



## 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

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR



# Parish Events

Saturday, January 2  
 4pm Confession  
 5:30pm Mass at St. Francis

Sunday, January 3  
**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
 7:30am & 9am Mass at St. Francis  
 NO Class - K-5th Faith Formation  
 11 am Mass at St. Philip of Benizi (Darby)

Monday, January 4  
 NO Mass

Tuesday, January 5  
 11:40am Rosary in Chapel  
 12:10pm Mass

Wednesday, January 6  
 8:30am Rosary in Chapel  
 9am Mass  
 5:30pm Accountability Group  
 6pm JH/HS Youth Ministry Class  
 6:30pm RCIA  
 7pm Quantum Group

Thursday, January 7  
 8:30am Rosary in Chapel  
 9am Mass at St. Francis

Friday, January 8th  
 8:30am Rosary in Chapel  
 9am Mass at St. Francis  
 5pm Community Meals

Saturday, January 9  
 4pm Reconciliation  
 5:30 pm Mass at St. Francis

Sunday, January 10  
 Feast of the Baptism of The Lord  
 7:30am & 9am Mass at St. Francis  
 11am Mass at St. Philip of Benizi (Darby)  
 10am K-6 RE Classes

## ST. GERARD'S MINISTRY Calling all pregnant/adopting families!

Our St. Gerard Ministry wants to bring you dinner and gifts for your new family member. Please contact the parish office at 363-1385.



### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 2004 by Bev DeVine and is inspired by the book "Knitting into the Mystery" by Susan S. Jorgensen and Susan S. IZard. The members crochet and knit shawls, lap robes, and blankets that are presented to individuals around the world. The items are available to all Parish members and have been presented to individuals who have health issues, suffering grief, need encouragement, in friendship, and need comfort. The shawls are presented without any charge to the giver and are available through the Parish Office or by contacting one of the members. Questions: Please contact Cathy Fahrenbruck at 961-5413



## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sat Jan 2	5:30pm Mass: For Norman Newberry by Regina Newberry
Sun Jan 3	7:30am Mass: For Sister Margaret by Terri 9am Mass: For Community of the Parish 11am Mass: For Priests in our Diocese
Tues Jan 5	12:10pm Mass: For Tom Evans by Mike and Rosemary Weber
Wed Jan 6	9am Mass: For Fr. Dan Driscoll by Dave & Cathy Fahrenbruck
Thurs Jan 7	9am Mass: For Tom Ford by Mike & Rosemary Weber
Fri Jan 8	9am Mass: For Ken Rudzinski by Robert and Pauline Gary

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1/03 Nick Hooper, Austin Keithley, Tammy Johnson

1/04 John Talia

1/05 Robert Whalen, Brielle Fain

1/07 Bernard Seward

1/08 Tracie McCrossin, Pink McDonald

1/09 Gailleigh Meis, Sophia Urso

Happy Birthday!

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1/03 Abhilash & Veena Mampilli 10 yrs

1/05 Don & Arlene Helmbrecht 49 yrs

*If you don't see your Birthday or Anniversary listed, please call or come to the parish office and fill out/update a registration form because we want to celebrate with you - we want to remember and give thanks!*

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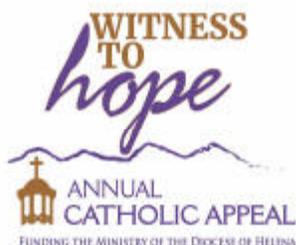
406-363-5390

## The Annual Catholic Appeal 2020

We have 532 registered households.

To date, 154 pledges have been made which is 29% of our parish families. We have received \$49,778 in pledges which puts us at 78% of our goal of \$63,500.00.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.



## The Life of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton



"Elizabeth Ann Seton is a saint.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is an American. All of us say this with special joy, and with the intention of honoring the land and the nation from which she sprang forth as the first flower in the

calendar of the saints. Elizabeth Ann Seton was wholly American! Rejoice for your glorious daughter. Be proud of her. And know how to preserve her fruitful heritage." –

Pope Paul VI

January 4th celebrates the Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

St. John Neumann, in full Saint John Nepomucene Neumann, (born March 28, 1811 – died January 5, 1860, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.; canonized 1977; feast day January 5), bishop of Philadelphia, a leader in the Roman Catholic parochial school system in the United States. After studies at the University of Prague, Neumann's interest in missions in the United States took him to New York, where

he was ordained in 1836. In 1840 he joined the Redemptorists, a religious congregation dedicated to parish and foreign missions, and later became superior of all Redemptorists in the United States. In 1852 Pope Pius IX named him bishop of Philadelphia.

Neumann spent the rest of his life building churches, schools, and asylums for his diocese. He was devoted to education and was the first ecclesiastic to organize a diocesan school system in the United States.

Neumann was canonized in 1977 as the first U.S. male saint.



## Community Meals continue on Friday's at St. Francis

St. Francis parish will be hosting **FREE** Community Dinners on Friday evenings as part of a coalition of churches to feed those in need.

Dinners will be served drive-thru style from 5:00 to 6:00pm.



## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

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! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!© LPi

### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS** **Wise Men See God in the Simple Things**

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.©LPi

### **Chastisement vs. Punishment**

**Question:** What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

**Answer:** The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.



First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have. The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is. Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.©LPi

## 5 Tips to Adjust Your Expectations as a Caregiver

Where should you begin to balance your own and others' expectations? The following tips can help you to meet your responsibilities in a more realistic way:

1. Make a list of all the caregiving tasks you handle. Then draw up a list of all your other responsibilities. While you do this, think about each of the tasks and other responsibilities, and consider the importance of every one. Can you strike a balance between caring for your loved one's needs and your own? Are there too many expectations? Decide what is acceptable on each list and what needs to change. Remember that, like anything in life, caregiving evolves over time, and adjustments need to be made on an on-going basis. 2. Try not to let yourself get overwhelmed to the degree that you or your loved one are neglecting the relationship you have, whether you're family members or friends. Don't put your relationship with your loved one on the backburner. Make a decision to prioritize your relationship, regardless of how your caregiving role evolves. By reminiscing about the past, it can allow you to emphasize new memories and gain acceptance with greater ease and comfort. This can help you to focus on joyous moments, whether they're brief or longer lasting. 3. Refuse to let other family and friends take advantage of your time and create unrealistic expectations. Don't look at it as a direct "no." Instead, you are telling them, "I need to also take care of myself to continue helping others. Let's put our heads together and come up with others we can bring into the picture, whether they're family members, friends, or professionals." By freeing up some time, you can begin to de-stress. 4. Consider the level of commitment required for any tasks you may be engaging in before you take them on. Are they doable? Are they too challenging? Time-consuming? You may realize that some aspects of caregiving are much easier than others. If something seems too stressful, think about who or what could help. Maybe you could enlist support from other family members or friends. Is there a service provider who could assist somehow? Posing questions and creating a network of support can help balance your expectations with your needs. As you ease these pressures on yourself, you will begin to prioritize tasks and manage time more efficiently. 5. Keep in mind that you're doing the best you can. It's natural to feel sometimes that you've let yourself or your loved one down. This is why it's important to adjust your expectations. This is not a race. You do not need to prove that you're a superhero. You are a caring and empathetic person. You work hard to make your loved one feel safe, happy and loved. You are doing all you can. Accept yourself, your circumstances and your reality. Reach out to trusted friends and professional resources that will help you cope, take care of yourself and get you through the challenging times with an appreciation for all the rewarding moments. Pat yourself on the back for what you've done, what you are doing and what you will continue to do. **Even if your loved may not be able to clearly express it, you are very loved and appreciated.**



## Sacraments

**Baptism:** By appt. Baptismal preparation sessions offered to parents and sponsors as announced. Parents must be registered with our parish.

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 4pm in the Church or by appointment with the priest.

**Marriage:** Diocesan policy requires six months preparation. If you are planning a wedding, always check with the pastor before setting a date.

**Confirmation:** Preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation is integrated into High School Youth Program. Youth are expected to attend starting in the 9th grade. The sacrament is celebrated for 10th though 12th graders who have received a minimum of two years catechesis and other Confirmation Classes in addition to other requirements.

**1st Penance & 1st Eucharist:** For 2nd grade as scheduled in the year. The child must be enrolled in Religious Education Class & a registered family member of our parish.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** As needed in each sickness, call and let us know.

**Prayer Chain:** Judy Giggar 363-2784 or judy.giggar@gmail.com, Ginny Rose at 360-7779 or casadersas@msn.com, or Joyce Faucher at 361-8298 or daddsgirl913@yahoo.com



### ~ Parish Directory ~

Parish Office phone # 406-363-1385 fax # 406-363-1451

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<b>Parish Health &amp;</b>	Nancy DeZell	<b>9-12 RE Coordinators</b>	George J. Lund (574) 309-2751 Jessica Lund (406) 369-0904
<b>Wellness Ministry</b>	(703) 786-5990	<b>RCIA Coordinator</b>	Bonnie McKenna email her at mckennabjo@gmail.com

**Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8am-3pm; Friday 9am-12noon**



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