

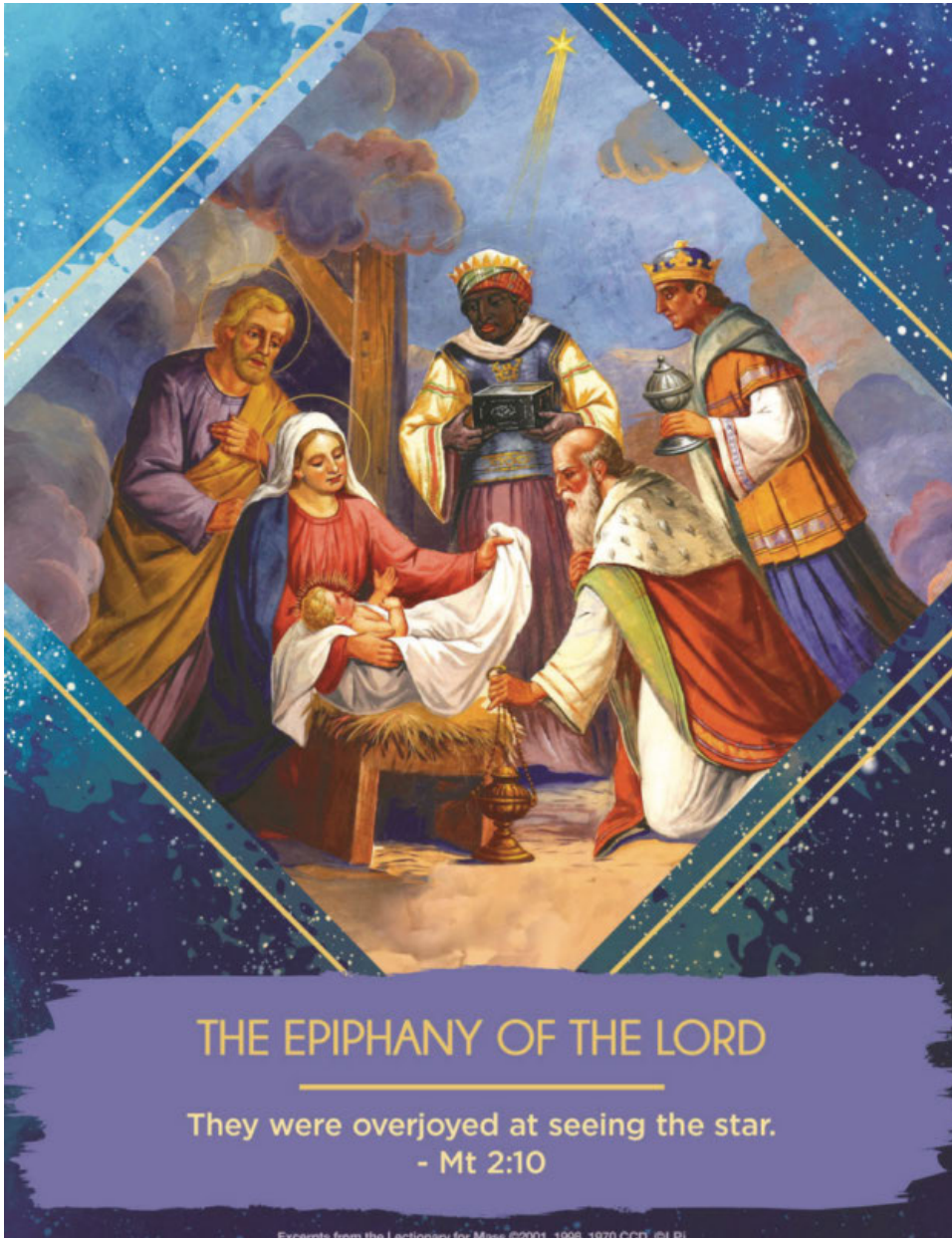


Immaculate Conception

CATHOLIC CHURCH

406 Alta Vista Avenue | 329 Maryland Avenue | Fairmont, WV 26554

JANUARY 5, 2025 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star.
- Mt 2:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970, CCF ©LPI



ALL ARE WELCOME!

304-363-5796 (p) | 304-366-4937 (f)

website: icfairmont.com

facebook.com/icfairmontchurch

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday | 9:30am-1:30pm

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor | Fr. Kishore Varaparla, HGN

304 532-9744 (cell)

Pastoral Associate | Sr. Stella

Cronauer, CSJ

304-367-0485 | stellacsj@gmail.com

Pastoral Secretary | Bonnie

Chisholm

church@icfairmont.com | Ext. 11

Bookkeeper | Teresa Rundle

church@icfairmont.com | Ext. 10

Pastoral Music Director | Melissa

Gump

musicdir@icfairmont.com

Faith Formation

DRE | Kelly Smith

dre@icfairmont.com | 304 290-9168

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Faith Community of Immaculate Conception, Empowered by Our Baptism, Commit Ourselves to Live the Gospel Message. Affirmed through the Grace of our Eucharistic Celebrations, It is Our Vision to Reach Out Lovingly in Prayer, Formation and Service.

WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH!

Catholic over the age of 18 (unless they are in school), we invite you to become registered members of our parish! This is a great way to practice the Catholic Faith. Registration forms are available on the bulletin boards in the back of the church. Please fill out this form and return it either by mail or the collection basket. Soon after, you will get a letter confirming your membership in the mail. Please make sure you introduce yourself to the Priest celebrating the Mass you attend!

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 4

5:30pm † Poor Souls in Purgatory req. by Tim Slamick

Sunday, January 5 - Epiphany of the Lord

8:10am Rosary

8:30am Our Parish Family

11:00am † Charles & Anita Walls req. by Lisa Mugnano

Monday, January 6 - No Mass

Tuesday, January 7

7:00pm - † Poor Souls in Purgatory req. by Tim Slamick

Wednesday, January 8

8:00am - † Yvonne Hershman req. by Jeanina Butcher

Thursday, January 9

8:00am - † Deceased Family Members of Karen Gribben

Friday, January 10

7:00pm - † Cecil Branham & Loretta Saporito req. by Doreen Branham

Saturday, January 11

5:30pm † Charles & Anita Walls req. by Mike Walls Family

Sunday, January 12 - Baptism of the Lord

8:10am Rosary

8:30am Our Parish Family

11:00am † John Cervo req. by Jerry & Dolores Cunningham

PLEASE NOTE: In the event of a Funeral or school has been closed or delayed for inclement weather, all Masses for that day will be cancelled. Mass intention will be rescheduled.



My fellow parishioners,

Words can't express my gratitude to the Stewardship Committee (Bingo), the Ladies Society (Sauce Sale), the Social Action Committee (Thanksgiving Baskets and Clothes Drive), and the Men's Society (Fall Breakfast) for all your efforts in the support and maintenance of this church. I am in awe of each of you.

In appreciation, I would like to invite you all to an Epiphany party on January 5 after the 11 o'clock mass. No need to bring anything - appetizers and drinks will be available. For any who wish to participate, we will have a white elephant gift exchange. Please keep gifts to under \$10 if you would like to participate. ALL ARE WELCOME!

The DMI survey goes live on January 7th. The Portal can be accessed by clicking on the link below. The user name and password are listed below. If you have any problem accessing this link please contact me at: Ccolasessano86@gmail.com, or wvpizza@aol.com Please take this opportunity to let your voices be heard on how you feel we can move toward being a stronger faith filled community.

Thank you in advance,

Carol Colasessano

username: wvpizza@aol.com

password: Immaculate@1Fairmont



Click the link below

CLI Portal. <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/xd1946>



To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods. Immaculate Conception Church has made Kelly Smith the coordinator for our church's Safe Environment team.

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

Epiphany of the Lord - Year C

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6;
Matthew 2:1-12

Today we celebrate the solemnity of Epiphany, and in a most special way the day of the three kings who brought Jesus very costly and symbolic gifts of gold, mire, and frankincense. Epiphany means “to reveal, or to manifest.” Epiphany celebrates the many ways through which Jesus has revealed himself to us and our world. These include the three events that bring to light his mission and divinity; the visitation of three kings or magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the miracle at Cana.

So, today God reveals himself to us because he is good and loving. The light that shines forth upon us today is the light of life from which we ourselves must get our own light and reflect it unto others. Today, Christ further demonstrates the extent of his love by allowing himself to illumine the darkness of our lives.

Today’s gospel from Mathew is about the visitation of the three wise kings. They came to adore and offer gifts to the new born king, Jesus Christ. This gospel has lots of lessons for us. First,

the three kings offered a genuine worship to Christ, the king of kings. So, our worship must be sincere like theirs.

Second, we must be ready to offer Jesus something. We must not appear before the Lord empty handed. So, we must ask ourselves today what will I offer the Lord for his goodness to me? The best gift to offer to God is the gift of oneself, the gift of love, the gift of peace, and the gift of sacrifice. Also, we must learn to be generous to others as the three wise kings were to Jesus.

Another lesson that we must learn from the wise kings is that, we must continue to follow the star and light that Christ shows us. That is, we must not allow ourselves to be deceived or distracted on our journey by the many Herods of this world. Trusting that God will not mislead us, we must continue to watch out for the star and light of Christ that will guide us to eternity. Any time we are confused, or come to the cross road of life, we must seek and wait until the star of Christ appears to show us the way we must follow.

Prayer: Creator of the heavens, I pray and ask you to show us this day your star that guided the magi to worship the Christ, so, it may lead us to the mysteries of Christ.

May Almighty God Bless Us. Amen.


Ministry Schedule

	Security	Ministers of Hospitality	Sacristan	Lector	Altar Server	Extraordinary Minister
Saturday, 5:30 PM January 11	Tom Cole Scott Stevens	Tom Cole Maria Morris Scott Stevens Edna Wilson	Jerry Boyers	Janice Glance	Lily King Sophia Pagliaro Camele Stevens	Carol Colasessano Denise Sacchetti Stacey Spadafore
Sunday, 8:30 AM January 12	Nick Fantasia Larry Willett	Jeanina Butcher Nick Fantasia Larry Willett Xaden Willett	Ann Gaskins	Beth Fantasia	Benjamin Borgheirnk Kaelyn Willett Zoe Willett	Darrell Capral Jo Ellen Mick Sherry Spadafore
Sunday, 11:00 AM January 12	Rhonda Wilson Steve Wilson	Pat McFarland Michael Rinehart Rhonda Wilson Steve Wilson	Steve Wilson	Aden McFarland	Gwyn DeMoss Dominic Rinehart Gabriella Rinehart	Carol Boyers Wayne Hartley Steve Perrotti

If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute.



- January 5 - Joseph Spadafore, Colin Curry
- January 6 - Linda Cockerham, Ian Crookshanks
- January 7 - Laura Mileto
- January 8 - Daphne Hardesty, Conchetta Cook
- January 9 - Seth Barker, Amanda Hoff, Joseph Potesta, Dominic Rinehart
- January 10 - Natalie Mazelon
- January 11 - Gabrielle Rundle



The Catholic Daughters will meet
Jan. 7th at 2:00.
Barbara Kolar, Regent

SECOND COLLECTION
THIS WEEK - BUILDING FUND
NEXT WEEK - FAIRMONT CATHOLIC

The Winner’s Circle Numbers for the
Christmas break are #64, #177, and #82.



We give our prayerful support and condolences to the family members and friends of **William Mott** who passed away on December 7, 2024. May he experience perfect peace and joy in the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us also express our condolences to his wife Eleanore; four sons William (Patricia), Gregory (Donna), Derek (Robin) and Kendall (Christine) and his daughter, Janna (Robert) Yoder and 14 grandchildren and 3 brothers.


Eternal Rest Grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him! May his soul and the souls of all of the faithfully departed rest in peace.

Sick and Homebound Visits

If you are sick, homebound or hospitalized and would like a visit from a member of the parish staff, you may contact

- Fr. Kishore at 304 532-9744 or
- Sister Stella at 304 367-0485


or would like to have your home blessed, receive Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Anointing of the Sick, contact Fr. Kishore.

STEWARDSHIP 	
	December 22
Attendance	276
Weekly Collection (Regular & Online)	3934
Building Fund (Regular & Online)	550
FC School Support (Regular & Online)	340
Christmas	176
Immaculate Conception	25
Retirement Fund for Religious	50
Your support and offerings are deeply appreciated!	

“What was the favorite dessert of the king who brought gold?”



“Karat cake!”



The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Baby Jesus. We remember them on Epiphany!



PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION REPORTS: We will be happy to supply you with a copy of your Envelope Donations Report to our Parish during 2024. These will only be issued this year, as we have in most years, upon your request. To arrange it, just call the Parish Office at 304-363-5796 or drop us a note requesting your Contributions Report.

The Disciple Maker Index

39%

of parishioners
want to grow in
their faith

31%

of registered
Catholics in the
US attend Mass
weekly

80%

of all donations
are made by just
6.8% of
parishioners

8.3 M

people are
estimated to leave
The Church in the
next 10-20 years

Devotions, *Explained!* Epiphany Blessing

Epiphany Blessing, *Explained*

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it.

There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house."

©LPi



Thanks **Michael Savonrola** and **Ross Funeral Home** for the beautiful 2025 calendars that they donated to our church. The calendars

are available in the back of the church.

Fairmont Catholic School Support

2024 Goal: \$24,000

Total Collected: \$15,309.40

Thank you so much for your generosity .

Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont **Catholic Sharing Appeal** as of 12/12/2024 261%

Raised \$56,360 of \$21,555 with 65 gifts

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The journey of the magi would have been treacherous and uncomfortable. Imagine the peace in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was. It was an epiphany for them. It can be the same for us.

The Answer

Have you ever had an epiphany?

I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth. An answer.

It should be the same for us.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

Answer:

Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

Kids Corner

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for making the planets and stars so the wise men could find Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.

Sharing the Gospel

Isn't God amazing? He made all the stars and planets to move, so every night the sky looks a little different. When God created the world, he planned exactly when the wise men would see the star. He wanted them to find Jesus.

Now color
the picture! →

Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

~~wise men~~
child
born

king
star
worship

Mary
gifts
dream

wsie mne	<u>w</u> <u>i</u> <u>s</u> <u>e</u> <u>m</u> <u>e</u> <u>n</u>
brno	— — — —
knig	— — — —
derma	— — — — —
cildh	— — — — —
wrsohpi	— — — — — —
Mrya	— — — —
gfsti	— — — — —
srtat	— — — —



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