

ST. JOSEPH & ST. AGATHA

UNITED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

JANUARY 2, 2022

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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A LOOK AT THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon, Jan 3	Tues, Jan 4	Wed, Jan 5	Thurs, Jan 6	Fri, Jan 7	Sat, Jan 8	Sun, Jan 9
	8:15am MASS 8am Adoration 8am Quilting 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 7pm—Fr. Michael Presentation	8:15am MASS	8:15am MASS 7:30pm KofC Mtg	8:15am MASS	5pm MASS <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> After Mass Social (Sponsored by Our Youth Group) After 5pm Mass — Cookies and Cocoa After 8am and 10am — Coffee and Donuts </div>	8am MASS 10am MASS
St. Agatha events in brown St. Joseph events in black						

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 5:00pm St. Joseph
Sunday, 8:00am St. Joseph
Sunday, 10:00am St. Agatha

Weekday Masses

Tues & Thurs 8:15am St. Joseph
Wed & Fri 8:15am St. Agatha

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3pm to 4:30pm at the parish with Saturday evening Mass or call either church office for an appointment.

Parish Staff

Rev. Von Deeke, Pastor
vondeeke@hotmail.com
618-214-6852

Deacon Corby Valentine, Permanent Deacon
deaconcorby@stjosephfreeburg.org
618-795-3737

Mrs. Margie Reaka, Office Assistant
bulletin@stjosephfreeburg.org

St. Joseph Office Staff

Sarah Wiskamp
parish@stjosephfreeburg.org

Mr. Brad Niebruegge, Maintenance
618-539-0129
brad.niebruegge901@gmail.com

Mrs. Jean Reinneck, Music Director

Mrs. Carol Schlitt, Choir Director

Mrs. Kelly Schaaf, Principal
kschaaf@stjcsil.org

Mrs. Katie Waeltz, School Secretary
office@stjcsil.org

St. Agatha Office Staff

Mrs. Carol Mayfield, Bookkeeper
cmayfield@stagathaparish.com

Mrs. Melissa Gummersheimer,
Music Director

Pastor's Residence

9 N. Alton Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

From Fr. Von's Desk

This weekend we celebrate two great feasts. Saturday, 1 January, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, while the Epiphany of the Lord is this Sunday, 2 January. (Since the Epiphany is not a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States, it is transferred from 6 January to the Sunday between 2 and 8 January.)

We praise Mary as the Mother of God every time we pray the Hail Mary. "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners..." Some might ask, "How can Mary be the Mother of God? God is eternal. Mary was born, in time, of her mother, Saint Ann." When we speak of Mary as Mother of God, we are speaking about Jesus as well. We know that Jesus is truly God and truly man. He has these two natures, God and human. Jesus, though, is only one Person, and that one Person is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Motherhood is more than a biological relationship, it is relationship between persons: mother and daughter or mother and son. For Mary and Jesus, the person Mary is the Mother of the Person the Son of God. God the Son chose to enter into that personal mother and son relationship with Mary, his chosen Mother. Thus, as persons, Mary is the Mother of the Son of God, not just the biological mother of the human nature of Jesus. Since the Son of God is God, Mary is the Mother of God.

In the gospel reading for the Epiphany, we hear of the magi bringing their gifts to the newborn King, Jesus. In general, an epiphany is manifestation, a showing forth, of God. On this Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate the showing-forth of Jesus, the Son of God, to the magi, who represent the Gentiles, the non-Jewish peoples of the world. At the beginning of his life, Jesus is shown to be a King, the Son of God, who came for all peoples and nations. The Church has also associated the Baptism of the Lord Jesus and the Wedding Feast at Cana with the Epiphany. Next week, we will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, with God the Father declaring that Jesus is his "beloved Son." On Sunday, 16 January, the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, we will hear, from Saint John's gospel, of the wedding feast of Cana. There Jesus performs his first miracle, turning water into wine, another epiphany of the Son of God.

May you all have a Blessed Christmas Season!

Fr. Von Deeke

Our Parishes

St. Joseph Parish

P.O. Box 98
6 N. Alton Street
Freeburg, Illinois 62243
p: 618-539-3209
w: stjosephfreeburg.org
Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm
Friday 8:00am to noon

St. Joseph Parish Mission Statement:
Walk by Faith, Trust in Hope,
Serve with Love

St. Agatha Parish

205 S. Market Street
New Athens, Illinois 62264
p: 618-475-2331
p: 618-475-3579 (Parish Hall)
w: stagathaparish.com

Office Hours
Monday 9:00am-2:00pm
Wednesday & Friday 9:00am-12noon

- THIS WEEK -

Readings for the Week of January 2

Sunday:

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 3:5-6)

Gospel:

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” (Mt 2:2)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPI

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

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

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

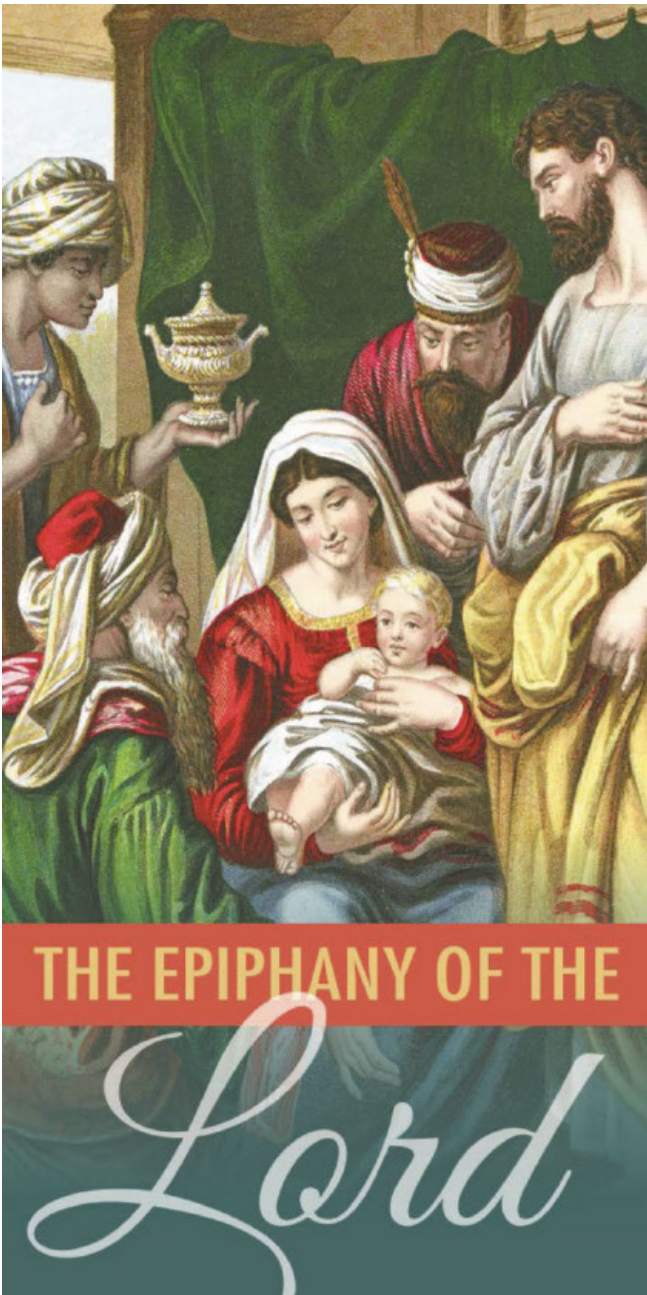
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30



TUES., Jan 4 8:15am—St. Joseph	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Frances Rendleman
WED., Jan 5 8:15am—St. Joseph	St. John Neumann Joseph and Evelyn Kreher
THURS., Jan 6 8:15am—St. Joseph	Christmas Weekday Janet and Deborah Lill
FRI., Jan 7 4pm—St. Joseph	Christmas Weekday Rev. Stephen Humphrey
SAT., Jan 8 5pm—St. Joseph	Baptism of The Lord Carolyn McGuire George Zika
SUN., Jan 9 8am—St. Joseph 10am—St. Agatha	Baptism of The Lord For the People of St. Joseph and St. Agatha Tim Ditch

	Jan 8, 5pm Mass Baptism of The Lord	Jan 9, 8am Mass Baptism of The Lord	Jan 9, 10am Mass Baptism of The Lord
Altar Servers	Colten Castillo Max Eimer Marin Sauzek	Adan Moeckel Alaina Morgan Brayden Schilling	Blake Feder Karter Kurtz Grady Weihe
Ministers of Hospitality	Rick Barthel Cindy Ingold Lori Kreher Jim Nowatzki	Kim Bickett Paula Mense Rhonda Price Craig Reuter	Debbie Matzenbacher Jeremy Mulholland Jill Mulholland
Sanitizer	2 needed	3 needed	2 needed
Lector	Debbie Castillo	Justin Reinneck	Susan Ditch
Cantor	Steve Wilson	Steve Wilson	Melissa Gummersheimer
Organist	Elaina Reinhart	Jean Reinneck	Alaina Geppert
Other Ministries		Live Streamer John Dittmann Extraordinary Minister Jay Johns Cedar Trails Tom and Margie Reaka	Rosary Leader John Schweiger

- EPIPHANY OF THE LORD -



Vocation Corner

What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star – their “call” – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and no one else really did. Perhaps we need to embrace the “night”, the stillness, to “see and hear” our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness – in living our vocation as man, woman or child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?

Bible Study

After 3 years the Bible Timeline, the Story of Salvation was completed. It concluded with Paul's travels and ended with his house arrest in Rome. We are told the next chapter is now in our hands. How will our chapter of the never ending story read? What are we personally doing to carry out our LORD's instructions to teach the Gospel and be HIS light to the world, especially to our children? Will we comply with Deut. 6:4-7? New class begins next week with the Prophets. Their message and situation is applicable to today's world as well. There will be a break in March to honor St Joseph. Material in appendix B, addendums and any appropriate Lenten materials will be covered. Have a most blessed New Year. May GOD bless, open your eyes and heart to HIS word and keep you safe.

Stewardship Gardens by Gene Racho

This is the last garden update for a while. Time for the “Winter Break”. Just before Christmas, a donation of onions, potatoes and carrots for a total weight of 1520 lbs was received. That makes the total for the year 18,300 lbs or 300 lbs more than 9 tons of produce delivered. Quite an jump over last year's 4 tons. Not included in the number is the “processed” food – canned, boxed, meat, etc. that was also donated and distributed. The estimated amount is similar to the amount of total donations received. The Garden has always been dedicated to GOD. Look what happens when it is blessed and HE is asked to actively participate in its operation. Gardeners are encouraged to try this at home! For gardeners out there, consider becoming part of the Stewardship Garden network by donating your excess to the program. If you are interested in learning more about gardening, let us know. On-line videos are being considered if there is enough interest. Links to YouTube gardening videos are in the Face book page. Know a family/individual that can use fresh veggies, like to become a team member, have questions or to contact us for any reason, garden or otherwise: Email: gr617@aol.com, or phone 618-475-2402. Leave a message and we will get back to you. Recall what we have been taught: put GOD first; be Catholic; reflect the light of our Lord to all those you encounter. We pray God bless you and prosper all you do in His name.

What is planned for you. You put a lot of effort thinking about what to with your life. Spend the time to think about and ask what our FATHER has planned for you here. Recall what we have been taught: put GOD first; be Catholic; reflect the light of our Lord to all those you encounter. We pray God bless you and prosper all you do in His name.

I pray that God bless you and prosper all you do in His name.

Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do...John 14:12

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming New Year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity.

Ministries and Programs Funded by
The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal



Diocesan Employment Opportunity

Director of Respect Life Apostolate

The Director supervises, develops, and directs the Office in fulfilling the three-fold mission: to educate, to advocate, and to provide pastoral and spiritual programs that protect and respect human life from conception to natural death.

Essential qualifications include being a practicing Catholic; Bachelor's Degree preferred, or equivalent experience; and 1-3 years' experience in a related role plus knowledge in Microsoft Office and other computer programs/applications.

TO APPLY: Send resume, cover letter, and references to Human Resources, Diocese of Belleville, 222 South Third Street, Belleville, IL 62220 or email humanresources@diobelle.org Application Deadline: January 21, 2022.

Neighboring Events

St. Augustine, Belleville—Blood Drive

January 10, 2022 — 2pm to 6pm, at 1900 West Belle, Belleville, To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: SAOC.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church—Quilt of the Month

Tickets are \$30 each of 4 for \$100 and are available in St. Joseph Parish office or call 681-792-9439 from more information.

St. Michael, Paderborn—Quilt of the Month

Tickets are \$20 each and are available in the St. Joseph Parish office or call 618-473-2798.

Pray for ...

Jean Price	Mary Racho
Dorothy Normand	Michael Houghland
Pat Kreher	Clayton Melvin
Rose Hinrichs	Barb Speiser
Deloris Bramstedt	Evelyn Rae Spier
Scott Kalina	Rosanne Amann
Chris Elbert	Judy Mathews
Betty Rauch	Bob Gutjahr
Beckett Krieg	Rose Bailey
Patricia McGuire Nordman	

Josh Reuter, US Navy

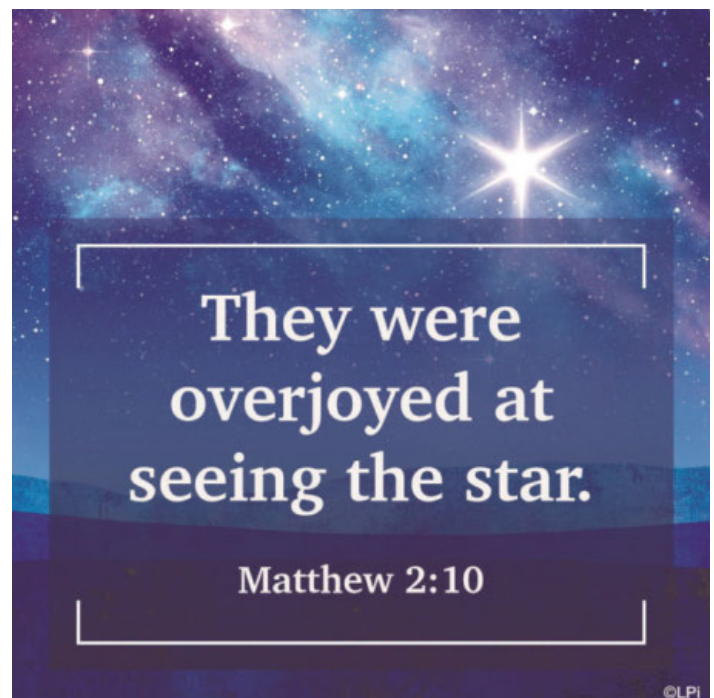
Please contact either Parish Office to add or remove someone from the prayer lists. Each prayer request will be honored for approximately six weeks, but can be added again. If you have a family member in active military service please contact either parish office to add them to our prayer list.



Please welcome the newest members of our parish communities baptized during the month of December.

Benett James Kunkelmann, son of Timothy and Kristy (Elking) Kunkelmann, baptized December 11

John William Thomas Buchmiller, son of John Buchmiller and Lesley Cox, baptized December 12



- PARTNERSHIP NEWS -

December Partnership Mass Attendance

	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	Church Total	Partnership Total
Dec 4/5					
St. Agatha	100		90	190	353
St. Joseph		163		163	
Dec 11/12					
St. Agatha		158		158	411
St. Joseph	107	146		253	
Dec 18/19					
St. Agatha			135	135	409
St. Joseph	103	171		274	
Dec 26					
St. Agatha			77	77	208
St. Joseph		131		131	

WELCOME Sarah Wiskamp

Please give a warm welcome to Sarah Wiskamp, St. Joseph Office Manager beginning January 4. Sarah will be in the Parish Office Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 4:30pm and Friday from 8:00am to noon.

This week only, the 8:15am Masses (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) will be held at St. Joseph Church.

Please note—St. Joseph Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 3.

Christmas Mass Attendance

Christmas Eve

St. Agatha	4:00pm	302
St. Joseph	6:30pm	140
St. Joseph	9:00pm	81

Christmas Day

St. Joseph	8:00am	105
St. Agatha	10:00am	77

The Life and Ministry of St. Paul Continues

The Bible study of the life and ministry of St. Paul with Fr. Michael will meet on January 4th, 18th and February 1st. We will meet at 7pm in the Youth Room of the Parish Center. All are welcome.



KC Free Throw Contest

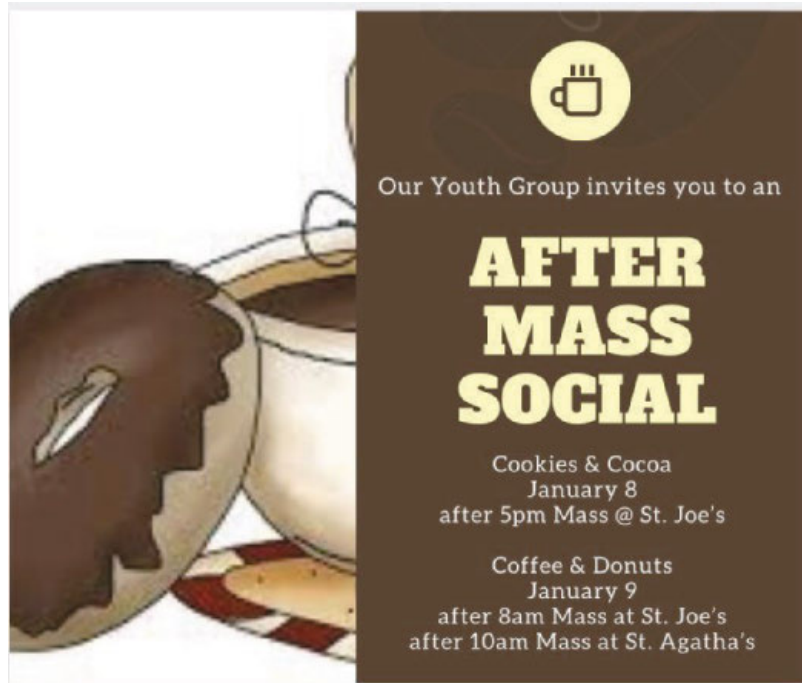
The St. Joseph Knights of Columbus children's free throw contest will be held the week of January 10th, 2022. This event is open to all St. Joseph parish children ages 9-14. The St. Joseph grade school children will compete on Wednesday, January 12th as part of their P.E. program. All other children will compete on Saturday, January 15th starting at 9:00am in the Parish Center. Entry forms are available at the school office, from PSR director, and in the Parish Center lobby. A copy of the child's birth certificate must accompany the entry form. For additional information please contact any KC member or Tom Reaka, reaka@charter.net, or 618-616-1736.

Interested in a Description of the St. Agatha Church Bell Tower Project?

Mr. Randy Warneke, of Warneke Construction, will meet with interested parishioners to describe the planned maintenance work on the Saint Agatha Church bell tower and exterior. This meeting will be on Sunday, 16 January 2022, after the 10 AM Mass, in the Parish Hall. Coffee and doughnuts are planned.

Thank You!

A big Thank You to the St. Joseph Tai Chi ladies who contributed \$326 towards the Parish Center Debt Reduction.



St. Agatha and St. Joseph Children's Stewardship
 I shared my gingerbread house with my cousin.
 Cleaned my room for mom and Santa.
 I had good actions.

St. Agatha, Week of December 19, 2021	
Sunday Collection	\$1,698.00
Loose Collection	\$89.00
Online Giving	\$840.00
Total (December Goal is \$13,860.00)	\$10,587.00
Youth Collection (CESNA)	\$12.00
Building Fund	\$30.00
Fish Fry	\$497.43
Capital Improvement	\$93.00
Fiscal Year to Date Information (Operating Expenses Only)	
Collections required to date	\$86,625.00
Total Collections to date	\$75,803.89

St. Joseph, Week of December 19, 2021	
Sunday Collection	\$11,710.00
Loose Collection	\$190.00
Online Giving	\$7,665.00
Total (December Goal is \$30,000.00)	\$52,136.00
Youth Collection (Freeburg Food Pantry)	\$24.00
Immaculate Conception	\$802.00
Debt Reduction	\$3,329.22
Adopted Parish	\$105.00
Building Fund	\$15.00
Fiscal Year to Date Information (Operating Expenses Only)	
Collections required to date:	\$202,701.00
Total Collections to date:	\$186,290.00
Principal Balance - Parish Center Loan (Balance as of Dec 15, 2021)	\$185,365.00




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