

# Epiphany

OF THE LORD



# ST. MARK PARISH



## 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!

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## MISSION STATEMENT

As the Eucharistic family of St. Mark Parish, we are called to welcome, love and serve. We continue the mission of Jesus Christ: "to transform our lives and believe in the Good News."  
(Mark 1:15)

### Christmas Spiritual Journey

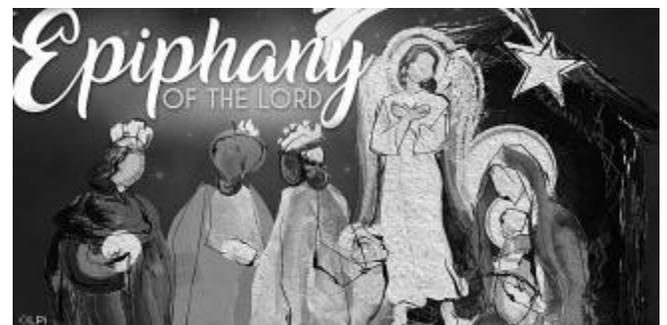
"This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe in the Gospel!"  
(Mark 1:15)

### Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Saturday, January 2nd at 4 pm,  
Sunday, January 3rd at 8:30 am & 11 am

### Baptism of the Lord

Mass Saturday, January 9th at 4 pm,  
Sunday, January 10th at 8:30 am & 11 am



JANUARY 3, 2021

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

**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, MTS*

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**Prayer Resources****Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

**Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come. Before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen.



Dear Parish Family,

The Parish Office will be closed until January 4<sup>th</sup>. Phones will be monitored for emergencies and funerals.

We are so blessed to have had St. Anne Parish designate St Mark for their Giving Tree. We received many Meijer gift cards to be used to purchase food for our Food Pantry. This will be so helpful as we go into the winter season.

Several of our parishioners have commented on our *SHARING THE JOY*. Please continue to share your joys.

Although this may be a different Christmas than what we usually experience, we can still reach out to family and friends who are not able to be with us. At a this time as many of us rejoice, there are those who are lonely or alone. It is amazing how a phone call can lift our spirits!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Mary Jo

The Archdiocese of Detroit is offering a Scripture Challenge...

### Grow Year Scripture Challenge

*“Listening and responding to God’s word in the Sacred Scriptures must be at the heart of our efforts to unleash the Gospel. One who is in love desires to know more and more about the beloved. Since all Scripture speaks of Christ, immersing ourselves in the word is a way to deepen our initial encounter and grow in our relationship with him.” —UTG Marker 3.2*

We are inviting all joyful missionary disciples to read the four Gospels, the New Testament, or the whole bible in 2021! We’ve broken it down into 6 different challenges, depending on what you feel you can commit to in the New Year. Join a saintly guild and commit to making 2021 a year to grow closer to Jesus, the Word of God!

5k Challenge Holy Family Guild – Follow 52Sundays each week (for parents and families)

10k Challenge Blessed Stanley Rother Guild – Daily Reading of the Gospel

Half-Marathon Challenge St. Josephine Bakhita Guild – Reading the New Testament in a Year

Full Marathon Challenge Our Lady of Guadalupe Guild – Reading the Whole Bible in a Year

Triathlon Challenge Blessed Solanus Casey Guild – New Testament in a Year, Monthly Confession, and join a small group

Ironman Challenge St. John Paul II Guild – Reading the Whole Bible in a Year, Monthly Confession, join a small group, and Daily Rosary

Go to [www.unleashthegospel.org/scripture-challenge/](http://www.unleashthegospel.org/scripture-challenge/) to sign up. Once you sign-up and select your challenge you will receive an email with all the details.

THE WORD

Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

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

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12aMt 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/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11



**Friday, January 1**

11:00 am Earl Parrish  
Elliott Family  
Dick Szaal

**Wednesday, January 6**

9:30 am Henry Ark

**Saturday, January 2**

4:00 pm Frances Szpont  
Delphine Zabrowski

**Saturday, January 9**

4:00 pm Frances Szpont  
Kyle Whipple  
Delphine Zabrowski  
Herbert Dempz  
Isabelle McLaughlin  
Loretta Shaddon

**Sunday, January 3**

8:30 am Robert Grigg

11:00 am Christine Mixen  
Ray Kusza  
Robert Brewer  
James & Lisa Lafferty

**Sunday, January 3**

8:30 am Rochon Family  
11:00 am Ray Kusza

ST. MARK OUTREACH



**THANK YOU.**

**GOD BLESS YOU!  
STAY SAFE!**

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**First Reading:**

In late 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, the prophet Isaiah proclaimed an unimaginable future of glory for Israel in the wake of their return from seventy years of captivity in Babylon. What message of hope does our nation need today?

**Second Reading:**

Paul speaks of God's "revelation" to include Gentiles as "coheirs" and "copartners" with Jews in the divine promise fulfilled in Christ Jesus. How welcoming are you to those you consider outsiders?

**Gospel:**

The magi's visit to discover the "newborn king of the Jews" caused great anxiety for the religious leaders of Jerusalem, including King Herod. Why do you think some people are not open to the good news of Jesus Christ?

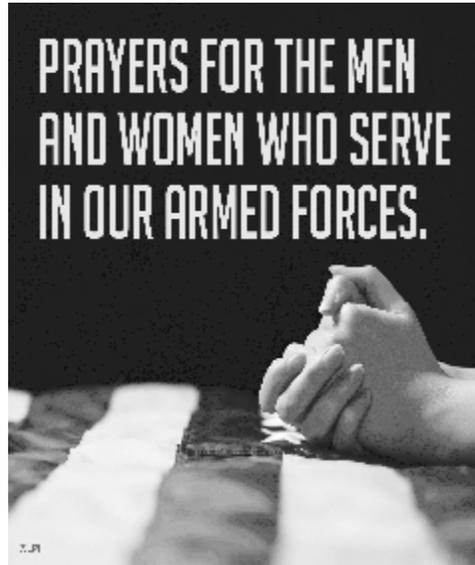
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PRAYER INTENTIONS



Joan Edem  
Jason Idalski

Only immediate family members may request a 'prayers for the sick' listing. Call the Parish Center: 586-759-3020. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks.



WE PRAY FOR ALL OF OUR MILITARY, & PARTICULARLY:

- Sr. CPO Michael Brightman
- Lt. Commander Adam Craig
- LCPL Sarah J Page
- Sgt. Steven Parisi
- Major Michael F. Weigle

Family members who wish to have their loved ones prayed for may do so by submitting names to the parish office.

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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POPE TWEETS

"If the #pandemic has forced us to be more distant, Jesus, in the crib, shows us the way of tenderness to be close to each other, to be human. Let us follow this path #Christmas #GeneralAudience"

- Pope Francis

@Pontifex Twitter (December 23, 2020)

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Parish Fax: 586-759-3024

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**WEBSITES**

Parish: www.stmarkparishwarren.com

Central Macomb Vicariate: www.cmvic.net

Archdiocese of Detroit: www.aod.org



**STAFF LISTING**

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Mary Jo Ruebelman,

Office Manager / Worship Coordinator

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**PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Chris Bailey

Cynthia Filipovich

Diane Hamilton

Tom Harm

Phyllis Wisniewski (Christian Formation)

Karen Kowalski (Stewardship)

Michael Powell (Worship)



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**SACRAMENTS**

**BAPTISMS**

Parents are asked to contact the Parish Center Office to arrange for Baptism instruction and a date for the Baptism.

**MARRIAGES**

Couples wishing to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony at St. Mark Parish are asked to allow at least six months to complete arrangements.

**RECONCILIATION**

Private Confessions: Saturday 3:00 PM.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

LAST Sunday of every month after all Masses.

View this bulletin online at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)  
Photographs are taken at all public parish events for use on the St. Mark Parish website. For questions or concerns, please contact the Parish Center Office.

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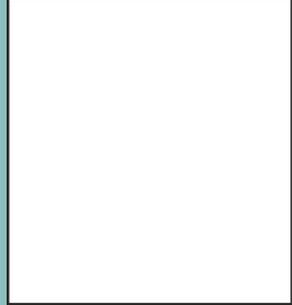
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