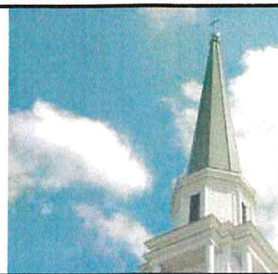


Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

January 4, 2026... Epiphany of the Lord



Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Wishing you all Blessed and prosperous Year 2026!

“What shall I render the Lord for His goodness to me?” (Psalm 116:12). As we celebrate the solemn feast of Epiphany on the first Sunday of the New Year, we cannot but express our gratitude to God for His gracious gift of life and for the opportunity to enjoy more of His goodness this year. We thank God for His great gift of salvation, which we began to enjoy with the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Fr. George Nellikunnel	(gnellikunnel@dio.org)	Pastor
Mrs. Denise Reavis		Principal
Mrs. Debbie Mandeville		Parish Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Gail Smith		Business Manager St. Aloysius/St. Cabrini
Mrs. Angie Daniels		School Administrative Assistant
Mr. Rich Pitchford		Maintenance
Mrs. Sarah Williams		Liturgy & Music
Mr. Dave Klestinski		Homebound Ministry
Ms. Mikki Buhl		Ministry Schedule
	(mikkimoose@clients.rotundasoftware.com)	

Mass Times: Saturday (vigil) 4:00pm
Sunday 7:00am & 11:00am
Holy Days: As announced

Daily Mass: Tues, 8:20am (School Year)
7:00am (Summer)
W, Th, 7:00am
Fri, 6:00pm (Rosary 5:30pm)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, 7:00am - 5:00pm

Parish Office Hours: M - F: 9:00am - 4:00pm
School Office Hours: M - F: 7:45am - 3:30pm
2000 E. Sangamon Avenue (mailing address: 2125 N. 21st Street) Springfield, Illinois 62702

Church: (217) 544-4554 Fax: (217) 544-1680
School: (217) 544-4553 Fax: (217) 544-1680

The gospel reading narrates the story of the visit to the child Jesus by the wise men. The wise men were non-Jews and so they knew nothing about the promised Savior, yet they found it necessary to undertake a long journey to locate the child they thought was newborn King of the Jews, to do him homage and to offer him precious gifts. They did not know the divine nature of the child, yet they rendered him homage and offered him gifts. We know Jesus as the Son of God and enjoy His blessings; must render heartfelt appreciation to Him.

We know the wise men were guided by the light of what they perceived to be a physical star and we are guided by the radiant light of supernatural faith to know that Jesus Christ was not just the king of the small nation of the Jews, nor merely king of the whole earth, but He is indeed the King of heaven and the whole universe. He is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. And knowing that He through whom everything was created and without whom nothing was created (John 1:2-3) decided to become a child (creature) to save us, our gratitude to Him should know no limits. As the wise men sought the Lord by their long journey, so may we never be tired on the long and twisted journey of faith as we seek to know the Lord ever more throughout this year and beyond. On the practical level, may we never find the journey to our church (especially on Sundays) too long or boring to make.

In addition to their journey, the wise men had to make inquiries to locate the exact place of birth of the newborn King. When they made this inquiry at the palace of King Herod, the chief priests and scribes provided the answer by referring to the Scriptures. May the Scriptures we read and hear in the house of God enlighten us ever more about the mystery of the God-made-man.

When the wise men found the child Jesus, they offered Him the precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Let us, likewise, offer our precious gifts to the Lord in appreciation of His blessings.

We may not have gold, but we can offer some of our precious wealth, talents and/or time for the service of the Lord and His Church.

We may not have frankincense, but we can offer the Lord what it signifies, namely, prayer and worship. Let us, therefore, always worship Him in spirit and in truth. Finally, we may not have myrrh. Let us, therefore, be anxious to offer Him not myrrh but the sweet-smelling life of holiness. Amen! Once again, I pray and wish you all Jesus' blessings and protection throughout the 2026.

Fr. George Nellikunnel



Principal's Page

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Gale Borders
Blake Handley
Dave Klestinski
Mary Ann Mann
Brad Mills (Chair)
Joyce Zaffiri

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schoolboard@santalloysius.org

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Steve Washko III

Liturgy Committee

Sharon Jones
Steve Kehoe
Kim Lesko (Chair)
Rita Lesko
Mary Coady



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the St. Aloysius Faculty and Staff We wish you and your family all the blessings of the season! May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of God's love this Christmas and always.

What a magical night! We are so proud of our students for their incredible performance of Santa's Bethlehem Delivery. Our gym was filled with joy, laughter, and the true spirit of Christmas as our young actors and singers brought this special story to life. From Santa's journey to the heart of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the play reminded us all that the greatest gift of the season is the birth of Jesus. A huge thank you to everyone who made this special night a success! The Christmas production was a wonderful reminder of what is important at the holidays! Congratulations to all our student actors, singers, and set designers!

All-school Mass will be Tuesday, January 6th at 8:20am. All are welcome!

Congratulations to our 7th and 8th grade Catholic Schools Speech Meet participants! Hard work and determination, made for some amazing speeches! We are so proud of you!

Magic Match Sponsors are a tremendous help to our school. Sponsoring a classroom helps purchase items needed for students and teachers to thrive in their learning. Our 2025-2026 sponsors this year are... Heartland Credit Union, Truman L. Flatt & Sons, Bank of Springfield, Mr. and Mrs. John and Kelly Pine, Dave and Teresa Saner (Luers), St. Joseph Parish, In Memory of Helene Rachford, Tony's Electric, Knights of Columbus Council #4175, Jumper Insurance, In Memory of Regina Rakers, Giacomini Parking/GMC Parking. A special **THANK YOU!** to all of our Magic Match Sponsors.



Catholic Schools Week 2026... In just a few short weeks, St. Aloysius School will be participating in Catholic Schools Week, a nationwide annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Schools typically hold Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people. St. Aloysius will celebrate this week with many activities all showcasing why we love St. Aloysius School and Catholic Education. Catholic Schools Week is January 25-31, 2026



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Our next **Family Mass** is Saturday, January 24th at 4:00pm.

Have a Wonderful Winter Break! Classes resume Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

Thank you to all the volunteers for making **Bingo** a great success! The program needs a few, steady workers. I know that this will ensure the continued success of this most important fundraising event. Don't forget to join us for Bingo at Caritas Hall, 909 E Converse, Saturday, January 10 at 11:45am for Early Bird, other games begin at noon. Play bingo during our times, help make this a fun and profitable activity for St. Aloysius School! Please consider volunteering. Volunteers are needed! You can text or call Rhonda (217) 670-4458. Thank you for your support. Also a very special thanks goes to Rhonda for managing this essential fundraiser every Saturday.



*"Love is the True North
that always leads us home."*

— Parish Data —

PARISH CALENDAR				Weekly Offering	
January 4	7:00am	Morning Mass		Week 25	December 21
January 4	11:00am	Morning Mass		Weekly Offertory	na
January 6		School Resumes		Shepherd one Student	na
January 6	8:20am	All School Mass		Building Fund	na
January 6	4:00pm	Centennial Campaign Meeting		Bingo	na
January 7	7:00am	Morning Mass			
January 7	9:00am	Legion of Mary			
January 7	5:30pm	Helping Hands			
January 7	6:00pm	Parish Mission Meeting			
January 8	7:00am	Morning Mass			
January 8	6:00pm	Finance Council			
January 9	7:00am	Adoration			
January 9	5:00pm	Benediction			
January 9	5:30pm	Rosary			
January 9	6:00pm	Evening Mass			
January 10	8:30am	Street Ministry (St. Cabrini)			
January 10	11:45am	Bingo			
January 10	3:30pm	Confession			
January 10	4:00pm	Evening Mass			
January 11	7:00am	Morning Mass			
January 11	11:00am	Morning Mass			
Weekly Attendance - December 20-21				Parish Community Tithe	
Sat 4:00pm	Sun 7:00am	Sun 11:00am	Total	As you have read in the Catholic Times, the Annual Catholic Services Appeal has been discontinued. The diocese will be assessing its parishes on a monthly basis, based on 10% of its income each month to provide the needs of our diocesan church. Please consider increasing your giving to the parish by the amount you previously gave to ACSA, so that we can handle this new monthly, pay-as we-go obligation. Sept. Tithe-\$3,262.00. Oct. Tithe - \$2,740.00	
80	50	88	218	Debt/Accrued Deficits	
				Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities	
				Paid	
				Amount owed (December 13, 2025)	
				\$229,700.65	
Parish Ministry Schedule - January 10-11 (schedule not available)					
Saturday 4:00pm		Sunday 7:00am		Sunday 11:00am	
Cantor					
Lector					
E.M.					
Servers					
 In charity, please remember in your prayers... 2024... Steven Young Patricia Durako, Regina Rakers, Sandra Scott, David Daniels, Halfred Hildebrand, Jr., Joseph Perkinton, Charles Bedolli, Samuel and Bonnie Falzone, James Selinger, Tom Stevens, Frank Tucker James Bartlett. 2025... Larry Forbes, Marilyn, Gustafson, Kenna Diaz, Kay Morrow, Judith Guinn, William Bredemeyer, Annette Raffa, David Jones, Judith Bregowy, August Egger and Rita Smarjesse					

Parish Bulletin Board



Many Thanks... are extended to all who made our Christmas liturgies very special. Our special gratitude goes to the servers, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, choir, cantors, Liturgy committee, all those that helped decorate the church and the maintenance and office staff. Your time, talent, and effort are a true blessing to our parish. Thank you for your faithful service and for helping to make this Christmas season special.

Thank you to those of you who remembered us at Christmas time with cards, kind words, gifts, sweets and treats. Your kindness is greatly appreciated! Please know of my prayers for each of you during these days of Christmas. I wish you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful, hope filled New Year. God Bless you! Fr. George

Parish Mission... A Journey to Joy. Frank Runyeon a national acclaimed performer will perform the Gospel of Luke, explore the Sermon on the Mount, and speak about Hollywood vs. Faith for three days, Sunday, March 1- Wednesday, March 3, 2026. Each performance is an hour and will touch on one of the three topics. The three evenings will be both entertaining and eye-opening. Runyeon performs the famous parables in Luke's travel narrative, and then pauses to reflect on how we hear each story, and miss what it is really saying. Keep watching the bulletin for more details.

A Pilgrimage to Italy... Join Fr. George on a 10 day pilgrimage to Italy from October 5-15, 2026. Highlights include visits to the birthplace of St. Aloysius, and the shrine of St. Aloysius. Also a visit to the birth place of St. Francis Cabrini. The pilgrimage features daily Mass, first-class hotels, private luxury transportation, professional guides, and all admission fees. Cost: \$4,995.00 per person (includes round-trip airfare, taxes, meals, and more). For details or to register, visit Holy Land Tours LLC @ holylandtoursllc@gmail.com or Jiryis Alyateem @1-503-866-5698.

Help needed... We could always use more Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Servers for our weekend liturgies. These important ministries serving at the alter are crucial to our celebration of the Eucharistic. Please consider volunteering for a ministry. If interested please contact Mikki Buhl or the parish office.

A playpen will be placed in the vestibule of the church next weekend. (January 10-11) The Springfield Pregnancy Care Center needs these baby items in our playpen collection... Diapers (newborn or preemie) baby wipes, preemie, newborn up to 3 month clothing/sleepers, pacifiers, baby spoons, sippy cups, Baby wash, lotion, and shampoo. Thank you for your generosity!

Mass Intentions.. During the celebration of Mass, those wishing to honor a loved one who has passed or celebrating a special milestone may offer a "special intention". These special intentions are offered to God as prayers of intercession and thanksgiving. Intentions can be offered for anyone. They do not need to be parishioners or even catholic. A Mass stipend of \$10 per intention is suggested, specific dates may not be available. To schedule a Mass Intention, please call the Parish office (217-544-4554) for more information.

Eucharistic Adoration is held every Friday from 7:00am - 5:00pm in the side chapel.

Knights of Columbus Council 4175 (Springfield North Council) will have **January fish fries** on January 9, January 16, and January 30, 2026 from 4:30pm - 7:00pm.

Save the Date... for the Illinois Pro-Life March and Mass for Life on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at the Sangamon Auditorium on the campus of the University of Illinois Springfield and then the streets around the Statehouse in Springfield.

Parish Calendar... Please let the parish office know of events, meetings, etc. for the church calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts. This includes the church basement.

Thank you... The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

St. Aloysius Prayer Chain... If you have a special intention or someone whom you would like prayers offered please email Mrs. Vikki Warren... whomper5@aol.com

Stewardship ... Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to use your gifts wisely and to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship be the hallmark of our discipleship, a visible sign of our commitment to Christ. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Mass Intentions

January 5 St. John Neumann

January 6 Christmas Weekday
8:20am Kathy Giacomini +

January 7 Christmas Weekday
7:00am All Souls+

January 8 Christmas Weekday
7:00am Marilyn, Gustafson+

January 9 Christmas Weekday
6:00pm James Stumpf+

January 10 Christmas Weekday

January 11 Baptism of the Lord
Sat 4:00pm Reginia Rakers +
Sun 7:00am All Parishioners+
Sun 11:00am Larry Forbes+

Around the Church

Prayer Warriors are welcome to pray in front of Springfield Planned Parenthood 601 N. Bruns Lane. For more information... www.springfieldrtl.org.

Biblical Walk Through the Mass... The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. Join Cathedral Women's Bible Study to explore the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Thursdays, Jan 8-Feb 5 @ 6:00pm in the Cathedral School Library. Order your workbook at ascensionpress.com.

Pray for peace... Practice the First Saturday devotion! It is essential for world peace and the salvation of souls. Go to www.bluearmy.com to learn about the First Saturday virtual pilgrimage for the 100th anniversary of Fatima.

Covenant Network Catholic Radio... Catholic Radio programs include Catholic teaching, prayers, and call-in programs. You can listen on a smart speaker, tell Alexa to play Covenant Network Catholic Radio, on our App, Covenant Network, online at OurCatholicRadio.org, or on your local Catholic radio station, AM 1080 and 92.7 FM.

Centennial Campaign Prayer... Loving and Gracious God, we come before you, acknowledging that all our gifts are from your generous hand. WE are grateful for your countless blessings and for the opportunity to serve you this Centennial (Capital) campaign. As our parish embarks on this journey, we ask for your wisdom and guidance in discerning how best



to use our resources to advance your kingdom. May our hearts be open to your spirit, and may we be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. We pray through the intercessions of St. Aloysius that this campaign will be a testament to your grace and a source of blessing to our parish. May we work together in unity and faith, knowing that with your help, we can accomplish great things. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Epiphany Chalk Blessing for your Home 20 + C + M + B + 26 The 20 and 26 are the beginning and end of the year's date. The middle three letters stand for the traditional names of the wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also represent the initials of the Latin phrase "*Christus mansionem benedicat*" – "*Christ bless the house.*"



Prayer... Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this home, all who live here, and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Biblical Walk through the Mass. The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. Join Cathedral Women's Bible Study to explore the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveals what it all means and why it all matters. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Thursdays, Jan 8-Feb 5 @ 6:00pm in the Cathedral School Library. Order your workbook at ascensionpress.com.

Cathedral Women's Bible Study. Perhaps you think God doesn't have a plan for you and your family. But Jesus is the Lord of History, yours included. Join Dr. Sean Innerst in Foretold, a new series from the Augustine Institute that weaves together the Old and New Testament stories, highlighting their connecting threads of prophecy and fulfillment. What was promised in the biblical story came to pass through Jesus, his apostles, and the Church. Ultimately, this biblical history is your history. Just as the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled, you can trust that Jesus will care for you and your story. Encounter this profound mystery and reality for yourself in Foretold. Cathedral School Library, Thursdays at 10:00am and 1:00pm starting on Jan 8, and running for 8 weeks. FREE and open to all women!

Interior Freedom Book Study Series... Join us for a four-week study of Interior Freedom by Fr. Jacques Philippe at the Villa Maria Conference Center with Father Herman Joseph O.Praem. This accessible and profound spiritual classic helps us learn how to experience inner freedom despite the many external and internal circumstances beyond our control. Copies of the book may be ordered online. Schedule... January 26, February 2, February 9, and February 16. Each night is 6:15pm - 7:45pm and includes a Rosary and discussion. Contact... events@dio.org. Register at: dio.org/events.

Catholic Times is going monthly in 2026. Beginning in 2026, Catholic Times will transition from a biweekly publication to a monthly magazine. This change will allow for expanded coverage and more in-depth storytelling across the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. The magazine will feature more comprehensive articles, better photography, and a stronger mix of features and diocesan news. The new monthly format will also bring improved paper quality, a more consistent production schedule, and an enhanced reading experience that better reflects the life and vitality of our Catholic community.

Stewardship Reflection... Epiphany of the Lord. "*Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*" MATTHEW 2:11. The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

January 4, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Have you ever had a moment where you've been so joyful that your heart "throbbed and overflowed"? (Is. 60:5) Perhaps this prompt might call to mind moments we have been chosen or noticed, especially when we otherwise felt sidelined or forgotten. (Imagine expecting to be picked last for the team, only to be someone's first choice!) Today's first reading speaks of a moment like that. While the nations of the earth are shrouded in darkness, God shines his light and glory on Jerusalem, and all the nations come streaming to her bearing precious tributes. Similarly, our Gospel speaks about how God chose Bethlehem — a seemingly insignificant town — to be the birthplace of his Son: "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people." Like Jerusalem and Bethlehem, we, too, have been chosen by God. As we continue our celebration of Christmas, our hearts are filled to overflowing when we recall that by taking on our flesh, God has chosen to make his home with us for all eternity.

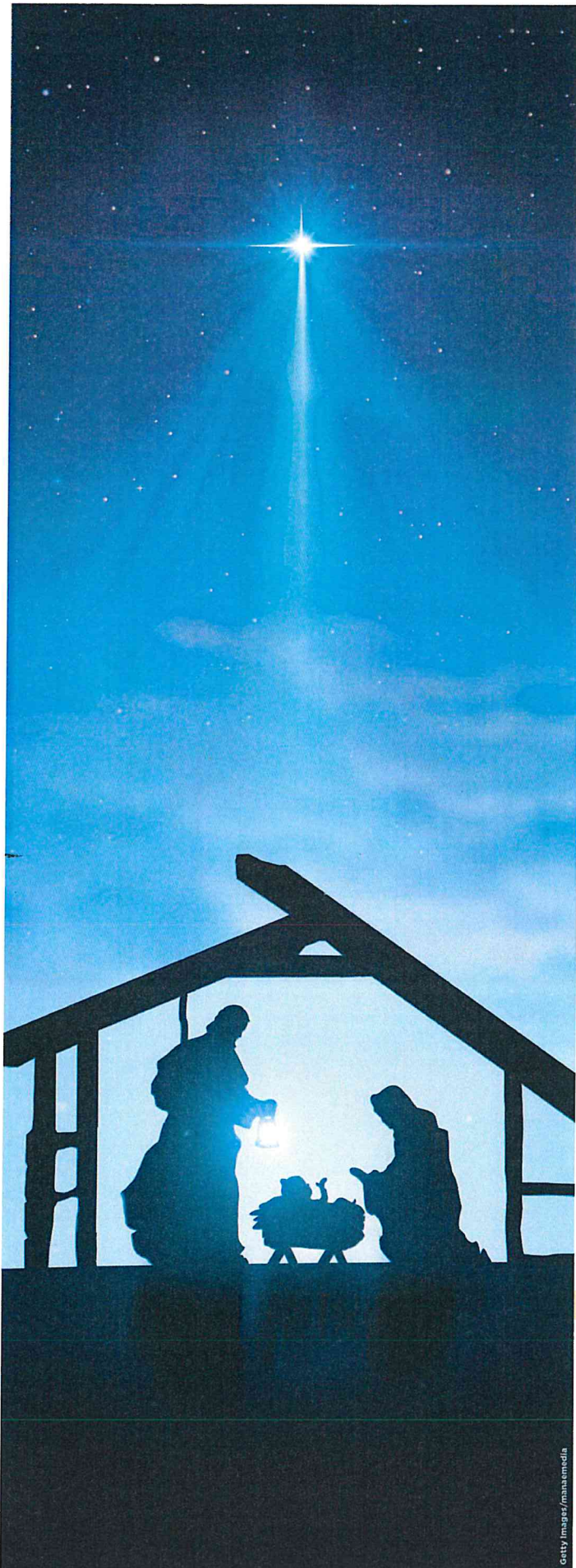
GO EVANGELIZE

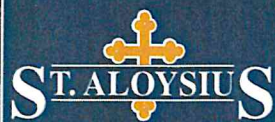
PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul reminds us that God has chosen us, not only for ourselves, but for the sake of others: "You have heard of the stewardship of *God's grace that was given to me for your benefit.*" God gives Paul a special revelation to know the mystery of God so he could preach the Gospel to the Gentiles and to all peoples. We who know the joy of having been chosen to be God's beloved sons and daughters have the beautiful task of helping others to know that they, too, are chosen by God. Because of this, evangelization is not simply an item on our spiritual to-do list; it is a work of joy — the joy of helping others to discover their own "belovedness" as children of God. And of course, this message is for *everyone!*

INVITATION

One of the best presents we can offer to someone is our presence. Make an effort this week to intentionally spend time with someone who may feel lonely or forgotten, setting aside other tasks to focus entirely on them. The goal is to help them feel special and *chosen* as a way of giving a glimpse of God's love that chooses each of us out of the many. May the gift of your presence help them to remember how very loved they are.





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