

MASS INTENTIONS/LITURGIES

JANUARY 4-12, 2025

Saturday, January 4 | 4:00 p.m. Mass (ST. PAT)*Paul Kaseman by Michael Kaseman***6:00 p.m. Mass (SMOW)***Mary, Queen of Angels Parishioners***Sunday, January 5 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (SMOW)***Mary Wischmeyer by Denny & Karen Wischmeyer***10:00 a.m. Mass (ST. PAT)***Gertie Arbogast by Her Family***Tuesday, January 7 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (ST. PAT)***Ethel Houchins by the Wednesday Card Club***Wednesday, January 8 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (SMOW)****CANCELLED****Thursday, January 9 | 6:15 p.m. Mass (SMOW)****6:45 p.m. Adoration/Confession***Jeanette Grieshop by Carl & Cathy Koesters***Friday, January 10 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (SMOW)****8:45 a.m. Confession***Richard Garrett by Steve & Janet Grothaus***Saturday, January 11 | 3:00 p.m. Confession (ST. PAT)****4:00 p.m. Mass (ST. PAT)***Ralph Clement by The Clement Family***6:00 p.m. Mass (SMOW)***John Keating by Dale & Kathy Klosterman***Sunday, January 12 | 8:00 a.m. Mass (SMOW)***Mary, Queen of Angels Parishioners***10:00 a.m. Mass (ST. PAT)***George Lear by Sylvia Lear***THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 5, 2025**

"O God, Who by the guidance of a star didst this day reveal Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we, who know Thee now by faith, may be so led as to behold with our eyes the beauty of Thy majesty. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen."

LITURGICAL MINISTERS JANUARY 11-12, 2025**ST. MARY OF THE WOODS****6:00 P.M. SATURDAY**

SERVERS: Orville Winner, Lucas Klinker,
Michael Klinker, Henry Dillon

READER: Jennifer Klinker

USHERS: Willie Dearwester, Volunteers

CANTORS: The Winners

SACRISTAN: Donna Hesser

8:00 A.M. SUNDAY

SERVERS: Caleb Altstaetter, Jase Thompson,
Wyatt Zumberger, Adam Luthman

READER: Brandi Altstaetter

EEM: Jim Thiel

USHERS: Phil Altstaetter, Jeff Codora,
Charles Seimet, Deb Seimet

CANTOR: Deb Ulrey, Donna True, Rebecca Bihn

SACRISTAN: Laurie Stroebel

ST. PATRICK**4:00 P.M. SATURDAY**

SERVERS: Kaije Snider, Lexi McKirahan,
Miley McKirahan, McKenzie Vaido

READERS: Deb Baker, Tim Smith

EEM: Theresa Dunn

10:00 A.M. SUNDAY

SERVERS: Spencer Stolly, Sennett Stolly,
Sloan Stolly, Patrick Stolly

READERS: Mary Giannola, Bob Rhoades

EEM: Sharon Traul

YOUR TITHE TO GOD

Information unavailable at time of print

**K O C CHRISTMAS
PARTY BREAKFAST**

The Knights of Columbus are having a Christmas party breakfast after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on January 5th and would like to invite everyone to join us.

ATTENTION, LAY MINISTERS

Therese Calland is now preparing the Ministry Schedules for both SMOW and St. Patrick. Please forward your requested dates that you cannot serve to Therese's email address at tcalland328@gmail.com. Therese is asking for this information by the 10th of the month prior to the month being scheduled. Thank you for your cooperation!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

OF JANUARY 5, 2025

- Sunday:** Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12
- Monday:** First John 3:22-4:6
Psalms 2:7bc-8, 10-12a
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday:** First John 4:7-10
Psalms 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8
Mark 6:34-44
- Wednesday:** First John 4:11-18
Psalms 72:1-2, 10, 12-13
Mark 6:45-52
- Thursday:** First John 4:19 - 5:4
Psalms 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17
Luke 4:14-22
- Friday:** First John 5:5-13
Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
Luke 5:12-16
- Saturday:** First John 5:14-21
Psalms 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b
John 3:22-30
- Sunday:** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalms 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

Whether you recently moved here or are just visiting, we are happy to have you here with us. If you would like to join one of our parishes, please contact the Parish Office for a registration form.

St. Mary of the Woods
464 Madison Avenue
Russells Point, OH 43348
937-843-3127
saintmaryofthewoods.com

St. Patrick Church
320 East Patterson Avenue
Bellefontaine, OH 43311
937-592-1656
queenofangelsfamily.com



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"WHAT KIND OF PRAYER IS... 'OH, LORD, NOT HIM AGAIN'... MR. WILSON?"



Most Holy and Blessed Trinity, receive our humble petitions for this new year. We offer our prayers for the pope and for those who shepherd Your Church. Bestow Your grace upon all the faithful. Illuminate

the paths of those who have not yet found You. Touch the hearts of those who have strayed, that they might find their way back to Your loving embrace.

Grant our world prosperity, and let peace reign among all peoples. We ask for Your abundant blessings to be upon those dear to us - family, friends, and companions - and yes, even upon those who may stand against us.

Extend Your loving hand to those suffering in poverty or illness. Remember in Your mercy the souls of our departed who left us this past year, and be gentle with those who will be called to stand before You in the year to come.

May Your divine inspiration guide the beginning of all our endeavors in this new year, and Your loving presence sustain them to completion, so that all we do might begin and end in You.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

NOTICE:

Eucharistic Adoration will be held at SMOW from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. on January 8.



If you wish to receive a Statement of Parish Contributions for the year 2024 for tax filing purposes, please complete the form below and place it in the offertory basket.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Registered at SMOW or St. Patrick (circle one)

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Our Nativity scenes seem incomplete until the 12th day of Christmas when the Magi finally arrive at Jesus' crib for the first celebration of the Epiphany. Although Matthew is the only evangelist to mention the Magi, they've become essential to our Christmas scenes. What do they tell us about the Gospel?

Matthew wrote his Gospel for a Jewish-Christian audience, followers of Jesus who understood themselves as God's chosen people. Their first make-it-or-break-it challenge came when "pagans" (Gentiles) were being baptized without also becoming Jews (Acts 15:1-30). Matthew's story of the Magi challenged the orthodox party that tried to close ranks and keep the community "pure."

Matthew gives minimal attention to Jesus' birth: it is mentioned only in the opening line of today's Gospel. Matthew's key Nativity characters are Joseph, the angel and the Magi. Mary is a supporting character; she gives birth and is at home when the Magi arrive. We think of the Magi as three, based only on the gifts they bore. In reality, they probably traveled as a caravan – they needed a sizable group to protect their valuable cargo.

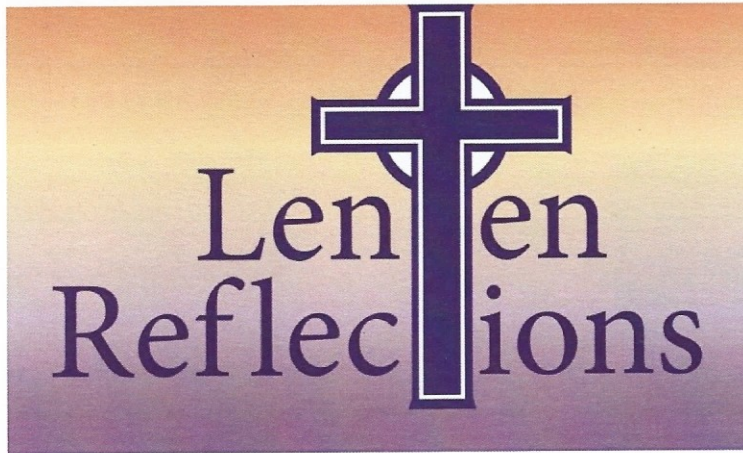
Let's assume that the Magi were a caravan of seekers. Religious pilgrims in every sense of the term, they sought a deeper understanding of the mysteries of life. Specialists in reading the heavens, they scrutinized the skies and set out as pilgrims when a portentous sign appeared outside of their homeland. Like anyone awestruck at the proliferation of stars, the seemingly endless ocean or the grandeur of mountains, they had discovered an exceptional star and knew it heralded something spectacular. Some combination of curiosity, yearning of heart and a conviction that there was more to life than they already knew impelled them to pack their most valuable gifts and venture into the unknown, ready to welcome whatever they might find.

Their journey led them to one of the world's greatest despots, and to priests and scribes who couldn't fathom their curiosity and desire. For different reasons, both Herod and the religious leaders found the Magi's quest threatening. When the humble Magi asked for expert help, they heard from scholars who studied the Scriptures but failed to internalize their message. With no perception of the irony of pointing Gentiles toward their Messiah, they informed the Magi that the prophecies all pointed toward Bethlehem. So, the pilgrims journeyed to Bethlehem where they discovered the child and his mother. There they did what they had set out to do: They gave homage to someone about whom they knew nothing except that his star enticed them.

Matthew uses the word "homage" three times in this short story. What is homage? The Greek word Matthew used has a variety of meanings including to bow down, to prostrate oneself, to kneel before another and even to kiss. We easily picture them bowing or kneeling, but did you ever imagine the Magi kissing the baby? After all, it's a normal response to seeing a little child and a gentle, loving sign of acceptance and willingness to protect. Finally, to concretize their homage, the Magi presented their gifts and returned home "another way," changed people who had recognized what others refused to see.

As the liturgical season of Christmas draws to a close, the story of the Magi doesn't complete the season as much as it invites us to look again. These seekers invite us to scrutinize the signs around us and to once again contemplate the mystery of God's love and humanity's responses of desire, faith, fear and rejection. Rereading the infancy narratives in Luke and Matthew puts us in contact with the grace known by Mary of the Annunciation, Joseph of dreams and the Magi who followed their hearts' desire for greater faith. Herod and the culpably incurious religious leaders remind us of how easily we human beings can be threatened by new revelations, especially when they might upset the status quo or come from "foreigners." Matthew presents the Magi as models of discipleship. First, and most disturbing to Matthew's community, the Gentile Magi were global disciples; people who, like Paul, were more open to mystery than were the leaders of the chosen people. Secondly, they were so perceptive that they could do homage in the mindboggling simplicity of Jesus' vulnerable humanity.

The pilgrim Magi remind us that we, too, are invited to be humble enough to see something new. They help us realize that there is always more to discover in God's mysteries: They suggest that the willingness to venture into the unknown might even lead to the opportunity to kiss the face of God.



Lenten Reflections



The 2025 Women's Lenten Day of Reflection, sponsored by St. Mary Ladies' Sodality is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, held at St. Mary Church, Urbana in St. Joseph Hall (the church basement). We are fortunate that Mary Garrison has agreed to be featured presenter. The program will include song, prayer, presentation composed of a combination of related scripture quotes, writings, personal experiences and small group discussion. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by a light lunch with time for fellowship. More details to come.

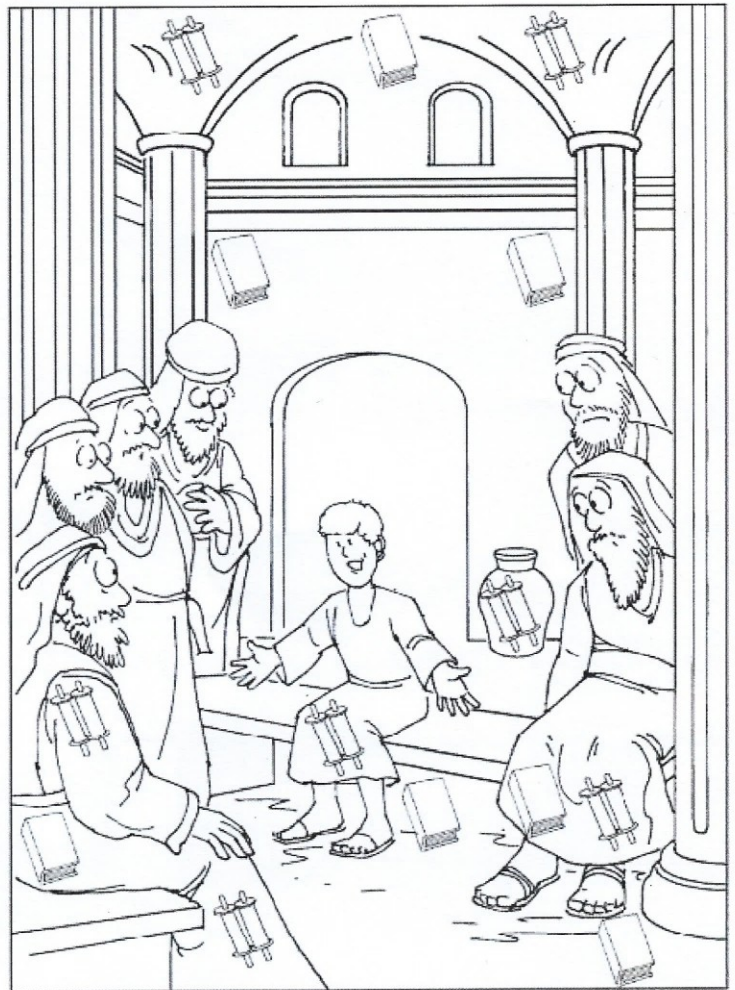
SVDP VOLUNTEER NEEDED

St. Vincent de Paul of St. Patrick is looking for a volunteer with a background in taxes to help with its year-end tax requirements. If you have this type of experience and are willing to volunteer your time, please contact the St. Patrick Church Office.



They found Jesus at the temple.

Find and count.  6 or 7?  7 or 8?



MASS INTENTIONS:

Currently, St. Patrick Church is accepting Mass Intentions for **September, 2025-January, 2026**. Please fill out this form and bring it to the Church Office or drop it into the offertory basket. There is a \$5.00 stipend for each Mass requested. Each family is allowed 12 requests per calendar year. Only three requests may be submitted at one time.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Intention: _____

Offered by: _____

Date requested: _____

Mass time requested: _____

of Masses you are paying for: _____

Every attempt will be made to schedule the date and Mass time requested; however, funerals and prior requests may prevent this.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Currently, St. Mary of the Woods Church is accepting Mass Intentions for **July-November, 2025**. Please fill out this form and bring it to the Church Office or drop it into the offertory basket. There is a \$5.00 stipend for each Mass requested. Each family is allowed 12 requests per calendar year. Only three requests may be submitted at one time.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Intention: _____

Offered by: _____

Date requested: _____

Mass time requested: _____

of Masses you are paying for: _____

Every attempt will be made to schedule the date and Mass time requested; however, funerals and prior requests may prevent this.