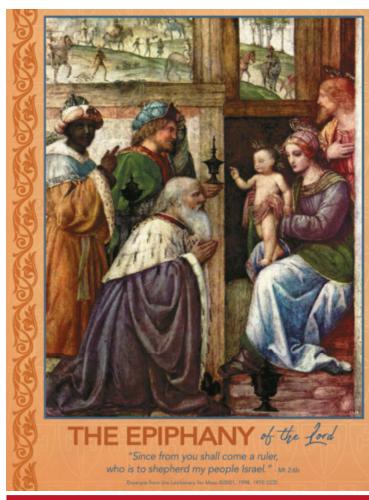


Catholic Churches

270-281-4802 9515 State Route 144 Philpot, Kentucky 42366 swslparishes.org

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 2, 2022



ST. WILLIAM AND ST. LAWRENCE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"We come together as members of St. William and St. Lawrence Parishes. Two parishes, with separate identities working together to grow in grace and love as disciples of Christ through the sacramental life of the Church, and to form new disciples by proclaiming the Gospel to all through word and service."

Parish Council Members: Lauren Johnson- Chair, Joe Schepers-Vice Chair, Eathan Johnson, Janey Gilmore, Janae Lanham, Lee Mills, Heather Clark, Shawn Johnson, Isaac Warren, Jenny Hamilton

<u>Finance Council Members:</u> Kathy Roberts-Chair, Bobby Turner, Gerald O'Bryan, Suzanne Murphy, Keith Payne, Linus Murphy

WELCOME TO ST. WILLIAM AND ST. LAWRENCE PARISHES

Pastor:

Rev. Shijo Vadakumkara shijo.vadakumkara@pastoral.org

Bookkeeper/Secretary:

Connie Lemmons connie.lemmons@yahoo.com

Director of Religious Education:

Kara Burch kbekebrede16@gmail.com

Maintenance:

Jaime Morris 270-231-5331

Youth Ministry:

Eathan Johnson

ejohnson5623@gmail.com; 270-315-9904

Parish Council Chair:

Lauren Johnson

Finance Council Chair:

Kathy Roberts

Building Committee Chair:

Lee Mills

Knottsville Knights of Columbus:

Mike Mudd 270-993-3213

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

On Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.. — Noon on Friday

Bulletin Deadline: by Monday NOON

Mary Carrico Catholic School 9546 State Route 144

Philpot, Kentucky 42366

Office: 270-281-5526 www.marycarrico.org

Principal: Martha Warren

mwarren@marycarrico.org

Secretary:

Vicki Conder

vconder@marycarrico.org

School Council Chair: Clint McManaway
PTO Chairs: Susan Howard, Jill Williams

The Epiphany of the Lord

Dear loving Parishioners,

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Epiphany. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "revelation". Thus, this day celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles, represented by Magi, the three kings, namely: Gasper Melchior and Balthazar. The three kings who came from the east to worship Jesus the newborn king were not Jews. They were gentiles, from the pagan world. Right from the time Jesus was born, the people who came to visit Jesus were the gentiles or from the pagan world. At first, we find the shepherds. They were given the Good News that a Savior is born for us. The Gentiles and pagan world were open to the revelation of God.

Our life is a journey. Every human person will find meaning in life by being open to God. The three kings of this Sunday's Gospel narrative were men who were left unsatisfied by their possessions of fame, wealth and power. They searched for the only one who can satisfy the deepest aspirations of the human heart. They longed to find the very meaning of their existence. After a long and difficult search, they discovered the place where He lay, and they encountered the one who came to redeem us and fulfill our intense longings. The three kings saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell and worshiped Him. Outwardly, their journey was now over. They reached their goal, but at this point a new journey began for them, an inner pilgrimage which changed their whole lives.

It started at the very moment when they knelt before this child and recognized Him as the promised King. They had to change their ideas about power, about God. Now they were able to see that God's power is not like that of the powerful of this world. God's ways are not as we imagine them or as we might wish them to be. God does not enter competition with earthly powers in this world. God is different: this is what they now come to realize. And it means that they themselves must now become different: they must learn God's ways. Ideologies and politics do not save the world, but only a return to the living God, our Creator.

God called the three kings through the appearance of the star. And under the guidance of that star, they left their homeland so that they could seek the Lord of Light, Jesus Christ. This tells us that the feast of the Epiphany does not only mean God seeks us out but it also means we are seeking out God who has become like us. Our search for God is manifested in the journey of the three kings. Their journey tells us about a way of living or lifestyle. As the

Gospel tells us, the three kings left their homeland, their place of comfort and security to travel to a land they did not know so they could find the true source of comfort and security, Jesus Christ.

Just like any journey in our lives, this will be hard. We will experience ups and downs. Yes, we will discover new landscapes and new progress in our lives. We will also encounter rough roads and new challenges, but this is the beauty of our journey. Our journey of faith is not all about success or the fulfillment of our goals; it is all about the perseverance that makes us better amid the challenges before us. The success of our journey is not all about reaching our goal but our progress toward it. It's how we journey together as an individual and as a community that truly matters and what truly counts. After visiting and offering gifts to the newborn King, the three kings went back in a different way. Anyone who encounters Jesus in their life will never return to their old sinful way of life. They will live as transformed human beings. We will never walk in the path of greed, injustice, hypocrisy, etc. The celebration of Epiphany must make us truly better persons. If Christmas is about God coming in search of human beings, Epiphany is about man going out in search of God. The real Epiphany takes place at this meeting of God and Man, where the human being is transformed, and we return home as transformed persons.

And so, my dear brothers and sisters, let us find encouragement in the example of the three kings who have given up the comfort of their homes, so they could find the real comfort they were longing for in their lives: Jesus Christ. Let us not be discouraged by some challenges or setbacks in our lives. Let us, instead, hold on to the progress that we are making. It is the little successes in daily life that could truly lead us to real spiritual growth in our lives.

May we have a very Happy Feast of Epiphany. Fr. Shijo Vadakumkara Pastor



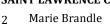


These are the people that signed up for the Matthew 9 Mission, for the days of 2-8 of every month. They will pray the rosary for vocations to the priesthood. If you would like to sign-up, call the office.

SAINT WILLIAM CHURCH

- 2 Alicia & Steve Kurz Family
- 3 Sr. Mary Celine Weidenbenner OSU
- 4 Benita & Kenny Turner
- 5 Jessie & Marilyn Rhodes
- 6 Linda Payne; Lorene Mattingly
- 7 Mary & Jesse Turner Family
- 8 Darlene Fulkerson; Becky Howard





- Sarah Boarman 3 Kenny & Debbie Lanham 4
- 5 Wilma Knott
- Amy & Travis Higdon Family 6
- Doris William 7





MASS INTENTIONS

January 3-9

Tue.	8:00 a.m. SW	Pope Francis		
Wed.	8:30 a.m. SW	L& D of John Lanham Family		
Thurs.	8:00 a.m. SW	Allen Payne +		
Thurs.	6:00 p.m. SL	Frank Carrico +		
Fri.	8:00 a.m. SW	Randall & Arlene Cecil		
Sat.	4:00 p.m. SW	Edwin Payne +		
Sun.	6:30 a.m. SW	Parishioners		
Sun.	8:00 a.m. SL	David Joe & Pat Payne 53rd Anniv.		
Sun.	10:00 a.m. SW	Ricky Rhinerson +		





Randall Cecil, Evan Barr, Mary Johnson, Janette Ford, Janice Payne, Roger Gilmore, Stephanie Mattingly, Charlie Boy Lanham, John Wells, Lisa Mayfield, Margaret & Bobby Hamilton, Bernard & Lillian Haynes, Bob & Helen Ward, Chad Roberts, Chuck Winters,

Edith Johnson, Cindy Payne, Ronnie Goetz, Joe Fitzgerald, Junior Hurm, Shelia Sanders, Dwayne Mattingly, David Montgomery, Ashley Whitaker, Cary Mattingly, Terry Stone, Francine Wright, Donna Barnett, Cecilia Recker, Sherri Murphy, Keilen Aud, Stevie Rhodes, Alex Payne, Whitney Burden, Eddie Burden, Jim Hazel, Nancy Meisenhelder, Jimmy Haynes, Jerome Hamilton, Kent Recker, Paige Morton, Margie Duncan, Janet Cecil Aud, Kenneth Huskisson, Bill McBrayer, Charles Aud

STEWARDSHIP

"Our return to the Lord": In thanksgiving for the blessings we have received from God, last weekend we chose to return a portion to the Lord"

December 20, 2021		St. William		St. Lawrence	
		envelopes		envelopes	
Regular Collections	\$	9,233.00	\$	2,700.00	
Loose	\$	101.00	\$	30.00	
Children's	\$	11.93	\$	21.35	
Online giving	\$	1,098.00	\$	560.00	
Total	\$	10,443.93	\$	3,311.35	
Weekly Budget	\$	9,700.00	\$	3,000.00	
Collections Year to Date**	\$ 2	220,772.98	\$	74,297.98	
Budget Year to Date**	\$ 2	242,500.00	\$	75,000.00	
Over (Under) YTD**		(21,727.02)	\$	(702.02)	
Christmas Flowers	\$	50.00			
Retired Religious	\$	25.00	\$	45.00	
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT BALANCE				\$ 960,170.15	

MINISTRY SCHEDULE JANUARY 8-9

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

4pm Brook Mattingly, Amy Brown 6:30am Mackenzie Mills 8am Ethan Haycraft 10am Janae Lanham

SERVERS

4pm Fish Family 6:30am Wayne Haycraft

8am Maggie & Thomas Payne, Paige Roberts

10am Lucas Murphy, Maylie Payne, Nate

LECTORS

4pm Barb Huskisson 6:30am Tina Howard 8am Sarah Boarman 10am Tara Moore

SACRISTANS

4pm EMHCS 6:30am Jack Haycraft 8am Annette Howard 10am Toni Isbill

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT PLEASE CALL A SUB OR IF THAT DOESN'T WORK THE OFFICE AT 270-281-4802

SACRAMENTS

CONFESSION: St. Lawrence Thursdays 5-5:30pm. St. William Saturdays 3-3:30 pm.

BAPTISM: Parents requesting Baptism for an infant or child under age 7, contact Kara Burch, at the parish office. Baptismal preparation is required and is held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month **by appointment only**.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Anyone having surgery or wishing to receive the Sacrament is asked to call the Parish Office.

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS: Any home-bound parishioner wishing to receive Communion or a pastoral visit is asked to call the Parish Office. Please notify the Parish Office upon admission of a family member into nursing homes or hospital.

HOLY MATRIMONY: At least one party must be a registered member of this parish. Do not set a wedding date before meeting with the Pastor. Please call for an appointment with Fr. Shijo at least six months before scheduling the wedding. The bride and groom must be free to marry in the Catholic Church before a date can be selected.

Dependent on Alcohol? If you drink everyday or feel you need a drink to relax or have a good time, your brain may be dependent on alcohol. Come find freedom or support as a loved one at A.A. & Al-Anon Meeting: 8pm Sundays at St. Mary of the Woods Cafeteria

Marriage Help – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped thousands of couples who are disillusioned or even experiencing misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the October program beginning with a weekend on Oct 15, 2021, call the Family Life office at 270-683-1545, or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org





WHO WE'RE

We are looking for young adults, at least a year out of high school, who are available all summer, have LOOKING FOR a relationship with Jesus, enjoy working with kids, are hard-working, and get along well with others.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SUMMER STAFF

PHOTOGRAPHER/ SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We would greatly appreciate you telling your young adults about the opportunities at Gasper River. Encourage those you think would do well on staff and affirm the qualities you see in them. Please tell them where to find more information and how to apply.

FOR MORE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GASPERRIVERRETREATCENTER.ORG

IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO SEND POSTERS, PLEASE EMAIL GASPER.PROGRAM@GMAIL.COM

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FEB. 27

Counseling

Is the pandemic stressing you out? You are not alone. Please call Catholic Charities at 270-683-1545 and mention CAP. We will direct you to a licensed counselor. You may also visit owensborodiocese.org/counseling.







Saints & Villains of the Bible: Ehud

Let us go back to the saints and villains of the Bible that we didn't learn about at VBS. Ehud was one hero, with a crazy and somewhat bizarre story who wasn't afraid of what God called him to do. We go to Judges 3:12-13 to hear the story of this brave judge. The judges were the rulers of the Israelites before kings. The Israelites at the time were under the rule of the Moabites. Every year, they had to bring their tithe to the king. Ehud was part of the delegation that went to deliver the tribute to the king. They went and delivered the tithe and turned to leave. Shortly after, Ehud excused himself and went back to the king's room. He claimed to have a secret message for the king. The king's name was Eglon and was extremely fat. He was in his roof chamber relieving himself on his chamber pot. Ehud came back into the room and told him he wanted to tell his secret message. Eglon dismissed the servants and let Ehud ple man that God called to leadership, and he respondwasn't a strong king from a wealthy line. He was a sim- earth here and now. Amen.



speak. Ehud approached his ear and pulled out an inch ed. Many of us do not feel worthy, but God calls us to and a half long dagger. Ehud was left handed, so he be his instruments. Second, Ehud was extremely brave could conceal the dagger on his right thigh where the in approaching the king, asking for the private audiguards wouldn't have checked. He stabbed Eglon in the ence, and killing him. All those requests could've meritbelly, and bodily fluids spilled out of him. The sword ed death, but he trusted God would bless his obedience was completely enveloped into Eglon's belly because in following His will. Finally, Ehud wasn't afraid to get he was so fat. Ehud left the king's dead body there and dirty to escape through the latrine in order to follow locked the chamber doors. He then jumped down into God's will. How many times do we not follow God's will the latrine and escaped without anyone noticing, because it is uncomfortable or unappealing? How many Eglon's guards grew suspicious, but thought he was re- of us have not gone to confession as often as we should lieving himself and didn't want to disturb him, so they because we are uncomfortable? Or how many of us waited a long time until they knew something was defi- have not taken the extra effort to approach a stranger nitely wrong. This gave Ehud ample time to escape far in need because he is unappealing? Let us follow the away. They finally broke down the doors and found example of Ehud and let God use us as his instruments, Eglon's dead body. Ehud returned home, rallied the regardless of how scary, uncomfortable, or unappealing troops, and led the Israelites in victory over the Moab- it is. God, please help us to hear your will and do it eveites. This led to peace for the Israelites for the next 80 ry day of our life. Help us to overcome our own fear or years. We have much to learn from Ehud. Firstly, he weaknesses to bring about the kingdom of God on



HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY! January 3-9

January 4 David Joe & Patricia Payne 53 years January 5 Darrell & Donna Barnett 49 years January 8 Patrick & Rose Meserve 56 years January 9 Paul & Emily Millay 13 years

T here is no greater force against evil in the world than the love of a man and woman in marriage. After the Holy Eucharist, it has a power beyond anything that we can imagine.

January 3, 2022

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Today's readings: 1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 *Initial reflections*

Do you have anything monogrammed with your initials, perhaps towels or clothing? While monogramming is decorative, it also marks your belongings as yours. Jesus has a monogram too: "IHS," which stands for the first three letters of the Greek spelling of the name of Jesus. Later the monogram was associated with the Latin phrase lesus Hominum Salvator (Jesus Humankind's Savior). There is power in the very name of Jesus and so Catholics venerate it. Perhaps you've seen this monogram on altars or vestments. Jesuits use the IHS monogram as the emblem of their society. You can bear his monogram too—by calling on his name and showing to the world that you belong to him.

"And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him."

January 4, 2022

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

Today's readings: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 Fed by the bread of life

Raised Episcopalian, Elizabeth Ann Seton knew about Jesus multiplying loaves. On Sundays, she was a devout communicant at historic Trinity Church on Wall Street. But it wasn't until Elizabeth went to Italy with her children and husband in 1803, attending Mass with Catholic friends, that she was drawn to the Real Presence in the Eucharist. "How happy would we be, if we believed what these dear souls believe," she wrote, "that they possess God in the sacrament, and that He remains in their churches and is carried to them when they are sick!" In honor of Mother Seton, the first U.S-born saint, resolve to receive Communion more often this year.

"He said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people."

January 5, 2022

MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

Today's readings: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

Get to know your neighbors

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint John Neuman, the first Redemptorist priest ordained in the United States and the first male U.S. citizen named a saint. Neumann, who emigrated to the United States from Bohemia as a young man desirous of being a missionary, is revered for his tireless work among immigrants in the Northeast. He had a talent for understanding people and knowing what would bring them peace and comfort. Seek to emulate this holy man, who one of his fellow bishops observed, "had a solution for every question posed," and an "unruffled composure, which betokened deep humility and perfect self-control. I always regarded him as a saint."

"If we love one another, God remains in us, and [God's] love is brought to perfection in us."

January 6, 2022

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

Today's readings: 1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22

The comeback kid of Québec

Saint André Bessette's remarkable life began when he was born into poverty in 1845. Orphaned by age 12, considered a failure in school, he practiced unskilled trades until his pastor encouraged him to join the Congregation of the Holy Cross. The congregation

reluctantly admitted him, concerned about his frail health. Brother André defied expectations, living to age 91 and becoming famous throughout Québec for the many healings people experienced after visiting him in his role as a humble doorkeeper. Why not ask Brother André for his intercession, be it for mental, spiritual, relational, or physical healing?

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

January 7, 2022

MEMORIAL OF RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT, PRIEST

Today's readings: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16

Make straight your path

Through its long history, the church has been careful to make a distinction between the canons, or rules, of the church and the laws of the state. The canons, from the Greek kanon for "straight," were meant to guide Catholics toward the mission of the church—to keep them on the straight and narrow of faith, so to speak. There are 1,752 canons, many that pertain to all of us. For example, Canon 210: "All the Christian faithful must direct their efforts to lead a holy life and to promote the growth of the church and its continual sanctification, according to their own condition." In honor of the patron saint of canon lawyers, Saint Raymond of Peñafort, do your best to follow the rules of the church and give witness to God's saving love.

"God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

January 8, 2022

SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Today's readings: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30

Increasing Christ

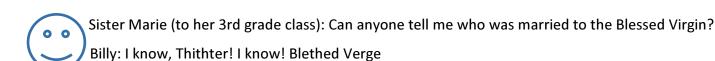
Tomorrow, the Baptism of the Lord, marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. The days, dates, and seasons of the church's liturgical calendar focus the whole People of God on the same celebrations. During Advent we prepare. In Christmas we welcome. Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. Easter is new life. In Ordinary Time we celebrate the ongoing effects of God's grace. So when "Silent Night" or "We Three Kings" is sung throughout the world, the air fills with the grace generated by God in our hearts. Sing a Christmas hymn today and know that the stars are singing with you.

"He must increase; I must decrease."



May you never be numbered among those whose house is peaceful, quiet and free from care, those on whom the Lord's chastisement does not descend, those who live out their days in prosperity and in the twinkling of an eye, will go down to hell!

ST. RAYMOND OF PENAFORT



Sister Marie: Why, Billy, whatever made you think that?

Billy: Oh, thithter, haven't you ever head of Blethed Verge and Mary?

JOIN US FOR DOUGHNUT SUNDAY!



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David.Kessler@pastoral.org

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