

Catholic Parishes of St. Luke and St. Joseph
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www.stsjlj.com

Diocese of Peoria
Bishop Louis Tylka

Pastor
Father Ryan Mattingly

Confessions

St. Luke
Saturday before Mass 3:00 - 3:45 pm

St. Joseph
Sunday before Mass 9:30 - 9:45 am

Bulletin announcements and calendar changes should be typed and submitted by Tuesday to the parish office or emailed to saintluke.eureka@gmail.com



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, behold, 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.'

Mt 2:1-2

The Epiphany of the Lord *January 7, 2024*

Dear Parishioners,

One would think the Jews would most easily recognize and rejoice in the coming of the Messiah. All of the prophets and their history were preparing them for this moment. They even know where He is to be born, Bethlehem, as the answer of the chief priests and scribes to Herod's inquiry makes clear. Yet, besides a few shepherds, none of Christ's own people welcome Him. The residents of Bethlehem are entirely unaware of His existence. The people of Jerusalem don't bother to investigate even after the Magi clue them in.

Instead of God's people, it is three pagan foreigners, the magi, who see Christ for who He is. By practicing astrology, they have learned a new King of the Jews has been born. Unlike the chief priests and scribes, they are spurred to action, making a long and dangerous trek to His birthplace. Upon finding Him, they bow down in worship and offer rich gifts.

The entire event is rife with irony. The ones expected to respond do not and those seen as entirely separated from God do. The Bethlehemites offer no welcome or interest. The magi adore and burn with desire to see the Christ. The chief priests and scribes correctly interpret prophecy but it does not bring about an encounter with God. The magi use pagan superstition, astrology, and by God's intervention find the Lord. God's people do not know Him while pagans do.

The irony continues throughout Christ's life. The years of His public life are marked by poverty, for He has nowhere to lay His head, and His people will strip Him of even His clothing before hanging Him on the cross. The magi bring Him gold, a gift of wealth fit for a king. Christ's preaching, miracles, and identity as the Son of His Father will be rejected and mocked by the Pharisees, priests, and scribes. The magi bring Him frankincense, used in both Pagan and Jewish worship, in honor of His divinity. The Jews will conspire to have our Lord killed, not even providing a tomb. The magi bring myrrh, used to anoint bodies before burial, to provide for his death.

We can draw two conclusions from the unexpected way events unfold. For those of us of faith, we should avoid becoming too comfortable that we have it all figured out. The Jews rightly took great pride in being God's people, but they also refused to be open to His presence because they were certain they knew how God would appear. For those of us struggling in faith, we should never despair of drawing close to God. Three magi were led to the Lord of all creation despite their false beliefs and their estrangement from God as Gentiles. The Lord can burst through any situation and will do so to lead all the nations and peoples of the world to adore Him.

In Christ,
Fr. Mattingly

Mass Schedule & Intentions

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Sat, Jan. 6 | Vigil for Sunday |
| 4:00 pm at St. Luke | Renee & Bud Stratton by Donna & Mike Reese |
| 5:30 pm at St. Joseph | Intention of the Celebrant |
| Sunday, Jan. 7 | The Epiphany of the Lord |
| 8:00 am at St. Luke | Pro Populo |
| 10:00am at St. Joseph | Kenneth Wiegand by Eric & Tammi Schultz |
| Monday, Jan. 8 | The Baptism of the Lord |
| 8:00 am at St. Luke | Joseph and Vera Leonard by Thomas |
| Tue, Jan. 9 | Weekday |
| 8:00 am at St. Luke | Mary Eileen Faupel |
| Wed, Jan. 10 | Weekday |
| 9:00 am at St. Luke | Robert & Anne Maria Miller by Janis Plattner |
| Thur, Jan. 11 | Weekday |
| 8:00 am at St. Joseph | Donna Coffey by Stephen Coffey |
| Fri, Jan. 12 | Weekday |
| 8:00 am at St. Joseph | Grace Dickinson by Marilyn Weidner |
| Sat, Jan. 13 | Vigil for Sunday |
| 4:00 pm at St. Luke | Pro Populo |
| 5:30 pm at St. Joseph | Gioletti Family by Ann Gioletti |
| Sunday, Jan. 14 | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 8:00 am at St. Luke | Richard Ashbrook by Dave & Paula Hise |
| 10:00am at St. Joseph | Intention of the Celebrant |



St. Joseph's received a memorial for Joseph and Antionette Amigoni. May their souls rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon them.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 8

8:30 am Rosary (St. Luke)

Wednesday, January 10

8:00 am Adoration (St. Luke)

6:30 pm Scriptural Rosary (St. Joseph)

Sunday, January 14

9:00 am Faith Formation (St. Joseph & St. Luke)

9:00 am Adult Education (St. Luke)

9:30 am Rosary (St. Joseph)



STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of December 31

Week: 26

| | St. Luke | St. Joseph |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Weekly Offerings | \$ 1,155.09 | \$ 790.85 |
| Building Fund Offerings | <i>see Roof Fund</i> | \$ 120.00 |
| Votive Candles Offerings | | \$ 4.00 |
| Total Weekly Collection | \$ 1,155.09 | \$ 914.85 |
| Budgeted Weekly Collection | \$ 2,314.63 | \$ 1,425.00 |
| Year to Date Total | \$ 72,852.40 | \$ 38,832.19 |
| Budgeted INCOME YTD | \$ 60,180.25 | \$ 37,050.00 |
| Surplus or Deficit YTD | \$ 12,672.15 | \$ 1,782.19 |

Thank YOU for your Generosity!

ST. LUKE'S ROOF FUND

(\$45,000 GOAL)

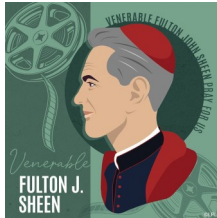
DONATIONS this week \$

TOTAL -To-Date \$ 35,719.11

Percentage 79.4%

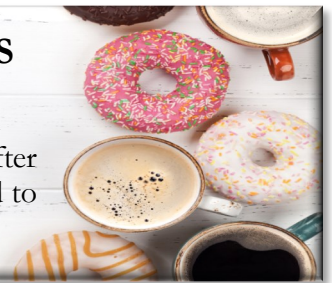
Archbishop Fulton Sheen - Servant of All

You are invited to a documentary film titled *Archbishop Fulton Sheen - Servant of All*. On Sunday, January 21st after the 8am Mass at St. Luke's in the cry room area. All are welcome.



COFFEE AND DONUTS

Coffee and donuts will be served Sunday, January 7 at St. Luke's after the 8:00 am mass. All are invited to attend.



FOOD, FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK

St. Joseph's Food, Faith and Fellowship Potluck will be held on January 7 after the 10:00 am Mass. The main dish will be pulled pork. Everyone is welcome!



Happy Birthday

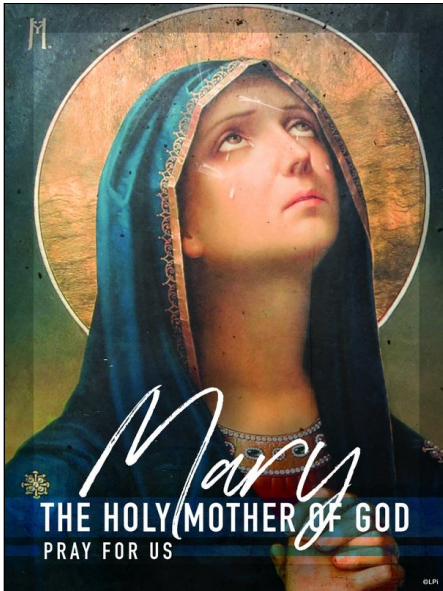
Father Mattingly will be celebrating his birthday on Tuesday, January 9. We wish him a very happy and blessed birthday!



Entrust 2024 to the Mother of God

Excerpt from the Homily of the Holy Father *

Holy Mass on the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God and the 57th World Day of Peace, 01.01.2024



“Just as Mary, the woman, played a decisive role in the fullness of time, she is also decisive in the lives of each of us, for no one knows better than a Mother the stages of growth and the urgent needs of her children. Mary shows us this in yet another “beginning”: the first sign that Jesus performs, at the wedding feast of Cana. There, she is the one who realizes that the wine has run out, and who appeals to Jesus (cf. Jn 2:3). The needs of her children move her, the Mother, to beg Jesus to intervene. At Cana, Jesus says: “Fill the jars with water”. And they filled them up to the brim” (Jn 2:7). Mary knows our needs; she intercedes to make grace overflow in our lives and to guide them to authentic fulfilment. Brothers and sisters, all of us have our shortcomings, our times of loneliness, our inner emptiness that cries out to be filled. Each of us knows this well. Who can fill our emptiness if not Mary, the Mother of fullness? Whenever we are tempted to retreat into ourselves, let us

run to her; whenever we are no longer able to untie the knots in our lives, let us seek refuge in her. Our times, bereft of peace, need a Mother who can reunite the human family. Let us look to Mary, in order to become artisans of unity. Let us do so with her maternal creativity and concern for her children. For she unites them and consoles them; she listens to their troubles and she dries their tears. And let us look upon that tender icon of the *Virgo lactans* [of Montevergine Abbey]. That is how our mother is with: how tenderly she looks after us and draws close to us. She cares for us and remains close to us.

Let us entrust this coming year to the Mother of God. Let us consecrate our lives to her. With tender love, she will open our eyes to their fullness. For she will lead us to Jesus, who is himself “the fullness of time”, of every time, of our own time, of each one of us.

Brothers and sisters, may this year be filled with the consolation of the Lord! May this year be filled with the tender maternal love of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

I now invite all of us together to proclaim three times: Holy Mother of God! Holy Mother of God! Holy Mother of God!”

*The complete homily can be found at <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/01/01/240101a.html>

Epiphany Home Blessing

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, to the Shepherds, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding at Cana. Today we celebrate that Christ is manifest to us! Because of our faith, this home is a holy place because Christ has been made known to us and we have chosen to follow him.

A member of the household traces the inscription (20 + CMB + 24) above the main entry door, while the corresponding words are proclaimed.

Leader: The three wise men,
Caspar, [write the "C"]
Melchior, and [write the "M"]
Balthasar, [write the "B"]
followed the star of God's Son who became one like us
two thousand and [write the "20"]
twenty-four years ago. [write the "24"]
May our home be blessed to be a place where Christ's name is praised [write the first "+"]
And may Christ dwell in our hearts and minds throughout the year. [write the second "+"]

Leader: Let us pray in the words our Savior taught us:

All: Our Father...

Leader: Let us pray. Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who visit and inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: May almighty God bless us, protect us, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Wise
Men
Still
Seek Him



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