparish.com
309-660-7860

Fr. Peter O. Okola, AJ (Vicar) Deacon Mark Cleary (Baptisms)
Fr.Peter@epiphanyparish.com mcleary08@comcast.net
703-626-8819 309-531-1062

Cindy Myers (Pastoral Team)
Pastoral.assistant@epiphanyparish.com

Kara Esker (Youth, CCD, Pastoral Team)
kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com

Stephanie Demboski
Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization Coordinator
stephanie.demboski@epiphanyparish.com

Domine King, Joyce Tellman (Office Staff)
office@epiphanyparish.com; Angie O'Connor (Parish/School Books) business.manager@epiphanyparish.com

Sean and Jennifer Stevens (Music)
music@epiphanyparish.com

Parish Outreach

If you find yourself in serious economic need, Epiphany Parish and St. Vincent de Paul want to help. Email Orlando Lopez our Outreach coordinator: outreach@epiphanyparish.com.

SHARING IN THE MISSION THANK YOU!

Gifts from Our Parish Family

September 19 ,2021	\$7,839
E-giving.....	\$10,481
Special.....	\$695
Parish Endowment.....	\$335
School Endowment.....	\$75
Capital Improvement.....	\$285
Weekly Budget	\$24,500
YTD Budget (12 weeks)	\$294,000
YTD Income.....	\$281,774
YTD Balance.....	(\$12,226)

108. Hedonism and consumerism can prove our downfall, for when we are obsessed with our own pleasure, we end up being all too concerned about ourselves and our rights, and we feel a desperate need for free time to enjoy ourselves. We will find it hard to feel and show any real concern for those in need, unless we are able to cultivate a certain simplicity of life, resisting the feverish demands of a consumer society, which leave us impoverished and unsatisfied, anxious to have it all now. Similarly, when we allow ourselves to be caught up in superficial information, instant communication and virtual reality, we can waste precious time and become indifferent to the suffering flesh of our brothers and sisters. Yet even amid this whirlwind of activity, the Gospel continues to resound, offering us the promise of a different life, a healthier and happier life.

—Francis



Epiphany
KNIGHTS OF
HOME



5TH ANNUAL
COLUMBUS
BREW

\$200
First Prize!

Challenge

Saturday, October 23 • 7:00-9:00PM
EPIPHANY CATHOLIC CHURCH • NORMAL

BENEFITS
The Society of
St. Vincent de Paul

\$20 admission gets attendee 12 sample tickets, one vote and appetizers.
\$10 admission for non-sampling attendees.

Registration for **Brewers** is **free** and includes tasting samples.

Note: for public health reasons, all samples will be served in disposable cups.

To reserve tickets to attend or to brew,
email **Joe Blaney (joe@dmci.com).**

*Knights of Columbus,
friends, and guests
are all welcome.
Must be 21 to attend.*



St. Joseph,
defender of life,
pray for us!

RESPECT LIFE
respectlife.org

ACTION GUIDE
RESPECT LIFE MONTH: OCTOBER

INTRODUCTION

Every October the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates *Respect Life Month*, and the first Sunday of October is observed as *Respect Life Sunday*. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning to the end of their lives, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provides resources to help parishes, schools, families, ministries, and individual Catholics share the Gospel of life during *Respect Life Month* and throughout the year. In the following pages, you will find a number of resources to help you celebrate *Respect Life Month*. Action ideas and activities, a sample timeline, homily helps, announcements, and intercessions are provided to help you get started. Adapt these resources as needed to fit your specific circumstances. Additional materials can be found at respectlife.org/respect-life-month.

Additional materials can be found at respectlife.org/respect-life-month.



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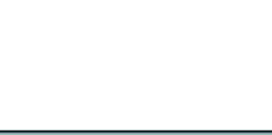
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