

St. Mary/St. Patrick Catholic Church

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 4, 2015



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Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?”

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

~Mt 2:1b-2

Excerpts
from the
Lectionary
for Mass
©2001, 1998,
1970 CCD.

What would you do if you were sitting in Church on the **Feast of the Epiphany** and three robed and crowned men rode up the middle of the aisle on camels and knelt in adoration before the tabernacle? It would be pretty amazing and most likely would even make the papers. And yet, that fantastic event actually happens every time we celebrate the Eucharist. Think about it. What was the purpose of the Magi? These Wise Men traveled across the desert sands to lay down gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh in adoration of the Christ Child; then they left and went out into the world to proclaim that Christ is King. That’s why the feast is called “**Epiphany**”, the Manifestation. Christ is shown forth to the world.

And that’s exactly what happens at Mass. The host is shown to us as we come up at Communion time. The words, “*The Body of Christ!*”, are proclaimed. We say, “*Amen!*” in agreement. When we receive the Eucharist, Christ is manifested to us. Those who bear the name of Christ must joyfully preach the gospel and the one truth of Jesus. Unless we recognize the manifestation of Christ to us in the Eucharist we will have neither the strength nor the will to show others what the Wise Men instinctively knew: that in Bethlehem was born the God-man who changed all history forever. We would not even be celebrating all of this if Christ had not been born. **To recover the joy of the Epiphany, reflect on the Eucharist we receive.** Jesus lived in the midst of people who did not recognize him. The Magi were pagans who saw truly. Do we ignore the presence of the King when we receive Communion, or do we recognize the Eucharist for what it is, Christ come to meet with us, live with us, heal us and strengthen us for our journey in life?

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WOMEN OF THE YEAR BANQUET

Join us for the festive "Women of the Year" banquet on Sunday, January 25, 2015, at Cliffbreakers, 700 W. Riverside Blvd., Rockford, where our parish nominee, **Helen Fisk** will be honored along with other women of the Rockford Deanery DCCW. Social time begins at 4:30PM, followed by dinner at 5:30PM. The main entrée choices are; Filet Mignon and Herb Crusted Tilapia OR Vegetarian Lasagna. Cost for either dinner is \$35. A child's meal of Chicken Fingers & Fries (ages 4-10) is \$15. Contact Lydia Johnson at 815/248-3519, to make reservations NO LATER THAN THIS COMING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7TH.

VOCATIONS CORNER- REV. KEITH ROMKE

Another year has gone by and yet another one has started. We have once again reached this point where even those who are not seeking to grow closer to God seem to want to grow, to improve themselves, and to become better people. Hopefully this will go well for them. But what about those of us who are committed to living for God? Well, we have two big things going for us. First, that we are not on our own to fulfill whatever we discover needs to be worked on. We have the help of the Holy Spirit and the aid of God's Grace in everything that we do so long as we ask for it! Secondly, if we are doing things right, then we are not left wondering what a good resolution might be. You see, God already knows exactly what He wants for you to work on, because He knows what you are capable of and who He is calling you to be! If you want for this year to be better than the last, or for this year to be the best year of your life, it all starts with letting God plan it out for you, which requires letting go and letting Him show you what steps to take. We all need to give God just a little more control (actually a lot more, but we will start small so as not to overwhelm anyone!) of our day to day lives so that He can maximize our potential for a great year. So what are you waiting for? Only 361 days left, get praying!



**Thank you to those who helped decorate at St. Patrick and St. Mary Churches for Christmas.

**Thank you to Fr. Bergschneider, Deacons Dick Mulcahey and Steve Pulkrabek, music coordinator, organists, the youth & adult choir members, ministry servers, sacristans, maintenance staff and all of the behind-the-scene volunteers who were 'always there' whenever asked to help. It was a beautiful Advent season and as we conclude the Christmas season next week, we are thankful for the kind, generous and faith-filled people of our parish.

**We would like to thank Didier Greenhouses & Forget-Me-Not Floral. Didier's always donates extra poinsettias to our parish and Forget-Me-Not Floral continues to amaze us with their understanding of what is needed for the floral bouquets which grace each side of the Tabernacle.



*Celebrate the
Season of Light*

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

SEARCH FOR THE LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring the annual Longest Married Couple Project in the U.S. as well as each of the 50 states and territories. If you know a couple with a long marriage please nominate them for this honor. More information can be found at wwme.org. Deadline is this coming Friday, January 9, 2015. Nominations must include the following information: Name of couple, wedding date, and current address. Also needed is name, phone number or email address of the person who is nominating the couple. Nominations may be emailed to getart@flash.net or by mail to Garry & Arla Thomas, 108 Wander Way, Lake in the Hills, IL, 60156.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Gather on January 18th, from 2-4PM, at the Federal Plaza in downtown Chicago for March for Life. There will be inspirational speeches before marching to the State of Illinois Building just a few blocks away. New Archbishop Blasé Cupich of Chicago will attend along with Congressmen Dan Lipinski and Peter Roskam. Former Miss America & GOP congressional candidate, Erika Harold will emcee the event.

NEW DIOCESAN VOCATIONS WEBSITE

A brand new website dedicated to Vocations in the Diocese of Rockford has recently been completed. Go to <http://www.rockforddiocese.org/vocations>. In the site you will find valuable resources for both young men and women discerning God's call for their life. It contains frequently asked questions, discernment resources and many professional videos of our own seminarians talking about vocations.

GROCERY DELIVERY TO SHUT-INS

The Durand Ecumenical Council spearheads the Grocery Delivery to Shut-ins Program. Volunteer drivers are needed to spend a couple of hours on Wednesday morning picking up the bags of groceries from Pacemaker, delivering them to seniors, receiving payment for the items & returning the payment to the store. Volunteers are called on to help only 2-3 times a year. If you can help please contact Renee Shambeau at 815/248-3089.

<CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING>

>>NEW LIGHTHOUSE CD's

A new selection of Lighthouse CDs were recently placed in the Kiosk at the entrance to both churches.

>>LIVING FAITH BOOKLETS

The Living Faith Daily Devotional Booklets for January-March are available on the registers at the entrance to the church.

>>2015 CATHOLIC CALENDARS

The 2015 Catholic Extension Calendars, sponsored by McCorkle Funeral Home, are in the baskets on the registers. Please feel free to pick up your copy.

>>"A CALL TO JOY"

Copies of the book, "A Call To Joy" by Matthew Kelly are available to all parishioners and guests this Christmas season. Please feel free to pick up your copy at the entrance to the church. Christmas blessings to all.



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
THIS MONTH CLASSES WILL BE HELD
JANUARY 4th, 11th, & 18th.**

KN-12 9-10:15AM Preschool 10:30AM

PARENTS: REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CHILD'S FOLDER FOR IMPORTANT & TIMELY INFORMATION.

In January and February the students will be learning about the "Celebration of the Christian Mystery" (sacraments) during RE classes. January 11th is the Baptism of the Lord which concludes our Christmas season. We will then be in Ordinary Time until Lent begins on February 18th, with Ash Wednesday.

- ⊕ The Preschool and Kindergarten RE students will be singing prior to the 10:30AM Mass today, on the **Feast of Epiphany, Sunday, January 4th**. Preschool children should arrive at the church hall by 10AM. (KN students will be at class.)
- ⊕ A meeting will be held next **Sunday, January 11th, at St. Mary Church, from 9-10:00AM**. This is for parents of students preparing to receive their First Eucharist.
- ⊕ The Catechist & Aide meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 18th**, after the 10:30AM Mass. Lunch will be served. Please **RESPOND by today, JANUARY 4th** if you will or will not be able to attend.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR 1ST SEMESTER

- Preschool: Lily Nestler
 - Kindergarten: Beckett Flynn, Madison Moore
 - 1st grade:
 - 2nd grade: Gracie Nicolosi, Soren Rieman
 - 3rd grade: Connor Panoske, Matthew Panoske, Ava Sutherland
 - 4th grade: Rogan Flynn, Alisa Moore
 - 5th grade: Molly Flynn, Allison Liszka, Lauryn Sutherland
 - 6th grade: Nicholas Panoske, Mhairi Robertson, Jenna Steder, Sara Steder
 - 7th grade: Silas Rieman, Joslyn Schultz
 - 8th grade: Connie Schultz
 - High School: Abby Moore
- Congratulation kids. Good Job.



COMING SOON

Training for new Altar Servers will be held in February. Those who have already signed up should continue to work on their prayers as they will be reviewed in January. It is not too late if anyone in 5th grade and older is interested to sign up. Please call the parish office at 815/248-2490, to receive a packet.

Souper Bowl Sunday will be held January 31st/February 1st

Boy Scout Sunday is February 8th.

Confirmation Student and Sponsor Retreat will be held on Sunday, February 8th, at St. Mary Church.

PARISH PRAYER TREE



Our Parish Prayer Tree offers a network of support and prayers not only for our parish, but for the community at large. Requests may be called to Mary Borgmann at 815/865-5555 or Margie Flynn at 815/865-5430.

Please remember our homebound parishioners and those currently in Medina Manor Center, along with Joann Ahmer, Cynthia Armour, Anthony Baccelli, Carolotta Baylor, Gay Lou Beling, Terry Brogan, Dave Brown, Emmett Callahan, Tim Collins, Claire Converse, Agnes Cooke, Kevin Davis, Eddie Devore, Fred Devore, Ilene Diepenbrock, Ralph & Lynn Dulyea, Kathie & Ted Dutkiewicz, Diane Fabris, Sheamus Fay, Sara Davis Folk, Veronica Genovese, Maria Guehlsdorf, Frank Guentert, Rylan Hanson, Jennifer Hicks, Kurt Janisch, Tony & Dee Jason, Al Jose, Bill Kibble, Ruth & Carolyn Kneip, Irvin & Dolores Kowalski, Jack Krajewski, Agnes Kramar, Eileen Krug, Rose & Bill Landers, Ed & Joanne Litke, Keith & Laurie Ludolph, Roy & Dan Mauer, Ruby & Jesse Mercer, Theresa Mikosz, Marge Morris, Lil Mowris, Anthony Neuzil, Barb Neuzil, Glen Nosbisch, Carol Nyman, Holgier Oksnevad, Kelli Palmer, Sandy Pauley, Jozie Pobjecky, Vi Preisco, Marianne Reier, Theresa Risser, Jimmy Rogers, John Rosellini, Louis & Margaret Rotilla, Jack Sala, Gwen Schill, Jean Smith, Dennis Shippy, Laurie Slocum, Len & Carolyn Sparaco, Michelle Swearingen, Bob Trocke, Marion Vencill, Summer Victor, Kim Walsh, Laurie Walsh, Steve Walsh, David & Laura Welter, Jim Wenger, and Riley Grace, Bella & Zachary Williams.

+Please remember those going through tests & treatments and include their families and caregivers. Remember our servicemen and women currently serving, and include Nic Blum, Karl Ciecko, Will Francis, Lucas Graves, Dean Harris, Rev. Bob Keener, Landon Ketchum, Zeth Willard, and Charlie Wojcik.

If you or your loved one no longer needs our prayers please let us know so we can keep our Prayer List current. Please call the parish office at 815/248-2490, with any changes. We appreciate your help.

ST. ANNE'S CCW UPDATES



- **ST. ANNE'S MONTHLY MEETING** will be held next Tuesday, January 13th, at 10AM at St. Mary Church Hall. Overview of the past year and upcoming items for 2015, will be discussed.
- **MEDINA MANOR PARTY** is scheduled for January 20th. Watch upcoming bulletins for information regarding donations and participation in their monthly 'Birthday Party'.



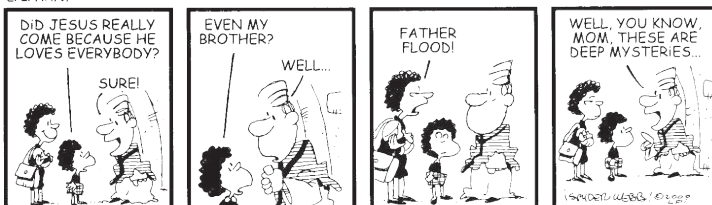
"I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts and sweets this Christmas season. It is all very much appreciated.

If you have not already, all of you should be receiving a Christmas Card from me with my best wishes. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."
Fr. Bergschneider

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Deacon Steve Pulkrabek will facilitate a class on Sunday, January 18th, from 9-10AM at St. Mary Church Hall. He will be reviewing "The First Series of Catholicism" by Fr. Robert Barron.

EPIPHANY



MINISTRY SCHEDULES

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

- Jan. 10 4:30PM Kathy Moran
- Jan. 11 8:00AM Dick Mulcahey
- Jan. 11 10:30AM Steve Pulkrabek

LECTORS

- Jan. 10 4:30PM Margie Schafer
- Jan. 11 8:00AM Terry Miller
- Jan. 11 10:30AM Mike Schiffman

USHERS

- Jan. 10 4:30PM Jonna Lamm, Pat Flynn
- Jan. 11 8:00AM Dave Sutherland, Jim Meisch
- Jan. 11 10:30AM Brian & Dorothee McAuliffe

ALTAR SERVERS

- Jan. 10 4:30PM Evan Flynn
- Jan. 11 8:00AM Bridget & Hannah Ryan
- Jan. 11 10:30AM Andrew Nestler, Brock Risser

COLLECTION COUNTERS

- Jan. 11 Donna Basick, Lydia Johnson
Sarah Loofbourrow, Bernadine Bertacchi

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION TOTALS

	2013	2014
Sunday Envelopes:.....	\$2684.50	\$5482.00
Sunday Offertory:.....	\$214.50	\$530.00
Student Stewardship:.....	\$3.00	\$1.23
Holy Day:.....		\$10.00
Building maintenance:.....		\$25.00
Fuel:.....		\$10.00

Financial statements for 2014 for parish and diocesan contributions will be mailed to you UPON REQUEST ONLY. Please call the parish office at 815/248-2490, for this statement which will be available after January 20, 2015.

BLESSING OF HOMES FOR EPIPHANY

The Sunday after New Year's Day is the feast of the Epiphany. In imitation of the magi, who, according to Matthew's Gospel, came to the home of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we ask Christ to visit our home and to bless all who dwell there. Inserted this week is a Blessing for Homes. The altar servers will distribute small pieces of chalk that you can use to inscribe above your doorways: 20+C+M+B+15 for the year and the Latin words "*Christus mansionem benedicat,*" May Christ bless this house.



Mass Intentions

- Saturday, Jan. 3
4:30PM (SP) +Hedy Simmer
 - Sunday, Jan. 4—The Epiphany of the Lord
8:00AM (SM) +Doug Berg
10:30AM (SM) People of the Parish
 - Monday, Jan. 5—St. John Neumann
7:30AM (SM) Communion Service
 - Tuesday, Jan. 6—St. Andre Bessette
7:30AM(SM) +Carol Kibble
+Chester Mendyral
 - Wednesday, Jan. 7—St. Raymond of Penyafort
7:30AM(SM) +John Moran
 - Thursday, Jan. 8
7:30AM(SM) +Elwood Kramar
 - Friday, Jan. 9
7:30AM(SM) Special Intention
 - Saturday, Jan. 10
4:30PM (SP) +Hedy Simmer
 - Sunday, Jan. 11—The Baptism of the Lord
8:00AM (SM) People of the Parish
10:30AM (SM) +John Flynn
- (SM) =St. Mary-Durand
(SP) =St. Patrick-Irish Grove

MEMORIAL CANDLE INTENTIONS



Lighting candles is an ancient practice that we continue to honor today. A lit candle signifies the hope we have in our hearts and the prayers we are offering for a particular intention. In our parish we have two special ways of burning candles for the sake of prayer. Seven day candles burn before the **Tabernacle** and the **Icon of St. Mary** in St. Mary Church. They are available to be lighted for your intention & burn for one week. While we do ask for a donation of \$10.00, cost should not be a prohibiting factor. Please call the parish office at 815/248-2490, to schedule.

TABERNACLE CANDLE

- Jan. 4th-Jan. 10th +Jim Patterson
- Jan. 11th-Jan. 17th +Loretto & Augusto Azul

MARY ICON

- Jan. 4th-Jan. 10th +Katelyn Miller
- Jan. 11th-Jan. 17th +Katelyn Miller



FLORAL MEMORIALS

Floral memorials dedicating the two bouquets on either side of the Tabernacle at St. Mary Church are available for loved ones—living and deceased or for special intentions such as holidays, anniversaries or other special events. A donation of \$15 per vase will help to offset the cost of these flowers and enable you to have a beautiful floral tribute for one week. Please call the parish office at 815/248-2490, to schedule.

- Jan. 4th-Jan. 10th +Walt Barankiewicz

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