

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Epiphany of the Lord January 3, 2021

Parish Staff:

Father Stanley Drewniak, *Pastor*
Linette Hopwood, *Secretary*
Email: stlawrenceswilm@yahoo.com
Web Page swkrcatholics.org
Bridget Hoffman, *CCD Director*
Hall Rentals—Norma O'Brien 365-2590

Office Hours: 9-1 Monday—Friday

St. Mary Rectory (815) 237-2230

Mass Schedule

Sat.— 5:30 pm
Thurs.— No Mass January—February

Reconciliation:

Before Mass or by Appointment

Sacrament of Baptism – Baptisms are celebrated during the Saturday 5:30p.m. Mass. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

Marriages – Diocesan Policy require at least a six month preparation process. Couples who are planning to marry should speak directly with the Pastor before setting a date. No Weddings are scheduled on Sundays.

Hospitalized Parishioners – Due to a change in the privacy law, Father cannot go to the hospital and ask for a list of parishioners for him to visit. As a patient, you must ask the hospital to notify the Rectory that you are requesting a visit. For our homebound parishioners, if you would like Father to visit, please call the Rectory and Father will be more than happy to come

Mass Intentions:

1/02/21 Sat. 5:30 pm +Deane Halpin (Lucille Christensen)
1/07/21 Thurs. No Mass
1/09/21 Sat. 5:30 pm +Arnold Berens (Ann Ruder)

If you would like a Mass Intention said, please contact the Parish Office. Suggested Donations is \$10.

Remember in Prayer our deceased relatives and friends, the ill of our parish and community, nursing home residents, the homeless, hungry and unemployed, those living alone and our own special intentions we hold deep in our hearts. Keep in prayer all men and women serving our country, the injured and those being held prisoners. Let us not forget all men and women who gave up their lives so that we may live in freedom and peace!

Liturgical Schedule for Lectors

1/02/21 Sat. 5:30 pm-Lector-Melinda
1/09/21 New Years Eve Lector-Mary K.



Holy Father's Intention for the month of January: Human fraternity. May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Weekly Income:

Sunday Collection	\$ 1137.00
Christmas Collection	\$ 2012.00
Your Offering is most appreciated!	

Prayers for Sick

Donna Masching and Leon Kersch

To donate **online please go to www.dioceseofjoliet.org** and select Donate (green button) then select Universal Offertory Giving. To be of assistance, the Diocese has set up a universal offertory fund for any Diocese of Joliet parish. All monies will be directed to the parish of your choice. Thank you for supporting our parish.

Welcome! We welcome all new individuals, couples and families to St. Mary's Parish. If you haven't already done so, please register with the rectory office. Registration forms can be found on the bulletin board or on our website swkrcatholics.org Thank you!

Thank you -We are very grateful for all of those supporters and benefactors during the Christmas season to St. Mary's Church. It is beautiful that being enriched through a Gift from heaven we know how to share what we have with others. Thank you! -Fr. Stan

2021 Offering envelopes are available. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please call the office and we will be happy to provide a box to you. In order to receive a tax statement, you will need to use a box of envelopes.

Blessing of a Home—Although there are fine texts for the blessing of homes, neither the *Book of Blessings* nor *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* explains the traditional method for blessing homes this day using incense, chalk (an incarnational image because it reminds us of the dust of the earth from which we were made), and "Jordan water." The chalk is used to mark over doorways. The numerals consecrate the new year. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the magi—Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar—and also stand for the Latin motto *Christos mansion benedict* ("May Christ bless the house"). We have available to you Epiphany Kits and instructions so you can bless your homes.

NEW YEAR BLESSING—May Angels keep you night and day, and Mary guide you on your way; and may the Christ-Child fill your heart with peace, as He only can impart- - All this and more I ask for you, **BLESSINGS to last the New Year through.**

Feast of EPIPHANY (the Magi) -In choosing to be born for us, God chose to be known by us. He, therefore, reveals Himself in this way, in order that this great sacrament of His love may not be an occasion for us of great misunderstanding. Today the Magi find, crying in the manger, the one they have followed as He was shone in the sky. Today, the Magi see clearly, in swaddling clothes, the one they have long awaited as He lay hidden among the stars. Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: **heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man.** One whom the whole universe cannot contain, now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die. So the Gentiles, who were the last, become now the first: **the faith of the Magi is the first fruits of the belief of the Gentiles.**

The Word of Life—"Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity – 03 Jan. 2021 Isaiah 60:1-6. Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6. Matthew 2:1-12. **Copartners in the Promise.** The readings and this solemnity are filled with competing images and persons. Darkness and light. Christians of Jewish heritage and Gentiles. Chosen people and coheirs, copartners. Herod and the Magi. Epiphany teaches us this: all are members of the same body, all are coheirs of God's goodness, all are copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus. Like the Magi, how will I give homage to Christ today? Whom do I look down upon that I must see as a copartner with me? What treasure will I give away, will I offer to another?

