

St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

January 2, 2022

www.stwilliam.com



Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, although many calendars still traditionally assign it to January 6. However, as happens frequently with major liturgical events, the bishops moved this celebration to a Sunday so that more people will be able to appreciate its eminence. Here's a little background that I hope will help you understand this feast that is so bound up with the celebration of Christmas, and give you greater insight into our Mission as disciples.

Epiphany is sometimes called "Little Christmas" by some Christians, and many know it as "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 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

(Continued on page 3)



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1978 CDO

GLP

Inside this week . . .

Eucharistic Adoration
Small Faith Groups
Men's Retreat
College Scholarships
Marriage Appreciation Evening

. . .and more!

Parish Goal: *"To become an Amazing Parish that fosters discipleship and equips disciples to share the good news."*

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



Follow us on Facebook,
@stwilliamparishwalledlake

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 624-1421. 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
Pastoral Assoc.	Mrs. Kim Kaye	Ext. 306
Business Office		Ext. 341
Business Manager	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
Pastoral Assistant	Mrs. Karen Sommers 248-624-8870	Ext. 344
Maintenance:	(248) 669-5522	
Supervisor	Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

Office of Faith Formation		(248) 624-1371
Pastoral Assoc.	Mrs. Kim Kaye	(248) 956-8236
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	Samantha Wren or Tammy Hobbs	Ext. 302

CYO Sports
Athletic Director

ad@saintwilliam.net



Legion of Mary

If you would like to enrich your spiritual life & would like to help others, we need you in Legion of Mary.

Meetings are in the St. Paul room every Tuesday evening after 6:30 PM rosary. Come join us and say the Rosary and see what we're all about.

Contact Sherri Szepletowski, 248-957-8244, if you have any questions.

Contribution levels are still below average due to lower Mass attendance due to COVID concerns.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to [Faithdirect.net](https://www.faithdirect.net), or follow the link from our website, www.stwilliam.com.



Offertory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

	Collected	Budgeted*	Over/(Under)
As of Nov., 2021	*\$367,018	\$427,081	(\$60,063)

*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)

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, 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 even Donald Trump and Joe Biden to bring things to the present moment. Matthew’s Gospel prologue does the same thing.

The prologue “history” continues with the birth of Jesus, and then with the story of the wise men seeking the King. In this story 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, in this case coming 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,

Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, January 15th
12 to 3 PM

Please come and spend some time with Jesus during our Saturday Adoration on Nov. 20th, 2021. The church is open 12-3pm with Jesus present to listen to your prayers or concerns. If you can spare a few minutes even if it is 15 minutes he will not let you down.

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 our lives, lived now for him. Disciples, in their baptism, become one with him in dying and rising. This is why...wait for it...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”.

In this Christmas/Epiphany/Baptism event, the Church is rediscovering our commission: to reveal Christ to the world and to baptize new disciples.

In Jesus,
Fr. Michael

Men's Retreat

Dear Men of St. William,

The St. William Men's Retreat is scheduled for January 7-9, 2022. This retreat is an amazing opportunity to just "Let go and Let God" for a very blessed weekend.

There are so many distractions from furthering our relationship with God. As Catholic Men in a world of moral chaos, we are under attack for our faith and for our role as fathers. Please consider joining your fellow St. William brothers for a weekend of prayer, reflection, and relaxation. God is calling you to join Him.

Our Retreat Weekend is **#14** and this year's theme is *"Bouncing Back: Living in Hope"*.

Can you hear God calling you?

You can register by visiting the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center's website at www.stpaulretreat.org. Click on "Retreats" then "Register for an Upcoming Retreat" Or simply go to and click on: <https://www.stpaulretreat.org/event/mens-weekend-14/>, or you can call 313-535-9563 for more information.

This is an extremely popular weekend so secure your spot by registering today. Last year this weekend was full. The only way to guarantee your spot is to register early.

We look forward to joining you all for a weekend of brotherhood and taking "The Nestea Plunge" into the hands of God.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

May God Bless you all.

Tim McClorey, Co-Captain

Paul Micallef, Co-Captain

St. William Men's Retreat at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center



Marriage Appreciation Evening

Save the Date!

February 12, 2022

3rd and 4th Annual St. William Marriage Appreciation Evening

Sponsored by the St William of Vercelli
Knights of Columbus Council 4064

Couples celebrating their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th,
15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or more
Wedding Anniversary in **2021 or 2022** are invited!

Details to come

College Scholarship

The Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce the "The Knights of Columbus/ Ushers Memorial Scholarship raffle tickets are on sale now. They can be purchased from any knight or usher. Tickets cost \$20. Drawings will be held once a month during the year. January—November the prizes will be \$100, \$75 and \$50. The grand price drawing will be held in December and the prizes will be \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. Tickets that are drawn are placed back in the bucket for next month's drawing so one ticket gives you a chance to win three times each month—that's 36 chances!!! Proceeds from the ticket sales will fund college scholarships for St. William high school seniors. Your past and future support of this program is truly appreciated. Thank you and God bless you.



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.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast – January 2, 2022 Breakfast Date!

The Knights of Columbus appreciate everyone who has supported our Breakfasts since we brought them back in September. Your donations have really helped St. Vincent de Paul in their work. To date, we have been able to donate **\$1,253.00** to them, money they will put to good use!

Our next breakfast will be on January 2nd, once again after the 10:00 Mass. We've decided to hold it that Sunday since a number of key personnel will be attending the Men's Retreat the following weekend. Our usual fare will be offered, hopefully with Nino's doughnuts this time! We're going to keep the 'Free Will' donation again for this Breakfast with net proceeds once again going to St. Vincent de Paul! We hope you'll join us!



Right to Life – Lifespan Happy New Year

Each year we hope for a year filled with blessings, peace, and grace. This year is no different. We offer a prayer for the health of our nation, prudent guidance from our government, a respect for all people and, as always, protection for all life, from conception until natural death. Happy New Year!

Grow Your Faith + Friendships with Small Faith Groups

*"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers."
- Acts 2:42*

Interested in:

- Supporting Discipleship of others?
- Learning and Growing in your Faith?
- Accompanying others in the journey?
- Creating a small community?
- Charitably challenging each other to be the best version of ourselves?

Join a small faith group (SFG) at St. William! SFGs are forming around common interests and experiences to help members bridge their spiritual and everyday lives. The SFG Leadership team will support groups by providing content suggestions and assistance with facilitation and technology needs. Meeting schedules and locations (even virtual!) are flexible based on your group's needs. If you're interested in participating in growing as a Disciple, online sign is available through SignUpGenius. Scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera to get right to the link.



Rosary Altar Society

There will be no membership meeting in January. Our next meeting will be on February 2nd. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year.



RISE Detroit 2022 –

A gathering of High School Youth the Archdiocese of Detroit is hosting a brand-new event for high school students in the spirit of Unleash the Gospel—RISE Detroit 2022. All 9th through 12th graders are encouraged to attend with their pastor, youth minister, campus minister, or parents! The event will take place on Sunday, February 6, 2022, from 8:15 am to 7:15 pm at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. The theme is "Named," based on Isaiah 43:1: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine!" The speakers include Dr. Bob Rice, the Culture Project, Bishop Cepeda, and Fr. Patrick Gonyeau. Activities include keynotes, powerful praise and worship experiences, two workshop opportunities, small group discussion, and Liturgy!

Tickets are \$35/participant. If you are interested in attending, please contact Karen Trojniak at ktrojniak@stwilliam.com by Jan. 23.

Coming up in Youth Ministry

Jan. 8, 2022 – Confirmation Candidate/
Sponsor Workshop

Jan. 14, 2022 – Friday Night at the Z, 7pm,
MS and HS youth and families

Jan. 22, 2022 - PBJ Ministry to the
Homeless, 5:30-10am, MS and HS youth
and families

Jan. 23, 2022 – Confirmation Candidate
Workshop 1, 6:30-8:30pm

Feb. 6, 2022 – RISE 2022 High School Youth
Conference, 8:30am – 7:15pm

Friday Night at the Z

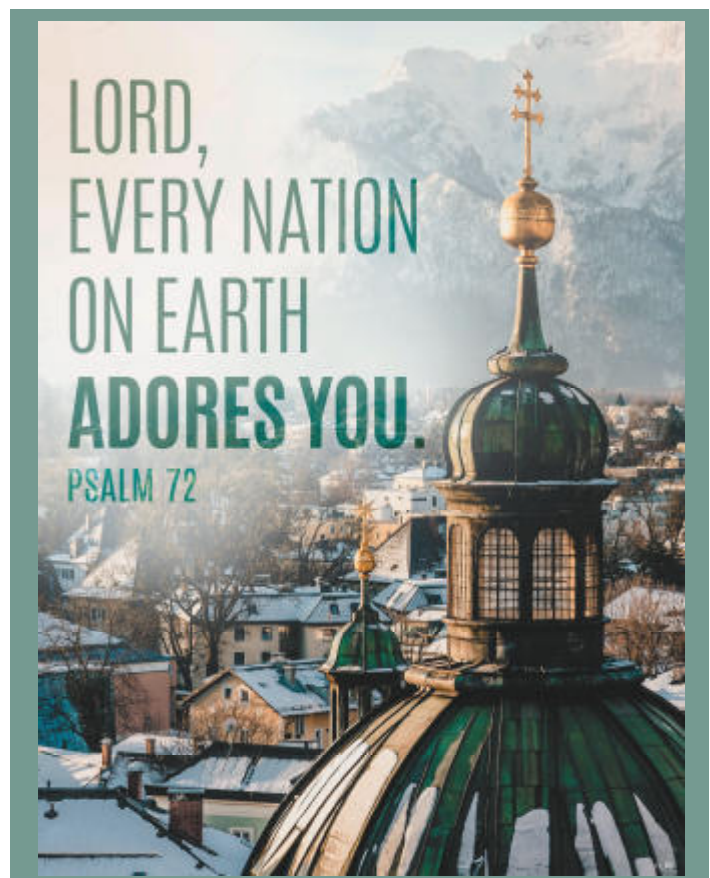
Teens, ask your friends to come join us for an evening of Praise, Worship and Adoration to our God! St. William Parish will again be hosting "Friday Night at the Z" on January 14, at 7pm in Upper Zepf Hall. There will be a special guest preacher, and music and ministry will be led by Mr. Bill Richart and The Friends. Hopefully, your enthusiasm will draw other youth and adults to experience a "Friday Night at the Z".

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Epiphany

After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by "another way." What in your family needs to be done "another way?" Do you need "another way to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection? This is a new year, time to change what isn't working. Take a tip from some wise men, there's always "another way."





OUR MISSION

“We exist to provide a school environment in which Christ is encountered and Discipleship is fostered through the teaching and practice of Catholic Tradition, values and doctrine, while challenging each student to academic excellence.”

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white*
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WHEN: Saturday, February 26th 6:00-11:00 p.m.

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Mass Intentions:

Tuesday, January 4th

8:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

Wednesday, January 5th

8:00 am

Ray & Marie Hibbeln (D) family

Thursday, January 6th

8:00 am

Andrew Hailo (SI); John Smiley (SI) Rose; Theresa Sivick (SI)

Saturday, January 8th

4:30 pm

Vera Pellerito (D) Karen Sommers; Lenard & Theresa Wrosch (D) family; Vera Wrosch (D) family

Sunday, January 9th

10:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

12:30 pm

Ray & Marie Hibbeln (D) family; Adair-Poling families (L&D); Anna Robertson (SI, Baptism) Busha & Grandpa

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/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

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

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

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

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/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/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ♦ Andrew Hailo | ♦ Marie Frisch |
| ♦ Anthony Cadili | ♦ Margaret Shubsda |
| ♦ Bonetta Barhite | ♦ Mary Thompson |
| ♦ Carol Bielman | ♦ Mike Miklosi |
| ♦ Cindy Cendroski | ♦ Riley Bowen |
| ♦ Diane Davio | ♦ Suzanne Bobier |
| ♦ Diane Gravett | ♦ Sylvia Miller |
| ♦ Diane Smith | ♦ Theresa Sivick |
| ♦ Elaine Madigan | ♦ Walter Bieda |
| ♦ Faith Richart | |
| ♦ Fr. Pat Brennan | Residents of: |
| ♦ Glen Flanigan | ♦ Bloomfield Villa |
| ♦ Janet Sergus | ♦ Brookdale |
| ♦ Jaxon Putz | ♦ First & Main |
| ♦ Jim Simpson | ♦ Henry Ford |
| ♦ John Shubsda | ♦ Maple Manor |
| ♦ John Smiley | ♦ Novi Lakes |
| ♦ Juli Simpson | ♦ Serenity |
| ♦ Lilian Ishaq | ♦ Sunrise Senior Ctr. |
| ♦ Linda Johnson | ♦ 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*

Bruce Everett

Mary Jo Kaye

Frank Von Koss

Dave Myre

Dcn. Michael VonEnde

Mike Tyrrell

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.

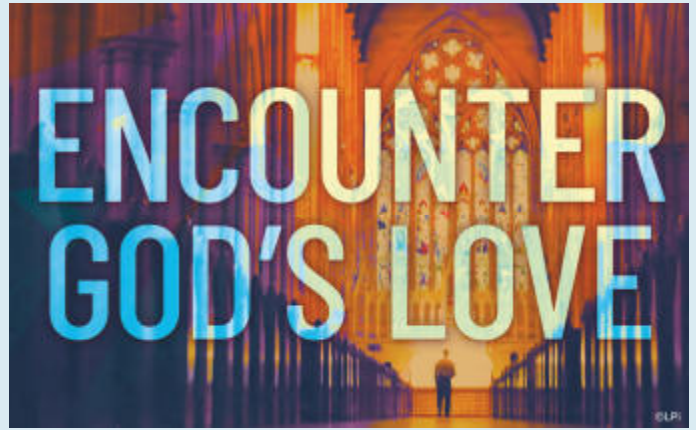
The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

©LPI



Calendar of Events

Monday Jan. 3rd

7:00pm K of C Business Mtg., Lower Zepf

Tuesday Jan. 4th

8:00am Mass

6:30pm Rosary

7:00pm Legion of Mary, St. Paul Room

7:00pm Scouts Mtg., Upper Zepf

Wednesday Jan. 5th

8:00am Mass

6:30pm Rosary Altar Society Mtg., Lower Zepf

Thursday Jan. 6th

8:00am Mass

7:30pm AA Mtg., Lower Zepf

Saturday Jan. 7th

4:30pm Mass

Sunday Jan. 8th

10:00am Mass

11:15am Confirmation Prep, Upper Zepf

12:30pm Mass

2:00pm Candidate Workshop 1, Upper Zepf

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.

Prayer

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

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of stars and planets shining in the night sky.

Mission for the Week

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

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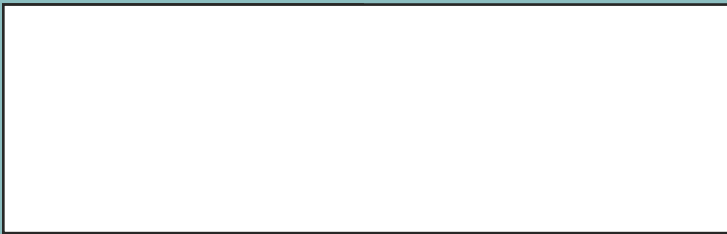
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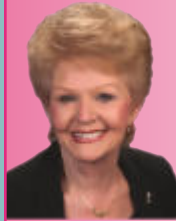
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