

# Catholic Community in Central Racine

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



## LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR

Al ver de nuevo la estrella, se llenaron de inmensa alegría. Entraron en la casa y vieron al niño con María, su madre, y postrándose, lo adoraron. Después, abriendo sus cofres, le ofrecieron regalos: oro, incienso y mirra. - Mt 2, 10-11

### Pastoral Team/Equipo Pastoral

**Rev. Juan Manuel Camacho**, Administrator/Administrador  
frjuan@cccracine.org

**Rev. José Mario Nieto**, Associate Pastor/Vicario  
frjose@cccracine.org

### Deacons/Diáconos

Roberto Fuentes

Julio López

Leonides Rocha

Howard Wirtz (emeritus)

Director of Christian Formation Program/  
Directora del Programa de Formación Cristiana:  
Gabriela Cabrera 262-898-5653 John Clarke

Coordinator of Youth Ministry/  
Coordinador Pastoral Juvenil  
Eloy Contreras 262-898-5666

### St. Edward

#### Director of Administrative Services

Karen Crane  
Karen@cccracine.org

#### Bookkeeper

Jane Nikolai  
jnikolai@cccracine.org

#### Music Director

Jesús Cabrera  
cabreraj@archmil.org

#### Child Development Center Director

Lorie Czerwinski  
262-636-8051

#### Maintenance

Douglas Overstreet

#### Trustees

Fran Angelini Barb Pippenger

#### Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Jeffrey Greulich

#### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-12:00 pm  
Closed Fridays

1401 Grove Ave. Racine, WI 53405  
262-636-8040

Email: parish@saintedwardracine.org  
Website: www.saintedwardracine.org

#### Masses

Saturday	4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am
Tuesday	9:00 am
Wednesday	9:00 am

### St. Patrick/San Patricio

#### Staff/Personal

Amalia Pardo, Office Manager  
Tricia Pardo, Office Assistant  
Adolfo Gioannini, Maintenance Coordinator  
262-898-5651

#### Business Coordinator/ Coordinador Administrativo

Geoffrey Greiveldinger 262-488-5900

#### Trustees:

Maricela Gutiérrez Wayne Marik

#### Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson/ Presidenta del Consejo Pastoral

Carol Rawlinko

#### Office Hours/Horario de oficina:

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-Noon; 1:30-4:30 pm  
lunes-viernes de 8:30am-12:00, 1:30-4:30pm  
Closed/cerrada 12:00-1:30pm

1100 Erie St. Racine, WI 53402  
262-632-8808

Email: church@stpatrickracine.com

Website: www.stpatrickracine.com

Facebook: "Saint Patrick Racine"

#### Masses/Misas

Saturday/Sábado	4:00 pm	English
Sunday/Domingo	9:00 am	English
Sunday/Domingo	10:30 am	Español
Sunday/Domingo	12:00 pm	Español
Sunday/Domingo	6:00 pm	Español
Wednesday/Miércoles	6:00 pm	Español

### St. Richard

#### Director of Administrative Services

Karen Crane  
info@strichard-parish.org

#### Office Administrator

Mary Ann Huser  
info@strichard-parish.org

#### Trustees

Kathy Garski Ed Morelli

#### Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Mark Podratz

#### Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday  
Closed Fridays

1509 Grand Ave., Racine, WI 53403  
262-637-8374

E-mail: info@strichard-parish.org

Website: www.strichard-parish.org

Facebook: "St. Richard Parish - Racine"

#### Masses

Saturday	4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am
Sunday	11:30 am
Thursday	9:00 am
Friday	9:00 am

**Livestream Masses:**

**Sunday:** 9:00 am English; 10:30 am Español

**Wednesday-Friday:** 9:00 am English

# St. Edward Parish



## This Week:

Saturday, January 1  
 9:00 am Mass at St. Edward  
 4:00 pm **NO MASS**

Sunday, January 2  
 9:00 am Mass at St. Edward

Tuesday, January 4  
 9:00 am Mass at St. Edward

Wednesday, January 5  
 9:00 am Mass (rosary) at St. Edward

Thursday, January 6  
 9:00 am Mass at St. Richard

Friday, January 7  
 9:00 am Mass at St. Richard

Saturday, January 8  
 4:00 pm Mass at St. Edward

## Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 2, Epiphany of the Lord  
 9:00 am †Brian Naseman  
 †Dominic Minneti

Tuesday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
 9:00 am Special Intentions

Wednesday, January 5, St. John Neumann  
 9:00 am Special Intentions

Saturday, January 8,  
 4:00 pm †William Clark

Sunday, January 9, Baptism of the Lord  
 9:00 am For the Living and Deceased Members of the Parish



Please pray for comfort and healing for the homebound and those who are ill.



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## Community Meal

Don't forget that this Tuesday, January 4th is St. Ed's night for the St. Vincent de Paul sponsored meal program. Lynn will be in the St. Ed's parking lot Tuesday afternoon between 2:30-3:00. After 3:00, your donations should be brought to the new site, North Pointe Methodist Church at 3825 Erie Street.

## Christmas Coalition

St. Edward's has traditionally supported the Racine Community Christmas Coalition which has maintained and put up the beautiful nativity scene on Monument Square downtown. Volunteers are needed until Jan. 7th to check on the nativity, help remove snow from on/around it, etc. For more info., contact Bill Frayer 262-633-7887. Donations can be made at/through any TriCity bank branch. We will take it down on Jan. 7th at 10 a.m.

## Year-End Contributions

Please communicate with the Parish Office if your mailing address has changed. Year-end financial contribution statements will be mailed by late January.

## Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

New schedules have been sent out. Hard copies are available in the sacristy. Readers please pick up your new workbooks in the sacristy.

## 2nd Monday Book Club



The next meeting of the book club will be on January 10th from 10:30 a.m.—12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Hoeffert at 262-994-0771 or lauriehoffert@gmail.com .

## St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Basket Drive

Thank you to everyone that donated food and/or Monetary Donations for the Christmas Baskets. We gave out 70 Christmas Baskets, collected over \$3000 in donations and gave 25 boxes of food to the SVdP pantry. Thanks for your generosity!

## Weekly Collections for December 18/19:

Weekly Envelopes.....	\$4,060.00
Save the Building.....	\$480.00
Offertory Collection.....	\$271.00
Votive Candles.....	\$10.00
Miscellaneous Collections.....	\$1,700.00
Total.....	\$6,521.00

Due to early submission requirement of this bulletin, December 25-26 collection amounts were unavailable.

## Stewardship Corner

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor envelope so that comfort and peace can, once again, be given to a newborn child.



# St. Patrick Parish/Parroquia de San Patricio

## Mass Intentions/Intenciones de Misa

1/2	9:00 am	† Anna Akowski
	10:30 am	Our Parishioners/Por la Comunidad
	12:00 pm	† Rafael Hernandez
		Our Parishioners/Por la Comunidad
	6:00 pm	Our Parishioners/Por la Comunidad
1/8	4:00 pm	Our Parishioners/Por la Comunidad
1/9	9:00 am	† Paul Akowski
	10:30 am	Our Parishioners/Por la Comunidad
	12:00 pm	† Alejandro Ramos
	6:00 pm	Our Parishioners/Por la Comunidad

## Weekly Schedule

Sunday/domingo 1/2

Monday/lunes 1/3

Tuesday/martes 1/4

Wednesday/miércoles 1/5

Thursday/jueves 1/6

Friday/Viernes 1/7

Saturday/sábado 1/8

Sunday/domingo 1/9

## Próximos Eventos

Office Closed/Oficina Cerrada

## Pensamientos del Padre José Mario . .

Queridos amigos,  
¡Epifanía! Una palabra que no aparece en la Biblia pero que se ha utilizado para describir la manifestación de Jesús como Mesías y Dios a las naciones. No hay un significado secreto ni un mensaje complicado en el Evangelio de hoy. Los Reyes Magos, personas que no eran judíos, vinieron de un país extranjero para rendir homenaje a Jesús, un Rey recién nacido. Para los magos, Jesús es un Rey, un Mesías, un Salvador y un Dios. Realmente no importaba que no fueran judíos.

¿No les parece muy interesante que Herodes y toda Jerusalén, que estaban tan cerca de Belén, no pudieran ver la estrella? Y aún más interesante es pensar que incluso después de que los magos se lo dijeran, Herodes y la gente no pudieron ver la estrella. “Ve a buscar al bebé y luego cuéntamelo” En esta historia SÓLO los magos pueden ver la estrella.

Para entender esto, necesitamos saber que en el Evangelio de Mateo, Jerusalén no es solo un lugar geográfico. También es un estado mental, una actitud. Estar en Jerusalén es pertenecer a una mentalidad nacionalista cerrada, exclusiva, rígida. En el Evangelio de Mateo, Jerusalén es el centro del judaísmo nacional. Aquellos que creían que Yahvé era su Dios y que la salvación era solo de ellos, estaban en Jerusalén. Estas personas no pudieron aceptar que la luz de Dios puede brillar mucho más allá de su ciudad y su propia gente. Monopolizaron la gracia de Dios. Pero como vemos en el Evangelio, la estrella brilló para los gentiles. y los primeros adoradores de Jesús fueron lo que los judíos rígidos llamarán impuros, paganos o simplemente extranjeros.

Este escrito de Matthew podría haber creado un poco de incomodidad para algunas personas. Pero cuando Mateo escribió su Evangelio, tenía una iglesia mixta. El evangelio de Mateo fue escrito para una comunidad mixta de judíos y gentiles. De ahí el valor de esta historia para él.

Siempre que tratamos de ser exclusivos y tratamos a la Iglesia como un club donde solo las personas elegidas pueden entrar y recibir la gracia de Dios, nos cegamos a las maravillas y a la luz que Dios comparte

## PARISH SUNDAY & HOLY DAY COLLECTIONS LAS COLECTAS PARA LOS DOMINGOS Y LOS DÍAS SAGRADOS

December 19 2021/19 de diciembre 2021  
Received/recibido .....\$ 4,484.01

Next week's second collection will be for La Sagrada Familia Parish in the Dominican Republic.

La segunda colecta de la próxima semana será para la Parroquia de la Sagrada Familia en la Republica Dominicana.

## Lecturas para la semana del 2 de enero de 2022

Domingo: Is 60, 1-6/Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13/Ef 3, 2-3. 5-6 Mt 2, 1-12

Lunes: 1 Jn 3, 22—4, 6/Sal 2, 7-8. 10-12/Mt 4, 12-17. 23-25

Martes: 1 Jn 4, 7-10/Sal 71, 1-2. 3-4. 7-8/Mc 6, 34-44

Miércoles: 1 Jn 4, 11-18/Sal 71, 1-2. 10. 12-13/Mc 6, 45-52

Jueves: 1 Jn 4, 19—5, 4/Sal 71, 1-2. 14 y 15. 17/Lc 4, 14-22

Viernes: 1 Jn 5, 5-13/Sal 147, 12-13. 14-15. 19-20/Lc 5, 12-16

Sábado: 1 Jn 5, 14-21/Sal 149, 1-2. 3-4. 5 y 6 y 9/Jn 3, 22-30

Domingo siguiente: Is 42, 1-4. 6-7/Sal 28, 1-2. 3-4. 3. 9-10/Hch 10, 34-38 Lc 3, 15-16. 21-22 o

Is 40, 1-5. 9-11/Sal 103, 1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-28. 29-30 Tit 2, 11-14; 3, 4-7/Lc 3, 15-16. 21-22

## AYÚDENOS A ACTUALIZAR NUESTROS REGISTROS

Si usted ha tenido algún cambio en los miembros de la familia, número de teléfono, dirección, correo electrónico, etc., por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia (632-8808) para hacernos saber. Queremos tener registros correctos para ustedes.

## PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS

If you have had any changes in family members, phone number, address, email, etc., please notify the parish office (632-8808).

## INTENCIONES DE ORACIÓN DEL SANTO PADRE DE ENERO

**Educación para la fraternidad.** Recemos para que todas las personas que sufren discriminación y persecución religiosa encuentren en las sociedades en las que viven el reconocimiento de sus derechos y la dignidad que proviene de ser hermanos y hermanas. [popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)

## The parish office will be closed January 3

La oficina parroquial estará cerrada el 3 de enero.

de Dios, nos cegamos a las maravillas y a la luz que Dios comparte sobre otros que quizás nunca sean parte de la Iglesia. La Iglesia católica, para ser fiel a al evangelio de Jesús debe ser siempre inclusiva. Y no me refiero solo a la raza. Nosotros, que ahora compartimos el cuerpo de Cristo, tenemos la responsabilidad de extender esa gracia y amor a todos, sin importar quién sea esa persona. Por eso hoy celebramos la revelación de nuestro Dios como un Dios que es para todos, como un Dios que ama a todos, como un Dios que acoge a todos. La historia de los Magos nos enseña que los signos de Dios se vuelven invisibles para aquellos que no son inclusivos y tratan de monopolizar su gracia. de Cristo, tenemos la responsabilidad de extender esa gracia y amor a todos, sin importar quién sea esa persona. Por eso hoy celebramos la revelación de nuestro Dios como un Dios que es para todos, como un Dios que ama a todos, como un Dios que acoge a todos. La historia de los Magos nos enseña que los signos de Dios se vuelven invisibles para aquellos que no son inclusivos y tratan de monopolizar su gracia.

P. José Mario



St. Patrick's Parish extends its best wishes and blessings to all parishioners who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, or other important events in the month of January.  
La Parroquia de San Patricio extiende sus mejores deseos y bendiciones a todos los parroquianos que están celebrando cumpleaños, aniversarios, u otros eventos importantes durante el mes de enero.



# St. Richard Parish



## This Week in Our Parish

Mon.	Parish office closed
Wed.	Mass - 9:00 a.m. In person @ St. Edward & Live Stream
Thur.	Mass - 9:00 a.m. In person and Facebook Live Stream
Fri.	Mass - 9:00 a.m. In person
Sat.	Mass - 4:00 p.m. In person
Sun.	Mass - 9:00 a.m. In person and Facebook Live Stream
	Mass - 11:30 a.m.

## Stewardship Report

Practicing Catholic stewardship by supporting your parish is an act of trust by which we place our lives in God's loving hands. We trust our support is being used wisely and compassionately in service to all of God's people. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

### Financial Stewardship for December 18 & 19

\$3,081 Envelopes  
\$418 Anonymous Gifts to God  
\$75 Building Fund  
\$50 Siena School Fund  
\$400 Christmas Offerings

## 2022 Calendars

Calendars for 2022 are available in the south entrance. One per family please. Thank you to the Maresh-Meredith & Acklam Funeral Home for providing our parish calendars.

## Parish Office Closed

The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 3 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 4.

## Sharing Sunday

The next Sharing Sunday is January 8 & 9. You are invited to bring personal care items to be shared with the guests at the St. Vincent de Paul Meal program. Suggested items are deodorant, lotion, bar soap, Vaseline, chap stick, toilet paper, tooth paste, and shampoo/conditioner. Items may be left in the basket near the elevator. Monetary donations are still accepted. Please write "Sharing Sunday" on the memo line of the check. Cash donations will be used to purchase perishable food items for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

## Altar Society Bake Sale

The Christmas Bake Sale was a GREAT success! The Altar Society collected \$1,956.75 in proceeds. Thank you to all the bakers, sellers, and buyers. Your support enables the Altar Society to carry out its mission to the parish.

## Thank You

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus Council 697, I would like to thank those who contributed to our annual Tootsie Roll and Life Savers for Life drives in 2021. Your support has been wonderful especially now during these tough times. All donations go towards helping some less fortunate individuals who are going through the trying times that they are saddled with. So a big "THANK YOU" and Happy New Year to all of you.  
Steve Jansta

## Calendar Raffle Update

Good luck to all who purchased calendar raffles. All the calendars were sold! Numbers will be drawn soon and winners will be posted weekly in the bulletin. Thank you for supporting this very important fundraiser.

## Mass

Having a Mass said for someone is one of the greatest forms of prayer once can receive. Please call the parish center if you are interested in having a Mass offered for someone. A Mass offering is \$10.

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, January 2, The Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Living and deceased members of the Catholic Community in Central Racine

11:30 a.m. Living and deceased members of the Lojeski & Sharkozy families

### Monday, January 3, Holy Name of Jesus

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

Wednesday, January 5, St. John Neumann, Bishop

Thursday, January 6, St. Andre Bessette, Religious

9:00 a.m. † John and Mary Orr

Friday, January 7, St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest

9:00 a.m. Living and deceased members of the Catholic Community in Central Racine

### Saturday, January 8

4:00 p.m. The 2022 Catholic Community in Central Racine Confirmation Class

### Sunday, January 9, Baptism of the Lord

9:00 a.m. † George Jansta

Living and deceased members of the St. Richard Altar Society

11:30 a.m. In celebration of Rosemary Wensing's 90th birthday

## We Also Have a Star

*"After their audience with the king, the Magi set out. 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 Magi were overjoyed at seeing the star. (Mt 2:1-12)*

The Magi didn't have a smooth trip, but they had resources to fall back on. They had each other. They had a star. They arrived in Jerusalem, and the scribes and chief priests helped them to locate Bethlehem as the place where they should go.

And they had the help of God in the dream.

The journey we all take to the Lord is a long one and it passes through death. We're on that journey our whole life. Not even the saints—including Mary—experienced a journey that was not without difficulties, zig-zags, and unexpected problems and mishaps.

What about people who don't have resources to fall back on during this journey? This is what the Church is meant to be—the people and the resources that help us journey to the Lord.

The Eucharist is our star. It's where we get the Bread of Life, traditionally called "the food for the journey." When we fall on our face, we have the sacrament of reconciliation. When we get ill, we have the sacrament of the sick. But most of all we have each other. We are meant to be a community that is always there for each other on the journey of life.

The Magi ended their journey when they found the Lord. One of the most important purposes of the Church is to help us end our journey in the presence of the risen Lord.

We don't live to find the Church.

The Church lives to help us find the Lord. *The Little Blue Book*

## St. Maximilian Kolbe

Maximilian Kolbe was born in Poland on January 8, 1894.

His father fought for Poland's independence from Russia, and was hanged as a traitor in 1914. After her husband's death Maximilian's mother became a Benedictine nun.

In 1910, Kolbe entered the Franciscan Order, and eight years later he was ordained a priest. In 1931, he went to Japan and founded a monastery in Nagasaki, and then another in India. He returned to Poland in 1936 because of ill health.

Two years after the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, Fr. Kolbe was arrested for helping to house Jewish refugees and for publishing anti-Nazi materials. He was sent to Auschwitz.

Several months later, a prisoner escaped from Auschwitz. It was the Nazi practice there to execute 10 men for each escaped prisoner. When the 10 were chosen, one pleaded for mercy, saying he was a married man with young children. On hearing this Fr. Kolbe stepped forward and offered to take his place. The camp guard accepted his offer.

Fr. Kolbe's execution was to be slow and painful—confinement in a starvation bunker. When, after three weeks, he was still alive, he was given a fatal injection.

Maximilian Kolbe was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1982. His feast is August 14, the date of his death in 1941.

## Catholic Community in Central Racine / Comunidad Católica en el Centro de Racine

### Readings for the week of January 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Mt 2:1-12

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 & 6a & 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9, 10/Acts 10:34-38  
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or  
Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30  
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

### Retreat Day for Those Grieving a Loss

Grief and loss are a part of life and can be catalysts for self-awareness and growth. Siena Retreat Center (5637 Erie St.) will offer a day-long retreat for adults grieving a loss on Saturday, January 15, 9:00am–5:00pm. The day will include reflection, sharing, prayer and meditation. The cost of \$60 includes \$20 non-refundable deposit, handouts, and mid-day meal. Partial scholarships are available. Learn more and register at [www.SienaRetreatCenter.org](http://www.SienaRetreatCenter.org).

### THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2022

**For true human fraternity.** We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family. [popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)

APOSTLESHIP  
OF PRAYER



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA IS ASSISTING AREAS DAMAGED BY TORNADOES, *and can use your help.*

As you may have heard, tornadoes recently tore through multiple states in the South and Midwest, leaving miles of destruction. Please pray for those who have been injured, for those who have lost their lives, and for their grieving families and communities. Catholics and all people of good will can help our brothers and sisters by supporting the work of Catholic Charities USA, which has been engaging as early responders and will remain in recovery support for the long-term. Donations can be made at [catholiccharities.us/campaign/ccusa-disaster-relief/c353051](http://catholiccharities.us/campaign/ccusa-disaster-relief/c353051)

### Thoughts from Father José Mario . . .



Dear friends,

Epiphany! This word does not appear in the Bible, but it has been used to describe the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah and God to the nations. There is no secret meaning or complicated message in the Gospel today. The Magi, people who were non-Jews, came from a foreign country to do homage to Jesus, a newborn King. For the Magi, Jesus is a King, a Messiah, a Savior, and a God. It really didn't matter that they were not Jews.

Don't you think it is very interesting that Herod and all Jerusalem, who were so close to Bethlehem, were unable to see the star? And even more interesting is to think that even after being told by the Magi, Herod and the people were unable to see the star? "Go and search for the baby, and then tell me" In this story ONLY the Magi can see the star.

To understand this, we need to know that in the Gospel of Matthew Jerusalem is not only a geographical place. It is also a state of mind, an attitude. To be in Jerusalem is to belong to a closed, exclusive, rigid, nationalistic mentality. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jerusalem is the center of national Judaism. Those who believed that Yahweh was their God and salvation was only theirs, were in Jerusalem. These people were unable to accept that the light of God can shine far beyond their city and their own people. They monopolized God's grace. But as we see in the Gospel, the star shone for gentiles. and the first worshipers of Jesus, were what rigid Jews will call unclean, pagans, or just foreigners.

This writing from Matthew could have created a little bit of discomfort for some people. But when Matthew wrote his Gospel, he had a mixed church. Matthew's Gospel was written for a mixed community of Jews and gentiles. Hence the value of this story for him.

Whenever we try to be exclusive and treat the Church as a club where only chosen people can enter and receive God's grace, we make ourselves blind to the wonders and to the light that God sheds upon others who may never be part of the Church. The Catholic Church, to be true to the Gospel, needs to be always inclusive. And I'm not talking about race only. We who now share in the body of Christ have the responsibility to extend that grace and love to all, no matter who that person is. So today we celebrate the revelation of our God as a God that is for all, as a God that loves all, as a God that welcomes all. The story of the Magi teaches us that God's signs become invisible for those who are not inclusive and try to monopolize his grace.

Fr. José Mario

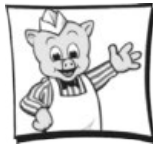
### Catholic Charities Needs Volunteers for Ft. McCoy

Catholic Charities agencies are mobilizing personnel, volunteers, and resources to provide refugees at Ft. McCoy with a welcoming atmosphere, a break from the confines of temporary housing, and relief from their difficult journey. Among the services provided are on-base legal assistance, social engagement for women and children, and learning centers. The women's centers provide a quiet and clean place for mothers to bond and play with their children and develop friendships. The children's area is a place for children to gather and create arts and craft projects, build puzzles, play games and be sociable. **Volunteers are crucial** to keep the centers running smoothly and safely.

The USSCB and Catholic Charities are seeking more volunteers to aid in this mission. Volunteers will spend time at one of the three Women and Children Centers, two Sewing Center or Learning Center. Each of the centers requires between 6-10 volunteers to operate. Individuals must be able to commit to a minimum of three days.

For information about volunteer opportunities or donations, contact Andrew Ruesch, Afghan Project Coordinator, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee: [aruesch@ccmke.org](mailto:aruesch@ccmke.org) / 414-769-3543

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