

St. Joseph Catholic Church

1300 N. Main, Bluffton 46714 (260)-824-1380 stjosephchurch@adamswells.com stjosephchurchbluffton.org

Epiphany Home Blessing

*“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”*

MATTHEW 2:2

After Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem, the Holy Family was visited by three Magi from the east. They came to worship Christ and bring him gifts of gold (*the gift for a king*), frankincense (*the gift for a priest*), and myrrh (*a burial ointment, the gift for one who would die*).

The Feast of Epiphany is celebrated on the 12th Day of Christmas, January 6th, but in the United States is moved to the Sunday between January 2nd-8th.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, it is traditional for families to bless their homes, remembering the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Wise Men and asking for protection and blessing on their family home and all who enter there.

The home blessing is done by writing on the door or door frame with chalk the symbols 20+C+M+B+21. The 20 and 21 represent the current year, 2021. The + reminds us of the cross on which our Savior died. The C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, as well as an abbreviation for the Latin phrase “*Christus mansionem benedicat*” which means “Christ bless this house.” Writing on the door also brings to mind the Passover of the Jews during the final plague in Exodus, when the blood of the lamb protected the inhabitants within.

“In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi’s coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations.”

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, PARAGRAPH 528

20 + C + M + B + 21

----- (cut here) -----

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
e-mail address: _____

[] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form [] We’ve Moved, here is our new information

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 2

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
4:00 p.m. Confessions
4:35 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Julie Johnson +

Sunday, January 3

7:10 a.m. Rosary
7:30 a.m. Parish Family
9:40 a.m. Rosary
10:00 a.m. Maria Edwards + & Fernando Riveros +
12:10 p.m. Rosary
12:30 p.m. Special Intention

Monday, January 4

No Morning Mass

Tuesday, January 5

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Adoration
8:00 a.m. Mary Ann Bickley
8:30 a.m. Confession

Wednesday, January 6

6:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration
6:00-6:45 p.m. Confession
7:00 p.m. Ann Carroll +

Thursday, January 7

8:00 a.m. Frances Braun +

Friday, January 8

8:30 a.m. Fathers of Jay & Lisa Crisp

Saturday, January 9

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
4:00 p.m. Confessions
4:35 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Parish Family

Sunday, January 10

7:10 a.m. Rosary
7:30 a.m. Dale & Alice Pearson (60th Wedding Anniversary)
9:40 a.m. Rosary
10:00 a.m. Genevieve Lohmuller +
12:10 p.m. Rosary
12:30 p.m. Special Intention



MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Jan. 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
- 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/ Mt 4:12-17,23-25

Tues., Jan. 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop - 1 Jn
4:7-10/ Mk 6:34-44

Wed., Jan. 6 - St. Andre Bessette, Religious - 1 Jn
4:11-18/ Mk 6:45-52

Thurs., Jan. 7 - St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest -
1 Jn 4:19-5:4/ Lk 4:14-22

Fri., Jan. 8 - 1 Jn 5:5-13/ Lk 5:12-16

Sat., Jan. 9 - 1 Jn 5:14-21/ Jn 3:22-30

Sun., Jan. 10 - Baptism of the Lord - Is 55:1-11/ 1
Jn 5:1-9/ Mk 1:7-11

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 3, 2021

While this weekend (Jan. 2nd/3rd) helps to bring us into the New Year, the Church celebrates the **Epiphany of the Lord** this weekend. Though this solemnity marks the 12th Day of Christmas (Jan. 6th), its celebration has been transferred by our Bishops' Conference to the nearest Sunday. The word itself (*Epiphany*) comes from the ancient Greek word *epiphaneia*, which is a noun and means "*manifestation*." This celebration continues our Christmas celebration as it refers to three manifestations of Jesus Christ to the world: **The Adoration of the Magi, the Baptism of the Lord, and the Wedding Feast at Cana.**

The **Adoration of the Magi**, or the Feast of the Three Kings, recalls the Magi (*from the Greek noun "magoi"*) coming from the East. Most likely, the Magi were Persian priest-astrologers. Having studied the stars and known of the Jews hope of a Messiah, they are seeking out this newborn King of the Jews. This becomes the first manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles. Similarly, in the **Baptism of the Lord**, the heavens are opened as the voice of the Father cries out and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, descends upon the Son of God. In this act, Jesus' divinity (*and our Triune God*) are made manifest to Israel (*John 1:31*).

Finally, at the **Wedding Feast at Cana**, our Lord's miraculous turning of water into wine manifests the beginnings of His public ministry. This is the "beginning of miracles" by which He "manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him" (John 2:11). In these three events, we see Jesus Christ made known to the world. As expressed by Dom Gueranger, writing in his 19th Century tome *The Liturgical Year*: "*Let us imitate the faith and obedience of the Magi; Let us adore, with the holy Baptist, the divine Lamb, over whom the heavens open; Let us take our place at the mystic feast of Cana, where our dear King is present, thrice manifested, thrice glorified.*"

For your planning purposes, our **January Discussion Forum** will be a "**Teaching Mass**" offered both next **Sunday, Jan. 10th, from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM**, and next **Wednesday, Jan. 13th, from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM**. Please note, a "**Teaching Mass**" is not a Mass; Instead, it is a walk-through of the Mass that looks at the various prayers, items, and traditions found throughout our liturgy. Given the nature of the discussion, **this forum will take place in the Church**, not the Parish Social Hall.

Thank you for your prayers, well-wishes, and generosity during my period of voluntary quarantine. Our good Lord used this opportunity to remind me of how truly blessed I am to be with you here at St. Joseph. Let us continue to pray, especially during this Christmastide, in a special way for all those suffering from the Coronavirus (and all illnesses), that they might know our Incarnate Lord's healing and love.

Thankfully, as I remained in good health throughout the entire period of quarantine, I had the opportunity to spend much time in prayer and with spiritual reading. Currently, I have been reading *The Incarnation, Birth and Infancy of Jesus Christ* by St. Alphonsius Liguori, which offers daily reflections for each day of Christmastide. If you are looking for a good spiritual book during this time, I would greatly recommend this classic.

Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David



Sharon Miller, Becky Biberstein, Betty Meyer, Bonnie Burns, Michael Green, Rick Cotterman, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Carol Leitner, Pat Pfeifer, Troy Cook, Cheryl Jackson, Sandy Arnold, Jimmy Robbins, Jean Steele, Andrea Holte, Tom Williams, Jen Coyne, John Houlihan and Tom Cincotta.

Share life
Give blood



Blood Drive
Sunday, January 17
7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
in the gym.

JANUARY DISCUSSION FORUM - "TEACHING MASS"

Sunday, January 10, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, January 13 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fr. David will host a Discussion Forum - "Teaching Mass". This is not an actual Mass but a walk-through of the Mass. The Forum will take place in the Church rather than the Parish Social Hall. For your convenience, the Discussion Forum will be live-streamed on our Facebook page.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting via Zoom Tuesday, January 5th. The call will be started at 6:40 p.m. for recitation of the Holy Rosary followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Watch your Inbox for a link from Jeff Miller a day or so ahead of the meeting.



-- MARK YOUR CALENDARS --

Knights of Columbus

Fish Fry

Friday, March 12, 2021

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Religious Education Classes resume
Sunday, January 3, 2021 * 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Grade 5 will lead the Holy Rosary in Church at 8:40 a.m.

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sat., Jan. 2 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Sat., Jan. 2 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 3 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 3 - Religious Education Classes resume - 8:30-9:45 a.m. / Grade 5 will lead the Rosary.
- Tues., Jan. 5 - Knights of Columbus meeting via Zoom - 6:40 p.m. recitation of the Holy Rosary / meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Wed., Jan. 6 - Parish Council meeting via Zoom following 7:00 p.m. Mass.
- Sun., Jan. 10 - January Discussion Forum - "Teaching Mass" - 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Church.
- Tues., Jan. 12 - St. Joseph Women's Group meeting - 7:00 p.m. in the social hall.
- Wed., Jan. 13 - January Discussion Forum - "Teaching Mass" - 7:30-8:30 p.m. (following 7:00 Mass) in the Church.
- Sun., Jan. 17 - Knights of Columbus Red Cross Blood Drive - 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym.

Phone Number 555-1234

Name MJ

Enter to
WIN!

1st Prize- \$250

2nd Price- \$100

3rd Prize- 4/\$50 winners

**ST. JOSEPH WOMEN'S
GROUP**

RAFFLE- MARCH 9, 2021

Please pick up your envelope of raffle tickets from the table in the narthex and return both the ticket stubs and money by Sunday, March 7, 2021. Winners will be drawn at the St. Joseph Women's Group meeting on Tuesday, March 9th. Winners will be notified by phone that evening. (need not be present to win!) The money raised will be used to refurbish our baptismal font.

St. Joseph Parish Finance Report December 24, 25, 26 & 27

Adult Envelopes- \$2,608.00

Child Envelopes- \$0

Loose- \$414.00

Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$560.86

Religious Ed. Fund- \$20.00

Christmas Offering- \$1,183.00

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of

God- \$21.00

Total- \$4,806.86

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are \$1,337.64 ahead of our budget for the month of December.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$110.00

*Thank you for your gifts
to St. Joseph's!*

osonlinegiving.com/4741

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FUND REPORT - December

Utilities- \$811.74

Donations- \$450.00

Total Charitable Donations- **\$1,261.74**

Thank you for helping us help others!

May God Bless You Abundantly!

FORMED.org

Our Parish Code: 7N68MY

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"Every mother, when she picks up the young life that has been born to her, looks up to the heavens to thank GOD for the gift which made the world young again. But here was a Mother, a Madonna, who did not look up. She looked down to Heaven, for this was Heaven in her arms."

Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

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Michelle Adler, David Anthony,
And Matt Hayes


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It's a child, not a choice...
Abortion does not make you "un-pregnant", it makes you the mother of a dead child.



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Parishioner





Before you speak...
THINK!

T - is it true?
h - is it helpful?
i - is it inspiring?
n - is it necessary?
k - is it kind?

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without leaving
happier.

-St. Mother Teresa

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Us!

