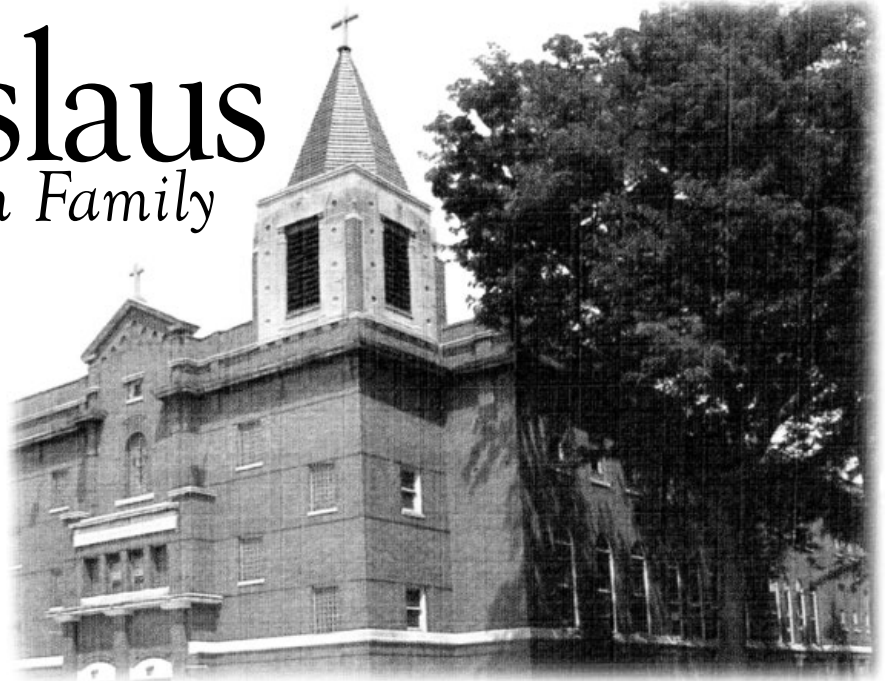


# St. Stanislaus

*Parish Family*

**January 2, 2022**  
**The Epiphany**  
**Of The Lord**

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808 W. 150TH STREET · EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312

#### PARISH STAFF

Msgr. John J. Siekierski, Administrator  
Sister Gloria Jean Kozlowski, Director of  
Religious Education  
Angelica Agosto, School Principal  
Dora Castellanos, School Secretary  
Heladia Rivera, Church Secretary

#### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (by appointment)

**Office Closed:** Wednesday,  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

#### TELEPHONE

Parish Office/Rectory	398-2341
Convent	397-7059
School	398-1316

#### MASSES

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 8:30am

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

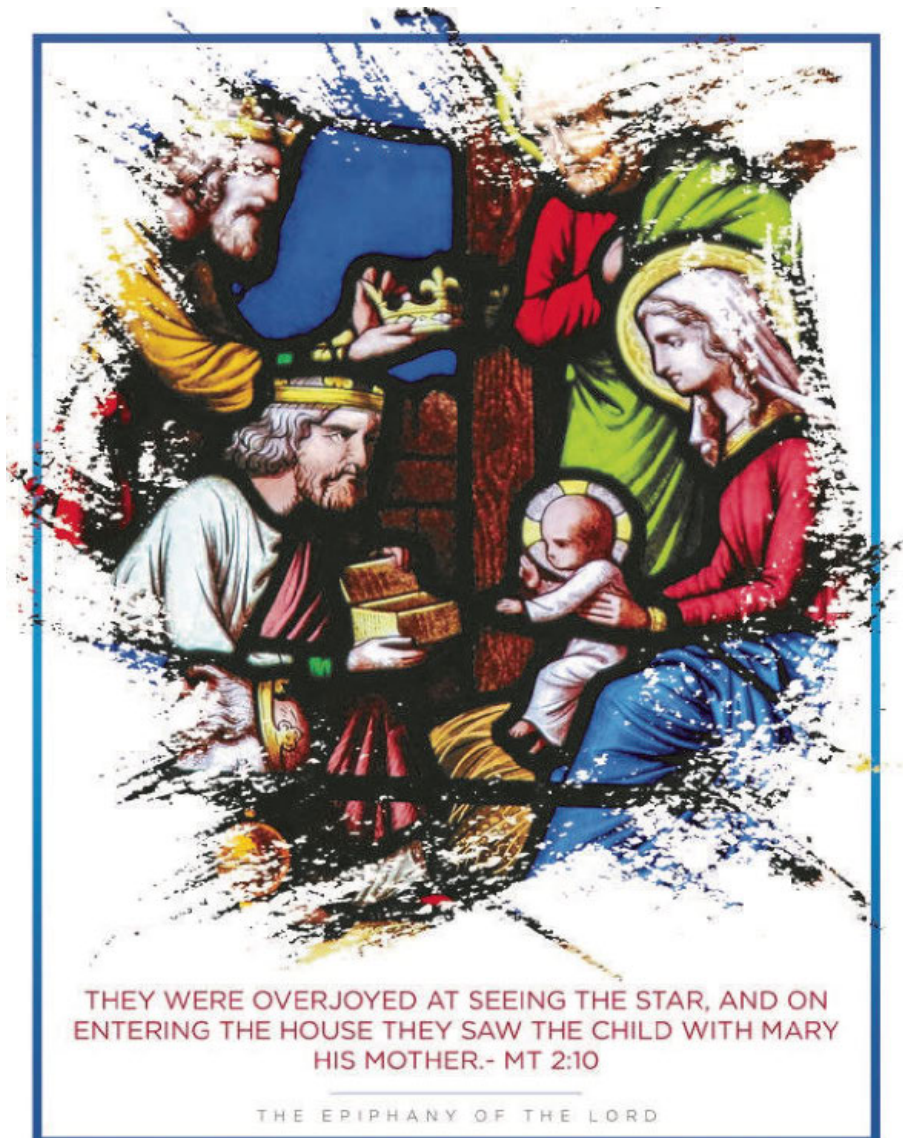
There are no weekday Masses or Word &  
Communion Services at this time.

#### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from

4:00pm-4:15pm

and after the 4:30pm Mass.



## Liturgical Notes for the Week

Today celebrates The Epiphany of the Lord. This day's scriptures present a news worthy breaking idea and images of light, visitors, gifts and a STAR. The Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel writes Paul and affirms us — non born Jews being here rejoicing in the revelation made known to all the world this day As we absorb this profound truth in our pondering as the chosen texts are proclaimed. May these words about light, visitors, gifts and a star add to this weeks remembrance of some very special saints. In the stillness of a silent night in Bethlehem, a light announced the birth of our savior. A star appeared in the east and shone with awesome brilliance on a humble stable. A star whose radiance was so dazzling that shepherds left their flocks to seek and adore the newborn king. A star whose rays ignited the sky and beckoned wise men from foreign lands, who knelt at the crib of the Christ Child. A star whose beams were so intense, they shattered the darkness of the earth and announce the long-awaited Messiah: the savior not only of the Jews but of the world. A star whose light made all the difference. And today, Lord Jesus, we await we await your coming again. We yearn for your comfort and consolation. In a world fraught with violence and war, poverty and prejudice, we long for your peace and justice, your power and glory, your goodness and light to shine in our hearts and in our lives. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. (Is (:1,5)*

### Blessing of the Home

Epiphany is a day to make our homes glitter with the exuberance of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It's the customary day to bless the home for the new year, although this blessing is fitting whenever you can gather the household in January. You can bless your home simply, praying the blessing below as part of mealtime grace. Or you can embellish this blessing by writing with chalk above the front door: "20+C+M+B+22" (the initials of the three holy kings Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar). Then everyone walks from room to room sprinkling the home with water, a sign of the River Jordan.

*Prayer: God of Bethlehem and of Cana, God of Jordan's leaping waters, in baptism you bring us into your family. You wed us, embracing us as your beloved. May we fill this home we have made with kindness to one another, with hospitality to guests, and with abundant care for every stranger. By the gentle light of a star, guide home all who seek you on paths of faith, hope and love, where*

*in heaven and peace on earth, now and for ever. Amen.*

### They Came Bearing Gifts

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Today the Wise Men come to Bethlehem. With them, Lord, We come to render homage to you. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Today the star leads them to the manger. With them, Lord, We wish to let ourselves be led by your light. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Today they see the little child and Mary his mother. With them, Lord, we wish to discover you in the midst of our brothers and sisters. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Today they prostrate themselves before you and adore you. With them, Lord, we wish to adore your holy will for us. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Today they offer him their gifts. With them, Lord, we wish to offer you our own lives as a gift. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

On this day O Jesus Lord, we pray to you: Let all our lives bring glory to you. And because your birth was here on earth, give us someday our own birth in heaven for one eternal Christmas.

Henri Nouwen from his book "Life of the Beloved." "Our humanity comes to its fullest bloom in giving. We become beautiful people when we give whatever we can give: a smile, a handshake, a kiss, a part of our life... all of our life."

### The Gifts of the Magi

O Lord of the feast, grant me the grace this Christmas season to give the gifts of the Magi Kings; the royal gift of the most precious gold of unconditional love, the noble gift of the pungent myrrh of mercy and compassion and the divine gift of the aromatic incense of cordial kindness to all I meet. Magi Saints Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar, be my daily inspirations to present these royal gifts generously to Christ, the Prince of Peace, now present in my family, friends and strangers.

### Wise Women!!

If there had been three wise women instead of three wise men, the story would've been a bit different.

- The women would have asked for directions instead of trying to follow a light in the sky.
- The three women would have arrived in time for the birth, assisted Mary and congratulated Joseph.
- They would have cleaned the stable, found bedding for the manger, shopped for whatever was needed and prepared food and drink for all.
- And when the Baby cried, they would have taken turns to lovingly hold, sing and talk to the baby born to be a King.

— The Newsletter Newsletter





### Scripture Reflection

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.” Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important. We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



# Financial Blessings

**YOUR GIFTS TO YOUR PARISH TWO WEEKS AGO IN THE COLLECTION AMOUNTED TO.....\$1,905.00**  
Adult envelopes issued.....293 (December, 2021)  
Adult envelopes used.....78/27% (December 19, 2021)  
Food Pantry.....1 donation.....\$250.00  
*Thank You for your continued support! May God Bless You!*

**CONSIDERATION: You cannot find peace by avoiding life. — Author Michael Cunningham**

### Everyday Stewardship

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you’ve caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film “It’s a Wonderful Life.” If you’re not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life. One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing “Buffalo Gals — Won’t you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?” That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn’t have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it. The same holds for us, doesn’t it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. “Upon you the LORD shines,” writes Isaiah, “and over you appears his glory.” Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary. In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others. Remember — the magi didn’t chart their own course. They merely followed the star. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### Inspiration For The Week

Human beings easily get bored. Life’s routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God’s creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

**Monday, January 3 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

**Tuesday, January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

**Wednesday, January 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop**

**Thursday, January 6 - St. André Bessette, Religious**

**Friday, January 7 - St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest**

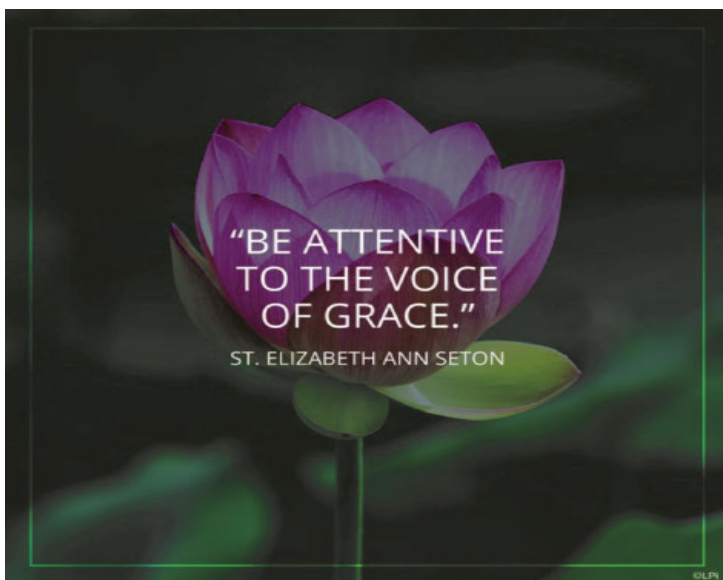
**Saturday, January 8**

4:30pm †Mary Brzek int. Joel Markovich  
 †William Radzinski - Anniversary of Death  
 int. Joan Gajdos  
 †Miguel A. Mendez, Jr. - First Anniversary of  
 Death int. Wife and Children

**Sunday, January 9 - The Baptism of the Lord**

8:30am †Julia Lelek int. Daniel & Carol Gonsiorowski  
 Rev. Jozef Mucha int. Teresa Radziwiecki  
 Health & God's Blessings for our Parishioners

**Quote from Pope Francis**  
 Like the Magi, believers are  
 led by faith to seek God  
 in the most hidden places,  
 knowing that the Lord  
 waits for them there.



**Why Do We Do That? Catholic Life Explained**

**Question:** What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

**Answer:** This a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled. Another question we might ask is: How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled? If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

**Question Of The Week**

**First Reading:**

The prophet Isaiah foresaw a time of great joy for Israel when nations and kings would come to Israel praising the Lord. How do you show gratitude to the Lord for the great joys of your life?

**Second Reading:**

It was revealed to Paul that God intended to save all people (Jews and Gentiles) through his Son, Jesus Christ. Paul tried to convey the significance of this revelation to the Ephesians by using the language of "coheirs" and "copartners." What does this language signal to you?

**Gospel:**

The visit of the magi is one of the most well-known stories from the Gospel infancy narratives. It was an event that manifested God's revelation of His newborn Son to the world. It also foreshadowed the threat that some would experience because of Jesus. How does Jesus challenge the status quo even today?





# Community Events



## Food Pantry News

Thanks to your generosity we were able to help 151 East Chicago families. Without your help we would not be able to serve our community. Now we are in need of spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, soups (all kinds), and toilet paper.

As always, we would like to thank all the volunteers that help before, during, and after in the pantry. Next food pantry will be **January 31, 2022**, beginning at 8am. Thanks again to all, May God Bless You!



## Church Decoration Volunteers

Thank you to all who were able to come and help with decorating the church to welcome the Baby Jesus. The church wouldn't look as beautiful if it wasn't for your hard work.

**Thank You so much!:** Maria Teneyuca, Maria Martinez, Kevin Presciliano, Diane Traher, Hunter Klimek, Dominic Alvarez, Darius A., Aramis Gonzalez, Angie Walczak, Winton Guray, Tom Szczepanski, Mary Grelek, Arthur Santos, Nathan Kras, Vincent Bodoy, Mark Opat, and Sue Surowiec.

## Lighter Side



### Divine Delivery

A businessman ordered flowers to be sent to the opening of his friend's new branch office. When the businessman got to the event, he was shocked to see the flowers with the inscription "Rest in Peace." He was so outraged that he stopped at the florist to complain.

"It could be worse," the florist said, "Just think: Today someone was buried beneath a floral arrangement with the inscription 'Congratulations on Your New Location!'"

### One for Every Room

One Sunday our priest announced he was passing out miniature crosses made of palm leaves. "Put this cross in the room where your family argues most," he advised. "When you look at it, the cross will remind you that God is watching."

As I was leaving church, the woman in front of me walked up to the priest, shook his hand, and said, "I'll take five."

### Confession



In route to church to make his first confession, my nervous seven-year-old grandson asked me what he could expect. "Confession is where you tell all the bad things you've done to the priest," I told him. He looked relieved.

"Good. I haven't done anything bad to the priest."

EPIPHANY



## PUZZLE

Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

wise-men	king	Mary
child	star	gifts
born	worship	dream

wsie mne    w i s e m e n

brno    \_\_\_\_\_

knig    \_\_\_\_\_

derma    \_\_\_\_\_

cildh    \_\_\_\_\_

wrsophi    \_\_\_\_\_

Mrya    \_\_\_\_\_

gfsti    \_\_\_\_\_

srla    \_\_\_\_\_

## MISSION

Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.



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