They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11
NEW PARISHIONERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
Call or come to the Parish Center to register.

BAPTISMS: Dates for Baptism will be arranged after attending the Pre-Baptismal Catechesis. Please call Annette in the Parish Office for information.

MARRIAGES: Call Annette in the Parish Office to arrange preparation 6 months in advance.

SICK CALLS: Call Annette in the Parish Office and Ministers of Care will visit the sick or shut-in.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4:20-4:40PM in the Reconciliation Room.

FOOD PANTRY: Our pantry is open Wednesdays from 9AM-12PM. Call 630.393.2400 x 112.

FUNERALS: The Pastoral Staff works with families to plan the Funeral Mass.

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: Call Dwight Sherman at 630.393.3221 or 630.362.1324.

CRISIS PRAYER CHAIN: Contact Deacon Joe Urso at 630.853.2070 at joe.urso@outlook.com.

LIVING GOD’S WORD: We can pray that the divisions and hatreds will be resolved through the wisdom that is the gift of God. We pray for an increase of wise men and women who are attuned to the signs of God drawing them to join together in worship and live together in peace. The ultimate destination of all people is to arrive in the presence of God.

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Parish Mission - Save the Date!
You don’t want to miss our Parish Mission coming this February 11-13. Nationally renowned speaker, radio host, and author, Michael O’Neill, The Miracle Hunter, will be our guest presenter.

MASS SCHEDULE
- Daily: M-F 7AM
- Saturday: 5PM
- Sunday: 8AM & 10AM
FINDING GOD

The splendid magi, all sparkle and dash and solemnity, march right up off the pages of Matthew’s Gospel and into our churches today. Matthew alone tells us this grand and seductive story so that we might see the light and know that the child these magi visited is the fulfillment of prophecy, the king of the world that stretches to the magi’s home country and beyond, right down the ages to us.

We too see and understand anew. Like the magi, our patron saints for this day, we see in the newborn child the king of the universe and light of the world. Like the magi, we find in ourselves a new faith and a new life. Like them, we return to our home by a new route.

We are asked to come away from this festive season ourselves renewed and awake to the presence of God among us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found, to be attentive and surprised and ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts.

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2018 Charitable Giving Reports

All parishioners who donated money or other gifts to the church or school will receive a report of those donations before January 31, 2019. These will be itemized to show all your gifts to the church, school, or its activities. When you receive this, please review and contact the office 630.393.2400 x 110 if you find information that does not agree with your records. We will work with you to reconcile that issue.

Donors using the WeShare will not receive a separate report from We Share. Those gifts will be reflected on the statement you receive from the parish.

Monday of this week is Christmas Day in Russia and in much of the Orthodox world. This curious difference in schedule has a lot to do with how calendars have been developed and changed over the years. In the year 45 B.C. Julius Caesar gave the empire his Julian Calendar, with the winter solstice on January 6. This put an end to a system in which officials called “pontiffs” were able to tweak the calendar by adding extra days in as needed. He invented two new months at that time, December and January; and in order to correct the mess the pontiffs had made, forced a year of 445 days on the empire in what he named “The Last Year of Confusion.” The new months varied in number of days according to a complex schedule, but the calendar was still off by nearly twelve minutes a year, and lost a full day every 130 years.

Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1583, but not everyone appreciated his efforts. England held out for two hundred years. The year 1700 was a leap year in England, but not in France; they were eleven days apart! George Washington was really born on February 11; when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in the English colonies shortly before the Revolution, he had to move his birthday to February 22. Now the calendars are thirteen days apart, which accounts for Russia’s Julian calendar Christmas. And Caesar thought he had brought confusion to an end!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Whole Parish Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6
♦ Your light has come!

Background: The showing forth of God’s glory is apparent in today’s passage from Isaiah. All nations will walk by Jerusalem’s light, the glory of God within it. The prophet announces to the people that even in the midst of darkness, they will forever be enlightened by the presence of God.

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
♦ We all share the same promise!

Background: The earliest Christians, mostly Jews, struggled with the realization that even Gentiles are included in God’s plan of salvation. Today’s letter points out that people in former ages did not understand that God’s mercy extended to all people. Gentiles and Jews are one body in Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12
♦ They opened their coffers and presented Him with gifts.

Background: Matthew’s Gospel clearly demonstrates that all the prophecies of old have come to fulfillment in Christ. As promised, Gentile wise men recognize Jesus as Messiah even when the Jerusalem sages do not. The official priests and scribes quote the messianic prophecies that identify Bethlehem, the city of David’s birth, as the birthplace of the Messiah. However, they do not follow their own wisdom.

Theme: The mystery of the incarnation - Jesus is a gift to all humanity.

Question for Adults:
How this past week did you demonstrate God’s love at home and at work?

Question for Youth:
The star guided the Magi to Jesus. Who or what are the people or events who have guided you in your relationship with Jesus?

Question for Children:
In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

Religious Education is back in session this week! We have missed you! RE classes meet on Tuesday, January 8 (Gr. 1-6 in the classroom) 5:30-7PM and Wednesday, January 9 (Gr. 7-8 in the ACL) 6:30-8PM. Parents meet their children on Tuesdays at 6:45PM and on Wednesdays at 7:45PM in the ACL.

On this Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, Jesus is revealed as the Light of Gentiles. Jesus has come as Light to All Nations and People.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:
Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12 - The Magi, wise men from the East, come to honor Jesus. These Gentiles have followed the Star that will lead all people to salvation. Jesus is this bright LIGHT that all will follow. The Magi bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh but Jesus is the greatest gift of all!

Gospel Questions:
♦ What does the visit of the Magi tell us about Jesus?
♦ What does the Star tell us about who Jesus is?
♦ Why do the Magi make such a long journey to find Jesus?

Life Questions:
♦ What is the longest journey you have made?
♦ What was good about it?
♦ What is the best gift you have ever received? Why?
♦ Who does your family welcome in your home?

Family Prayer:
♦ Lord, help us to seek and see you as we celebrate Jesus’ coming.

Readings for the Week
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Information Meeting for Navajo Mission in Chine, Arizona

The Joliet Diocese - Partnership in Missions announces the formation of a construction team to serve in Chine, Arizona. The mission will leave on June 1st and return on June 14th, 2019.

This will be a construction mission. We invite men and women who would like to assist local people in building projects for the poor. No special construction skills are necessary, just willing hands and a warm heart.

Two information meetings will be held: January 8th, 2019 from 7-9PM and January 16th, 2019 from 7-9PM at the Bishop Blanchette Center in Crest Hill. Interested persons are invited to attend. Further information can be found at:

or call 815.221.6258,
email: missions@dioceseofJoliet.org.

The Dating Project

This is a movie for every single person (high school, college, young adult and their parents/grandparents). You can see it on Thursday, January 10 at St. Isaac Jogues Church, 304 W 4th Street, Hinsdale, 7PM in the Parish Center.

50% of America is single. The way people seek and find love has radically changed. The trends of hanging out, hooking up, texting and social media have created a dating deficit. Dating is now...outdated. Follow 5 single people, ages 18 to 40, as they navigate this new landscape. You can also purchase the DVD at Target, Walmart and on Amazon. To watch the trailer, go to [https://www.thedatingprojectmovie.com/](https://www.thedatingprojectmovie.com/).

Happenings Around Town & the Diocese

Cursillo Events: Ultreya - Saint John the Baptist will host an Ultreya in Sebahar Hall on Saturday, January 12 following 8:30AM Mass in the chapel. The witness speaker will be Bernadette Borgard from St. Joseph Parish in Downers Grove. Please bring a friend!

Jobs Ministry Meetings - Join us at St. Thomas the Apostle Church for Friday meetings. Formats include announcements, speaker presentation, and 2 rounds of networking. Prepare your elevator speech, and bring enough handbills to pass out to 20 fellow networkers. Here are the upcoming topics:

♦ Friday Jan. 11th @ 9:30AM: Tim Murphy will present "Self Assessment." Periodically throughout our lives and in the job search we need to self-assess. Tim will take us through this methodical investigation into ourselves in order to discover facts about where we are in the process, and then develop a plan of action based on what we discover.

♦ Friday, Jan. 18th @ 9:30AM: Kay Carroll and Walt Reilly - Defeating Age Bias on Your Journey to a New Job. This interactive workshop will tackle the tough issues faced by more senior job seekers in competing in the job market.

Annulment Support Day - This day is designed for divorced persons who have already petitioned the Diocesan tribunal to begin the annulment process, and who need support to complete the long questionnaire. Join us on SATURDAY, January 26, 2019 from 9AM-4PM at the Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill. The $25 fee includes morning coffee, lunch, and materials. Pre-registration is required by January 20, 2019. To register, please call the Office of Family Ministry 815.838.5334 or register online: [https://conta.cc/2JqUyBe](https://conta.cc/2JqUyBe).

Worldwide Marriage Encounter - WWME begins with a private weekend experience with presentations about practical tools for growing in loving relationships, and continues with ongoing enrichments in the community after the weekend. WWME supports living in love! Our next Marriage Enrichment Weekend is February 8-10 in Elk Grove Village. For more information, please call 630.577.0778 or go to [wwme-chicagoland.org](http://wwme-chicagoland.org).

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for people who knit or crochet to make prayer shawls. We can provide you with patterns if you need them. For more information, contact Paula Peterson at 630.319.3998 or [ppeterson1085@gmail.com](mailto:ppeterson1085@gmail.com).
### This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, January 6**
- 10:10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12:30p - RCIA (ACL)

**Monday, January 7**
- 1-2:30p - Bible Study (ACL)
- 3-5p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
- 6:30-8p - Healing Horizons (ACL)

**Tuesday, January 8**
- 5:30-7p - Elementary RE (S,C, ACL)
- 7-8p - Bridge Communities (Staff)
- 7-9p - School Board (HF)
- 7:30-8:30p - Ladies of Columbus (ACL)

**Wednesday, January 9**
- 8:30-11a - PACE (ACL)
- 12:30-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 6:30-8p - Jr. High RE (S, ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, January 10**
- 1:30-3:30p - Basketball Practice (ACU)
- 6-10p - Knights of Columbus (ACL)

**Friday, January 11**
- 12:30-3:30 - Band (ACU)

**Saturday, January 12**
- 7a-1p - Knights of Columbus (ACL)
- 9-10a - Coffee with Fr. Jim (ACL)

**Sunday, January 13**
- 7:30a-12:30p - Hospitality (ACL)
- 10-10:30a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-12p - Baptism Prep 1st Session (ACL)

### St. Irene’s 30th Annual Chili Cook-Off

**Saturday, February 9, 2019**
6-10:30PM
St. Irene Activity Center
Sponsored by St. Irene School

Your $10 ticket buys you samples of all of the delicious chili offerings. This is a 21-and-older event. Hot dogs, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available for sale. You will also have an opportunity to bid on fabulous silent auction items, enter raffles for great prizes and compete in the Liquor Loop. There will be a 50/50 raffle this year with tickets sold after Masses.

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**PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A CONTESTANT (AGAIN) THIS YEAR.** The success of the Chili Cook-Off continues to depend on GREAT CONTESTANTS LIKE YOU! Each contestant will receive a variety of thank you gifts, including a $50 cash reimbursement toward their chili expenses! Rules for the Cook-Off will be forwarded when you sign up. Contact Stacey Riggs or Shannon Ryson if you or your organization would like to be a contestant and enter your favorite chili recipe. It’s A LOT of fun! (But enter early - the number of contestants had to be limited last year!)

**ALSO CONSIDER BEING A SPONSOR OR MAKING A RAFFLE OR MONETARY DONATION.** We are looking for sponsors and monetary donations, as well as raffle and silent auction items (no amount is too small)! Contact Stacey Riggs or Shannon Ryson if you or your company can make a donation or would like additional information on how to donate.

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**BOOK DISCUSSION**

**Join our group!**
Real time discussions on Mondays, January 14 & 21 at 8:30PM

Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

*The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity*
St. Irene

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**FOR INFORMATION & TO SIGN UP, CONTACT**

Stacey Riggs
riggsstacey@aol.com

Shannon Ryson
swryson@gmail.com
St. Irene Vocation Prayer

In every age Lord, You raise up women and men who are strong in their faith and bold in their actions to give witness to the Gospel.

Fill St. Irene Parish Community with Your Spirit and give us a burning desire to make a difference in our world.

Because of our love for You, Bless our Church with holy and courageous priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, devoted married couples, dedicated single men and women, and enthusiastic youth.

We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Liturgical Calendar

Monday, January 7
St. Raymond of Penyafort
7:00AM - Tod Masters/ St. Irene Community

Tuesday, January 8
Christmas Weekday
7:00AM - St. Irene Parish Family

Wednesday, January 9
Christmas Weekday
7:00AM - Lucy Coda/ Family

Thursday, January 10
Christmas Weekday
7:00AM - Fr. Denis White/ St. Irene Community
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, January 11
Christmas Weekday
7:00AM - Carolann Chiodo/ Friends
8:15AM - Clara Kolodjeski/ Friends

Saturday, January 12
Vigil: The Baptism of the Lord
5:00PM - Meg Higgins/ Friiends

Sunday, January 13
The Baptism of the Lord
8:00AM - Loretta Paver/ Family
10:00AM - Birthday/Anniversary Mass
John Martin/ Carol & Ken Sweder

Prayerfully consider your support of the 2019 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

The Diocese of Joliet is mailing information about the 2019 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) to all registered parishioners this month. As you know, the CMAA supports 30 ministries that benefit every parish in the diocese, including ours, and are Signs of Hope to our brothers and sisters most in need.

Please remember that 70 percent of any amount we raise over goal will be returned to us for our use. This is a great opportunity for our parish! Please review the materials you receive and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year’s annual appeal.

If you do not receive a mailing from the diocese about the CMAA, please contact the parish office.

Eucharistic Adoration

We need coverage for ALL hours of adoration which runs from 7:30AM-8PM on Thursdays. Please sign up for a 1/2 hour or a 1 hour segment by calling Cathy Kott at 630.393.9543 or Mary Mickel at 630.293.0774.

Dan Cyrus
Scott Hurley
Baby Reyna Urso-Zizzo
Paula Lopat
Barb Olson
Sharon Booth
Lynette Meany
Don Clevenger, Jr.

Joe Gattone
Javier Tecuatl
Bernie Malovany
Paige C. Robertson
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malesh
Colette Malovany

Chief Petty Officer Michael Spans - Deployed
1st Lt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Deployed
1st Lt. Keegan Loheny USMC - Camp Pendelton
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSGt. Daniel Gienowsky - serving in Iraq
Lance Cpl. Levi Dieter - Embassy of Latvia
Cmdr. Eric G. Peterson - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Peter Folz - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Capt. Patrick Looby - Eglin AFB, FL
Sgt. Thomas Rasplicka - Fort Bliss, Texas