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## CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8:00-12:00  
Tues. 11:00-3:00

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We seek to know, love, and serve God  
and His children. Join us!

**Fr. Tim Renz, Pastor** (920) 563-3029 Ext.1101  
frtim@stjosephfort.org

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(920) 563-3029  
sjssecretary@stjosephfort.org

**Andi Peck, Maintenance** apeck@stjosephfort.org

### MASS & PRAYER SCHEDULE

**SAT. Jan. 2** 8:15 AM Mass †Frank & Mary Weiss  
5:00 PM Mass †William Poredos

**SUN. Jan. 3** 8:00 AM Mass For the Parish  
10:00 AM Mass †Robert (Buzz) Janes

**TUES. Jan. 5** 5:15 PM Mass †Estelle Wiesmann

**WED. Jan. 6** 8:15 AM Mass †Sal & Bea Willihnganz

**THUR. Jan. 7** 8:15 AM Mass †Robert (Buzz) Janes  
12:00-7:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

**FRI. Jan. 8** 8:15 AM Mass †Joan Dorgan

**SAT. Jan. 9** 5:00 PM Mass †Frank & Mary Weiss

**SUN. Jan. 10** 8:00 AM Mass For the Parish  
10:00 AM Mass †Frank & Mary Weiss

### HOLY ROSARY

Please join us in praying the Holy Rosary half an hour before every Mass, weekends and weekdays.

### CONFESSION

**Saturdays** 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM

**Sundays.....**7:30 - 7:45 AM & 9:30 AM - 9:45 AM

**Appointment .....**Call Fr. Tim anytime

### MEMBERSHIP & SACRAMENTS

Please call the Parish Office to register as a member. Contact Fr. Tim to inquire about baptism or marriage. Call or email Father Tim for the Anointing of the Sick. Active parishioners may inquire about a *quinceañera*



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass 2001, 1988, 1970 CCC

# JANUARY 3, 2021

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!



**Stewardship Report**

Offertory Collection November 2020: \$22,681.00  
November EFTs: \$ 7,075.00.  
November On-Line Giving: \$3,160.  
Budget needed per week: \$9,577.00  
Budget needed per month: \$41,500.00  
Budget needed per year: \$498,00.00.

Thank you for your support. Fr. Tim

Prayer makes your heart bigger, until it is capable of containing the gift of God Himself.

St. Teresa of Calcutta



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Be a light to those living in poverty & in a world of darkness! St Vincent DePaul needs volunteers of all kinds, especially cashiers to work in the store. The hours are open and flexible. Please consider sharing your time and talents to help those in need.

Contact Bill Roberts at (920) 563-5343.

Please pray for the intentions on our St. Joseph Prayer Chain.



## COVID-19 VACCINES: MORAL EVALUATION



# COVID-19

Although there are many factors to consider, the main concern of the Church with any vaccine is that it is developed, tested, and produced in such a manner that is morally licit. In evaluating the morality of a vaccine, the primary concern is the use of cell lines derived from elective abortions. Dignitas personae, specifically no. 34-35, is the most important and authoritative magisterial teaching on this topic.

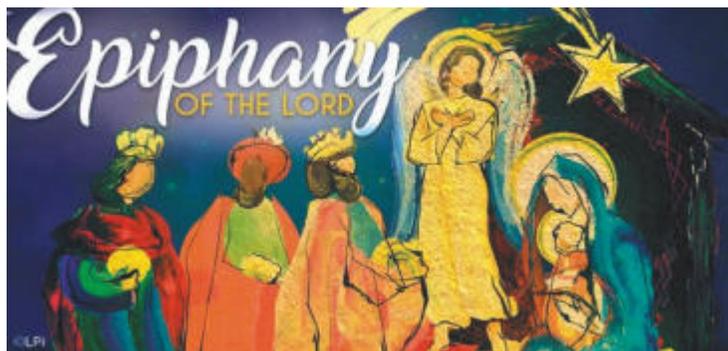
The Charlotte Lozier Institute has tracked COVID-19 vaccine candidates, allowing them to be divided into three groups based on their use of abortion-derived cells: (1) those that do not use abortion-derived cell lines whatsoever; (2) those that do not use abortion-derived cell lines in production, but use them in another point in the process; and (3) those that use abortion-derived cells in the production of the vaccine.<sup>ii</sup> Those vaccines in group 1 are the best ethical choice, while those in group 2 are preferable to those in group 3. If no viable option exists from group 1, consideration must be given to using vaccines from groups 2 or 3. As a 2005 reflection from the Pontifical Academy for Life explained, according to the principle of cooperation, if no effective alternative exists, serious reasons may permit individuals to use vaccines which utilize abortio-derived cells to protect their own lives and those of others.

As of December 2020, there are three promising vaccines that have been developed by Moderna, Pfizer, and AstraZeneca respectively to combat COVID-19. AstraZeneca's vaccine was developed and is being produced using abortion-derived cell lines and falls into group 3. While not developed or produced using abortion-derived cell lines, the vaccines developed by Moderna and Pfizer have used HEK293, a cell line from an abortion in 1972, for confirmatory testing and would fall into group 2. Without considering the safety, efficacy, and availability among options, using the logic of choosing the lesser evil, the vaccines developed in group 2 should be preferred to AstraZeneca's. Regarding the vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer, a November 20th, 2020 memo from the USCCB states that "it is morally permissible to accept vaccination when there are no alternatives and there is a serious risk to health."

This same memo clarifies that, although Moderna and Pfizer make use of a "tainted" cell lines, their connection with abortion-derived cell lines is relatively remote. Evaluating the current situation, a recent document from USCCB concludes that: "In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their remote connection to morally compromised cell lines."

Therefore, despite grave concern about the use of abortion-derived cell lines, there is, in principle, nothing morally prohibitive about using these two vaccines. Until an equivalently safe and effective alternative from group 1 exists, individuals, especially those whose health is at risk and those who are responsible for the health of others, may make use of the vaccines from Moderna or Pfizer "under protest" without incurring moral guilt.

Normally, in light of a proper Christian concern for personal health, the health of others who are vulnerable, public health, and the common good, there must be serious reasons for refusing immunization against dangerous contagious diseases. At present, particularly because these vaccines are so new, because so much is unknown about their consequences, and because they all use abortion-derived cell lines, some people may still be led to refuse vaccination in good faith. As the National Catholic Bioethics Center points out in their assessment, besides the moral evaluation of the vaccine itself, there are many other significant factors that must be considered in deciding whether to use a vaccine.



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.

# St Joseph School

## News 'n Notes

The entire St. Joseph Catholic School Staff, Students, and Parents wish the entire St. Joseph Parish community a very happy healthy New Year. May 2021 be filled with joy, peace and strength as you continue to walk with Jesus in all that you do, say and accomplish.

Please enjoy a few pictures from 2020!

Blessings, Kari R. Homb, Principal



◆ Has Covid got you down? Worried about getting sick? Join us for a virtual WWME experience from the comfort of your home.

◆ Are you looking for a way to create a great start in your relationship for the New Year?

◆ Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter experiences on Jan. 12 to Feb 2, in a series of two sessions per week for three weeks of roughly 2 hours each or an experience during Lent, February 18 - March 31 once per week.

◆ Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [alifetimeoflove.org](http://alifetimeoflove.org) or call (888) 574-5653.

◆ Para un fin de semana en español por favor llamen a Candelario y Emilia al 815-375-4250



### Giving to St. Joe's as Part of your Financial Planning

If you have an IRA or 401k, an end-of-year gift to the parish could save you taxes. Special conditions apply so please contact your tax advisor, plan administrator, or Dea Shimpach at the parish office to learn more about the Charitable IRA Rollover.

Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled St. Joseph parish and school to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of the strength of our parish by making a bequest in your Will!

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of parishioners whose gifts have helped us build a solid faith foundation for future generations. Thank you.

Fr. Tim



## Knights News



### CHRISTMAS HAS COME, AS HAS THE LORD

but this is really a beginning not an end.

BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS, THERE ARE NUMBER OF FEASTS.

**JANUARY 1 – HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**JANUARY 3 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (VISIT OF THE MAGI)**

**JANUARY 10 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Jan. 1 not only marks the start of a new year, but is also a day Catholics attend mass. The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood and dates back to the early days of Christianity. In 1965, the Vatican affirmed the ancient tradition of dedicating the day to Mary.

### FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Also known as Three King's Day, it marks the official end of the Christmas season for Catholics. The holiday marks the adoration of the baby Jesus by the magi. In the Gospel of Matthew, the men found the child by following a star for 12 days that led them to Bethlehem. The men — Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar — presented Jesus with three symbolic gifts.

Those gifts — gold, frankincense and myrrh — are steeped in symbolism. The gold represents Jesus' standing as "King of the Jews," while frankincense manifests the divine nature of His existence. Myrrh, often used to embalm corpses in ancient times, is a symbol of Jesus' mortality, a prelude to his death on Good Friday.

"Mary, who is the Virgin Most Pure, is also the Refuge of Sinners. She knows what sin is, not by the experience of its fall, not by tasting its bitter regrets, but by seeing what it did to her Divine Son." *Venerable Fulton Sheen*

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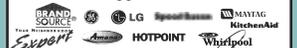
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