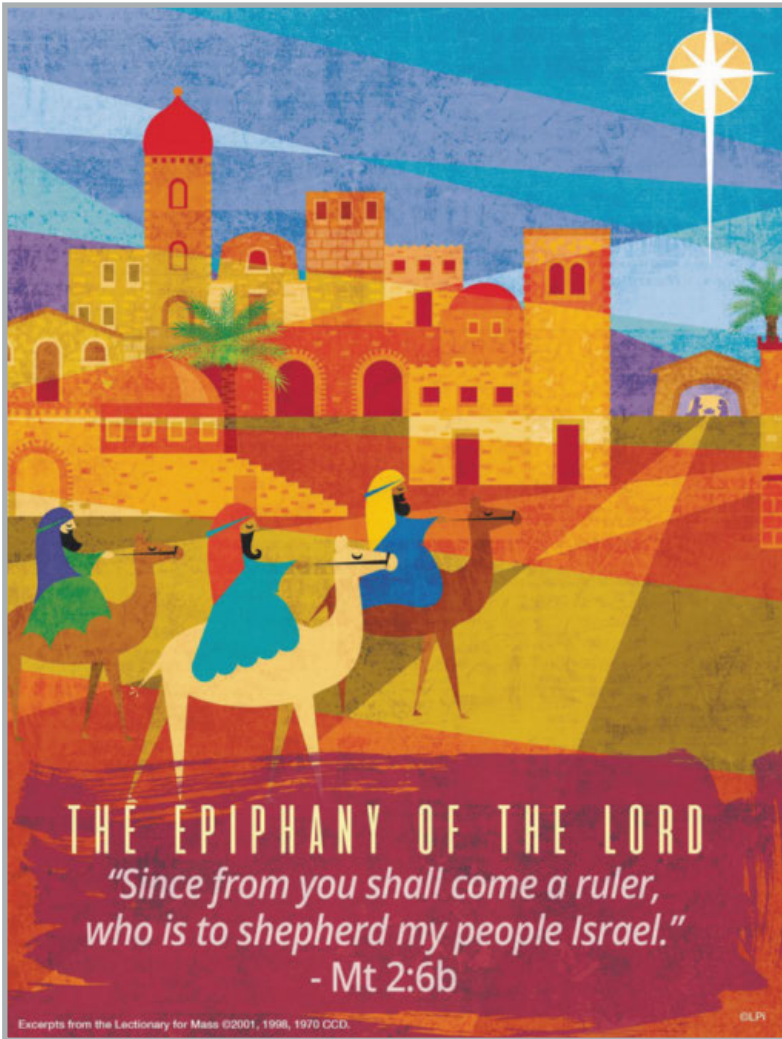




Church of St. Rita

CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE

8694 80TH STREET SOUTH, COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016 | PHONE: 651-459-4596 | WWW.SAINTRITAS.ORG



Weekend Liturgies
 Saturday 5:00 pm
 Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 am

PARISH STAFF

PastorFr. Mark Joppa
 Deacons.....Steve Koop and Jack Nicklay
 Business Administrator Rory Gilbert
 Safe Environment Coordinator.....Rory Gilbert

Pastoral Associates:

Elementary Faith Formation.....Kathy Kovarik
 Youth Ministry and Faith Formation
 Youth Ministry Assistant.....Oliva Keen
 Music Director Adam Baus
 Pastoral Care Jack Nicklay

Support Staff:

Office Manager.....Cindy Mitchell
 Director of Maintenance Todd Salmonson
 Faith Formation Assistant Carol Goecke

MINISTRIES, CHAIRS & CONTACTS

Parish Trustees Rose Svitak and Bob Schultz
 Parish Council Chair Lori Beasley
 Finance Council Chair..... Bob Schultz
 Adult Formation/Bible Study..... Marylee Stabenow
 Mission Outreach/Sister Parish Mary Hilgers
 Pro Life Committee Nini Nelson
 AdorationJane Korf
 St. Rita's Women's Council.....Cathy Schmit
 Sun. Night Prayer GroupTim Murray
 Knights of Columbus. Bill Yunker
 Garden Committee.....Rosanne Hauptert & Cathy Mitchell
 Liturgical Environment Committee.....Nancy Reckinger
and Phyllis Bries
 Ladies Craft Ministries..... Karen Callinan
 Donut Sunday..... Sharron Hoffman
 Community MealJack Nicklay
 Bread Basket.....Karen Callinan
 Parish Nurse Mary Fran Koch

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

SUNDAY'S READINGS

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)

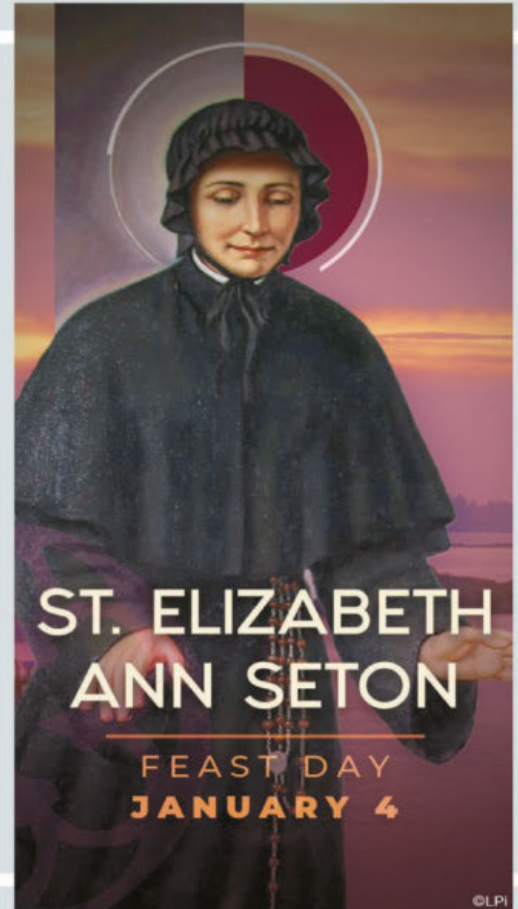
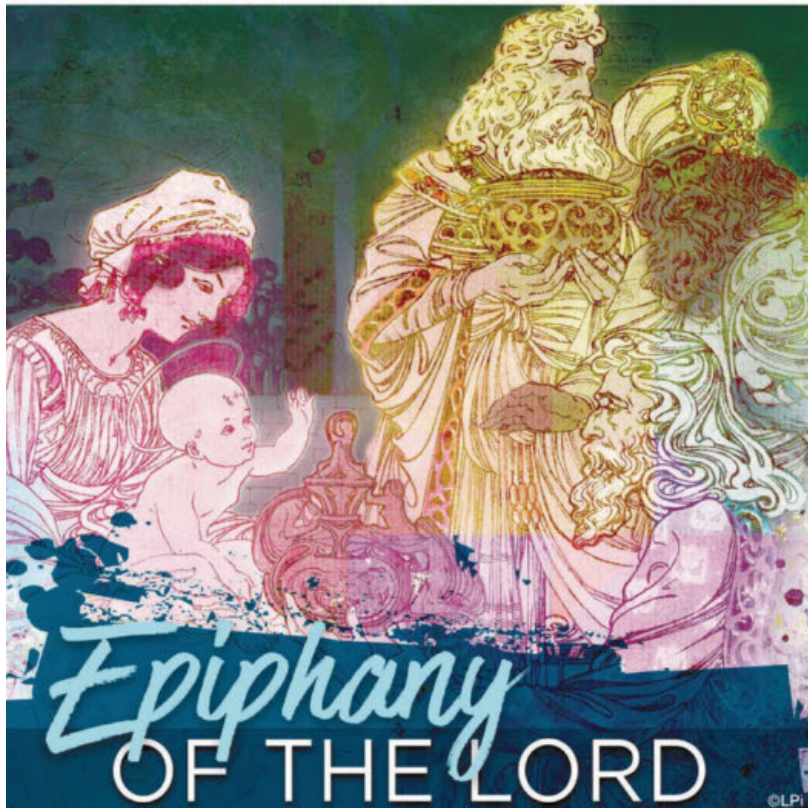
GOSPEL:

"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)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

- Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Monday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Tuesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Wednesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Thursday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Friday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord



Saint of the Week

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."



Where do you get the energy and the strength to go forward in life? It is sometimes hard to accept that we are both sinners AND loved by God. Jesus paid the price for our sins. We are also loved. I encourage you to accept the truth of who you are, receive the truth of who you are, be renewed today by the truth of who you are because this voice from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, listen to him" is not just meant for Jesus. This voice is meant for the crowds and then for you and for us. If Jesus is in the water it is to cleanse the water for us. After we are baptized, we become this new creation. We become his sons and daughters. Jesus is getting into the water with sinners, you and me. He is not avoiding us but rubbing shoulder to shoulder with us.

We are all reminded that go to the foundation go back to YOUR own baptism, who we really are, Jesus says to each of you, "here is my beloved son, YOU! "Here is my beloved daughter, YOU! This is the ultimate word. Where do you get the energy to do what you need to do? Where do you get your self-esteem and your identity which is the foundation of the person? How do you get filled up? Remember who are in Christ: a beloved son or daughter.

People can say what they want about our behavior good and bad, our characteristics and personality but don't get sucked in. Perhaps you have heard that you are not wanted, a failure, a mistake, lost cause or whatever. So positive is this truth: the Father is well pleased with his son and with his daughter, his own family. We need to remember that Jesus loves us. Do you know the date you were baptized? Celebrate the day you were made a new creation: a beloved son or daughter of God!

God is good, *Fr. Mark Joppa*



CHILDREN'S GIVING TREE THANK YOU!

Thank you for the truly generous response to the Children's Giving Tree donations. Donations of clothing (mittens, scarves, hats) were given to the Lion's Club who distributed them locally; animal treats were given to the Animal Ark in Hastings, and cookies & snacks were given to Vets home. Financial donations were given to Lion's Club. The generosity of St. Rita's people is such an example of God's love for all. Thank you to all and to Carol Goecke who put up the tree and added the ornaments. Kathy Kovarik



THE GENEROSITY OF THIS PARISH IS AMAZING, THANK YOU!

The response to the *Giving Tree* was exceptional, we received over **\$5500** in gift cards. The majority were given to the Food Shelf, the remainder were used here. A portion was shared with parishioner families to make their Christmas brighter. Some were used locally to make folks lives warmer. The remainder will be used throughout the year to help parishioners in need. God Bless All of You!! Deacon Jack



Thank you for your generously in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious. St. Rita's collected \$3448.27 to help support the senior members of the religious communities.

St. Ambrose of Woodbury now has a Perpetual Adoration Chapel opening January 2nd in the afternoon. Visit their website at www.saintambrose.weadorehim.com for more information.

Deaths



For those who have died we pray

Norman, husband of Helen Schreiner
Delores, mother of Laurie Barthol
George May

May they rest in you Lord

Prayer Requests



Pray for the sick of our parish

Bernie Rieman
Gil, friend of Jean Brezinski

Heal them with your touch Lord

Welcome



You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism

Margo June Bozyk

And marked as Christ's own forever.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

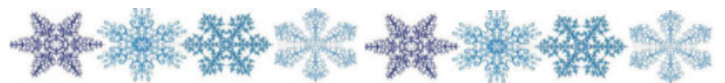
That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Word of God - DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, Jan 2		Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13	Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6	Matthew 2:1-12
MON., JAN 3 FEAST OF ST. JOHN	TUES., JAN 4	WED., JAN 5	THURS., JAN 6	FRI., JAN 7	SAT., JAN 8
1 John 3:22-4:6	1 John 4:7-10	1 John 4:11-18	1 John 4:19-5:4	1 John 5:5-13	1 John 5:14-21
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25	Mark 6:34-44	Mark 6:45-52	Luke 4:14-22	Luke 5:12-16	John 3:22-30
Sunday, Jan 9		Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11	Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)	Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Church of St. Rita
 8694 80th Street South
 Cottage Grove, Minnesota 55016

Parish Telephone..... 651-459-4596
 Fax 651-459-5364
 Web Site: www.saintritas.org
 Email..... stritas@saintritas.org
 Parish Council Contact.....ParishCouncil@saintritas.org.

Follow St. Rita's on Social Media:
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 Instagram @saintritaschurch

Office Hours
Monday through Thursday 8:00—4:30 pm
Friday 8:00 AM to Noon
The Parish Office is closed on weekends.

Eucharistic Adoration
 Thursdays - 8:30am to 5:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Saturdays at 4:00pm, or call the Parish Office for appt.

Baptism
 Baptisms are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at noon. Baptism preparation class is held on 1st Tuesday of each month. Attendance at baptism preparation class is required before scheduling a baptism date. Call as soon as possible to register for baptism preparation class.

RCIA
 Contact Deacon Jack Nicklay at 651-459-4596

Marriage
 Call the Parish Office to inquire. Please allow six months for marriage preparation.

Home visits
 If you are homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion or have a confession heard, or would like a visit from Fr. Mark, please call the parish office at 651-459-4596.

Hospitalization
 We would love to visit you if you are hospitalized. Please have a family member contact us. Confidentiality laws do not allow hospitals to notify churches.

Parish Registration
 You may register at the Parish Office during office hours. Forms are also available on our web site.

Anyone wishing to serve as a volunteer in any parish event or function, who may come in contact with youth or vulnerable adults, must first complete the "Essential Three" components required by the Archdiocese: Virtus training, a background check, and a signed code of conduct. Call the parish office for more information.

Victim Assistance Hotline: 651-291-4497

If you or anyone you know has been the victim of abuse by clergy or any employee of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, your first call should be to local law enforcement authorities. Then please call the number above to report the abuse.

Mass Intentions for week of Jan 2, 2022

Sunday, Jan 2
 Melissa Mitchell
 All Grandparents
Tuesday, Jan 4
 Gary Flann †
Wednesday, Jan 5
 Souls in Purgatory †
Thursday, Jan 6
 Justin Terry

Friday, Jan 7
 Kevin Kargel †
Saturday, Jan 8
 Maxine Urich †
Sunday, Jan 9
 The Parish
 Ramon Yasis †



Charitable contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered. One exception is a check that is mailed to the church – it is deductible in the year the check is postmarked, even if it is received early in the next year. If we receive a check in the mail in the first week of January 2022 that is enclosed in an envelope postmarked in December, we will include that contribution in the donor's 2021 contribution statement. Any checks received in the January 1st collection or postmarked in 2022 (even if the check is dated in December) will be included in your 2022 contribution statement.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Financial Giving
Year to Date as of 11/30/2021
***YTD Actual will be updated on a monthly basis.**

Actual 2021-22 YTD.....\$331,567.50
 Budget 2021-22 YTD.....(\$328,775.00)
 Difference.....\$2792.50

MORTGAGE UPDATE

Balance as of 12/1/2021 \$689,828.17
 Monthly Payment \$5,695.92

MASS TIMES

Tuesday 5:00 pm Mass
 Wednesday 8:30 am
 Thursday Communion Service 8 am
 Adoration 8:30 am—5:00 pm followed by 5:00 pm Mass
 Friday 8:30 am Mass
 Saturday 5:00pm Mass
 Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

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