

St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

January 3, 2021

www.stwilliam.com

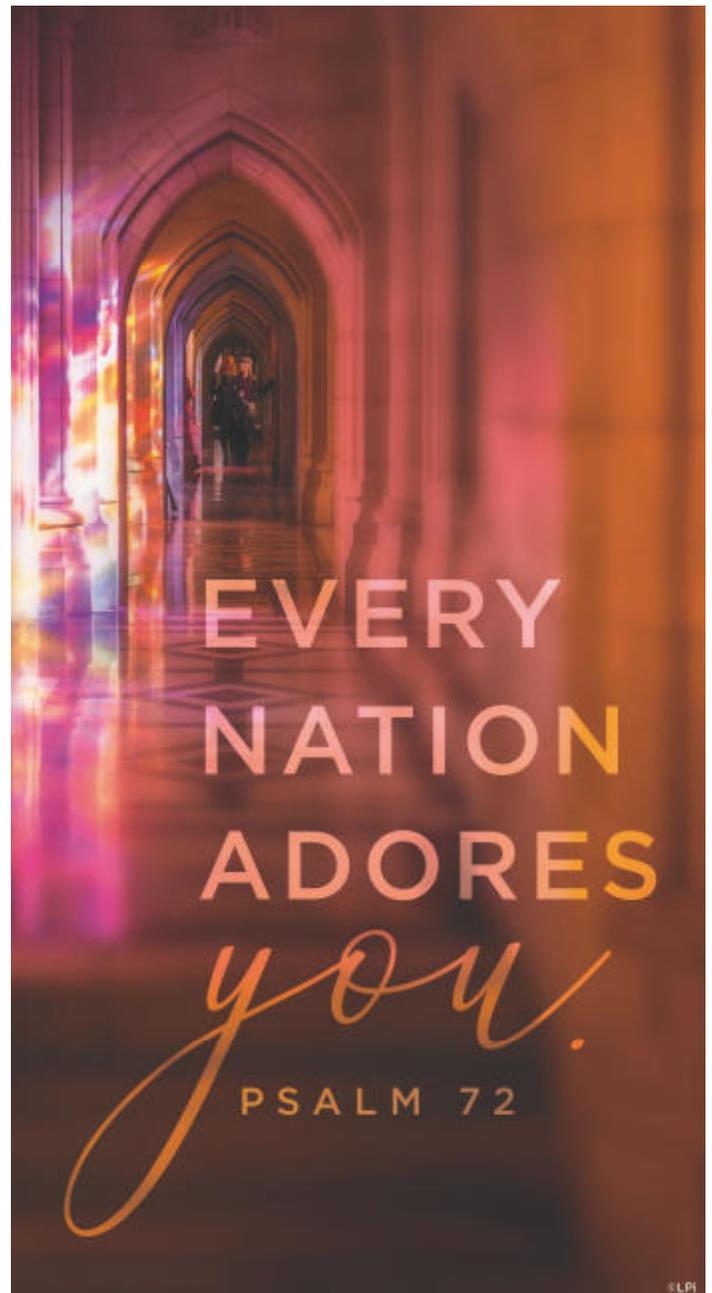


Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, which is sometimes called “the Feast of the Three Kings”, although we don’t *know* that they were necessarily kings, or that there were three of them. The scriptures simply mention three gifts, so we assume that there were three persons, each bringing a gift. (Tradition has even assigned names to them: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.) The scriptures simply call them “Magi”, “Wise Men” or even “Astrologers”. However, unlike those who practice the pseudo-science of today’s newspapers, these would have been learned men (more like astronomers than astrologers), studying the heavens and noting things that they thought were portents. It was also believed at that time that the birth of an important person—like a king—was reflected in the birth of a new star. This explains their comment to king Herod, “We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.”

Where the wise men came from is also the subject of scholarly dispute. The Scriptures merely say “from the east”, which doesn’t exactly narrow it down to a specific country. Among others, the candidate nations include Babylon, Arabia, Persia, and even India. Persia is probably the best bet. One thing is certain: they came seeking the newborn king.

That suggests more than it might seem at the outset. Gospels frequently communicate at more than one level, and this is especially true of the “prologue” sections. (Note that the story of the magi is in a prologue.) Prologues can rightly be viewed as “a Gospel in miniature”, compressing or summarizing the main points of the entire Gospel. In Matthew’s Gospel, for instance, the first seventeen verses,

(Continued on page 3)



Parish Mission: *“To live the Good News so joyfully, that we can’t help but proclaim it!”*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm, .
Sunday *10:00 am (*also Live-streamed)
and Sunday 12:30 pm
Tues., Wed. & Thur., 8:00 am

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many issues can be taken care of with a phone call, 248-624-1421.

Registration

For many reasons it is important to be formally registered as a parishioner. Contact the rectory for friendly help. Ext. 341

Baptism

To begin the preparation process for Baptism please call Deacon Bob Dreyer at 624-1421, ext. 345. Baptisms are normally scheduled the first and third Sundays of the month.

Marriage

To celebrate a valid marriage Catholics must have the help of a priest or deacon. Call at least six months in advance.

Funeral

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Ministry To The Sick

We are happy to visit the sick and provide anointing. Please contact the Parish Office at 624-1421.

RECTORY

Email: Rectory1@stwilliam.com
531 Common Street (248) 624-1421

Pastor	Rev. Michael G. Savickas	Ext. 346
Deacons	Rev. Mr. Bob Dreyer Rev. Mr. John Liddle	Ext. 345
Baptisms	Dcn. Bob Dreyer	Ext. 345
Business Office		Ext. 341
Business Manager	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
Christian Service:	Mrs. Karen Sommers 248-624-8870	Ext. 344
Maintenance: Supervisor	(248) 669-5522 Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

Office of Faith Formation		(248) 624-1371
Dir. of Rel. Ed.	Dcn. Michael McCrandall	Ext. 307
Dir. Of Initiation	Mrs. Nancy Thomas	Ext. 306
Youth Ministry	Mrs. Karen Trojniak	Ext. 308
Music Ministry Dir.	Mr. Bill Richart	Ext. 310
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
School Office		(248) 669-4440
Principal	Mrs. Betsy Gabrish	Ext. 303
Secretary		Ext. 302
CYO Sports		
Athletic Director		ad@saintwilliam.net

Since Sunday Masses have been reduced to the public, contributions have greatly declined.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to Faithdirect.net, or follow the link from our website, www.stwilliam.com.



Offeritory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

	Collected	Budgeted*	Over/(Under)
As of Nov., 2020	*\$335,143	\$416,665	(\$81,522)

*This does NOT represent *needed* income, but only the amount we expected would actually come in.

Note: For clarity and accuracy, this report now shows reconciled month-end balances.

The "One-Hour Challenge!"

To have a *happy, peaceful life*, it is important that we have our lives in order, with our grateful response to God for his gifts being our top priority. That is how a disciple responds in the areas of *prayer, family, finance, and service*.

If you need help to put balance in your life, take the "one-hour challenge": Each week, spend at least...

- One hour in prayer and worship.
- One hour, special, focused on your family or other important relationship.
- One hour's wage (if you have a job) for the Lord. No job? Then give what seems right for you.
- One hour in service. (Helping another, or working for some cause.)

It's important to be *specific* in what steps to take in order to ensure that each "hour" actually happens!

May God bless you!

(Continued from page 1)

which seem to be a rather boring genealogical listing of the ancestors of Jesus, were actually a *Readers' Digest* version of the entire history of salvation. By mentioning these names, all of which would have been known to Matthew's readers, the gospel writer summarizes all of the faith history of the Jews, culminating in the greatest event, the birth of Jesus, the ultimate king. It's sort of like if we were to summarize the history of the United States by mentioning George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, John Kennedy, and Barack Obama. We could even mention Donald Trump to bring things to the present moment. Matthew's Gospel prologue does the same thing.

In the prologue story of the wise men seeking the King, there is an anticipation of the *end* of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus gives "The Great Commission": "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations." It turns out that the Good News was not intended to be restricted to just the Jews. Rather, Jesus would command his Church to evangelize ALL. This great command suggests that any persons who genuinely are seeking the Lord (even Gentiles—that is, non-Jews from the East) are able to discover him. Some people, represented by Herod and others, will resist or even oppose the Good News. The Wise Men represent all those throughout the world who long to discover the purpose and meaning of their lives that can only be satisfied in Christ. Our job is to "Go, make disciples." Future disciples are out there, we just need to point the way, like the star that came to rest over where the child lay.

"And they opened their coffers and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (*Matt* 2:11) Strange gifts indeed for a newborn: Gold for a king; frankincense for a priest; and myrrh, a *burial spice*. At this point in the prologue (remember, a gospel in miniature) we are already in the Passion account, where Jesus, the priest, offers himself on the cross, over which, an inscription that names him King. Then comes his death and burial, and his resurrection wherein he conquers death itself, and offers eternal life to those who "offer him homage", the homage of lives, lived now for him. Disciples, in their baptism, become one with him in dying and rising. This is why the *Baptism of the Lord* is seen as an intrinsic part of the Christmas/Epiphany event.

Dying and rising (dying to sin, and alive now for the Lord) is the true meaning of *baptism*. As St. Paul in his letter to the Romans says, "Are you not aware

that we, who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life." (*Romans* 6: 3-4) In the Great Commission Jesus also instructs his Church to baptize disciples. So now it all makes sense: if we help people to know Christ, they should be baptized to truly follow him, so that they too might live a new life—which becomes eternal life.

Historically, the Baptism of the Lord was celebrated as part of the Christmas/Epiphany event. In our Church calendar, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (which is next weekend!) **concludes the Christmas Season.**

The word "epiphany" means "a manifestation", or a "revealing". Originally, what we now celebrate as "Christmas" was actually known as "The Epiphany" because it was God showing himself, REVEALING himself to the world. That event certainly included both the *birth* and the *baptism* of the Lord, where he was revealed as "my beloved son".

The Church is rediscovering our commission: to reveal Christ to the world. Happy Epiphany!

In Jesus,
Fr. Michael

Mrs. Nancy Thomas, Director of Initiation
248-624-1371, ext. 306
nthomas@stwilliam.com



How Do I Become Catholic?

St. William Parish has a year round process for those adults who have not been baptized, or have been baptized in another tradition and wish to become Catholic. You may join the process at any time of the year.

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.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, ©LPi



Marriage Coaching – Help for Your Marriage

Are you struggling in your marriage or in need of a marriage refresher and not sure where to turn for help?

The Marriage Support Office of the Archdiocese of Detroit is pleased to offer the Marriage Coaching program – a couple-to-couple mentoring opportunity designed to assist couples live out God's plan for their marriage.

When differences begin dividing, hurt is hardening the heart, "growing pains" are becoming "regular pains", and the passion and affection is lacking, then your marriage needs help. Like our vehicles that need preventative care, tune-ups or repairs to prevent major damage, so do our marriages.

Trained Coaching Couples will give the support and practical tools needed to help couples restore and realize the fullness they desire for their Catholic marriage. The Marriage Coaching program consists of seven main coaching sessions that are strictly confidential and provided at no cost.

To learn more and get started with the help you need for your marriage contact: 313-237-4680|www.aod.org/marriagecoaching | familyministry@aod.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Whether you are wanting a marriage tune-up, feeling stalled, or experiencing a downward spiral, you need not settle for anything less than the fullness that God intends for your marriage relationship.

No need to delay, there is help for your marriage ...contact us today!

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit, Office for Marriage Support



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2021-2022

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Start the New Year with A Mindful Pause

Begin the New Year with a healthy new practice: mindfulness. Participate in directed online mindfulness sessions that help you calm your mind and open your heart.

Sister Esther Kennedy, OP, offers four half-hour virtual sessions of A Mindful Pause at 4:00 p.m. EST on Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28. A Dominican Sister of Adrian, retreat leader, and spiritual director, Sister Esther has facilitated monthly Mindfulness Days at Weber Center for years.

Sessions can be accessed through live stream, <https://webercenter.org/mindful-pause/>.

Recordings can be found at the same link on the day after each session.

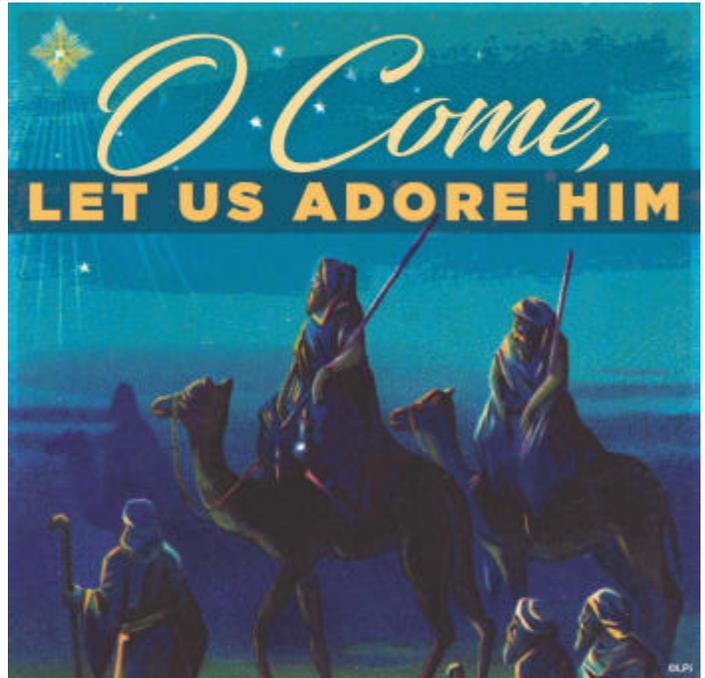
A Mindful Pause is open to all people free of charge; donations are appreciated.

Workshop Focuses on Incarnation as Christianity's New Horizon

Noted writer, speaker, and workshop leader Diarmuid O'Murchu offers a virtual presentation, "Incarnation: Christianity's New Horizon," from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST Saturday, January 16, 2021, through Weber Retreat and Conference Center.

Diarmuid, a member of the Sacred Heart Missionary Order and a graduate of Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, presents incarnation as a celebration of God's embodied presence – not only in the person of Jesus but in all forms of embodied presence that adorn creation. This newly expanded horizon carries several implications for how we are called to live out our faith today.

The cost to attend is \$30 and registration is required to receive the live stream link. Limited scholarships are available. Register at www.webercenter.org and click on "programs." Registrations may also be made by calling 517-266-4000 or emailing webercenter@adriandominicans.org.



St. Vincent de Paul Society Epiphany

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar Epiphany

The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

USCCB *Word of Life*

"Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world."

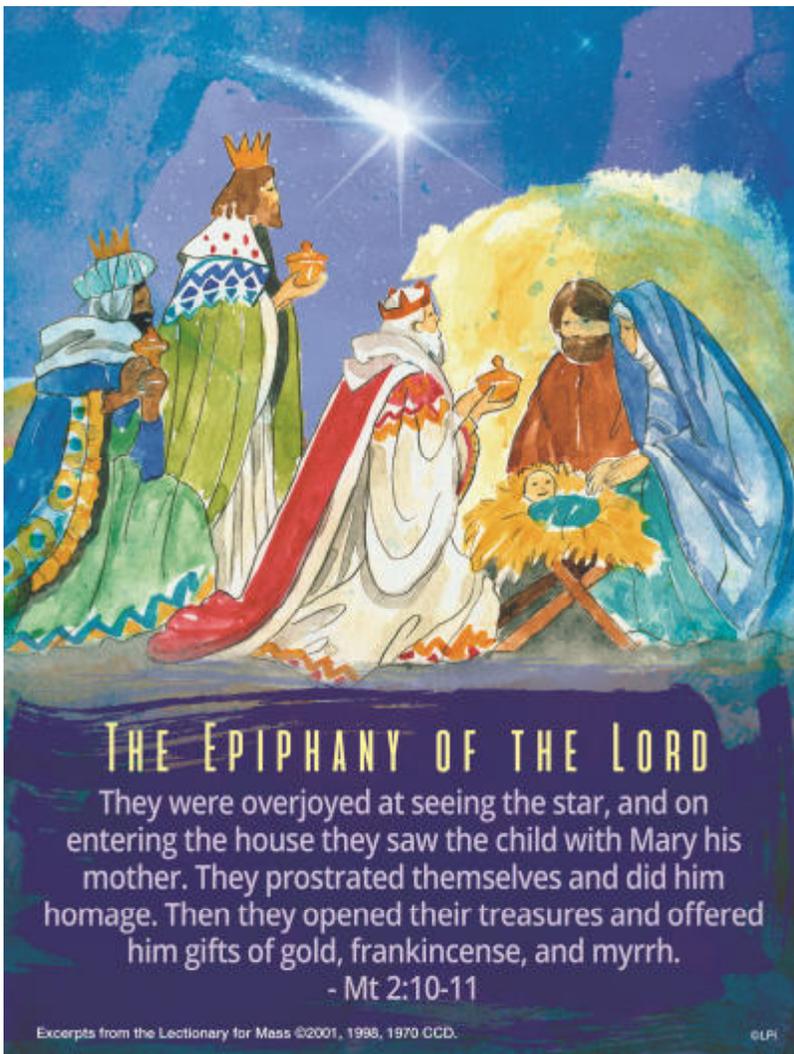
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"



Live the Liturgy

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?

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Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

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.

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Mass Intentions:

Tuesday, Jan. 5

8:00 am

Morning Prayer with Communion Service

Wednesday, Jan. 6

8:00 am

Morning Prayer with Communion Service

Thursday, Jan. 7

8:00 am

Morning Prayer with Communion Service

Saturday, Jan. 9

4:30 pm

Mary Lengyel (D) Anderson family; **Joseph Pheister (D)** St. William Parish; **Kathryn Milia (D)** Diane Allen; **Langan, Ryan, Shradder, St. Clair, Cornish, Jacobs, & Bessonnette families (L&D)**; **Agnes Bushaw (SI, 107 B. Day) son**

Sunday, Jan. 10

10:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

12:30 pm

Dave Husak (D) St. William Parish; **Nidhal Bodiya (D)** Gustson family; **Mark Wolter (SI)** Aunt Maureen McClorey

Readings for the week

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 6b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

All-powerful and ever-lasting God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ♦ Agnes Bushaw | ♦ Mary Beth Walsh |
| ♦ Andrew Hailo | ♦ Mary Kay Dreyer |
| ♦ Colleen Wolf | ♦ Neil Anderson |
| ♦ Dennis Goodwin | ♦ Norma Kirk |
| ♦ Dennis Ryan | ♦ Pam Flanagan |
| ♦ DeWitt Meadows | ♦ Sharon Ryan |
| ♦ Dustin Bachman | ♦ Shawnee Spedden |
| ♦ Gloria Utsler | ♦ Steven Geoffrey |
| ♦ Hillary Pearson | ♦ Steven Kiryakoza, III |
| ♦ Jack Moores | |
| ♦ Jeanie Kassa | |
| ♦ Joann Babcock | Residents of: |
| ♦ John Benedict | ♦ Bloomfield Villa |
| ♦ Julie Toddy | ♦ Brookdale |
| ♦ Karla Meadows-LaForge | ♦ First & Main |
| ♦ Kelly Benedict | ♦ Henry Ford |
| ♦ Kendall Smith | ♦ Maple Manor |
| ♦ Mack Barnes | ♦ Novi Lakes |
| ♦ Marian Clifton | ♦ Serenity |
| ♦ Marty Lada | ♦ Sunrise Senior Ctr. |
| | ♦ Waltonwood |



*Happy are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labors for their good
deeds go with them—Rev. 14:13*

Fr. Louis Madey
Nellie Rascon
Isaias Rascon

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 flings 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



Intercessory Prayers

Intercessory prayer boxes have been placed in the tower entrances. Our Intercessory Prayer Teams will lift your intentions up in prayer for two weeks. You may also email your prayer requests by clicking the link on our website, www.stwilliam.com. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

WISE-MEN	MESSIAH	GIFTS
STAR	WORSHIP	WARNED
HEROD	EXCITED	DREAM

U	W	A	R	N	E	D	E	K	O	E
J	I	N	E	G	A	J	W	I	N	G
A	S	U	T	O	F	I	O	S	A	I
N	E	X	C	I	T	E	D	U	D	F
O	M	I	Y	U	B	A	U	W	E	T
H	E	R	O	D	E	N	Y	O	G	S
W	N	A	H	R	T	Y	H	R	S	F
S	O	Y	I	E	O	M	A	S	T	U
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A	S	U	L	M	E	S	S	I	A	H
R	E	W	A	Y	I	L	E	P	O	Y

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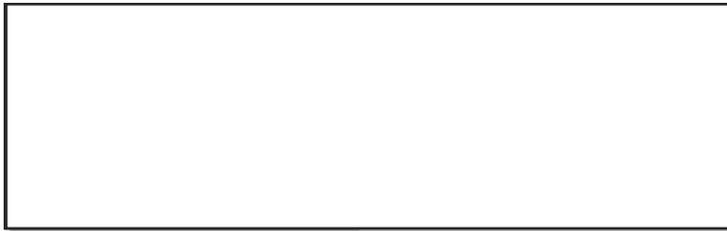
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