

# *THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD*

**January 4/5, 2025**

*They were overjoyed at seeing the star,  
and on entering the house  
they saw the child with Mary his mother.*

Matthew 2:10-11



***ST. JOSEPH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH***

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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Mon** 1 Jn 3:22; 4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a  
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tue** 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

**Wed** 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13  
Mk 6:45-52

**Thu** 1 Jn 4:19; 5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14 & 15bc, 17  
Lk 4:14-22

**Fri** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-2  
Lk 5:12-16

**Sat** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b  
Jn 3:22-30

**Sun** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11  
Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10



Please remember to keep praying for the lost and homeless, they need our faith and our strength.

## TIME/TALENT AND TREASURE

Thank you to all who share their time/talent and treasures on a daily basis. You shall see the kingdom of God.

## REFLECTIONS

It truly is “the most wonderful time of the year” and this story of the Visit of the Wise Men is yet another lyrical element of the Christmas story. Into the drab stable cave come these Gentile visitors from the Orient richly dressed in vibrant colors. Whatever is of gold in their garb catches the light of the fire there. We can also hear the tinkling of the bells on the camel harness as the stately animals make their moves. They are a stark contrast to the locals gathered. Their gifts became highly significant. Gold highlights the kingship of Jesus. The frankincense His divinity. The Myrrh, an embalming fluid no less, stands for Christ’s redemptive suffering. We can see that this story is more than meets the eye.

This last aspect of the story had to be a challenge for Matthew’s readers. They had a long tradition behind their generally accepted belief that God had chosen them as His people. That is true even in our own time. But this was a choice that had to call for expansion. Otherwise, God is rendered too small. Believers in the myriad Gentile gods had to know that paradise was an option for them that entailed belief in the one supreme Lord.

We contemporary believers must maintain an immense respect for the children of Abraham. After all, as the Roman Canon declares: “Abraham (is) our father in faith.” The baby Jesus came to us as a Jew. The Blessed Mother and St. Joseph were good practicing Jews. So were most of Our Lord’s closest early followers. Anti-antisemitism has no place in a Christian heart. That evil threatens the beautiful poetry of this feast on this first Sunday of the new year. The axiom is true: “Wise men still seek Him.”

“We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.”

source: Rev. Leonard G. Peterson



The MISSION of the parish community of Saint Joseph is to “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel.”

Our VISION: As a Catholic faith community, we invite all to experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We strive to grow and sustain by offering ministries that meet and nurture the Sacramental, spiritual, material, and emotional needs of our greater community.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

Jan 4 In Memory of Arthur Houle, Sr.  
Sat 4:00pm (13<sup>th</sup> Ann) by his Family  
&  
In Memory of Weston Wicklund  
(13<sup>th</sup> Ann) by his Wife and Family  
&  
In Memory of Helen F. Fortin  
(B'day Rem) by Ann

Jan 7 For the Relief & Release of the  
Tues 7:45am Souls in Purgatory

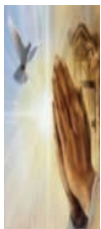
Jan 8 For the Relief & Release of the  
Wed 9:00am Souls in Purgatory

**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

Jan 11 In Memory of George F. Hoppe  
Sat 4:00pm (31<sup>st</sup> Ann), John P. Hoppe (3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ann), Roger G. Brunette, Sr. (18<sup>th</sup>  
Ann) by the Family

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

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The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week In Loving Memory of Arthur Houle, Sr. (B'day Rem) by Family



Do you, or someone you know, need a prayer? Call Pauline Prew 568-5644 and have our “Prayer Warriors” pray for your intentions.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**  
**Financial update will be in next weeks bulletin due to early transmission of the bulletin.**  
**Thank you**

**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS**

Jan 4	Monthly
Jan 11	Fuel
Jan 18	Catholic University
Jan 25	Latin America
Feb 1	Monthly
Feb 8	Fuel

**ON-LINE GIVING**

Thank you to those parishioners who utilize Parish Giving. If you have not done so already, please visit our website-stjosephri.org to enroll in on-line giving. (See “Parish Giving” icon-bulletins lower left corner of the home page.)



**MASS INTENTIONS/ OFFERTORY GIFTS**

When more than one family has an intention for a single Mass, we suggest that a member of each family present the gifts (hosts and wine) to the Celebrant. Please notify an Usher before Mass if you are in attendance and wish to bring the gifts to the altar and whether you would like the gifts to be placed in front of the first pew (if you are unable to walk the entire length of the center aisle)



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Welcome to Our Church!

**WORSHIP WITH US**

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON  
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