



## St. Helen Parish

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**THIS IS A TWO-SUNDAY BULLETIN**

The Parish Office will be closed  
Until January 3rd.

We are once again providing a two-  
Sunday bulletin for  
December 26 and January 2.

If you have an emergency and need  
a priest, please call and leave a  
message on the **Emergency Line**  
and someone will call you back.

**READINGS FOR JAN 1/2**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

**With heartfelt thanks for your  
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

December 11/12  
\$17,722.50  
Of which \$11,185.50 via Faith Direct  
December 18/19  
Not available at time of printing



**THANK GOD FOR CHRISTMAS!**

I am writing this Christmas letter amidst much change that has taken place and much change that is anticipated. On the global level, a pandemic that medical experts predicted would end by Christmas 2021, has taken the Omicron turn. On the archdiocesan and parish level, the Families of Parishes organizational model has brought changes that none of us would have voluntarily made. In fact, changes will continue to emerge over the next few years. Perhaps, on a personal level too there have been changes, anticipated or otherwise, changes both welcome and unwelcome. Despite it all, Christmas is here.

When change is the only unchanging reality, Christmas tells us of things that are enduring – that God loves the world, that life has eternal value, that humanity is worth redemption, and that hope and joy never fade. Thank God for Christmas!

During this time each year, we get the chance to put everything aside and let Christmas happen. Even if for a few days, niceness gets a chance, kindness blooms like the winter rose, and goodness covers the earth like a dusting of the snow. Thank God for Christmas!

Beyond the annual Christmas cheer, Christmas represents an eternal and everlasting reality that is beyond the annual niceties – that God embraces humanity and every human person with a love that can only be described as ‘heavenly.’ Especially at a time when change is happening at the speed of light, despite the ravages of a pandemic that has claimed millions of lives, and beyond every personal event that punctuates our life, heaven comes to us in the birth of the Little Child of Bethlehem. Christmas is a little bit of heaven on earth. Thank God for Christmas!

I wish every one of you a very blessed and holy Christmas. Unlike this time last year, I will not conclude by predicting the end of the pandemic or for that matter anything else. Rather, I conclude by wishing that everything Christmas represents will remain with you throughout the New Year. And yes, throughout the New Year, may you remember to thank God for Christmas.

Fr. Satish Joseph

Pastor  
St. Helen, St. Mary, Immaculate Conception Parishes

**WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**

9:00 am-Richard Strathearn (Family)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 27**

9:00 am-Tom Deger (Shirley Deger)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28**

9:00 am-Adolph "Red" Dorsten (Pam & Dale Dorsten)/In Honor of Gloria Johnson (Peggy Burkhardt)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29**

9:00 am-Deb Harting (Hockwalt Family)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30**

9:00 am-Gerry Albers (Ed Albers)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31**

5:00 pm- St Helen Parish  
Midnight-Anna Johnson (Janice Johnson)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1**

9:00 am-Judi MacLeod (Marie Stebel)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2**

9:00 am-Richard Strathearn (Family)  
*(Weekday & Saturday Mass Intentions will be offered at Immaculate Conception)*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY, DEC 27-31**

9:00 am-Daily Mass at Immaculate Conception

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 27- Fr. Pat Tonry**

8:30 PM-Mom's Group via Zoom

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28- Fr. Satish**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29-Fr. Satish**

10:00 am-Lectio Divina via Zoom

2:00 pm-Centering Prayer (HR)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30-Fr. Satish**

6:00 pm-Sacrament of Reconciliation-Fr. Tony

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31-**

9:00 am-Fr. Satish

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1**

4:30 pm-Families of Parishes Mass at IC-Fr. Satish

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2**

9:00 am Mass- Fr. Satish ([Live Stream](#))

*Please note: the Priest schedule is tentative and subject to change*

**FROM CHRISTMAS TO EPIPHANY WITH THE THREE KINGS!!!**  
**A fun idea from "Teaching Catholic Kids.com"**

If you have a manger set, bring out the three kings on Christmas Day—but instead of placing them at the manger, put them somewhere else in your house so that they can journey to the manger on the days between Christmas Day & the Feast of the Epiphany, this year on January 2! Have the three kings move to a different room on each day as they make their way to the manger. Let your kids search for them each morning; when they find them, say: "The wise men are searching for Jesus in \_\_\_ (the current room). How can we show the magi that Jesus is present here?" Brainstorm examples of Christian behavior in that specific room, then close with a short prayer: "O holy magi, help us to see Christ in this place, and make it holy in all we say and all we do here. Amen."

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

<b>January 1 and 2</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	<b>Altar Server</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Live Streaming</b>
<b>Saturday, 4:30 PM at IC</b> <b>The Epiphany of Our Lord</b>	Sue Gabringer Tom Mahle	<b>NOT FILLED</b>	Pat Schneider (1) <b>NOT FILLED</b> (2)	
<b>Sunday, 9:00 AM</b> <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	Pat Avey Drew Hilgefard Mindy Hilgefard	Kate Hilgefard	Kathy Snyder (1)	Jay Rutledge

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



The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek epiphainen, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (*Matthew 2:1-12*), the baptism of Jesus (*Mark 1:9-11*), and the miracle at Cana (*John 2:1-11*).

**READINGS FOR JAN 8/9**

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/42:1-4, 6-7  
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Acts 10:34-38  
Luke 3:15-16; 21-22

***With heartfelt thanks for your STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE***

December 25/26

Not available at time of printing

**FAMOUS FICTIONAL "EPIPHANIES"**

Remember in the movie, "To Kill a Mockingbird" when Scout sees a stranger standing in the room? She stares at him for a moment, and then her eyes light up, and she says, "Hey, Boo!" And when Elsa learns what it takes to thaw a frozen heart? When Buzz Lightyear realizes he is a **toy**? Epiphanies are shocking and sometimes very painful . . . But we see through new eyes and grow! Christ, be our new LIGHT!

**WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2**

9:00 am-Richard Strathearn (Family)

**MONDAY, JANUARY 3**

9:00 am-Jean Knapke (Family)/Joe Walling (Jane Walling)

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 4**

9:00 am-Gerry Albers (Ed Albers)

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5**

9:00 am-In Honor of Fr. Satish (Barbara Harshman)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 6**

9:00 am-Laverne Will (Barbara Eckley)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 7**

9:00 am-MT & Lisy Joseph (Dottie Napora)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 8**

9:00 am-Eugene Arnold/Fred Sonny Spang

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9**

9:00 am-Deb Harting (Hockwalt Family)

*(Weekday & Saturday Mass Intentions will be offered at Immaculate Conception)*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY, JAN 3-7**

9:00 am-Daily Mass at Immaculate Conception

**MONDAY, JANUARY 3-** Fr. Pat Tony

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 4-** Fr. Satish

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5-** Fr. Satish

10:00 am-Lectio Divina via Zoom

2:00 pm-Centering Prayer (HR)

6:30 pm-SVdP Meeting (SJC)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 6-** Fr. Pat Tony

9:00 am-Whole School Mass-Fr. Satish

6:00 pm-Sacrament of Reconciliation-Fr. Tony

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 7-**

9:00 am-Fr. Satish

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 8**

7:30 am-Men's Group (SJC)

4:30 pm-Families of Parishes Mass at IC-Fr. Satish

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9**

9:00 am Mass- Fr. Bob ([Live Stream](#))

10:15 am-Religious Education

*Please note: the Priest schedule is tentative and subject to change*

## AN EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING 2022

We invite you to join us in the custom of blessing your home with your family. The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 22. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2022 is the year.

### Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 22 while saying:

*The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and eighteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.*

### Then offer the following prayer:

*"Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen"*

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

### SAFE PARISH TRAINING VIDEO

All parish staff and volunteers should have received an email on or about **December 8th**, with the Safe Parish required training video. Please log in to your account and select "Training" → Due, to access the video. You have 30 days to complete the training.

Just a reminder that the required videos are now sent quarterly. Failure to view one video will cause your account to go to "Not Approved" status and you will be unable to volunteer/work with children.



### CHECK OUT THE STARS TONIGHT . . . AND THINK OF THE THREE KINGS!

Since the Magi followed the Star of Bethlehem to find their way to Jesus' birthplace, many have found it fitting to take time on Twelfth Night to go out stargazing. Whether you have a telescope or not, this could be a great opportunity to add a nice tradition to your celebration each year. *Excerpted from Catholic Digest*

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 8 and 9	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server	Lector	Live Streaming
Saturday, 4:30 PM at IC	Carolyn Howick Mary Heider	Elizabeth Morys	Nora Marino (1) Mark Sheets (2)	
Sunday, 9:00 AM	Bryon Betsinger April Lezanic	Louie Studler	Lester Small (1)	Josh Rauch

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