

PARISH STAFF

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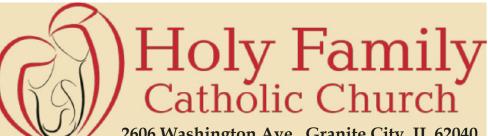
SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Call the office to register for Baptism Preparation Class & schedule your child's Baptism

Penance: Saturday 3:15-3:45 PM or Anytime by Appointment

Marriage: Call the office to make arrangements at least nine months before the desired date

For Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation call: Diocese of Springfield in Illinois 217-698-8500

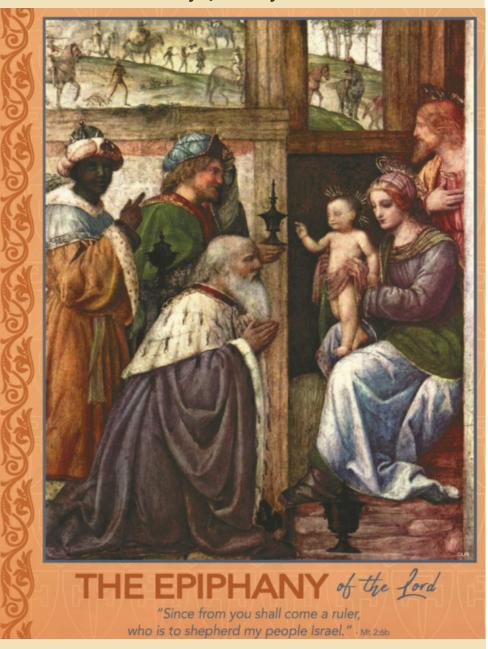


2606 Washington Ave., Granite City, IL 62040

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 2, 2022



Weekend Masses: Saturday ~ 4:00 PM Sunday ~ 8:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday ~ St. Mary & St. Mark Intention at Holy Family ~ 8:00 AM Wednesday & Thursday ~ 8:00 AM

Dear family and friends of Holy Family and St. Mary and St. Mark Parishes,

We celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. The Psalmist says, "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." What does it mean to adore? It means that we hold something or someone in high regard or with great esteem. Is that fitting for God, or is there something more that is meant by the Psalmist's statement that every nation will adore Him? Certainly, the Psalmist is making a bold claim that all nations will adore God, but it means that if every nation does in fact adore the God of Israel, then the world will be restored to its proper dignity as given by God from the very beginning. How many nations have been destroyed since the beginning of the establishment of nations, leaders, governments, and citizenry of nations? Too many to count. What history tells us is that any nation that does not focus on the absolute truth as seen in our very existence and purpose in life granted by a Creator, then we will be destroyed. There are many nations in the Western world that see the United States as a nation that was built on principles, values, and traditions centered on Judeo-Christian beliefs, but over time, these principles, values, and traditions have been eroded by turning away from the God who created us all. It is unfair to say that the United States is a failed experiment, and that soon we will become like Rome, a city once regarded as one of the most powerful cities in the world and a kingdom that could not be matched for millennia. Rome was finally defeated under the power of Alexander the Great, who came to conquer Rome for the purposes of making it a part of his kingdom. As people created by God, we don't have to become victims of historical truth, but learn from our mistakes, faults, and failings, and become a people righteous in the eyes of God.

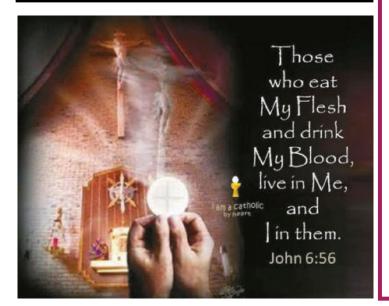
In our first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we hear, "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory." For the people of Israel, it may have seemed that their hope and promise for joy and happiness had been diminished because of their sinfulness, and perhaps they were to be destroyed as previous nations had been destroyed because of their failure to acknowledge that there was one true God. You see, the nation of Israel was about to experience a revival and the people would not be destroyed. They would experience an epiphany, or a manifestation of God coming in their midst. They would realize that for all the destruction they witnessed in becoming exiles from their own nation and settled in foreign lands, seeing their Temple destroyed, and seemingly being abandoned by God, that God had a plan for them. A Savior was to be born, a Messiah, who would save them from their sins. This is what all the Prophets predicted for the people of Israel, even though many of the Prophets were rejected, persecuted, and killed. Because they could not comprehend what they were being told, they could not see what was in store for them. Many of them abandoned God for strange gods, and others rejected their faith outright because they did believe in the promises of God. They had to undergo a purging and a cleansing in order to be prepared for something great to happen to them.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we hear about the birth of Jesus, and magi coming from the east to pay homage to the new King of Israel. The magi were not men of magic or superstition as the name implies, but they were men of science and of faith in that they were astronomers who looked to events taking place in the heavens among the stars and the constellations in the known universe and piecing together those events with the events predicted in Sacred Scripture according to the predictions of the Prophets regarding the birth of the Messiah. Remember that the magi understood that the salvation of humanity was dependent upon the promises of the God of Israel coming to fruition. They were in need of a Savior as much as the rest of the known world. I will never forget a story I heard once of a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago, who when the Epiphany of the Lord was celebrated in his parish in a particular year dressed up as a magician because he interpreted the word magi as the root of magician. He wore a pointed hat like a Merlin or wizard and wore purple garments that were not even the proper vestments for the celebration of Mass. His hope was to tell the story of the birth of the Messiah from the eyes of magicians who came to pay homage to the newborn King of Israel. While his buffoonery and theatrics did little to capture the story, he made a fool of himself. The stories told in the books of the Bible are not something of fantasy or make believe, but of a real encounter with the God and Creator of us, our world, and the Universe. The magi were of great esteem themselves and were considered rich in their knowledge of events taking place in the world as related to the events happening in the Universe. When they came looking for the Messiah in Bethlehem, they approached King Herod, because they believed that as king of Judah, he would know the whereabouts of the newborn Messiah. King Herod, in his pride, could not face the fact that he would be replaced one day by another king. His sinfulness prevented him from recognizing that the new light coming to Israel would begin a new life for the people of Israel and the world. The magi, upon discovering where the Messiah was born and paying homage to Him and His family, they departed another way knowing that they had discovered the one who would save them.

The second reading from the Letter or St. Paul to the Ephesians relates to us that the mysteries that were revealed by the revelation of God becoming man, the Incarnation, point us in a trajectory towards finding our true peace and happiness. Paul writes, "You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation." Paul is speaking about his conversion experience when he was known as Saul on the road to Damascus. His pride and ego blinded him from recognizing Christ in His disciples. As Saul would discover, he really did not know his faith as well as he thought he did. His arrogance caught up with him and he was humbled before the Lord. The revelation he received from his encounter with Jesus struck him blind so that what opened his eyes eventually was his own epiphany about the Lord as the Savior of the world. Saul could no longer accept that his interpretation of Sacred Scripture and his relentless attack against the disciples of Jesus was the answer to the peace and joy that he was looking for. He received the name Paul only after experiencing his own conversion and being called to preach to the Gentiles. The stewardship he shared in becoming a disciple of Jesus led him to share his experience and his revelation with others who needed the light of Christ in their lives. We can be like Saul, in that we believe that we know scripture well enough that we don't need a conversion, but it is only in humility that like Saul we receive our mission as a disciple and bring others to the truth of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Steve

Pastor of Holy Family & St. Mary & St. Mark Parishes





Saturday, January 1, 2022

10:30 AM † Bill Wyatt (Bob, Kathy, & Sue) 4:00 PM † Ronald Sheppard (Jerry & Pat Goclan)

Sunday, January 2, 2022 8:30 AM LIVESTREAMED

8:30 AM For all Parishioners Especially *†* Celeste Biason (Ladies Auxiliary 1098)

Monday, January 3, 2022 No Mass

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 8:00 AM † Patty Yurko (Richard Bakos and Family)

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 8:00 AM † Joe Holder

(Frank & Nancy Diak)

Thursday, January 6, 2022

8:00 AM *†* Sandra Ward (Deacon Neil & Mary Suermann)

Friday, January 7, 2022

@School—Staff & Students ONLY 8:00 AM / Ruth Petrie (Family)

Saturday, January 8, 2022

4:00 PM † Gerald Suermann (Deacon Neil & Mary Suermann)

Sunday, January 2, 2022 8:30 AM LIVESTREAMED

8:30 AM For all Parishioners Especially *†* Raymond Hoffman (Gary & Gloria Kasprovich)

Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 2:

The Epiphany of the Lord
12:30 PM Bingo - Columbus Hall

Monday, January 3: 5:30 PM T.O.P.S.

Tuesday, January 4: 8:30 AM Quilters (QR) 7:00 PM Bingo - Columbus Hall

Wednesday, January 5: 8:30 AM Adoration (CH) 3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet 7:00 PM MPH Devotions 7:00 PM Al-Anon (MR #1)

Thursday, January 6: 11:00 AM Simply Sober (MR #1) 7:00 PM RCIA

Friday, January 7: 6:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous (MR #1)

Saturday January 8:

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1330 The *memorial* of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

The Holy Sacrifice, because it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior and includes the Church's offering. The terms holy sacrifice of the Mass, "sacrifice of praise," spiritual sacrifice, pure and holy sacrifice are also used, 150 since it completes and surpasses all the sacrifices of the Old Covenant.

The Holy and Divine Liturgy, because the Church's whole liturgy finds its center and most intense expression in the celebration of this sacrament; in the same sense we also call its celebration the Sacred Mysteries. We speak of the Most Blessed Sacrament because it is the Sacrament of sacraments. The Eucharistic species reserved in the tabernacle are designated by this same name.

March 18-20 Participate in Fellowship. More details to come.

Outreach Items Needed! Our blue bins are waiting for your items! With the cold weather here, we have added all sizes of new HATS and GLOVES, used or new HOODIES, and HAND WARMERS to our collection. There are so many items that are needed so add whatever you have and we will find someone to use it. Thank you from GC Rock for your generosity to help us help others!

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH...GC ROCK is for YOU!

BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO OUR ROCKS AND FAMILIES

Sunday, January 2- NO GATHERING

Sunday, January 9- Deadline for Headcount for the SPRING-FIELD MARCH FOR LIFE so we can plan transportation!

Sunday, January 16- Gathering at Holy Family 6:30-8:00 PM. Bring a friend!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS Friday, January 21- Spring-field March for Life- We are planning on attending Mass at the Cathedral in Springfield, Il followed by a peaceful March to the State Capitol. We do not have a timeline for the day, but will let you know as soon as we are notified. Let us know as soon as possible if you can attend, so we can plan accordingly! Parents are welcome.

Rocks, Please watch our FB page (GC Rock Youth Group) or GroupMe for any changes or additions. Questions, call Rita 9724022, Woody 8767551, or Dawn 7093565

How do you fellowship...
with Christ
with the Spirit
with one another
with the gospel?
You Participate!

The flowers for the alter on Christmas and last week end were in the memory of Goclan & Skubish Family deceased. By Jerry & Pat Goclan



Collection for December 13-19

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Needed</u>
Yearly Disbursements Parish Parish Portion of Sch	 nool	\$363,425.00 \$151,395.00 \$514,820.00
Weekly Contribution Loose Solemnity of Mary Christmas School Support	\$2,446.75 413.00 5.00 40.00 175.00	ΨΟ1-1,020.00
Give Central	2,998.00 \$6,077.75	\$9,900.38
Total Collected YTD	\$207,685.53	\$247,509.50

Collection for December 20-26

Weekly Contribution	\$7,754.50	
Loose	630.00	
Children	2.00	
First Offering	5.00	
Solemnity of Mary	16.75	
Christmas	2,547.25	
School Support	265.00	
Give Central	2,232.50	\$9,900.38

Total Collected YTD \$228,220.53 \$257,409.88

AMOUNTS OWED TO THE DIOCESE

- ACSA 2014 \$17,748.90
- HVAC \$196,265.22

1/3 **Annette Bassett** Mag Oates 1/4 Vic Bulva Vince Debevo Ella Dickerson Andrea Estabrook Angie Geer Greta Lemaster **Emily Nordstrom** Gladys Wiesehan 1/5 Karson Fowler Leo Kelly Joshua Nelson Vasil Vangel Cindy Whitt 1/6 Zachary Moe Cheryl Moe Abigail Suess Cathy Rudy Benjamin Spoťanski Sophia Evans

1/2

Gloria Rains

Don't forget to pray the Rosery for the conversion of our country, its leaders, and to close the abortion facility in Granite City.

Please ad
Rich Alexander,
Mary Unfried, and
Jesus Soto to your prayers.

Parish Community Tithing for September \$4,028.00

Holy Family School Announces the Granite City Optimist Students of the Month

Third Grade students Claire Kwiatkowski and Ernest Nicholas IV were selected as the Granite City Optimist December Students of the Month. Each honoree will receive a certificate from the Optimists, and Holy Family School will receive an unrestricted donation of \$100.00 in their names.

Ernest Nicholas IV just turned nine years old last month. He is the son of Ashley Burdge and Ernest Nicholas III and is a member of Mrs. Gina Schubel's third grade class. Ernie enjoys Mrs. Schubel's social studies class and finds the lessons in American history especially fascinating. If Ernie was appointed teacher for a day, he would make sure to do something funny (like telling jokes) to make his students laugh. During his spare time, he likes playing video games with his friends since he can't play with them in person due to Covid. Ernie is a big soccer fan and plays on a soccer team called the Gateway Rush. He is very interested in the new professional soccer team coming to St. Louis. Ernie has no definite plans for his future as yet. He is still looking at all of his possibilities.

Nine-year old Claire Kwiatkowski just had her birthday on December 7. She is the daughter of Alex and Ashlee Kwiatkowski. She is also a third-grade student of Mrs. Schubel. Math is Claire's specialty. She thinks



multiplication is the most fun part of math so far and knows her multiplications tables up to the 11's. If Claire became teacher for a day, she would make sure her students have lots of fun, just like Mrs. Schubel does for Claire's class. Claire is very active outside of school. She likes to play outdoors, ride her bike, and play basketball for the Holy Family Hawks basketball team. Claire is also a member of the Bear den of Cub Scout Pack 103. Holy Family School just received word that Claire won first place in the 2021 Water Keeps Life Flowing Art Contest. Students from all over the state of Illinois drew pictures of the importance of water in daily life. Claire's winning illustration was titled "Water keeps us hiking" and pictured Claire and her dog drinking water after a long hike. In the future Claire would like to be a hairstylist.

The Granite City Optimist Organization is an international society dedicated to helping the youth of the world. For more information about the Granite City Optimists, contact Paul Hellrich at 618 407–3011. The Optimists are always looking for new members who would like to aid in their mission to help the youth of the community. Come join us!

<u>January</u> 8-9	Saturday, 4:00 PM	Sunday, 8:30 AM
Altar Servers	Moises Perez Angel Perez Jacob Willis	Cameron Lignow Peyton Shipley Beckham Stone
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Neil Suermann Nancy Diak	Deacon Neil Suermann Cheryl Hagopian
Gift Bearers	Juliann Burns Therese Pashea	Sarah Makarewicz Gloria Rains
Greeters	Stephen Balsai Cheryl Balsai	Ryan Burge Jeanine Nonn
Readers	Clarence DeGonia	John Janek
Ushers	Thomas Alsop David Cruse George Sotiroff Bev Wilson	Mark Hendel Mike Makarewicz Gloria Rains Marcee Stegemeier

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:
Tues, Jan 4 7:00PM
Team #1 Joe Schuler
Sun, Jan 9- 12:30PM

Team #2 Rhonda Massey

BINGO

Sun, DEC 19

Attendance:147 Profit: \$4,318.40

Tue, DEC 21

Attendance: 108 Profit:\$2,217.30

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

Patricia MichaeloffSandy Schnefke-Dillard

M/M David DeGonia

Mark Hendel

Juliann Burns, in memory of Bill Burns & Chomks Family M/M Charlie Geer, in memory of Geer Family & Hull Family Betty Haug, in memory of Haug & Milkovich Families M/M James Kukarola, in memory of George & Helen Kukarola M/M Denny Boyer, in memory of Gladys & Aloysius Steinhauser & Effie & Marvin Boyer Margaret Shipley, in memory of Bob Shipley Barbara Bronnbauer, in Memory of Heinz Bronnbauer & Robert Bronnbauer M/M John Foster, Anthony & Marie Perres, Thurman & Janeree Foster, Deceased members of Perry & Foster Families Irene Makarewicz, in Memory of Edward J. Makarewicz & Jozef & Marya Skowron M/M Robert Kurilla, Theresa Werner, Michael Mudd, in memory of Charles Mudd JR, Isabella Mudd, Douglas Mudd, Charles Mudd SR, & Viola Mudd M/M Frank Laub, in memory of Darlene & Frank Laub & Melvin Wilmsmeyer Shirley Wyatt, in memory of Bill Wyatt Carol Makarewicz, in Memory of Edward Makarewicz & Peter & Caroline Makarewicz M/M Michael Pedigo, M/M Jeff Hoffman, in memory of Betty, Frank, & Phillip Gac & Ray Hoffman SR & JR JoAnn Donaldson, M/M James Seiz, MS Lynne Davis, in memory of Roy Seamen, Lee & Elaine Gorrell, Owen Davis JR, Shirley Wendel Mary Ann Pare' M/M Ed Lenzi, in memory of Al Perry Family & Ed Lenzi Family Robert Laub, Nancy Mullen, M/M Matthew Kromraj, M/M Jack Mell, in memory of Bob & Ann Walsh & Jack & Louise Mell M/M Stephen Dudak, M/M Clarence DeGonia, M/M Gary Kasprovich, in honor of Our children and grandchildren M/M Mark Lerch M/M Daniel McIntyre, MRS Dorothy Ronk, in memory of Jerry Ronk & Fryntzko & Ronk Families M/M George Sotiroff, Bekki Stearns, M/M Frank Diak, in memory M/M Frank Diak SR & Family & Beinard Pinney Family

M/M Butch Stephens, in memory of Vasil & Mary Tanase & Clarence & Helen Stepheas in honor of Alex Christian & Jace
Julie Dolosic, in memory of Karen Dolosic & William Dolosic SR M/M James Allen, in memory of all my deceased family M/M
Ron Galbraith, in memory of Richard & Marjorie Stanton in honor of Galbraith Family, Byer Family, Stanton Family
M/M Randy Dickerman, in memory of Beulah Pardue, Leo Riggs, Harold Dickerman, Virginia Dickerman, in honor of Meleea
Mackelden

M/M Julius Balsai, in honor of M/M Stephen Balsai, Andrew Balsai, Julius Balsai, M/M Andrew Balsai, M/M Louis Hendrick, John Balsai, M/M William Kovach, Stephen Kovach, M/M Breen Bolt, Audrey & Ruth Bolt

Joy Bohnenstiehl, In memory of M/M Clyde Hull, Sister Mary Margaret, Chris Golden Jenny Will, in memory of Charles Will Donald Karpowicz, Anthony & Clara Karpowicz Dee Loyet, in memory of Tom Leyet, M/M Ducan Gagich, M/M Ely Guth M/M David Cruse, in memory of M/M George Kukarola, Carl Kukarola, M/M Stanley Cruse, Gregory Edwards, Margaret Kalz M/M John Culiberk, in honor of the Culiberk & Kostecki Familie Mary Will, in honor of Jenny Will, in memory of Charles Will Jean Holder, in memory of Joe Holder, Alice Koesterer, Olive Clare, Lil Phelan Donna Laws, in memory of Roger Laws M/M Elmer Long, Linda Leleniewski, in memory of Sophie Leleniewski, Ed Leleniewski, Sharon Gasich, Pamela Smallman M/M Ed Gray in memory of Shambro & Gray Family Lorraine Weis

Please Excuse any incorrect spellings of names.

All efforts have been made to list everyone correctly.

Sometimes the envelopes are difficult to read.









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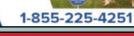
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