

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

1300 N. Main St., Bluffton | (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 2:22

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

The **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY** is celebrated on the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, January 6<sup>th</sup>, but in the United States is moved to the Sunday between January 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.

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 home and all who enter there.

The home blessing is done by writing with chalk on the door frame the following symbols: 20+C+M+B+23. The 20 and 23 represent the current year. The + reminds us of the cross on which our Savior died. The C, M, and B stand for the 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 frame also brings to mind the Passover of the Jews and the final plague in the Book of Exodus, when the blood of the lamb protected the inhabitants within.

*“In the Magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religious, 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 Insrael, 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 + 23

**Pastor:** Fr. David Violi

**Fr. David’s Email:** frdavidvioli@gmail.com | **Sacramental Emergency Number:** (260) 296-0511

**Administrative Assistant / DRE:** Michelle Paxton | **Director of Sacred Music:** Teresa Smith

------(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 7**

8:00 a.m. Special Intention  
4:00-4:45 p.m. Confession  
4:35 p.m. Rosary  
5:00 p.m. Bob Butler +

**Sunday, January 8**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

7:10 a.m. Rosary  
7:30 a.m. Ronnie Burns +  
9:40 a.m. Rosary  
10:00 a.m. Parish Family

**Monday, January 9**

No Public Mass

**Tuesday, January 10**

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

**Wednesday, January 11**

6:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration  
6:00-6:45 p.m. Confession  
7:00 p.m. Gene Keys +

**Thursday, January 12**

8:00 a.m. Fr. Patrick Patterson +

**Friday, January 13**

8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased members of the  
Dale & Evelyn Morrissey Family

**Saturday, January 14**

8:00 a.m. Special Intention  
4:00-4:45 p.m. Confession  
4:35 p.m. Rosary  
5:00 p.m. Children of Tom & Becky Jackson

**Sunday, January 15**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:10 a.m. Rosary  
7:30 a.m. Greg Mayer +  
9:40 a.m. Rosary  
10:00 a.m. Parish Family



## MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday, January 9 - The Baptism of the Lord** - Is 42:1-4,6-7/ Acts 10:34-38/ Mt 3:13-17

**Tuesday, January 10 - First Week in Ordinary Time** - Heb 2:5-12/ Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/ Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

**Wednesday, January 11** - Heb 2:14-18/ Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday, January 12** - Heb 3:7-14/ Mk 1:40-45

**Friday, January 13 - St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church** - Heb 4:1-5,11/ Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday, January 14** - Heb 4:12-16/ Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday, January 15 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** - Is 49:3, 5-6/ 1 Cor 1:1-3/ Jn 1:29-34

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 8, 2023

This weekend (January 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>), the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Epiphany** (which is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, but, in the United States, is transferred to the nearest Sunday). Historically, the **Nativity of the Lord** was originally celebrated by many Churches on this day (January 6<sup>th</sup>). This was changed, however, in AD 376 when the Holy See obliged all Churches to observe **Christmas** on December 25<sup>th</sup>, as was the practice in Rome.

As Christmas Day became universally set on our liturgical calendar, this day gained the name of the **Epiphany**. As “epiphany” means “manifestation,” this celebration recognizes Jesus’ three-fold manifestations to the world in the Magi, His Baptism in the Jordan, and the Wedding Feast of Cana. In the Magi, Gentiles approach Jesus bearing gifts. In His Baptism, the Holy Spirit descends upon Him and proclaims that He is the beloved Son of God. And, at the miracle of the Wedding Feast of Cana, our Lord begins His public ministry.

Normally, the **Solemnity of the Epiphany** is followed by the celebration of the **Baptism of the Lord** on the coming Sunday. However, as both **Christmas** and the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** fell on Sundays, the **Baptism of the Lord** is celebrated this coming Monday on this year’s liturgical calendar. This means that our Christmas season will, sadly, formally conclude tomorrow and we will enter anew into **Ordinary Time** this coming week.

With the coming end of the Christmas season, the majority of our Christmas decorations in the Church will come down and be stored away until next year. We will, however, leave the Nativity Scene within the Church up as a place for prayer until the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** (February 2<sup>nd</sup>). This idea comes from our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who, in a speech made in the Italian town of Greccio, described the Nativity Scene as a “living Gospel.”

Pope Francis explained: “*When, at Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms... The crib is more relevant than ever, while every day many weapons and so many violent images are made in the world, which enter the eyes and the heart. The crib is instead a handcrafted image of peace. This is why it is a living Gospel.*”

Taking the lead from our Holy Father, I invite and encourage you to spend time in quiet prayer before our Nativity Scene throughout the remainder of this month. Christmas is not just a memory; It is a reality. Just as Jesus Christ has entered into human history, so now He wishes to enter into our history, into our hearts. May we be prepared to celebrate every day as **Christmas Day** by helping to bring Jesus into the world through our very lives.

## EPIPHANY CHALK AND HOME BLESSING

The cover of this weekend’s bulletin offers a description of the Epiphany Home Blessing. Epiphany Chalk will be blessed at all Masses this weekend and will be available in the narthex as you leave. This powerful sacramental is a centuries-old practice that is meant to serve as a sign of our dedication to the Lord. In this blessing, we are to be reminded every time we see the inscription over the door that our homes and all those who dwell here belong to Christ.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for the various upcoming events here at St. Joseph. Next **Saturday (Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>)**, we are hosting the Northeast Indiana Right to Life’s Life Defenders Workshop in the Parish Social Hall from 9 AM to Noon. This is an event to all parishioners (7<sup>th</sup> Grade & up) and our local community.

On **Wed., Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>**, join us for a new **Catechism Chat at 7 PM** in the Parish Social Hall. Taking the place of our “Ask Father” sessions, this will be an open discussion forum as we look at the *Catechism* over this next year.

The following week, we are offering a free showing of **LIFEMARK** the movie on **Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM** in the Parish Gym and are the host site for a **Red Cross Blood Drive** on **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM, sponsored by our Knights of Columbus. ~Faithfully in n Christ, Fr. David



Becky Biberstein, Michael Green, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Carol Leitner, Pat Pfeifer, Troy Cook, Bobbie and Cheryl Jackson, Bonnie Burns, John Houlihan, Kimberly Abney, Sydnee Bradburn, Leanne Lee, Dr. Doug Phillips, Jeff Tillman, and Marj Pogue.

**G.I.R.L.'s night out**  
(Growing, Inspiring, Rejoicing, Loving)

We will hold our monthly meeting Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.

**Agenda:** Organizing for our Parish *Mardi Gras* Party on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>  
All women of the Parish are invited and welcome to attend!

**RIGHT TO LIFE OF NORTHEAST INDIANA  
LIFE DEFENDERS WORKSHOP**

**Join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana on  
Saturday, January 14th from 9am-Noon at St. Joseph's**

Many people today reject or are indifferent to the pro-life view, often because they've never heard the pro-life position presented in a compelling manner. Life Defenders prepares you to confidently communicate the pro-life position to others. Using both science and philosophy, you will learn to simplify the debate.

Come learn to speak intelligently and graciously about this pressing moral issue of our time: abortion. You'll be prepared to confidently persuade others by exposing the logical fallacies of abortion-choice rhetoric without the need for vitriol and angry dialogue.

**Workshop open to students (7<sup>th</sup> grade and older) and adults.**

Visit: [ichooselife.org/LDBluffton](http://ichooselife.org/LDBluffton) or call 260-471-1849 to register.

**PARISH CALENDAR**

- **Sat., Jan. 7** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 8** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / Mass 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 8** - Religious Ed Classes resume - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Tues., Jan. 10** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Jan. 10** - G.I.R.L.'s Night Out - Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall
- **Wed., Jan. 11** - Adoration - 6-7 p.m. / Confession 6-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Jan. 11** - Adult Choir Practice - 7:30 p.m.
- **Thurs., Jan. 12** - Catholicism Explained (RCIA Program) - 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall.
- **Sat., Jan. 14** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30-9:00 a.m.
- **Sat., Jan. 14** - Right to Life of Northeast Indiana- Life Defenders Workshop 9:00 a.m. to Noon in the Parish Social Hall.
- **Sat., Jan. 14** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 15** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / Mass 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 15** - Religious Ed. Classes - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Tues., Jan. 17** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Wed., Jan. 18** - Adoration - 6-7 p.m. / Confession 6-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Jan. 18** - Adult Choir Practice - 7:30 p.m.
- **Wed., Jan. 18** - Catechism Chat - 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall
- **Thurs., Jan. 19** - Catholicism Explained (RCIA Program) - 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall.
- **Sat., Jan. 21** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30-9:00 a.m.
- **Sat., Jan. 21** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sat., Jan. 21** - *Lifemark* Movie - following 5:00 Mass showing in the Parish gym.
- **Sun., Jan. 22** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / Mass 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 22** - Religious Ed. Classes - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Sun., Jan. 22** - Red Cross Blood Drive - 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Weekend of January 14 and 15, 2023**



**5:00** Nick Boratenski  
**7:30** Mike Morrissey  
**10:00** Josie Andrews



**5:00** Ginny Fenstermaker  
**7:30** Ben Wagner  
**10:00** Monica Harris



**5:00** Volunteers  
**7:30** Volunteers  
**10:00** Volunteers



**5:00** Angel or Zoe Soto, Isaiah/Melanie Bedwell  
**7:30** Abby/Adrienne Wagner, Charlene Felger  
**10:00** Grant Reifsteck, Gabby/Olivia Hoffacker

**St. Joseph Parish Finance Report  
for the Weekend of December 31/  
January 1**

Adult Envelopes- \$3,896.00  
Loose- \$210.00  
Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$1,436.00  
Christmas Offering- \$570.00  
Solemnity of Mary- \$831.00  
Votive Candles- \$87.13

**Total- \$7,030.13**

**Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40**  
We are \$1,913.73 ahead of our budget for the month of January.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$60.00

*Your gifts to St. Joseph Parish  
are greatly appreciated.  
Thank you!*

**[osvonlinegiving.com/4741](http://osvonlinegiving.com/4741)**



***Catechism Chat***

**Wednesday, Jan. 18th at 7:30 p.m.  
Parish Social Hall**

Bring your questions and insights from your journey through the *Catechism*

***LIFEMARK***

***A True Story of Life, Adoption, Forgiveness and Joy***

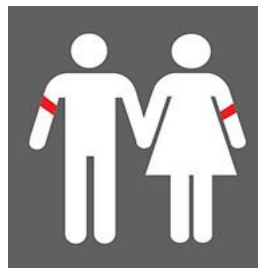


**Join us for a free showing of *LIFEMARK*  
on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.,  
at St. Joseph's in the Parish Gymnasium**

Inspired by an incredible true story that celebrates the gift of life, *LIFEMARK* follows the story of David as his comfortable world is turned upside down. David's birthmother unexpectedly reaches out to him, longing to meet the 18-year-old son she had only held once in her life. With encouragement from his adoptive parents, David embarks on a life changing journey of discovery that leads to a staggering truth from his past.

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Sunday, January 22, 2023 from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #7555**



**Help save a life.**  
Schedule your  
blood donation  
appointment today.

Please make an  
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Francisco Sanchez, Parishioner



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*Jean Phelps,* (Parishioner)  
M.A., NCC, LMHC, LCAC, CADAC, ICAC, CCDP-D

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**Dan Gordon, Parishioner**  
**Matt Hayes, Parishioner at**  
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Dr. Jennifer L. Wagner, Au.D.  
**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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Thursday's: 3pm-8pm  
Friday's: 3pm-8pm  
Saturday's: Noon-8pm

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-St. Mother Teresa

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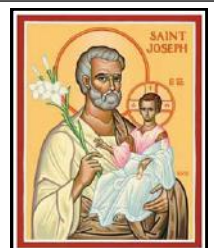
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Pray for Us!