

JAN

3

2021

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Catholic Church



WELCOME!

OUR MISSION

We are a Catholic Community whom God has called together through Baptism. As part of Christ's Living Church, we welcome all to:

Worship with us through our Liturgical Celebrations; Learn with us the teachings of Jesus as we expand our discipleship; Serve with us God's people inside and outside Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in a spirit of stewardship; and Gather with us to celebrate Christ's two great commandments of love.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass

Monday-Friday 6:30am
Thursday 2:00pm
(when school is in session)

Weekend Mass

Saturday - Vigil 4:30pm
Sunday - 7:30, 9:30,
11:30am
Spanish Mass 1:00pm

Confessions

Tuesday - 12:00pm
Thursday - 5:00pm
Saturday - 11:00am



3850 Lourdes Drive
Decatur, IL 62526



mfriedel@dio.org
mtrumner@dio.org



Monday - Friday
8:00am to 4:00pm



www.ololchurch.com



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<https://www.facebook.com/ourladyoflourdeschurchandschool/>

Weekly Readings

Sunday, Jan 3

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 111]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday, Jan 4

1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday, Jan 5

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 111]/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday, Jan 6

1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 111]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday, Jan 7

1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 111]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday, Jan 8

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday, Jan 9

1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday, Jan 10

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11



Epiphany

When most Catholics think of the Solemnity of the Epiphany, they probably think of the coming of the Wise Men to visit the newborn Christ child, and rightly so. This feast commemorates the day on which the Savior is revealed not only to the Israelites, but indeed to the entirety of the gentile and pagan world. The three Wise Men, in that sense, represent much more than themselves. They represent how men and women of learning from every culture and land now have access to salvation, for our very salvation has been born among us in time. For the Wise Men, it was their study of the stars and an openness to the revelation of the one true God that brought them to the Christ, lying in a manger that night in Bethlehem—but today, Christ is still accessible to us through our reason (that's what it means to believe in an intelligible faith—it's not just made up, but accords with reason and the God of reason!), and people from every corner of the world can now come to Christ in the myriad of ways He chooses to reveal Himself, whether that be through science, beauty, the faith of other disciples, or the traditions of the Church and its deposit of faith.

Traditionally, Epiphany is celebrated throughout the Church on January 6; but in the United States, most dioceses have transferred its observance to the first Sunday after January 1.

The word Epiphany literally means “manifestation,” from the Greek *epi-phainein*, which means something like “to show unto” or

“display,” and it points us to the way in which our God manifests Himself, especially in the person of His Son.

So this celebration of the Epiphany of God actually commemorates two other significant events in the life of Christ as well: the Baptism in the Jordan and the Wedding Feast at Cana. The Baptism of the Lord (which we will celebrate as well in its own right next Sunday) is one of those pinnacle moments in the life of Christ when God the Father speaks from heaven the identity of His Son. As well, the Wedding Feast at Cana celebrates the moment when Christ begins to manifest Himself publicly as the great Wonder-Worker, the Messiah for whom Israel has longed for centuries. These, too, are the manifestations of the Son of God—moments of epiphany.

And we as a Church learn from this that our God is the God of revelation: that our God willingly chooses to reveal Himself. Why? Because He desires that we know Him. It's a simple, but marvelous fact. Our Savior comes to us, the God-made-manifest, and He comes with power to redeem our fallen humanity. His light breaks upon us; God “weds” Himself to His people; the King of Kings comes to mount His throne. All of these are themes we could take up on this great feast of the Epiphany.

Every degree I've gotten has made me realize how much more there is to know, especially of the profound truths of our God. But thankfully, we don't need Masters degrees or special equipment to understand our God. He is rather the One who pours Himself out into the simpleness of a child—all to show us, well... Himself: our God made manifest. Praised be God for such an immense and powerful gift! May each of us spend our lives gratefully pondering that profoundly simple reality, that indeed our God has come to us.

Keep spreading joy!

Fr. Friedel

ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you would like to join the parish or if you are not Catholic and would like to learn about the Catholic faith, please call the Parish Office or visit our website.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY JAN 4

6:30am | Bob Wolford

TUESDAY, JAN 5

6:30am | Flemming Family

WEDNESDAY, JAN 6

6:30am | Janice Earl

THURSDAY, JAN 7

6:30am | Sharon Follis

FRIDAY, JAN 8

6:30am | Doris Eckert

SATURDAY, JAN 9

4:30pm | Edwin Troscinski

SUNDAY, JAN 10

7:30am | Fran Cantwell

9:30am | Dr. Bill Wagner

11:30am | Jack Dougherty

1:00pm | Elena Ochoa Moreno

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR...

Jody Fifer
Sharon Nolte
Dick Torgerson
Donna Powell
Adrienne Moore
Paula Hogan
Jean Hunt
Rita Davis
Hal Himstedt

Jack Frankovich
Karen Like
Judy Rooney
Roger Hess
Tom Dierkes
Sister Jocelyn Serwatka, OSF
Cecilia Kehoe
Dorothy Arseneault

Call the Parish Office (see bulletin cover) to submit a name to the prayer list

STEWARDSHIP

December 20, 2020

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 23,698
Loose Cash	\$ 447
Children Donations	\$ 0
Total Collected	\$ 24,145
Year-to-date Goal	\$ 456,000
Year-to-date Collected	\$ 403,233
Difference	\$ - 52,767

We're grateful to those who continue to financially support our parish. God bless you!

Diocesan Collections \$ 1,190



FIRST READING

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

PSALM

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

SECOND READING

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 2:5-6)

Gospel

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. (Mt 2:10-11)

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4 LITURGICAL LIFE

TIME *Talent* TREASURE

As a new pastor, I'm learning a lot about a lot of things—one of which is how each parish participates in our annual diocesan assessment. For many years, you've probably heard Fr. Rick explain the Annual Catholic Services Appeal (ACSA). This year, things are a little different!

Our Diocese has changed from "ACSA" to a tithing model, which assesses each parish 10% of its parish revenues to help support the Diocese. This program is intended to help us move in the direction of the Biblical ideal of tithing, which asks each of us to strive toward giving 10% back to God. Just as we are all called to support our parish, we as a parish hope to also be good stewards of our Diocese.

By now, all of you have likely received your letter from Bishop Paprocki asking you to

consider an additional donation to help pay our parish's assessment. Our assessment for the 2020-2021 fiscal year is **\$109,385**. This number reflects the fruits of your generous donations prior to COVID-19, and though this pandemic has affected all of us in different ways, I am confident that together we can conquer this goal. In the future, the hope is that our tithing goal will be an assessment in real time, allowing us to budget this assessment monthly. For now, though, I pray that each of you will prayerfully consider a donation to help us make our goal!

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions regarding the Season of Stewardship program or our assessment. Let us all respond to God and to our local Church with a spirit of generosity, grateful for our call to be God's stewards!

PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR TITHE

Your donations to our community are still needed!



Please participate in a Season of Stewardship initiative that all the parishes in our diocese are conducting. We are to be reminded of our call from God to be generous in giving back to Him with our Time, Talent, and Treasure. Each of us is being asked to consider our commitment to our parish and how we can continue to "make a return to the Lord" with heartfelt gratitude. There is a commitment card to be filled out by you and returned to the parish office, either by mail or by dropping it into the collection baskets.

We have already begun receiving your commitment cards, and I look forward to receiving more as you continue your family's discernment! Thank you to all of you who have responded so quickly. It is such a blessing for me (and I hope for all of you too!) to see your enthusiasm for your Catholic faith and your generous support of our parish family. You are a valued member of our Church and together we will ensure our parish continues to be a vibrant community of faith!



DRIVE-UP TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Each Wednesday morning at 10am, St. Thomas Church will offer Drive-Up Communion for Parishioners who have chosen not to come to Mass during the pandemic. Remember, our Bishop has excused all the faithful from the obligation of attending Mass. If you would like to receive Holy Communion, come to the church on Wednesday morning and form a car line at the church entrance nearest Angela Hall. Look for the orange traffic cones.

Please remain in your car and wear a face covering.

The Deacon will approach your car to offer you the Body of Christ.

You must receive Communion in your hand; receiving on the tongue is not permitted in this situation.

After receiving Communion, please say a silent prayer in your car for a few moments before driving off.

If you have any questions, please call Deacon Kevin 877-4146 (office) or 620-2032 (cell).

St. Patrick Church on Eldorado street also offers Drive-Up Communion. Sundays beginning at 11:30am. Please enter off of North drive to the west side of St. Patrick Church.

SUNDAY MARRIAGE QUOTE:

“He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted.” (Is 61:1) Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, reminds us of God’s gift of joy (“gaudium” in Latin) no matter what trials we are experiencing in our family.

PARISH CONTACT UPDATE

If you would like to receive parish emails communicating meetings/ classes/events/general information please email your name and email address to: joe@lolchurch.com

WEAR YOUR MASKS

When you attend Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, we ask that you wear your masks when you arrive and enter the building. If you leave your pew to use the restroom or take your child to the restroom, PLEASE remember to wear your mask and help protect those attending Mass.

PRE-PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL

Preplanning your funeral assures you and reassures family members that arrangements will be made according to your wishes. An electronic version is available to guide you through the scripture and hymn selections, offering excellent suggestions to make your funeral liturgy personalized. Email Jami Snow at jami@lolchurch.com for more information.

Preplanning really can make a difficult situation easier for surviving family members by having your choices in place and eliminating time-pressed or uncertain decisions.

ROSARY

Saturdays | 4:00pm
Sunday | 7:00am, 9:00am in Church



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!

©LP

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Flowing from the teaching of the Catholic Church

Advent 2020 is now behind us. Hopefully, we have reflected on our daily living asking the Holy Spirit to guide us on what we needed to change and that we did rid ourselves of one weakness or improve a relationship. A question to ask ourselves now: Did I really prepare my heart and mind for the "Coming of the Lord" on Christmas and prepare also for the day when the Lord will come to take me home to be with Him? As we celebrate the Christmas season and prepare to make our New Year's resolutions, let's consider this prayer by Howard Thurman (1953) and make a resolution based on a phrase:

"I Will Light Candles this Christmas"

I will light Candles this Christmas; Candles of joy despite all the sadness; Candles of hope where despair keeps watch; Candles of courage for fears ever present; Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days; Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens, Candles of love to inspire all my living; Candles that will burn all year long. When the song of the angels is stilled; When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home; When the shepherds are back with their flock; The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart.

Our Committee wishes everyone a very Happy, Healthy, Holy New Year!

Submitted by Sr. JoAn, Temporary Co-Chairperson of the OLOL/St. Thomas Social Justice Committee

Called by Christ to continue his work on Earth, our mission is to speak for those in need, to advocate for justice, and to call one another to action.

INVEST IN KIDS

In 2017, bipartisan lawmakers passed the Invest in Kids Act. This historic law – the first of its kind in Illinois — transforms lives by providing up to \$100 million in scholarships for children from low-income and working-class families in Illinois, while also providing landmark funding for public schools. Empower Illinois' scholarships provide parents with a way to help their children find success!

\$100,000,000 in K-12 scholarships

Scholarships are funded through private donations to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs), like Empower Illinois, who then administer the application and scholarship process. Donations to the scholarship program are eligible for a 75% State Tax Credit.

DONATE TO YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL – OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Request a Letter ID

Donors can begin the process by registering with mytax.illinois.gov. Approximately 10 business days later, you should receive your Letter ID in the mail.

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Once you have your Letter ID, return to mytax.illinois.gov and activate your account.

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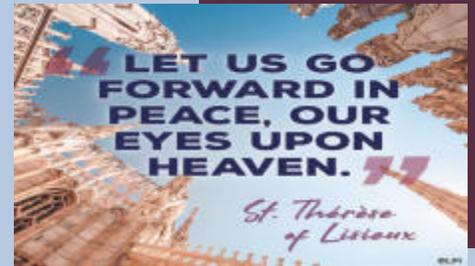
Beginning January 1, donors may reserve their tax credit on a first-come, first served basis. Once you reserve your credit, you have 60 days, or by December 31, whichever comes first, to make a donation to Empower Illinois.

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Visit empowerillinois.org/donate to complete your donation. Individual donors may designate his or her donation to a favorite school or network of schools. Corporate donors may designate **their donation to a region of the state.**

INCREASE YOUR IMPACT

Donors who give to Empower Illinois receive a 75% tax credit for the amount of their gift, up to \$1 million. In addition, any portion of the tax credit may be carried forward for up to five years. Therefore, the tax credit is incentive for a donor to increase the amount they donate in tuition assistance. Donors can QUADRUPLE their impact with no extra money out-of-pocket.



Question: What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

Answer:

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, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 5 | 12:00PM

Confessions in St. Anne's Chapel

JANUARY 6 | 6:00PM

PSR classes on Christmas Break

JANUARY 7 | 6:30AM

New Year's Eve Mass

JANUARY 8 | 6:30AM

Mass in the Church, Come and Spend some Time before the Presence of Jesus

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WEEKLY EVENTS

WOMENS GROUP

Wednesday | 1:00pm
St. Therese Intercessory Prayer Group for women meetings will be **POSTPONED** until COVID-19 restrictions subside.
Questions: Linda Clark 875-4215.

ADORATION

Thursday | 5:00pm
Eucharistic Adoration in the Church,
Confessions in the Chapel
Confessionals
Holy Hour in the Church.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

Wednesday | 6:00pm
Religious Education is offered to our parish children in preparation of the sacraments.

RCIA - ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thursday | 6:30pm
Deacon Kevin Richardson instructs the Rites of the Catholic Church to those who want to join the faith.



PSR TEACHER NEEDED

Our Lady of Lourdes PSR is in need of a teacher for the second grade class. There is also a need for substitutes if you do not want to commit to a weekly schedule. Please contact Barbara Hertel at 217-791-3015 if you are interested in sharing your talents by volunteering to teach religion at our Parish grade school. *WEDNESDAY EVENING 6:00 - 7:15PM*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

SCHOOL AND CHURCH CUSTODIAN NEEDED

The school and church are looking to hire a custodian/maintenance person.

If you are interested in applying for this position please call 877-4404.

Just a Second

Adam: What is a million years like to you?

God: Like one second.

Adam: What is a million dollars like to you?

God: Like one penny.

Adam: Can I have a penny?

God: Sure, just a second.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive.

Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see? ©LP

JANUARY 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious

JANUARY 5

St. John Neumann, Bishop

Decatur Catholic Radio WDCR 88.9/96.5

*Victim Assistance Coordinator for
the Dioceses of Springfield in Illinois*
Alison Smith
217-698-8500

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH STAFF

Pastor,

Rev. Michael Friedel

Parochial Vicar,

Rev. Michael Trummer

Pastoral Associate,

Sr. JoAn Schullian, O.S.F.

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator,

Sr. Ofelia Quiroz, MAG

Pastoral Care Coordinator,

Jami Snow

Administrative Assistant,

Dorothy Centers

Business Administrator,

Joe Snow



Our Lady of Lourdes School Staff

Principal,

Theresa Bowser | tbowser@ololschool.com

School Secretary,

Dianna Wagner | dwagner@ololschool.com

PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

The mission of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is to develop strong values in our students and educate them spiritually, intellectually, culturally, and physically.

Phone: 217.877.4408 | Website: www.ololschool.com



OUR LADY OF LOURDES FINANCE AND PASTORAL COUNCIL

Fr. Michael Friedel	Jack Wagner (Chair) 875-2623
Fr. Michael Trummer	Mary Ann Fawcett 875-2737
Ann Kerns	Jerry Follis 875-3746
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Barb Hertel	Marielle Bai
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