The Baptism of the Lord Vision Statement: "To offer every person in our community a life changing encounter with Jesus."

POPE FRANCIS

JOSEPH: FOSTER FATHER



Today we will reflect on Saint Joseph as the father of Jesus. The evangelists Matthew and Luke present him as the foster father of Jesus, and not as his biological father. ...

To understand the alleged or legal paternity of Joseph, it is necessary to bear in mind that in ancient times in the East the institution of adoption was very common, more so than today....

As the official father of Jesus, Joseph exercises the right to impose a name on his son, legally recognizing him. Legally he is the father, but not generatively; he did not beget Him.

In ancient times, the name was the compendium of a person's identity. Changing one's name meant changing oneself, as in the case of Abraham, whose name God changed to "Abraham", which means "father of many", "for", says the Book of Genesis, he will be "the father of a multitude of nations" (17:5). The same goes for Jacob, who would be called "Israel", which means "he who struggles with God", because he struggled with God to compel Him to give him the blessing (cf. Gen 32:29; 35:10).

But above all, naming someone or something meant asserting one's authority over what was named, as Adam did when he conferred a name on all the animals (cf. Gen 2:19-20).

Joseph already knows that, for Mary's son, a name had already been prepared by God – Jesus' name is given to him by his true father, God – "Jesus", which means "the Lord saves"; as the Angel explains, "He will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21). This particular aspect of Joseph now enables us to reflect on fatherhood and motherhood. And this, I believe, is very important: thinking about fatherhood today. Because we live in an age of notorious orphanhood, don't we? It is curious: our civilization is something of an orphan, and this orphanhood can be felt. May Saint Joseph, who took the place of the real father, God, help us to understand how to resolve this sense of orphanhood that is so harmful to us today.

It is not enough to bring a child into the world to also be the child's father or mother. "Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person" (Apostolic Letter Patris corde). I think in a particular way of all those who are open to welcome life by way of adoption,

which is such a generous and beautiful, good attitude. Joseph shows us that this type of bond is not secondary; it is not an afterthought, no. This kind of choice is among the highest forms of love, and of fatherhood and motherhood.

How many children in the world are waiting for someone to take care of them! And how many married couples want to be fathers and mothers but are unable to do so for biological reasons; or, although they already have children, they want to share their family's affection with those who do not have it. ... And this denial of fatherhood or motherhood diminishes us, it takes away our humanity. And in this way civilization becomes aged and without humanity, because it loses the richness of fatherhood and motherhood.

I ask of Saint Joseph the grace to awaken consciences and to think about this: about having children. Fatherhood and motherhood are the fullness of the life of a person. Think about this. It is true, there is the spiritual fatherhood of those who consecrated themselves to God, and spiritual motherhood; but those who live in the world and get married, think about having children, of giving life, which they will take from you for the future. And also, if you cannot have children, think about adoption. It is a risk, yes: having a child is always a risk,

either naturally or by adoption. But it is riskier not to have them. It is riskier to deny fatherhood, or to deny motherhood, be it real or spiritual. But denial, a man or woman who do not develop the sense of fatherhood or motherhood, they are lacksomething, ing something fundaimportant. Think about this, please.

Saint Joseph, you who loved Jesus with fatherly love, be close to the many children who have no family and who long for a daddy and mommy.

Support the couples who are unable to have children, help them to discover, through this suffering, a greater plan.

hood, they are lacking something, something fundamental, something important. Think about this, please.

Make sure that no one lacks a home, a bond, a person to take care of him or her; and heal the selfishness of those who close themselves off from life, that they may open their hearts to love.

Thank you.

I hope that the institutions will always

be ready to help regarding adoption, by seriously monitoring but also simplifying the necessary procedure so that the dream of so many children who need a family, and of so many couples who wish to give themselves in love, can come true.

I pray that no one feel deprived of the bond of paternal love. And those who are afflicted with orphanhood, may they go forward without this unpleasant feeling. May Saint Joseph protect, and give his help to orphans; and may he intercede for couples who wish to have a child. —Francis

Page 2

FROM FATHER ERIC

CATHOLIC EDUCATION



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the years, we have spoken a great deal lately about the value and utility of a Catholic education; with registration for the 2022-2023 school year looming on the horizon I thought I would present again the finding of a recent national survey that looks at parent satisfaction with the education their child(ren) are receiving.

The study, What Do Parents Think of Their Childrens' School, Barrows, Pe-

terson and West (2016), commissioned by Education Next examined five key school characteristics: teacher quality, expectations for achievement, safety, discipline and instruction in character and values.

The researchers found that "parents in the private sector are far more satisfied in each of the five areas with most aspects of their children's' schools than are parents with children in public schools."

The difference in the share of parents who are Very Satisfied with the private school is on average 12 percentage points higher than the public schools. Some examples from the survey are as follows:

TEACHER QUALITY

Private Schools – 46% Very Satisfied, 40% Satisfied

Public Schools - 23% Very Satisfied, 51% Satisfied

VALUES EDUCATION

Private Schools - 59% Very satisfied, 30% Satisfied

Public Schools - 21% Very Satisfied, 41% Satisfied

Our area is blessed with fantastic schools both parochial and public. We firmly believe that Epiphany Catholic School offers an outstanding option for the education of your children centered in the Gospel-mission of the Roman Catholic Church. Please do not hesitate to contact our principal, Jennifer Kamradt, to discuss whether your child's future may include our school.

May God Bless and Keep You and Yours,

—Father Eric

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

SACRAMENTS SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Incense is used at 9:30am Sunday Mass. Ministers have Glutenfree Hosts. 7:30 am Sunday Mass is Broadcast on Facebook at Epiphanyparish.com, with drive up Communion till 8:30am (Canopy). *Masks Required at 2 Masses.

Sunday, January 9, BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:30am* Steve Penn

9:30am William Warren (liv.) 11:30am* People of the Parish

Monday, Jan. 10, Weekday

7:00am Gene and Patricia Kernes Lector: Kara Esker EME: Deb Willenborg

Tuesday, Jan. 11, Weekday

7:00am Tom Krause 8:15am J. Michael Hayes Lector: Kris Angles EME: Dorothy Meier

Wednesday, Jan. 12, Weekday

7:00am Susan Lamb 8:15am Hertha Lesser

Lector: Chris Niebur EMEs: Lynda Arnold, Ed & Newze Nnakwe

Thursday, Jan. 13, Weekday

7:00am Cecelia Jurgens 8:15am Carl H. Ekstam

Lector: Jennifer Kamradt EME: Darly Menke

Friday, Jan. 14, Weekday

7:00am Albert, Roma and Robert Humenick Lector: Mathew and Katrina Kinate EME: Aggie Hatch

Saturday, Jan. 15, Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30am All Souls' Day Memorial Society

4:00pm Bill and Ruth Harrington

Lector: Steve G. EME: Barb Burdett, Mary C. & Keith Walljasper

Sunday, January 16, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am* Mary Ellen Novak 9:30am Paul Legris Family 11:30am* People of the Parish

Confession Times

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

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Lalley family

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Gladys Lamkin

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George Luber, Jr

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Robert & Kathleen Marcotte

Jim Martin

Pierre Mbumbu

Hannah Steinweg McDonald

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Barbara Mecherle

Raymond & Margaret Miles

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Mary Jo Paine

Chuck & Steve Penn

Bob Pioli

Dorothy Pointer

Carolee Pretet

David Rapp

John R. Rapp

JohnJ. & Marjorie Rapp

Tom Rees

Mrlene Rever

Andy Riggs, Jr.

Arnie Riggs

Christine Riggs

Harriet Rostowsky

Rutliff family

Verlin Ryan

Lucy Sadler

Sagodic family

Elaine M Sapp

Gene Sapp

Roy Sapp

Traci Ann Sapp

Sauvageau family

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Clayton, Anne & Eugene Schinzel

Margo Schmitt

Patricia Schroeder

Kay Schultz

Steve Schultz

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Debra Smyth

Jim & Lula Smyth

Ray William Sparks

Max L. Starkey

Howard & Lucille Stateman

Jean Stedman

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Thaddeus Sutter

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Leo & Genevieve Szalkowski

Stewart & Madeline Taber

Tellman family

Ruth Thomas

Ken Toczko

Melanie Umba

Bill Valentine

Olena Valentine

Tony Valone

Tony Valone, Jr.

Michael Vanko

Bernadine & Joseph VanValey

Voirol family

Von Nordheim families

Marilyn & Lou Weber

John & Anita White

Bernard & Goldia Williams

Marguerite Witzig

JoAnn Zazzara

Lee & Mary Zielinski

PARISH UPDATES

Epiphany Youth Ministry

High School Youth Group meets Sunday January 9th from 6:30-8pm in our new youth space, The Crib, (the old convent). Start your new year by growing in your faith with an awesome and fun community of teens!

Catholic Heart Work Camp is a weeklong summer mission trip for teens - you'll work tirelessly, think deeply, celebrate Mass, and build relationships. You'll dance, laugh till your side hurts, pray, change on the inside, and be part of transforming lives and communities for Christ! 8th graders and up are invited to join us in Memphis TN from June 12th-18th for Catholic Heart Work Camp. Contact Kara (kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com) for more info!

Junior High Youth Group is open to all 6-8th graders and meets once a month. Our next Junior High Youth Group is Friday, January 21st from 7-8:30pm. Come to the parish hall to hang out, have fun, and grow in faith together!



School Custodian Needed!

Epiphany Catholic School is looking for a part time custodian to during work school day. Responsibilities include cleaning, facility set-up, compliance checks, and maintenance of school buildings. Experience to include knowledge of maintenance/cleaning

equipment as well as familiarity with basic landscaping and minor building repair practices, additional duties as directed. Applicants must complete all diocesan requirements. If interested in applying, please contact jennifer.kamradt@epiphanyschools.org.



Cover: The infant Jesus with a Lamb, Bernardino Luini c. 1525, Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan.

This panel is certainly striking for its mastery of technique and for its ability to express the tenderness of the Infant Jesus in his delicate embrace of the lamb. From an iconographic point of view, the presence of the lamb refers to innocence and the Passion (Jesus as the Lamb of God, whose immolation on the cross redeems all creation) or to Jesus the Good Shepherd, as described in the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John ("I am the good shepherd").

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office

(309)452-2585 Epiphanyparish.com

School Office

(309)452-3268 Epiphanyschools.org

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

Deacon Mark Cleary (Baptisms) mcleary08@comcas t.net 309-531-1062

Fr. Peter O. Okola, AJ (Vicar) Fr.Peter@epiphanyparish.com 703-626-8819

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

Stephanie Demboski

Adult Faith Formation & Evangelization Coordinator stephanie.demboski@epiphanyparish.com

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

Mike Essington (IT) it.director@epiphanyparish.com

Spiritual Directors:

Sylvia Hernandez sylviahernandez50@gmail.com Deacon Mark Cleary mcleary08@comcast.net

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 THE MISSION THANK YOU!

Gifts from Our Parish Family January 2, 2022 \$6,930 E-giving \$6,685 Special \$585 Parish Endowment \$550 School \$10 Capital Improvement \$25 Weekly Budget \$24,500 YTD Budget (27 weeks) \$661,500 YTD Income \$648,177 YTD Balance (\$13,323)

Women's Bible Study

Start the New Year off right.... Join us for a new Walking with Purpose Bible Study: "Order Your Priorities: Building a Life Well Lived". Ordering Your Priorities: Building a Life Well Lived is an immensely practical Bible study that will help you put the most important things first. We'll begin by paying attention to the One who made us, because He can best tell us what we need for our lives to run well. Tuesdays, Jan 11-Feb 22, 2022, From 8:30-10:00am or 6:30-8:00pm. See registration details on the Events page at epiphanyparish.com

Starting a Small Group

Have you ever wanted to start a Small Group that studied something of interest to you? But you didn't know where to begin? Come to our Leader Formation Class Jan-February and learn

all you need to know to kick off a small group! Begins Sunday Jan. 9 from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Rectory Room, ends before Lent.

Blood Drive

The Bloomington Knights of Columbus is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, January 10th, starting at 1:15 Regular Whole Blood Donors and at 1 PM for Double Red Doniors. The last appointments accepted will be 5:45 PM. MASKS will be required for everyone. We hope to see all of the regular donors and some new donors. The Drive will be at the K f C Hall at 1706 R.T. Dunn Drive. I am also looking for some volunteers to make Blood Drive calls. A few reliable people to make calls reminding donors of the coming drives. This would take about an hour every two months. For this call Dennis Fries at 309-825-2589, leave your name and phone number if I do not answer and I will get back to you.

Birthright Thanks You!

Birthright thanks Epiphany Parish for 7800.00 collected in baby bottles these past few months. You can still bring your bottle to the Birthright office or call Kathy Janke at 309-242-8893. The baby bottle fundraiser is the only fundraiser that Birthright of Bloomington holds every year so that volunteers can assist pregnant women in a downtown office. If you would like to volunteer, please call Kathy. Thank you, again, for your generosity and prayers!

You are Invited!

The Secular Franciscans of the St Margaret of Cortona Fraternity meeting at St Mary's Church, Bloomington IL would like to invite you to an Epiphany party Sunday, January 16th, 2022. We will be meeting from 2 pm to 4 pm in the parish Hall (church basement). The address is 527 West Jackson Street. There will be snacks and fun. If you are curious about the Franciscans, or just want to have some fun, please come join us.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Funeral Committee Volunteers Needed

We want to resume funeral luncheons after January 1st, but we need YOU! Serving on the Funeral Committee is a concrete way to

2021 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Please tear out, fill out and return this document if you would like to receive a statement of your contributions to Epiphany Parish. Return it to the parish office, or place it in the collection basket on your way into church. Email Option: fill in all lines, but print your email address clearly below.

Name:	
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Tuition Statements can be obtained by logging in to your FACTS account and printing a 2021 summary. Contact Angle in the Business Office with questions.

provide comfort to grieving families when a loved one is lost. There are a variety of ways you can help: donate desserts, set up the parish hall, help during lunch, or clean up. Committee members are not committed to help with every funeral lunch. To join the Funeral Committee, contact Suzanne Ferrara at sferra@ilstu.edu or join the Funeral Committee on Flocknote.

Join us at Midwest Food Bank

Epiphany Parish is sponsoring another volunteer service project at Midwest Food Bank on Thursday, January 13 from 6-8 PM. The Food Bank is located at 2031 Warehouse Road in Normal. We are looking for 25 volunteers from our parish to help sort and/or pack bulk food items, most of these volunteer roles do not involve heavy lifting. Volunteers must be age 10 or older. We ask that there be at least one adult to help supervise every three children. This is a fun opportunity to help feed the hungry, learn more about Midwest Food Bank, and meet your fellow parishioners. To sign up for this project, please go to: https://x.gldn.io/JqBpNU1xOjb or visit the website. If you have any questions you may contact Joe Morrow at 309-824-2193, or email Orlando Lopez at outreach@epiphanyparish.com.

Faith in Action News

Faith in Action is Charleston Bound this spring from April 3-9th! For all the details of this **bus trip**, visit https://bnfia.org/charleston-sc-bus-trip or call Jan at 309.827.7780. Book by Jan. 27, 2022! In addition, are you ready to brighten an older adult's day? With Faith in Action, **volunteer drivers**, shoppers and friendly visitors choose when and how often they volunteer. To register for Volunteer Orientation, email Stacey@bnfia.org or call (309) 827-7780. Upcoming dates: Jan. 4, 2022 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, Feb. 1, 2022 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Writing Opportunity

Are you looking to exercise your creative writing skills? Want to be published on a monthly basis? Epiphany Church is looking for a volunteer to create a monthly newsletter for the parish. This newsletter would include a calendar of all events and help spotlight what opportunities are available as well as what various ministries are doing at the parish. Information to be published will be provided to you, but we need help creating an engaging, visually appealing manner of delivering this information to people's inboxes.



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