



# Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

132 Butcher Street, Bethalto, IL 62010

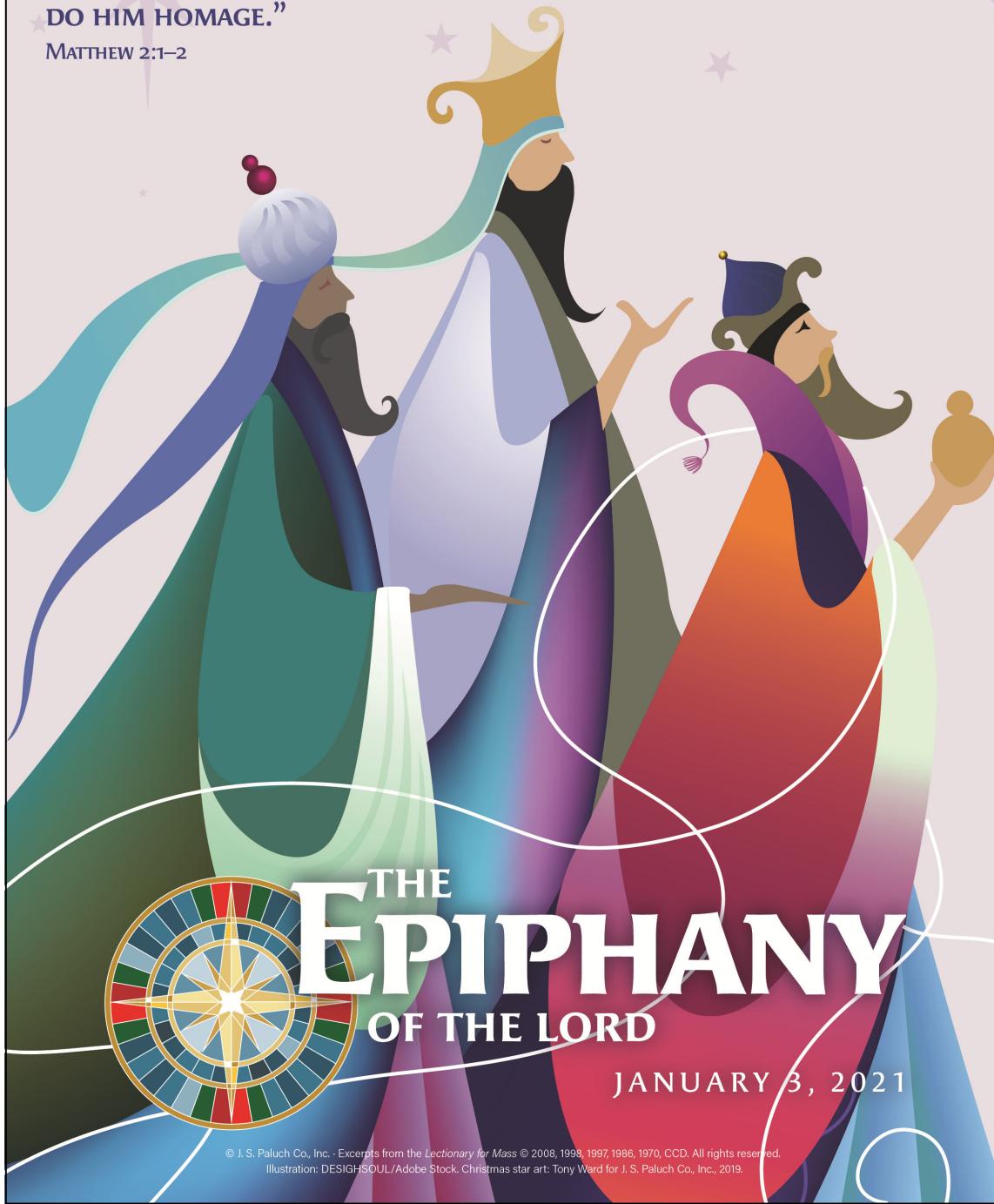
Website: <https://www.olqpbethalto.org/parish/>

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Fr. Tom Liebler, Pastor

Rectory: 618-377-6519; Cell: 618-409-7444; Email: [tliebler@aol.com](mailto:tliebler@aol.com)

MAGI FROM THE EAST ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM, SAYING,  
“WHERE IS THE NEWBORN KING OF THE JEWS?  
WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING AND HAVE COME TO  
DO HIM HOMAGE.”

MATTHEW 2:1-2



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## PARISH OFFICE

Hours:

Mon.-Thurs.,  
8:30—4:30  
(closed 12-1  
For lunch)

Email: [church@olqpbethalto.org](mailto:church@olqpbethalto.org)

Phone:

618-377-6519

Fax:

618-377-9550

Office Manager:

Terri Zykan

Secretary & SCRIP

Coordinator:

Bea Albarado

## PARISH SCHOOL

Principal:

Steve Menke  
618-377-6401,  
Fax: 618-377-6146

Email:

[smenke@olqpbethalto.org](mailto:smenke@olqpbethalto.org)  
School Secretary:

Elaine Withers,

E-mail:

[ewithers@olqpbethalto.org](mailto:ewithers@olqpbethalto.org)

Website:

[www.olqpbethalto.org](http://www.olqpbethalto.org)

## Epiphany of the Lord

### **Mass Intentions**

<b>Sat., Jan. 2</b>	<b>Sts. Basil &amp; Gregory</b>
4:30 pm	Ken Weber
<b>Sun., Jan. 3</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
8:30 am	Nick Gray
10:30 am	For the Parishioners
<b>Mon., Jan. 4</b>	<b>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</b>
8:30 am	Ray Matthews
<b>Tues., Jan. 5</b>	<b>St. John Neumann</b>
8:30 am	Jerry Durbin
<b>Wed., Jan. 6</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
6:30 pm	Lee Bernt
<b>Thur., Jan. 7</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
8:30 am	Virginia Forehand
<b>Fri., Jan. 8</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
9:00 am	John Nagy
<b>Sat., Jan. 9</b>	<b>Christmas Weekday</b>
4:30 pm	Aloys Fuhler
<b>Sun., Jan. 10</b>	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>
8:30 am	Matthew Zini
10:30 am	For the Parishioners

### **Prayer Requests**

**The sick:** Conor Vogel, Keita Salantai, Mary Wagner, Charlie Mattingly, Noah Rogers, Becky Gray, Marguerite Hufker, Dan McRae, Mary Overton, Don Laird, Maxine Calhoon, Gloria Matthews, Dianne Morin, Tim Friedel, Vi Perkhiser, Derek Trent, Jane Rood, Bev Randolph, Gloria Hall, John Richter, Tim Zacha, Bob Maronie, Jennifer Price, Bob Graham, Kenneth Korsmeyer. **For prayer requests in the bulletin, call the parish office, 377-6519. For prayer requests to be added to the email prayer chain, send requests to Marie at [rejoy128@gmail.com](mailto:rejoy128@gmail.com)**



### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Bethalto Council #4688, 4th Degree #203, Grand Knight:

Ryan Frazier; Email: [bethalknights@gmail.com](mailto:bethalknights@gmail.com)

Website: [www.bethalknights.org](http://www.bethalknights.org)

### **Parish Annual Report**

Copies of the Parish Financial Annual Report ending 6/30/2020 can be picked up in the church vestibules. Questions, call Father Tom in the parish office, 377-6519.

### **Attention Parents of Confirmandi**

Confirmation will take place next spring for students in grades 3, 6, 7 & 8, who have been attending preparation classes (in our parish school and at home). The students will be spread out over six different dates, in order to keep in accord with any guidelines at that time for social distancing. These dates are listed below. Watch the bulletin for more information to come!

April 12	April 19
April 13	April 20
April 15	April 22



### **Dear Parishioners,**

We have made it through 2020 and now we have the promise that 2021 will be a better year. Obviously it will not have to do much to beat 2020. It has been a year in which we have seen something that all of us never thought that we would see...the dispensation to attend Sunday mass. The dispensation to attend mass is naturally still in effect, but with the coming of the vaccines we can hope that it will not be necessary in the near future. If we can get to that moment when most of us have received the vaccine and that we do not have to fear the virus anymore, then we can get our parish family back together at mass. Let us pray that day will come very soon and that we will have a year that is truly a blessing for all of us. May God bless you and our parish family now and throughout this New Year of Grace. Also I would like to thank everyone who remembered me this Christmas with a gift. I truly appreciate your kindness.

*Father Tom*

### **Leading Us to Love**

*"They were overjoyed at seeing the star ..."*

**Matthew 2:10**

Epiphany. The word itself means "appearance" or "manifestation." Today's reading recounts the journey of the magi to encounter the Christ Child in Bethlehem. They were told to look for the presence of the star as the sign of where to go, how to find him. We are still seeking such revelation today, yearning, as were the magi, to find the presence of the Lord. We are each on a similar journey, experiencing a deep knowing that there is a greater purpose, a more meaningful connection, a longing for something more. The ways of the world will never lead us there, will never fill our empty places, will never quell our restlessness. Someone described it once to me as a vague sense of homesickness. Just as it was for the magi, our best course is to follow the light that leads us to love. If we feel lost, we turn our gaze up.

*Kristin Armstrong*

*Living Faith*

*January, February, March 2021 Issue*

### **Offerings**

Week 24 & 25	Dec. 12-13, 2020	Total to Date
Loose	\$64.00	\$5,345.29
Envelopes	\$17,444.66	\$214,241.16
On Line Giving	\$5,476.00	\$66,220.00
Young People	\$3.00	\$45.00
Total	\$22,987.66	\$285,851.45
Operating Budget	\$27,426.92	\$342,836.50
ACSA Budget	\$2,842.24	\$35,528.00
Difference	<b>(\$7,281.50)</b>	<b>(\$92,513.05)</b>

**Envelopes received: 250 of 801**  
**Building Maintenance Fund Donations: \$280.00**  
**Other Charitable Donations: \$2,325.00**

**January 3, 2021**

### **Altar Poinsettias Memorials**

-Paul Gehrs  
**Herman & Bertha Gehrs Family**  
**Menard, Pauline & Kathy Etter**  
 By Judy Gehrs  
**-Karl Oller**  
**Francis, Nellie, Jerry & Marion Durbin**  
 By Dee Oller  
**-Edward Pilgrim**  
 By Jean Pilgrim



### **20 New Year's Resolutions to Help You Grow in Faith This Year**

1. Read Your Bible 20 Minutes a Day, Every Day
2. Go to Church Every Week Without Fail
3. Set Aside 15 Minutes Each Day to Pray
4. Join a Bible Study
5. Try Fasting
6. Ask a Friend to Church
7. Begin Volunteering
8. Start Tithing
9. Read A Christian Book Each Month
10. Memorize Scripture
11. Forgive Past Grudges
12. Break an Addiction
13. Find a Mentor or Accountability Partner
14. Be a More Loving/Involved Wife, Husband or Friend
15. Be Content With What You Have
16. Keep the Sabbath
17. Refuse to Gossip
18. Listen to Christian Music
19. Stop Complaining
20. Do Random Acts of Kindness

<https://equippinggodlywomen.com/faith/christian-new-years-resolutions/>

### **Happy New Year!**

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### **Restore, Rekindle, Renew Enrichment**

7-Session Virtual Enrichment Experience for your Marriage:  
**Mon/ Thur Evenings: Jan. 18 thru Feb. 8, 7 p.m.** Apply online:  
<https://stl-wwme.org> Or for more Info Call: 314-649-7317

### **Parishioner Information**

(New Members & Changes)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate item(s):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Parishioner     | <input type="checkbox"/> Send Envelopes    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Phone—Email     | <input type="checkbox"/> New Baby          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address   | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaving Parish    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wish Father to call | <input type="checkbox"/> Illness in Family |

### **A Meditation for the Epiphany**

The following reflection is courtesy of Don Schwager © 2020. Don's website is located at [Dailyscripture.net](http://Dailyscripture.net)

If Jesus truly is who he claims to be, the eternal Son of God and Savior of the world, then why is he not recognized by everyone who hears his word and sees his works? John the Evangelist states that when Jesus came into the world the world knew him not and his own people received

him not (John 1:10-11). Jesus was born in obscurity. Only the lowly shepherds recognized him at his birth. Some wise men also found their way to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn King of Israel. These men were not Israelites, but foreigners. They likely had read and discussed the Messianic prophecies and were anxious to see when this Messianic King would appear. God led them by means of an extraordinary star across the desert to the little town of Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

John Chrysostom (347-407), in his homily on this passage from Matthew 2, explains the significance of the star of Bethlehem: "Note how fitting was the order of events: the wise men saw the star, were received by the Jews and their king; they heard prophecy to explain what had appeared; the angel instructed them; and then they journeyed from Jerusalem to Bethlehem by the guidance of the star. From all this we learn that this was not an ordinary star, for no other star has this capacity to guide, not merely to move but to beckon, to "go before them," drawing and guiding them along their way. The star remained after bringing them to the place, in order that the child might also be seen. For there is nothing conspicuous about the place. The inn was ordinary. The mother was not celebrated or notable. The star was needed to manifest and illumine the lowly place, until they had reached their destination at the manger." [The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 7:3]

In their thirst for knowledge of God, the wise men from the East willingly left everything, their home and country, in pursuit of that quest. In their diligent search they were led to the source of true knowledge - to Jesus Christ, the Light and Wisdom of God. When they found the newborn King they humbly worshiped him and gave him gifts fitting for a king.

The Lord of the universe who revealed the star of Bethlehem to the Gentiles of the East so they could come and worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and King of Kings (Revelations 19:16), gives each one of us the same light of revelation to recognize and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. It is through the help of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and opens the eyes of the mind, that we are able to understand, accept, and believe the truth which God has revealed to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. In faith, the human will and intellect cooperate with grace. "Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace" (Thomas Aquinas).

To know and to encounter Jesus Christ is to know God personally. In the encounter of the wise men with Jesus we see the plan of God to give his only Son as King and Savior, not just for the Jewish people but for all the nations as well. The Lord Jesus came that both Jew and Gentile might find true and lasting peace with God. Let us pray today that Jew and Gentile alike will find the Lord and Savior on their journey of life. Do you bring the light of Jesus Christ to those you meet through the witness of your life and testimony?

"Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for bringing salvation to all the nations. May the gospel of salvation be proclaimed to every nation today and to every person on the face of the earth. Help me to be a good witness of the joy of the gospel to all I meet."



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