

**JANUARY 7, 2024** 



### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends.

Every year it catches me off guard. I try really hard during Advent to not listen to Christmas music and then when Christmas comes around, I switch on to 107.9 and by December 26, they're back to 80s music. Every year I have to be reminded—oh yeah; they celebrate a certain

kind of Christmas; we celebrate the season of Christmas.

This weekend we're celebrating the 12th day of Christmas-Epiphany! Admittedly, the 12th day of Christmas is January 6th, but we fudge a little and move it to the closest Sunday so that as many people as possible can celebrate the advent of the Magi. Why? Because it's a crucial part of the Christmas story.

We don't know too much about the Magi in actuality. The word "magi" is connected with the English word, "magic." Some postulate that, therefore, these were magicians or sorcerers. In the biblical and Christian worldview, this would've been a negative thing. So, Matthew's gospel is making the claim that even the knowledge of this world and the powers of the world have limits; it must seek a higher good. So, they come to adore the one true king, Jesus.

In the sixth century, some theologians assigned these three Magi names, which evolved into the names we now know: Balthasar, Caspar, and Melchior. The origins of this tradition are largely unknown, but this tradition has been passed on until now. Furthermore, the Cologne Cathedral in Cologne, Germany, claims to have the bones of the Magi. You can see them in the apse of the cathedral; it's quite impressive.

Most importantly, though, a decision is made in the Magi. Matthew's gospel writes that these Magi come from the east. Their earthly knowledge is pointing towards a new event, a new light in the sky, and they come to seek what it is. After an uneasy encounter with King Herod and a dream warning the Magi to not go back to Herod, the Magi, "[...] departed to their own country by another way." (Matthew 2:12b) The Magi came one way and now they depart another way. This is biblical code language that their lives were changed. They met the one, true Lord, the infant king, God incarnate, Emmanuel, and were forever changed.

That's the point of the Christmas season. God became incarnate. God made Himself lower than the angels for a time. Does that impact your life in any way? We continue to march through the story of Jesus' birth, culminating in His baptism on January 8th. So, we're not done quite yet with Christmas. You'll still see my Christmas tree up at least until January 8th. Technically, you could go all the way to February 2nd, which is 40 days after Jesus' birth, when He's presented in the Temple. However you choose to celebrate Christmas, the real celebration is: God came to save us; have we made a proper response? Merry Christmas!

Fr. Matthew Quail

### **Visiting Our Parish?**

Welcome, we are glad to see you today! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Know that we are here for you and that we welcome new members! For more information about ICC or to become a member contact Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212. Online registration is available at our website, ICCSonline.org.

#### **Mass Schedule**

Tuesday 7:30 am Wednesday 7:30 am Thursday 8:30 am Friday 7:30 am Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 8:00 am 10:00 am

(en español) 11:30 am

#### Reconciliation

3:00 - 4:45 pm Saturday

#### **Eucharistic Adoration**

San Damiano Chapel Open Weekdays 7:30 am



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### **School News**

Our middle school students shine brightly in their academic achievement! Many of them earned Honor Roll and High Honor Roll for the first trimester. After having a short presentation, they enjoy a pastry and display their certificates! Congratulations!





#### TICKETS ON SALE

January 12-February 18

Help Immaculate Conception School reach their goal:

\$8,000

Every dollar we raise stays with our school!

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Matthew 2:2)

Like the wise men of the Gospel, adorers have the opportunity to come to our Eucharistic adoration chapel and be in the presence of Jesus. Everyone is invited to spend some time in adoration and prayer before our Lord in

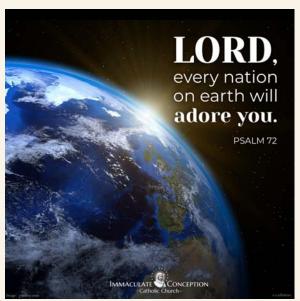
this new year. Our chapel is open Monday through Friday beginning at 7:00 am. All are welcome!

We are looking for more scheduled adorers. We have the following open hours: Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We are also in need of partner adorers for many hours. If you would like to schedule an adoration hour, are unable to attend your scheduled hour, or have questions about adoration, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246.



### **Our Mission**

The Mission of The Church of the Immaculate Conception is to proclaim and celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ. We fulfill our mission as Christian disciples by intentionally responding to God's call to grow in holiness.



### The Week Ahead

The Week Anead
<b>Sunday, January 7</b> Fellowship Sunday8:30 am - 12:30 pm
<b>Monday, January 8</b> First Eucharist Class6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Tuesday, January 9
Charismatic Prayer Group7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Wednesday, January 10
Confirmation Bible Study6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Confirmation I6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
First Eucharist Class6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
OCIA6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Friday, January 12
Intercessory Prayer Ministry7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday, January 13
First Reconciliation10:00 am - 11:30 am
Spanish RCIA2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

**JANUARY 7, 2024** 

### **Pastoral Ministry**

#### **Anointing of the Sick**

Individual Anointing of the Sick is available by request — call the parish office at 763-788-9062.

#### In Need of Prayer? Please Call Us.

To add a name to the weekend Mass petitions or the bulletin, please call Vicki at  $763-788-9062 \times 212$ . For private prayer call Larene at 763-789-4246.

#### Pray for Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Especially all who have died as a result of violence. May God grant them everlasting peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

#### **Pray for All the Sick**—Especially:

Bea Alain · Paul Bona · Tom Botzet · Vickie Botzet
Kathy Fraser · Mary Fredenburg · Shawn Frederixon
Jeanne Fulton · Tom Fulton · Len Jurek · Marge Klimek
Anna Larson · Steven Lauinger · Annette Peifer · Dianne Redman
Greg Sery · Elaine Thunstrom and all those on our prayer chain

If your name was removed and you would like to continue to be on the prayer list please call 763-788-9062 x 212.



# **Social Justice Ministry**

#### **Coins For Social Justice**

Thank you for your continued support. We received a thank you from *Every Third Saturday* for a monetary donation given in the amount of \$500.00.

"Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, thank you for your generous donation to Every Third Saturday, it truly makes a difference. ... You help us make a difference and for that we are truly grateful. Your gift allows us to: Operate the VREC (Veterans Resource and Empowerment Center), ... provide for veterans' physical needs with our free supply store ... assist formerly homeless veterans in furnishing a new apartment by helping to cover the cost of delivery for free furniture provided by Bridging. Run our Veterans Internship ... continue our Emergency Assistance ... etc. All of which is free for the veterans we serve. We feel blessed to be able to provide for those in need and humbled by the outpouring of support we have received. You are now part of our story, and we hope you continue to follow what we are doing. If you are interested in receiving updates via the ETS newsletter, visit our website at everythirdsaturday.org and click on 'join our newsletter.'"

### The Annual Collection for Veterans Every Third Saturday

### Drop off next weekend!

Your new or gently used items can be dropped off on January 13-14. There will be a large, marked bin available in the church narthex for your donations. Questions? Please contact Vicki  $763-788-9062 \times 212$ .

# (Practicing) Catholic

### Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way — for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light — he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod — a man so jealous that he sought to kill God — cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

"See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory." — Isaiah 60:2

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman | @LPi



## Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord,

With thanksgiving we entrust our year to You: whatever it holds, whoever we encounter, wherever we traverse. What You supply is gift. May our comings and goings be aligned with Your will. Amen.

### Reflections

### Why Do We Do That?-Catholic Life Explained

#### **Wedding Feast & Epiphany**

**Question:** How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

**Answer:** The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

#### Live the Liturgy — Inspiration for the Week

Though the magi did not know where the star of Bethlehem would lead, they trusted that God would be with them along the way. Let us all embrace that same faith as we go about the journey God has planned for us this year.

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### **Word of Life**

#### **Respect Life Reflection**

"O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties. Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion."

-USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers"

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

Matthew 2:10

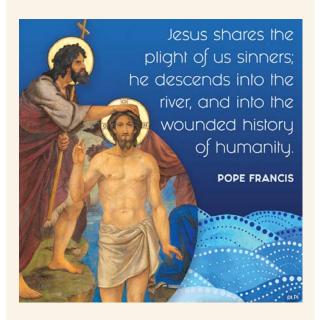
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### **Mass Intentions**

#### Sunday, January 7

8:00 am Kathy Kurt 10:00 am +Rick Jackson 11:30 am IC Parish

#### Tuesday, January 9

7:30 am +John P. Botzet, Jr.

#### Wednesday, January 10

7:30 am +Betty Haeg

#### Thursday, January 11

8:30 am Steve Lauinger

#### Friday, January 12

7:30 am +Donald Guzik

#### Saturday, January 13

5:00 pm Sherri Macko

#### Sunday, January 14

10:00 am +Daniel Grow 11:30 am IC Parish

+Deceased

**JANUARY 7, 2024** 

### **Church Directory**

Emergency (Death/Anointing) 763-788-9062 (#9)

#### **Parish**

Parish Office	763-788-9062
Monday-Friday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	
Parish Fax	763-788-0202
Pastor, Fr. Matthew Quail	x 215
(FRQuail@immac-church.org)	
Communications Coordinator, Sue Ashr	nore x 205
Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bana	non x 214
Director of Operations, Julie Moricz	x 202
Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olson	x 218
Parish Office Coordinator, Ximena Bund	ay x 201
Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille	x 212
Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser	x 227
Special Event Coordinator, Jami Bridger	man x 221
Wedding Coordinator Barh Hartwick	v 204

Faith Formation	
Director of Faith Formation, Mary Nawrocki	x 210
Administrative Assistant, Mary Scott	x 208

#### School

5011001	
School Office	763-788-9065
School Fax	763-788-9066
Principal, Jane Bona	x 220
(jbona@immac-church.org)	
Director of Admissions, Lydia Zimmerm	an x 207
Director of Advancement, Seyha Saumu	veber x 203
Administrative Assistant Sherri Macko	x 219

#### Parish Pastoral Council Members

Daryl Post • Maria Hamilton • Sue Nyvold • Jerry Earley Tom Herschbach • Marcus Paulson • Stacy McVary

Fr. Matthew Quail (Parochial Administrator)

Jane Bona (School Principal)

Al Haeg (Parish Trustee)

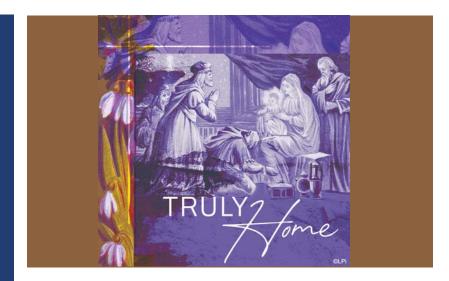
Patrick McVary (Parish Trustee)

#### **Low Gluten Hosts**

Low gluten hosts (.002 gluten) are available. Come to the sacristy before Mass to request one.

Baptism Cord

Visit our website at ICCSonline.org



## **Gospel Meditation**

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I truly at home?"

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, "They were overjoyed at seeing the **star.**" This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you're a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that - at long last – God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, "Follow me! I will take you home!" Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

-Father John Muir | ©LPi



Question: The word "Beatitude" is derived from the Latin word "beatus" meaning what?

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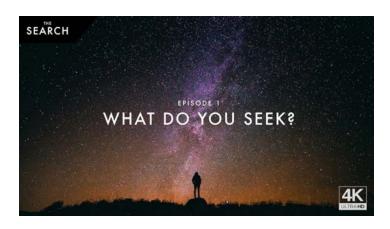
### Saint of the Week

#### Saint Hilary of Poitiers

#### Bishop and Doctor of the Church | January 13

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 - c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phyrgia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

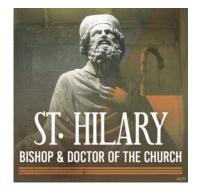


### **FORMED Pick of the Week**

#### What Do You Seek? | The Search | Episode 1

What is that deep longing in our hearts all about? We're all living for something, and we all strive for that something out there that is ultimately going to make us happy. But what is it? Watch Episode 1 of The Search to begin to answer this question.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.





The chief service I owe you, O God, is that every Thought and word of mine should speak of you.

St. Hilary of Poitiers

# This Week's Readings

Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday, January 8, The Baptism of the Lord Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

#### Tuesday, January 9

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

#### Wednesday, January 10

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

#### Thursday, January 11

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

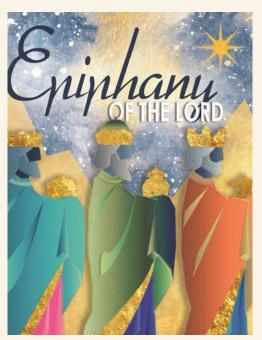
#### Friday, January 12

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday, January 13, St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; BVM 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Sunday, January 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42





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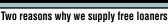
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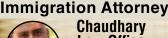
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