

THE BIRTH OF THE LORD



WE SAW HIS STAR  
AT ITS RISING.

MATTHEW 2:2



**ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
14936 W. Wilmington - Peotone Rd.  
Manhattan, Illinois 60442  
**The Epiphany of The Lord**  
**January 4, 2026**

**Most Revered Bishop Dennis Spies**  
Administrator

Office Phone 815-478-3440

Facebook St. Patrick Church of Wilton Center

Website: [www.stpatrickwiltoncenter.org](http://www.stpatrickwiltoncenter.org)

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

Mass is celebrated on Saturday evening only

Jan. 3	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Eleanor Price req. by St. Patrick C.C.W. Parish Family of St. Patrick
Jan. 10	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Craig Cieply req. by The Family Parish Family of St. Patrick
Jan. 17	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Eleanor Price req. by Carmen & Jerry Kinsella Parish Family of St. Patrick
Jan. 24	5:45pm	Special Intention of Dan & Lynn Phelan +Gladys Meyer req. by The Family Parish Family of St. Patrick

### **LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Jan. 3 - 5:45pm	Sue Nugent	P. Engler
Jan. 10 - 5:45pm	Sherrie Ashley	L. Cakora
Jan. 17 - 5:45pm	Jim Kreske	C. Smith

### **SERVERS & USHERS**

Please volunteer at the Mass you are attending



**Scripture Readings  
For the Week of January 4, 2026**

**Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord** 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 Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop**  
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

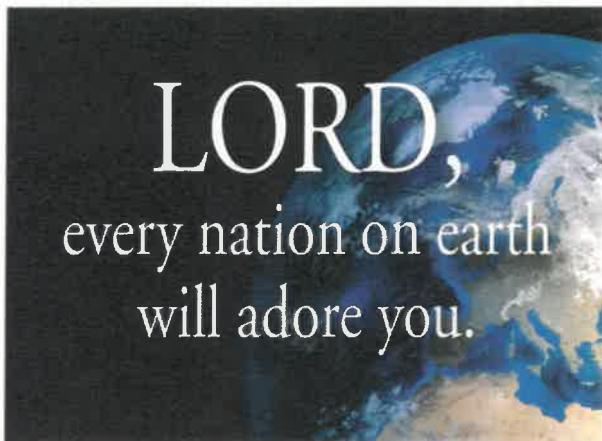
**Thursday** 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22

**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, 5-6a and 9b; Jn 3:22-30

**Sunday The Baptism of the Lord** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Mt 3:13-17

**2026 CALANDARS  
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE  
THANK YOU FORSYTHE  
FUNERAL HOME FOR  
DONATING THESE BEAUTIFUL  
CALANDARS**



**WEEKLY OFFERING FOR  
12/28/2025**

**Sunday - \$1,396.00**

**Maintenance - \$30.00**

**Immaculate Conception—\$25.00**

**Christmas \$4,130.00**

**Retired Religious—\$25.00**

**Solemnity of Mary—\$525.00**

**Christmas Flowers—\$50.00**

**Our weekly budget goal is \$1,211.54**

**THANK YOU For your faith - filled support**

**Please Remember our sick;**

**especially:** Greg Harnois, Jim Kreske, Ann Marie & Tori Jasinski, Lisa Price, Barbara Schriver, Leslie Lund, Joe & Carol Price, Bernice & Dominick Marino, Tom Lane, Peggy Schiesow, Haley Donzella, Ken Smith, Laura 'Hanson, Steve Niemiec, Nancee Long, Shay Phelan, Lisa Bernard, Joe Hanson



**During the Month of  
Our Blessed Mother Candle  
Is burning for  
THE PARISH FAMILY  
OF ST. PATRICK**

## Transformed by the Light of the World

My oncologist's name lit up as my cell phone rang on the Feast of the Epiphany 14 years ago. "The biopsy showed cancer," she said. I took a deep breath, closed my eyes, and whispered a prayer, bracing myself before walking outside to tell my husband. Since that day, the Feast of the Epiphany has been a memorial stone date on my calendar at the start of each new year. From that day, the Lord has continued to open my eyes and transform me as He sends me on paths unexpected.

In the Gospel today, we hear of three earthly Kings led by a star to The King of Kings. Although they wore the trappings of worldly majesty, they bowed low - humbled before this newborn King. "They prostrated themselves and did him homage" (Mt. 2:11) And they rose up transformed.

What began for them as an outward pilgrimage - following a star - became an inward encounter with the Lord, the true Light of the World. That encounter changed them, their plans, their very mission. "And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way" (Mt. 2:12). Their expected path ahead was promptly altered by encountering the Lord. And, I dare to believe, their lives were never the same.

May it be so for all of us today as well.

All of us are on a pilgrimage to our eternal home with the King of Kings. We all have epiphany moments in our lives - phone calls, encounters, diagnoses, decisions - when we encounter our Lord and He shines His light on the path ahead in a new way. Like the three Kings, when we encounter the Lord and He reveals Himself to us, we are never the same.

And oh how He desires to reveal Himself to us on our pilgrimage through life, especially in those dark nights that come for us all. It is often in the darkness that the light of Jesus - a light of hope - shines brightest. Although I wouldn't have asked for that Epiphany phone call from my oncologist 14 years ago, it drew me closer to the King of Kings and altered my life in ways that I'm so grateful for.

May we all encounter the Lord today on our journey, wherever we are, and go back by the road He has for us "proclaiming the praises of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6) as we go. May His light shine brightly where you need it most today. Happy Epiphany Sunday!

By Shauna Occhipinti

# Mary, Holy Mother of God

## JANUARY 1, 2026

Let us strive to be pure and holy like our Heavenly Mother. All mothers want their children to inherit or acquire their good qualities. Our Heavenly Mother is no exception. With Joseph, she succeeded in training the Child Jesus, so that He grew in holiness and in "favor before God and man." Hence, our best way of celebrating this feast and honoring our Heavenly Mother would be to promise her that we will practice her virtues of Faith, obedience, purity and humble service. In this way, we will be trying to become the saintly sons and daughters of our Heavenly Mother, the Holy Mother of God.

### Epiphany of the Lord

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek epiphainen, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

### Epiphany of the Lord

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

Born  
King  
Star  
Priests  
Scribes  
Land  
Ruler  
Shepherd  
Child  
Treasure



SUNDAY KIDZ

© Diocesan

## The Epiphany of the Lord The Star of Bethlehem

Almost every year at Christmastime, you can find an article or documentary about the star of Bethlehem. Astronomers give various theories about whether the magi saw a new star, perhaps a supernova, or a comet, or a conjunction of two or more planets. Since the magi are generally believed to be astrologers, the conjunction seems most likely.

But more important is the meaning of the star. In Matthew's Gospel, light is used as a symbol of the good news of Jesus coming into the world. Jesus is the light of the world, so the magi follow that light to get to Jesus. That's why verse 9 of the Gospel has the image of the star preceding the wise men and stopping over the house where Jesus was. By following the star, they become followers of Christ. So what do the magi show us about following Jesus?

First, they take the initiative. They saw the star, figured out what it meant, and made their journey. As followers of Jesus, we can look for what needs to be done (in our family, parish, or community) and do it. We don't have to wait for the pastor to call us and beg for help—there are probably articles in this bulletin asking for help.

Second, they expressed their faith in Jesus by the gifts they brought: gold—a gift for a king, who is worthy to be followed; frankincense—Jesus is worthy to be worshiped as Son of God; and myrrh—Jesus becomes king by dying for us all. We can express our faith in many ways. We can volunteer to help the poor, the elderly, or the disabled. We can teach our children how to pray and tell them about all that God has done for us.

Third, they were not afraid to take risks for Jesus. When they went back home without telling Herod where they found the child, Herod was furious (Matthew 2:16). For all they knew, he could have come after them. How often do we take risks for the Lord, by openly speaking about our faith or giving God credit for the good that we do? Let the star of Bethlehem remind us that Jesus is the star of our lives.