

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

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Served by The Blessed Sacrament Congregation
Living the Eucharist in Loving Service

Epiphany of the Lord

January 2, 2022

Masses: New Year's Eve 4:00 pm

New Years Day, 8:30 am,

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:00 pm

Sunday, 7:30, 10:00, 11:30

Sunday 8:30 Vietnamese,

Welcome One and All.

Epiphany of the LORD

We saw
his star
at its rising
and have
come to do
him homage.

Matthew 2:2

New Year's Day is a good time to fix one's eyes on the only One who knows what the year is to bring forth. Trust in God.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! It springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Care for all creation.

Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God.

God is our strength. Let Him be the strong foundation of our life so that we will not stumble when things go bad.

Nobody is exempt from having problems in their lives, but God is so righteous that he does not send a problem without a solution so that we can overcome it, making us wiser people.

Have a happy and prosperous New Year. Make a dwelling place for God in your life.

Whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

May the light and love of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you this Season and throughout the year. Wishing you every blessing on your future!



The Adoration of the Kings by Carlo Dolci, 1649
©Diocesan

Epiphany of the Lord



**Readings in Breaking Bread Hymnal, page 57.
Pick up and return to the church doors.**



On December 13, St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Hudson hosted the First Synod Session for all the parishes in our deanery. About 80 people attended the event from 8 out of the 9 parishes that comprise our deanery. Please make every effort to take part in the Second Synod Session which will take place at **Saint Theresa Parish in Spring Hill on Saturday, February 19. The Session will begin at 9:00 AM**; there will be a short period of Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 8:45 AM prior to the start of the session. If you have any questions about the event, please contact St. Theresa Parish. Hope you will make your voice heard.

Prayer for the New Year 2022

God, Lord of all creation,
lover of life and of everything,
Please help us to love in our very small way
What You love infinitely and everywhere.

We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer

And that will be more than enough,
Because in reality every thing and every one
is connected, and nothing stands alone.

To pray for one part is really
to pray for the whole,
And so we do.

Help us each day to stand
For love, for healing, for the good,
For the diverse unity of the Body of Christ
and all creation,

Because we know this is what You desire:
As Jesus prayed, that all may be one.

We offer our prayer together
with all the holy names of God,
and Christ, our Lord, Amen.



Parish Giving

You have been so generous to our priests and parish in this time of Christmas and year end. In this moment I wish to express my gratitude. God lives in our midst as we celebrate Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. I pray that all four fill your life in every way this New Year and beyond.

I am grateful to God we have the freedom to show our faith in "Immanuel" (God with us). Without Christ's presence among us we would be lost. Through God's presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole.

I am inspired by your sacrificial service this past year. Whether it's leading groups; shepherding our children; setting up and taking down for all our events. For worship and praise; for playing music and singing; for decorations and flowers, or any one of the countless other (usually unseen) tasks that keep our community running, I am grateful. I pray you have a fantastic time with your family and friends being here to serve one another.. Thank You! God bless your sacrifices.

Visit www.svdpfl.com for online giving!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Thank you for worshipping with us!

Sanctuary Candle Intention for the Week:

Terry Sangalang Sr. + (The Family)

Sunday	January 2, 2022 Novena of Masses
7:30am	Arlene Van der Henst+ (Van Der Henst Fam.)
8:30am	Souls in Purgatory (Virginia Hesterhagen)
10:00am	Ernesto Santaniello+ (Lucy, wife & family)
11:30am	Gary Favero+ (Joe & Joann)
Monday	January 3, 2022
8:30am	Victoria Zuniga (Elena, daughter)
Tuesday	January 4, 2022
8:30am	Terry Sangalang Sr.+ (Cecilia & family)
Wednesday	January 5, 2022
8:30am	Terry Sangalang Sr.+ (Elena)
Thursday	January 6, 2022
8:30am	Robert Hanna+ (Anthony Calia)
Friday	January 7, 2022
8:30am	Bobby Russell+ (Rosemarie Pezzatti)
Saturday	January 8, 2022
8:30 am	Victor Selor+ Claire & Denny
4:00pm	Deceased & living members of the Mocnik family (Frank & Bernardete)

SCRIPTURE READING

Readings for the Week of January 2, 2022

Sunday	Epiphany of the Lord Is 60: 1-6/ Eph 3: 2-6/ Mt 2: 1-12
Monday	Monday after Epiphany 1 Jn 3: 22- 4: 6/ Mt 4: 12-17. 23-25
Tuesday	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1 Jn 4: 7-10/ Mk 6: 34-44
Wednesday	Saint John Neumann, 1 Jn 4: 11-18/ Mk 6: 45-52
Thursday	1 Jn 4: 19-5: 4/ Lk 4: 14-22
Friday	1 Jn 5: 5-13/ Lk 5: 12-16
Saturday	1 Jn 5: 14-21/ Jn 3: 22-30
Sunday	Baptism of the Lord Is 40: 1-5. 9-11/ Ti 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7/ Lk 3: 15-16. 21-22



GIFT CARD Order Forms due in the Office by Jan. 10!

Amazon \$25	ON -SITE GIFT CARDS
Visa \$50	
Lowe's \$25	The Home Depot \$25
Starbucks \$10	Cracker Barrel \$10
Target \$25	Walmart/Sam's Club \$25

Cards sold at Gift Shop or Parish

Epiphany of the Lord

Annual Pastoral Appeal

Thank you to all who have helped to support the Annual Pastoral Appeal. The final report is in. Our goal for the year was **\$85,661**. Contributions of **\$85,278.60**, were paid by **252** families. This left a balance of **\$382.40**. We are so grateful to you for the support of the ministries of our Diocese which help so many individuals and families in our communities.

Save the Date for the 2nd Annual Tampa Bay March for Life, January 22, 2022. Downtown St. Petersburg, 33 6th St. beginning at 8:45 a.m. Video of last year's March: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyZ4syCzWZ8&t=1s>



Finance Corner

WORD OF APPRECIATION

Your support of the Gift Card Fundraising Program (Script) has helped us to raise \$755.31 this year. With no additional cost to you as you can use the cards as gifts or to purchase everyday items either by purchasing cards for specific stores or using the Visa, Discover or American Express Cards (with no activation fees). We would love to double that figure in 2022.

We will be having smaller fundraisers this year and your support of those will greatly help the parish.

Our parish is open seven days a week and serves many people in area with our prayers and outreach. To those who are homebound, keep us informed of your needs. Thank you and God Bless you!

16th Annual March for Life in St. Augustine January 15, 2022: The theme for the 2022 March is: **Heal Our Wounded Culture, Choose Love—Choose Life.** Keynote Speaker, Dr Monique Ruberu a Napro-Technology trained OB/Gyn, who has lead 40 Days for Life Campaigns in Philadelphia and leads sidewalk advocates encouraging women to choose life. Join people from around Florida and southern Georgia in bringing a peaceful, prayerful pro-life presence to the streets of our oldest city as we Heal, Love, and Protect life. For more information on how you can participate, please visit the March for Life 2022 website: <https://www.marchforlifestaugustine.com/>





Please join us for the next meeting of **Our Lady's Guild on Tuesday, January 11.** All Christian men and women can join Our Lady's Guild for \$5. We wish all of our Parish a safe and blessed Christmas!

Arts and Crafts will not meet for the remainder of December. They will resume meeting in January. They meet every Monday from 9:30—11:30 in the Media Room of the Education Building.

Rosary Makers meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:00—2:30 in the Media Room of the Education Building. Their next meeting is January 5. Rosary Making is easy and fun! They will teach you how to make a rosary! They have made well over 7,000 rosaries that are distributed throughout the world to spread the love of Jesus and our Mother Mary.



JOIN our S.V.de P. Society

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

God's love is witnessed by the charity given through our care for others in need. Every gift is given to express the love God has shown to us in Jesus his Son. Jesus was incarnated of the virgin Mary and born in a manger. He came as food to nourish a hungry human family of his brothers and sisters. All of us.

Thank you for your support, the SVdP Society is made possible by your participation in serving this ministry.



Look to the sky and follow the star.

"A star came and stopped over the place where the child was ... on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother ... they prostrated themselves and did him homage." God is revealed as a newborn infant. This is the meaning of Epiphany. Jesus comes as a baby born of Mary. The belief that this was truly the Son of God needed an extraordinary revelation. Some of us have spiritual experiences in which we recognize what God is asking of us.

We are able to worship Jesus at Mass, welcome him with prayer into our hearts every day as we can, with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility and the frankincense of our adoration. It is for us to offer God our very selves, promising Him that we will use His blessings to do good for others.

There may be a better path for our lives. Just as the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, we may choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, words and actions, evil habits, and selfish behavior.

Think of being yourself as a star, leading others to Jesus, as the star led the Magi to Him. We can remove or lessen the darkness of the evil around us by being, if not like stars, at least like candles, radiating Jesus' love by selfless service, unconditional forgiveness, and compassionate care.

Like the Magi, offer Jesus your gifts on this feast of Epiphany and every day: Gift of your life by offering it on the altar during the Holy Mass and by offering it to God every morning as soon as you get up, asking for the strength and anointing of the Holy Spirit to do good and avoid evil during the course of the day.

The Gift of relationship with God by talking to Him in personal and family prayers and listening to Him by reading the Holy Bible every day. Give the gift of friendship with God by experiencing His presence in everyone you encounter, by offering Him humble service, and by getting reconciled to God every night, asking His pardon.

Epiphany of the Lord

Family Faith Formation



A Visitor to the Shop

A visitor to the shop of a local potter was puzzled by one operation which seemed to have little purpose. The workman was beating a lump of clay with a large mallet. It looked as if nothing was happening, so the tourist finally asked, "Sir, why are you doing that?"

"Just wait and watch the results; then you'll understand," was the reply. The sightseer heeded the advice and soon noted that the top of the lump of clay began to quiver and swell as soon as little bumps formed on its surface.

"Now you can see the need for the pounding," said the potter. "I could never shape the clay into a worthwhile vessel if these bubbles remained in it, so I must gradually work them out."

The visitor recalled the prophet Jeremiah. He saw more clearly than ever before why the great Potter must work upon our souls. The discipline of chastening and the trials God sends are necessary to eliminate pride and self-will. This is the only way the Master can form us into beautiful vessels capable of holding the treasures of his grace.

--Cavanaugh

December 31 2021 we wish Francesco Sclafani great success as he take up his new position serving as music director at St. Michael the Archangel parish in Clearwater. I will begin working there starting January 1st. He writes:

"With deep appreciation for all that I have shared with you, I want to extend words of gratitude for this parish community. I will miss this community, as it has been a constant in my life over this time. Four-and-a-half years both seems like a long time, and barely any time at all. I hope that this community continues to bring the joy it has brought me to all who come here."



We begin the New Year with the feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord the Newborn King with the arrival of the magi, or priests from the East. They journey to find Christ, worship and offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The narrative inspires us to reflect on our individual and collective journey to encounter Christ in our lives. The names and numbers of magi are unspecified in Matthew although traditionally they are thought of as a group of three, corresponding to the three gifts. Later Christian tradition names these figures Balthasar, Melchior and Caspar, names sometimes included in religious art and music.

Music associated with the Epiphany highlights the journey of the magi and their gifts along with the star which is especially important for leading the way. The journey of the magi is long and risky but ends with joy. The magi are called upon by King Herod to find out details about Christ, and their avoidance of the king on their return journey helps to protect the Holy Family, even at the cost of potentially putting themselves in danger. After completing their journey led by the star, the magi are filled with overwhelming joy when it stops over Christ. Their gifts and kneeling posture show a recognition of Christ's importance. Their willingness to follow the star, not knowing precisely where it would lead them, reminds us to be open and attentive to aspects in life that can lead us to a divine encounter.

What is your star today? What holds your gaze and leads you closer to Christ? The traditions of the Epiphany invite us to think about how we can find our way to Christ throughout the year. We should look for events, people and actions that can help us to encounter Christ. The magi were a group on a journey together, and we should remember that we are not on a solo trip. In addition to relying on our community, we should also seek ways to help others to draw nearer to Christ.

January 2, 2021—www.svdpfll.com



Blessings of our Nativities. It was fun to gather with all who had their nativities blessed and a prize given to first and second place for creativity Caroling brought us together to praise God for all who worked putting up Christmas decoration. Well done!!

