

The Parish School of Religion Will Start January 9th at 11:45am!

Next week, the PSR program will begin classes for parents at 11:45am. All parents who have a child preparing for **First Communion** should attend as well as parents with a child in 4th grade or up who is desiring to receive **Confirmation** in the church.

Parents will be in classes that will help them to teach the faith to their children, while the children will have enrichment activities in the Catholic faith.

Families desiring the grace of the sacraments should be attending mass on Sundays as we draw closer to the Lord. There will be an attendance box in the vestibule where families will drop their cards each week.

Our first class will be on January 9th at 11:45am. We will be talking about the Fall of Adam and Eve and the first Good News about the coming of Christ!

If you have any questions, please see Fr. David, Vanessa, or Maggie.

Collection Information for December 26

Adult: \$952

Loose: \$218

Remember: Online giving is an easy way to tithe to our church! Go to www.stceciliakennett.com to get started.

Monthly Calendar of Events

First Sundays of the Month: Second Collection for Mother's House in Hayti

January 5th Parish Council Meeting

Saints this Week

January 4th St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

January 5th St. John Neumann

Special Thank you to Allan Kirchner

Welcome to St. Cecilia, Fr. Allan! We really appreciate your celebrating mass for us here at St. Cecilia while Fr. David is recovering. Thank you and God bless you in your priesthood ministry! Fr. Allan is the Associate Pastor for St. Agnes Cathedral in Springfield, and also serves as a Chaplain for Springfield Catholic High School.



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Luis Hernandez, Hispanic Ministry
(417) 496-5622
Lynnette Anderson, Parish Secretary
Vanessa Cowart, PSR Director (561) 351-1380
Magda Cazares, Youth Group Director

The Epiphany January 2, 2022

Weekly Schedule

Monday and Wednesday Adoration at 5; Mass at 6pm

Sunday Masses: 10:30am Mass in English; 10:05am Rosary

1pm Mass in Spanish

*If you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist and are unable to attend mass, please contact Fr. David at his number above.

Please pray for /Oramos para:

+Judy Abernathy, +Greg Bradley, Paul Deken, +Sandy DeLisle, +Mary Gurley, Justin Miller, Deanne Cole, Bob and Sharon Hines, Vera Gleuck, Kathy Larsen. Especially let us remember our bishops and our priest, Fr. David, and our homebound.

Fr. David's Parish Office Hours:

Kennett Monday and Wednesday 10-4, Tuesday off,

Thursday and Friday in Portageville 10-4

Fr. David is available for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during Adoration or by appointment.

Mass Intentions

January 2nd Paul Deken

Reflection on the Feast of the Epiphany

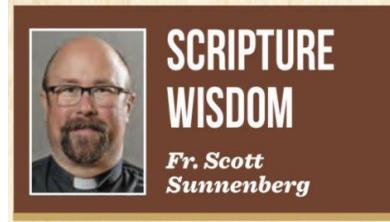
In this reflection, the Scripture readings for the Feast of the Epiphany: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 and Matthew 2:1-12

As I write this reflection on the recent dawn of the 3rd Sunday of Advent, the Christmas tree and modest but meaningful decorations went up in and around the rectory at Sacred Heart Parish in Bolivar. This is always a special time. It affords me the opportunity to recognize and remember the glory of the first Christmas. I also remember the many Christmas celebrations that I have shared in faith with family and friends.

Looking through the Christmas tree ornaments to be hung, I see mementos given by grandparents, uncles and aunts, parents, and friends, all recalling a special gift that still has deep joy and love attached. It has always been a tradition in my family to give ornaments as reminders and to reminisce as they are unpacked year after year. Many of these ornaments bear a small inscription written in black marker in my Mom's handwriting or my Grandmother's (who passed away in 1992). While many years have passed, they still tell a story even today.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is much the same in that it tells of the Glory of God which illuminated the first coming of Jesus at the Nativity, born in a particular place and time, yet meant to show and decorate with that same glory ALL peoples, times, and places! The Epiphany reminds us that God sent the Light of his "Son to the nations by the guidance of a star," so that light might decorate with the wonder of His glory ALL nations and lead them to

Heavenly Light and Happiness. This is a time and Season that reminds us that Christmas is not over but remains with us and within us. While much of the world is packing up the trees, boxing up the ornaments, taking down the garland and carefully wrapping each figure of the



nativity for storage, we are doing just the OPPOSITE! We are letting the light of the first Christmas extend beyond a few days of celebrating. We let it stretch from one month to the next in the joy of a whole liturgical season. We ornament all the days of our lives. We unwrap the figures of the Nativity in our prayer and reflection. In short, we are allowing Christmas and the meaning of the Savior to be made manifest in all places of our homes, hearts, and world!

What a gift it is to know that the long-awaited Messiah foretold by the prophets, awaited by the holy men and women of the ages, and adored by the Magi from the Far East have come in history. ***Jesus was welcomed by shepherds and wise men and is still calling us to "rise up" and "walk by Light" – His light!***

Light shines through us

The same Jesus who was gifted with gold, frankincense, and myrrh is still gifting us with his true Presence, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass where he comes in mystery. The Glory of God is made manifest in the world by Word proclaimed and the Good News shared. This is the heart of what we continue to hear spoken of as the New Evangelization. This is what our Bishop, Edward Rice, is asking of each of us personally and as the Body of Christ when he challenges us to move from maintenance to mission. It is not enough to have the light. We must be like a prism and allow the light to shine upon us and then through us. As the Sun's rays reach even the farthest ends of the earth so must the light shining through us.



One day Jesus will come again in glory with salvation for his people. Then, as St. Paul points out in his letter to the Ephesians, all in Christ Jesus will be made fully into his coheirs. In the Light of Christ, made known at the Epiphany, peoples once separated, nations divided can, raise their eyes and look about proclaiming the praises of the Lord! Come, let us adore **HIM**.

Father Sunnenberg is the Pastor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Bolivar, Missouri and St. Catherine of Siena Mission Church in Humansville. He also serves as the diocesan Director of Vocations & Seminarians.