

**St. Joseph's News**

**St. Ann's News**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Jan 4 – 5 – **Special Collection – Aged and Infirm Priests**
- Jan 5 – **First Sunday Social** following Mass  
**Our Daily Bread** – prepare/serve meal
- Jan 7 – **Ultreya** – 7 p.m. – St. Mary
- Jan 9 – **RCIA** – 6 p.m. – chapter 17
- Jan 12 – **CCD** – 9 a.m.
- Jan 14 – **Knights of Columbus** meeting – 6 p.m.
- Jan 16 – **RCIA** – 6 p.m. – chapter 19
- Jan 19 – **CCD** – 9 a.m.
- Jan 20 – **Bingo** – Singing River Rehab – 2 p.m.
- Jan 23 – **RCIA** – 6 p.m. – chapter 20
- Jan 25 – 26 – **Special Collection – Church in Latin America and Saltillo Mission**
- Jan 26 – **Ladies Auxiliary** meeting following Mass
- Jan 30 – **RCIA** – 6 p.m. – chapter 21

**FLOWER REQUESTS**

Anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for a weekend may use the sign-up sheet in the back of church to schedule a date.

**MASS INTENTIONS** are now being reserved for the calendar year 2020. If you would like a Mass said for your loved one on a certain date, you may call or email the office.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THRIFT STORE** – next sale – **January 18** (8 a.m. – noon) – The store is also in need of additional volunteers to help with the sales.

**HEAVENLY HOUSEKEEPING** – Keeping the house of the Lord clean is an important job. These teams volunteer each week to sweep, vacuum, dust, take out the trash, and clean the bathrooms. It usually takes less than an hour to do one task. Additional volunteers are needed for the new year. Please call the parish office if you can help.

**BACKPACK BUDDIES** Our parish donations of mac and cheese are needed weekly throughout the school year to assist this local ministry. Monetary donations may also be made. Place your donation in the regular collection and designate “**Backpack Buddies**” on the memo line.

**HEAVENLY HOUSEKEEPERS** for **Jan 10 – Team # 4** – Linda Clark and Donna Dart

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Sunday – **CCD & RCIA** 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
- Jan 8 – **Adoration** – 6 p.m. and **Mass** – 7 p.m.
- Jan 12 – **Youth Mass** 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Mass Intentions** for 2020 are now being reserved. If you would like a Mass said for your loved one on a certain date, you may call or email the office.

**Contribution Envelopes and Calendars** are available in the back of church. Some families have different numbers this year. Please pick up yours today.

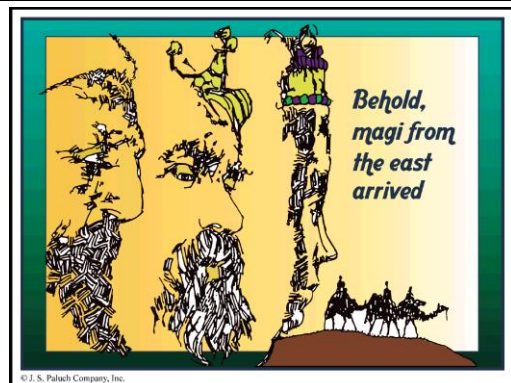
**BACKPACK BUDDIES of East Central** – Items needed throughout the school year are oatmeal, grits, or cereal in single-serving packs. Box located at the church entrance.

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

This year, in the United States the celebration of the Epiphany falls on January 5, but the traditional date for the Epiphany is January 6. The date we know as January 6 was established as the solstice in Egypt in 1996 BC, but the Egyptian calendar lost a full day every 128 years. Twenty centuries later the actual solstice had migrated to December 25. People still kept January 6 for the solstice celebration, but December 25, matching nicely with the Roman pagan feast of the Unconquered Sun, launched an extended solstice holiday. By the time of the early church, the whole period of twelve days was celebrated just about everywhere.

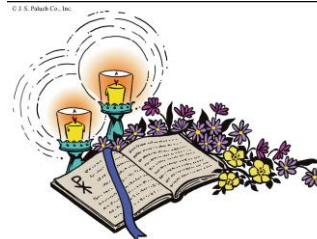
Christians began to celebrate Christ as the true light of the world in four themes: the Nativity, the manifestation to the Gentiles, the baptism of the Lord, and the wedding feast at Cana. That was entirely too much for one day to handle. A twelve-day season was ready to be adapted, so Christians borrowed from the pagan calendar for their own season of light. Thus early Christian celebrations of the Christmas season extended from one date for the solstice, December 25, to the older date, January 6. The darkest time in the Northern Hemisphere could now be filled with the Christian observance of the arrival of the Light of the World.

The **Choose Life Billboard Initiative** seeks to place billboards along Interstate 10 and other prominent roadways to promote respect for all human life and to bring awareness to alternatives to abortion. If you would like to support this initiative, you may send donations to St. James Catholic Church, 366 Cowan Road, Gulfport, MS 39507. Please include “Choose Life Billboards” on the memo line. If you have question, you may contact Penny Sullivan at 228-864-9061. **Choose Life: Pray, Pray, Pray**



**THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM**

The unfolding of the story of the Incarnation continues today as the Church celebrates the Epiphany. The tale of the magi from the East is one of the most fascinating in all of scripture. It has much to teach us about what we can come to expect, even in circumstances and places that may seem insignificant or small. Bethlehem was a tiny town, what we might refer to today as a town without even one stop light. Yet it is over this seemingly insignificant place that the guiding star stops in its own search for the place where the Savior would be born. Too often we fail to recognize the fact that the star of Bethlehem comes to rest in our everyday lives, where we can experience God's presence, manifested in ever new ways. Epiphany calls us to shake off our stupor and recognize the One who comes to save us.



**MASS INTENTIONS**

- Sat. 4 pm – Leo and Grace French (RIP)
- Sun. 8 am – People of the Parish
- Sun. 10 am – Donald Hiestand (RIP)
- Tues. 8 am – All broken families
- Wed. 8 am – the living and deceased members of the Cox and Blackledge families
- Thurs. 8 am – Maria Ngat (RIP)
- Fri. 8 am – Peter Vinh (RIP)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Sat 3:10 p.m.**

**MASS REQUESTS** – If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for the intention of a loved one, a special occasion, or a deceased friend or family member, envelopes are available in the vestibule or you may call or mail your request to the parish office. A ten dollar donation is suggested for each intention.



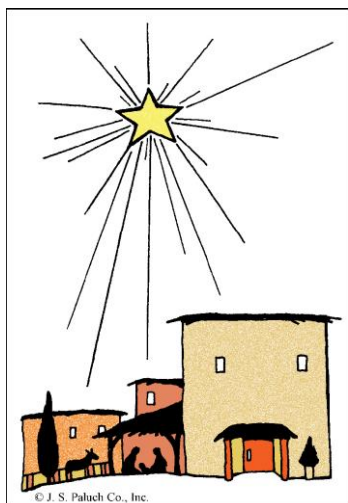
Prayer Requests

*Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing, bless our family and friends who are sick. Give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. If you would like to add someone to this list, please call the parish office.*

Arthur Trochesset, Barbara N. Thomas, Audria Viers, the Holt family, Janet Wells, Nicole Mary Green, Effie Williams, Gary Brown, Kelly Chamberlain, George Hinkel, Eva Hinkel, Wanda St. Andrie, Laurie Laffery, Steve Martinez, Glenda Jackson, Charles Pinkney, Tom Browning, Judy Smith, Susan George, Jane Norton, Nikki Hans, Gloria Long, Linda Huy, Conner Driscoll, Amsley Goodings, Tenny Henderson, Ellen Scheeler, Lara Lander, Mary Jo Garrett, Inge Bellone, Nathan Rowe, Anita Matthews, Denny Denmark, Tim and Annette Spiriti, Ron Hudson, Joanie and Kermit Loupe, Norman Jardine, Gail Seely, Deborah Green, Kenneth Hoskins, Greg Davidson, Pat McAdams, Barbara Easley, Bruce Merrill, Elma Carter, Kay McBroom, Deacon Emery Elder, Karen Zettler, Kris Allen, Christi Seely, Betty Bodden, Tony Garriga, Heather Huy, the family of Sandra Lyons, the family of James Commerton, the unborn, all the faithful departed, and all military personnel stationed in harm's way.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**EPIPHANY**

Solemn things of mystic meaning:  
 Incense doth the God disclose;  
 Gold a royal Child proclaimeth;  
 Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

—Roman Breviary, Epiphany; Prudentius, fourth century

**COLLECTIONS – December 28 - 29 and Christmas collections**

**ST. JOSEPH**

- Regular Collection – \$ 3,994.00
- Building Fund – \$ 2,162.25
- Christmas Collection – \$ 2,312.00
- Children's Collection – \$ 3.00

**ST. ANN**

- Regular Collection – \$ 2,526.50
- Building Fund – \$ 75.00
- Children's Offertory – \$ 11.50
- Christmas Collection – \$ 1,116.00
- St. Vincent de Paul Special Collection – \$ 330.00

***Upcoming Special Collections 2020***

***January 4 – 5 – Aged & Infirm Priests***

***January 25 – 26 – Church in Latin America and Saltillo Mission***