

## The Epiphany of the Lord

“The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi’s coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that ‘the full number of the nations’ now takes its ‘place in the family of patriarchs,’ and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (is made ‘worthy of the heritage of Israel’).” (CCC 528)

### This Week at Our Parishes

#### Sunday, January 7: The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12  
 Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus  
 8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace  
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at OLG for † Raymond and Catherine Betlejewski by Ron Betlejewski  
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)  
 10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary  
 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Helena Schaub by Gene and Barb Greenwood  
 12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)  
 12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish) for the people of our parishes  
 4:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary  
 5:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Tori Houghtaling by Dave and Jane Tomczak

#### Monday, January 8: The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1a, 2-4, 9b-10; Mk 1:7-11 or in Year B: Is 55:1-11 or Jn 5:1-9; (Ps) Is 12:2-6; Mk 1:7-11  
 Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus  
 11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG  
 12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at OLG for the special intentions of Bob Larson by Irene Sander  
 6:30 p.m. RCIA classes at Our Lady of Grace  
 6:30 p.m. English as a Second Language classes at OLG

#### Tuesday, January 9: 1st Week in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Sm 1:1-20; (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Mk 1:14-28  
 Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus  
 8:00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary  
 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass at OLG for † Ed McMahon by Earl and Pam Geiger  
 6:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Council # 9802 meeting at St. Mary

#### Wednesday, January 10

Readings: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2-5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39  
 Prayers: Glorious mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus  
 6:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary  
 6:15 p.m. Religious Education classes at OLG  
 6:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)

#### Thursday, January 11

Readings: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 25-26; Mk 1:40-45  
 Prayers: Luminous mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus  
 11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary  
 12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Helen Walters by Betty Flaska

#### Friday, January 12

Readings: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12  
 Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus  
 11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary  
 12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † June Eller by Richard and Marlene Eller

#### Saturday, January 13: St. Hilary

Readings: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19 & 10:1a; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17  
 Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus  
 3:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG  
 4:00 p.m. Holy Mass at OLG for † Frances Wright by Darlene Homfield, JoAnn Rillma and Judy Nauta

St. Hilary of Poitiers was the Bishop of Poitiers and is a Doctor of the Church. He converted from paganism in his thirties and went on to become a leading opponent of Arianism in the West, often referred to as the “Hammer of the Arians”. His most noted work was *De Trinitate*. He died in the year 367.

#### Sunday, January 14: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42  
 Prayers: Glorious mysteries, Divine Mercy chaplet, Angelus  
 8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace  
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at OLG for † Joan Weaver by Jamie Gustin  
 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish) for the people of our parishes  
 10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary  
 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Marty Neff by his family  
 12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)  
 12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)  
 4:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary  
 5:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Edward Hayes and for the special intentions of Mary Lou Hayes and family by Ron and Kathy Cron

## Ordinary Time

“Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ himself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time” (Universal Norms 43). Ordinary Time begins on Tuesday, January 9 and continues through Tuesday, February 13, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. It will resume when the Easter season ends, that is on Monday, May 21, the day following Pentecost.

**Prayer Line**

St. Mary's: Benita Mikesell, 231-803-4425  
or Jean Gawel, 231-798-8493

Our Lady of Grace: Anna Mogdics, 231- 670-5073

**Prayer Requests**

**Please keep these individuals in your prayers**

Diane Williams, Mike and Patti Birkhold, Larry Gilbert,  
Fred Kenny, Jr., Yvonne Petersen, Delores Zakroczemski,  
John Potter, Ellis Dilts, Rose Marie Mikesell, Ron Betlejewski,  
Ben Offrink, Gail Gee, Betty Gee, John McCormick,  
Sotero Leyton, Billie Leonard, Gloria Cline, Pat Hogan, Jeff Kenny,  
Shirley Green, Ron Faino, Jose Alcahuter, Christine Siedlecki,  
Ralph Alvesteffer, Bill Forton, William & Benita Mikesell

**Please pray for our homebound parishioners**

Ruth Stevens, Jim Dalum, Rose Ann Bird,  
Bernice Brown, Rosemary Keefe, Vivian Smith,  
Betty Reilly & Johanna Ripka

**Please pray for our parishioners who are in care**

Dorothy Bauer, Eugene Rewalt, Joan Gardner, Arlene LeBeau,  
Carolene McIntosh, Pat Simonson, Jackie Blake, Shirley Sterritt,  
Ruth Ruby, Gene Gianetti Jr., Rosalie Venne, Alyce Donalson,  
Lucille Radke, Kathy Hale & Tillie Standage

**Please pray for our parishioners in the military**

PFC Abraham Angel Luis Aguilar; SSG. Richarda (Rikki) Amaya;  
Private Jakob Bergquist; Spec. Alex Block; Nic Frank, Air Force;  
IS3 Cody Hacker; Erin McDermott, US Army;  
Fireman Ryan McIntire, US Coast Guard;  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Timothy Merkle; Wade Sanford, U.S. Air Force;  
Andrew Shadowski, U. S. Army; Major Adam Shaw;  
Staff Sgt. Casey Sowa; Master Sgt. April Sowa;  
Noah Sweet, U. S. Army; Elias Vihtelic, US Navy

**Parishioner In Need**

A parishioner is in need of the following items:



One twin bed  
Two Dressers  
End Tables



Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted to purchase paint, wall board, light fixtures, wiring and flooring. Please call the Russicks at 616-516-3580 if you can supply any of these items.

A HUGE thank you to the people who have provided a twin bed, a washer and a dryer and monetary donations. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

**Evangelization Clip**

by Deacon Jim Schiltz

Today we celebrate Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Our own Baptism provides us lifelong grace for daily living. Daily, pray for the Spirit's wisdom. Parents have the privilege and opportunity to be teachers and sharers of the Catholic faith. Lifelong! Spouses, grow together in the faith. As family, attend Mass and receive the Sacraments. With school kids, discuss their learning in religious education. If your children are grown, share your faith with them. Give kids of all ages the opportunity to share their faith with you. Maybe they face some faith struggle. Share your understanding with them. In life's challenges, invite them to pray to the Holy Spirit for enlightenment. Grow in the faith as a family, all the days of your life.

**Sacrificial Offerings & Other Contributions**

**December 24, 2017**

**Our Lady of Grace**

Budgeted Weekly Amount:	\$	5,544.00
General Fund	\$	7022.00
Online-Giving	\$	n/a
Christmas	\$	1015.00
Retirement for Religious	\$	250.00

**St. Mary's Church**

Budgeted Weekly Amount	\$	7,128.75
General Fund	\$	5785.96
Online-Giving	\$	n/a
Restoration	\$	135.00
Flowers	\$	25.00
Retirement for Religious	\$	140.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	25.00
Christmas	\$	4291.00

**Our Lady of Grace: December 31, 2017**

Budgeted Weekly Amount:	\$	5,544.00
General Fund	\$	3536.00
Online-Giving	\$	n/a
Christmas	\$	1253.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	185.00

**Contribution Counters: Week of January 7**  
OLG Team 2 - St. Mary Team 2

Pray fervently to end abortion, artificial birth control, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research.

**Mass Attendance: December 24, 2017**

OLG 4:00pm:	n/a	OLG 900am:	n/a
SM 10:30am:	171	SM 12:30pm:	137

**Mass Attendance: Christmas**

SM 4:00pm:	n/a	OLG 6:30pm:	n/a
SM 6:30pm:	n/a	SM 12:00am:	172
OLG 9:00am:	155	SM 10:30am:	108
SM 12:30pm:	n/a		

**Mass Attendance: December 31, 2017**

OLG 4:00pm:	n/a	OLG 900am:	106
SM 9:00am:	27	SM 10:30am:	176
SM 12:30pm:	154	SM 5:00pm:	110

### Religious Education News

The Director of Religious Education is currently looking for an energetic person to assist in the Middle School Youth Group program. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Kacey Kersman at 231-722-2803, ext. 16 or dre@stmarysmuskegon.org or dre@olgmuskegon.org.

### Cantors Needed!!!

Do you have a good voice and the desire to serve the Lord with your talent? If so, we need you! Our Lady of Grace church is currently looking for more cantors to lead the congregation in song during Sunday Masses. If you are interested, please talk to the pianist or cantor after Mass, or call the parish office for more information.

### News from the Diocese

#### Mass for Life

Bishop Walkowiak will celebrate the Mass for Life on Monday, January 22nd, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, with a reception to follow. This date will mark the 45th Anniversary of the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, Roe v. Wade, legalizing abortion in the United States. This year there will be a few brief testimonies at the end of Mass pertaining to the power of prayer around the theme of abortion.

#### Plenary Indulgence for March for Life Participants

Christian faithful who participate in the 2018 March for Life may receive a plenary Indulgence. In order to receive the Indulgence while attending the March for Life you must be detached from sin, pray for the Pope's intentions and, within a few days, make a sacramental confession and receive the Eucharist.

The elderly, sick, and those unable to leave home will be able to receive a plenary Indulgence if they fulfill the same requirements as those of the pilgrims while spiritually joining themselves to the March and offering prayers and their own physical sufferings to God.

If you are not able to complete all of the requirements necessary for a plenary Indulgence you may still be granted a partial Indulgence.

#### Nine Days for Life

Since the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision 45 years ago, more than 58 million children's lives have been lost to abortion, and the lives of millions of parents have been shattered. In prayerful recognition of these lost and broken lives, the U.S. Bishops invite Catholics and others nationwide to participate in Nine days of prayer, penance and pilgrimage (Jan. 18-26). Please visit: <http://uscbb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/nine-days-of-prayer-penance-and-pilgrimage.cfm> for details or to receive the daily novena in English and Spanish each day by email, text, or through their app.

### Parish Office Hours

#### Regular Business Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9am - Noon, 1pm - 5pm  
Closed on Friday's

#### Office Closures

If Muskegon Public Schools are closed due to weather and road conditions, the parish office will be closed. Please check your local news first before venturing out to the parish office.

### Mobile Food Pantry Ministry

The parishes of Our Lady of Grace and St. Mary's is in need of someone to organize the Mobile Food Pantry Ministry. If the Lord is calling you to this ministry please contact the parish office. Training will be provided.

### 2018 Contribution Envelopes for Parishioners

You should have by now received two months worth of 2018 contribution envelopes at your home address. If you have not, please contact the parish office at 722-2803, ext. 11 or ext. 12. Parishioners who donate online will not receive envelopes.

If you prefer to contribute electronically, St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace parishes are pleased to offer this option for your weekly tithes and donations! Contributions can be safely debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. This offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our parishes. Please visit our website at [olgmuskegon.org](http://olgmuskegon.org) or [stmarysmuskegon.org](http://stmarysmuskegon.org), scroll down a bit and find these buttons on the right hand side.

Donate Online  
to Our Lady of Grace

Donate Online  
to St. Mary

### RCIA Catechumens

Please pray for our Catechumens as they continue on their journey towards the Sacraments of Initiation: Alaina, Amanda, Jamica, Jaxin, Olivia, and Tiovanni.

### Tax Preparation Help

VITA Services of West Michigan is a tax preparation program through Goodwill Industries. The program is free and prepares the Federal, State and Local tax returns for anyone with a simple tax return and earning less than \$60,000 of adjusted gross income. For more information, please contact Carl Lewis, Jr. at 231-722-7871, ext. 1070.



O come, let  
us adore  
Him!

## Chalking the Door

This time-honored Christian tradition is a way of marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, to ask God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes.

This service commonly takes place on Epiphany (also known as Twelfth-Night, *Theophany*, or Three Kings Day) commemorating the visiting of the Christ Child by the three Magi with their gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. The formula for the service is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home: 20+C+M+B+18. The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "18" at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless the home so marked and that he stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

Practicing traditions like the chalking of the doors helps us to live our faith more concretely and serve as an outward sign of our dedication to Our Lord. Our homes are also the place where many of us will make the greatest strides in our spiritual growth, through observance of daily prayer, spiritual reading, and work offered as an oblation to God.

The chalking of the doors of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder to welcome all who visit us just like the Holy Family welcomed the Magi.

Blessed chalk is available near the Creche at both churches along with copies of a short prayer that may be used. If one wishes, the following longer prayer service may also be used:

*On entering the home,*

**Leader** (*Father of the family*): Peace be to this house.

**All:** And to all who dwell herein.

**All:** From the East came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

**All Pray the Magnificat:**

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; Because he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid; for, behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; Because he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name; And his mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of his mercy - - Even as he spoke to our fathers - - to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

**Leader:** Our Father. . . And lead us not into temptation

**All:** But deliver us from evil.

**Leader:** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**All:** And let my cry come to You.

**Leader:** Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee—Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

**All:** And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

**Leader:** Let us pray. Bless, + O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

*After the prayers of the blessing are recited, the inscription is then written upon the main entrance with the blessed chalk:*

**20 + C + M + B + 18**