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# The Epiphany of the Lord

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JANUARY 4, 2025

## FOLLOW THE LIGHT



### THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60: 1-6

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

**Gospel:** Matthew 2: 1-12

**Focus:** *God has revealed a great light in the darkness.*

As we celebrate Epiphany, our readings today remind us of the power of God's revelation. Throughout history, God has promised salvation. Today we celebrate some of the first witnesses of this great event, the Magi. May we deepen our faith as we, too, journey to be closer to Christ.

### Liturgy of the Word:

Isaiah calls Jerusalem to rise up in splendor, for their light has come ... Nations shall walk by it and all shall gather and proclaim the praises of the Lord. Paul writes to the Ephesians that it has now been revealed ... by the Spirit: That the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body and copartners in the promise in Christ. In the Gospel, the Magi arrive in Jerusalem seeking the newborn king of the Jews. They follow a star to where he lay, bringing him gifts and paying him homage.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**5 p.m.:** Danielle Brooks Foreman, Herb Vogel, Gregory Coatti and Deacon John

**10 a.m.:** Laurence O'Brien, Jessica Lancellotti, Rosalina & Domingo Rodriguez and Jon Van Tassel



### WE ARE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

If this happens to be your first visit to our church:

**WELCOME!**

The faith community of St. Paul's wants you to know that no matter what your present status is in the Catholic Church; or your current family or marital situation; no matter what your past or present religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, you are invited, welcome and respected here, at St. Paul's!

### WITH MUCH GRATITUDE



... for the many gifts – wrapped and spiritual – given to Father Sean, Deacon Carl and Deacon Michael at Christmas and throughout the year.



... for Pam Vogt and her team of more than 20 Christian Services elves for shopping, filling and distributing more than 150 boxes of food between Thanksgiving and Christmas. And much of the food is purchased with your contributions!



...for your memorial flower donations used for the poinsettias, wreaths and decorations placed throughout the church by Anne Savistano, head of Art & Environment ministry, and volunteers.



...for the gift of music at the Christmas Masses, including the engaging Christmas Eve Youth Choir, all under the direction of Debbe Garry.



... for the Christmas Pageant coordinated by Rebecca Suchy, who makes it look easy! And thanks to our youngsters for their enthusiasm.



... for another successful Giving Tree organized by Therese Quinn. Because of your participation as well, Christmas morning was brighter for 175 children.



... for all of you. You are the heartbeat of our very special St. Paul's, which is known for its warmth and many avenues of outreach to those in need of kindness.



**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Even after coordinating the Christmas Pageant for 25 years, Rebecca Suchy is still quick to say how much she loves what she does. Not only has it grown to become a Suchy family

tradition, but it remains a very meaningful way – and most parishioners would agree – to be reminded of the reason for the season.

“When the youth tell the story, it brings home the real meaning of Christmas,” she says. “They are so innocent, so pure. ... and this was a particularly enthusiastic and energetic group.”

As Deacon Michael adds before his homily that follows, “I can’t top that, so I’ll be brief.”

Sure, everyone breathes a little easier when it’s over, as there can be last-minute illnesses or stage fright with which to contend. But this year, the magic didn’t end with the pageant. When the children returned to the hall after Mass, Baby Jesus was taken from the manger and remained the center of attention!



**BOOK CLUB’S NEXT CHAPTER**

The **Book Club** resumes via Zoom at 10 a.m. next **Thursday, January 9**, with a discussion of the first three chapters of “How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen” by David Brooks (Amazon \$13.58). As the author says: “There is one skill that lies at the heart of any healthy person, family, school, community organization or society: The ability to see someone else deeply and make them feel seen – to accurately know another person, to let them feel valued, heard and understood.”

Yet, most of us fall short in this arena.

Brooks draws from myriad professions to present a hopeful and integrated look at human connection.

New members are always welcome. Contact the office or Deacon Carl ([carlloc@yahoo.com](mailto:carlloc@yahoo.com)) for details and the Zoom link.

**SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION**

Beginning **January 13**, the **Scripture Discussion** group will discuss “The Ignatius Study Bible: The Letters of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, Timothy and Titus.” The Zoom meetings take place from 10-11:15 a.m. Mondays.

Former members and new members are welcome. Contact Gail Van Tassel at 845-457-3432 or [gailvantassel@yahoo.com](mailto:gailvantassel@yahoo.com) to join and to get the book.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Regular Sunday Collection

**December 23-29: \$ 4,727.20**

Envelopes: \$ 1,758.00 – Online: \$ 2,969.20

**Christmas Collection to date: \$ 7,464.00**

Envelopes: \$ 4,874.00 – Online: \$ 2,590.00

**THANK YOU!**



