

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5, 2020

LIVING GOD'S WORD

We pray that the light of God's love, shown to us in Jesus Christ and placed within us with the gift of faith, may lead others to this same faith. We also pray that we may continue our own journey into the mystery of God and find Christ waiting for us at journey's end.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK JANUARY 6, 2020

Monday, Jan. 6, St. Andre Bessette
8:15AM Intention of Catholic Extension Donor
Tuesday, Jan. 7, St. Raymond of Penafort
8:15AM Mary Friess by John
Wednesday, Jan. 8
10:30 AM Communion Service at Three Springs
Thursday, Jan. 9
NO MASS
Friday, Jan. 10
8:15AM Paul Schulein by Martha Kempf
Saturday, Jan. 11
5PM Bernice Kickham by Marilyn Todaro
Sunday, Jan. 12
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK JAN. 6 THRU JAN. 12

Sunday	9AM Mass PSR Class after 9AM Mass till 11:15AM
Monday	8:15AM Mass in Rectory Dining Room Classes Resume – NO BUS 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon BBQ Pulled Pork/Fried Chicken
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 5-8)
Wednesday	10:30AM Com. Service at Three Springs
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	8:15AM Mass (3rd & 4th Grade Liturgy) 2:50PM Dismissal – NO BUS 4:30PM K of C Fish Fry
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass FIRST RECONCILIATION after Mass

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: We love underdog stories. Today's readings give us underdog stories. St. Paul didn't walk with Jesus. He persecuted Christians. There's no way. Not a chance. The magi-astrologers from the east, they were not of the Chosen People. How could they ever see the Messiah? There's no way. Not a chance. Yet God opens a crack in the door. Light from heaven strikes Paul to the ground. The risen Lord draws him in. In turn, Paul opens the door for those other underdogs, the Gentiles. A star in the heavens directs the magi to the King of the Jews, and by that light they are overjoyed to see that baby. The elation! The thrill! The success! Unlikely heroes, we still sing their song, "We Three Kings." You and I, we are unlikely heroes, too. People of faith, in love with the Lord? No way. Not a chance. Yet a light has shone into our darkness, too-a glimmer, a taste of the Holy Spirit, and a touch of glory. Wow. Sing praise!

TITHE WEEK OF DEC. 29, 2019

Mary Help of Christians: \$6,458.00
\$735.00 Improvement; \$9,421.00 Christmas;
\$1,188.00 Needy; \$5.00 Child
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$5,943.27
Fiscal Year Week: 26
YTD Actual Giving: \$154,525.00
YTD Budget Need: \$182,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$27,457.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$1,056.73)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: We can lose sight of how unexpected and lowly the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus were, how much of an underdog he was in the eyes of the world. But God grants underdogs a star in the sky.

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Jan. 11 & 12: 5PM, Ethan Colvis, Kanon Jany; 9AM, Jared Landeros, Elseah Congiardo, Camryn Wolff

CHESTER AREA CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY would like to extend their heartfelt thank you for your gift of \$200, 1500 canned food items, and hundreds of diapers. Your gift directly affects the local community by providing assistance in their time of need. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL SHRINE in Perryville will begin on Monday, Jan. 6, to celebrate their novena service after the 8AM Mass. Because the Vincentian priests who celebrate the Mass and novena service are in their golden years, a decision was made to move the nighttime service to a morning service to ensure their safety. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following Communion on each Monday.

K OF C FISH FRY Friday, Jan. 10, from 4:30-7PM. This week's fish fry will benefit the Chester Area Christian Food Pantry.

NEED A SEAT for the 24th Annual Spring Gala Dinner and Auction on Saturday, March 7? Call Ron Korando (615-2509). Tickets are \$35 per person and include dinner, drinks and a fun filled evening.

PLANNING A WEDDING? If you are planning a wedding within the next six months, there will be a Pre Cana Day on Saturday, Jan. 25, at St. Francis Xavier, Carbondale. Please contact Bill Harper (618-456-4556) for registration information.

GREAT MARRIAGES DON'T JUST HAPPEN, Couples Make Them! "Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Offer your spouse the treasures of each other by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The next weekends are Feb. 7-9 and April 24-26. At the Courtyard Marriot in St. Peters, MO. Call or text 314-649-7317 or visit stl-wwme.org/schedule.php.

EVERY LIFE IS A GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT: Our love for our children has nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they are, and understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone.

WE PRAY that God grant all public servants the humility, wisdom, and courage to defend all human life.

TRAVELERS: The Magi brought gifts with them. Although King Herod was greatly troubled, Jesus and his parents did not fear these travelers. God was with them all. And God is with us and everyone even to this day. Whom do I fear? How can I be like Jesus and his parents and the Magi to accept everyone? What will I do to assure pathways of peace for migrants, travelers, refugees, and aliens?