

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 4th,
2026

The Epiphany of the Lord

STAFF

Father Gary Benz, Pastor
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Eve Mollman, Secretary/Business Manager
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Kylie Schaff, DRE
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Jacob Krein, Sexton

Wendy Krein, Church Janitor

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jackie Staiger, David Johnson, Sara Hauser,
KaSondra Staiger, Nicole Vogle & Ty Wehri

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OFFICE PHONE
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WEBSITE

www.stannshebron.com

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesdays & Fridays 10
AM to 1 PM

EMAIL
stanns@westriv.com



Prayers for the Sick

Please help us keep the list of the sick updated. If you would like to be on the email prayer chain or want to submit a prayer request of any kind please email joanconlon59@yahoo.com:

Blake Kuntz
Jenny Funk
Ann Kitzan
Shane Focht

Father James Kilzer OSB

Natalie Sutto
Lyndsey Gasper
Torin Hedley
Jamie Kouba
Daryl Wanner
Gail Walls
LuAnn Woeste
Ashley Braem
David Berger
Ardie Krueger
Heather Woroneicki
Mitch Moszer

Antonio (baby from St. Gianna's)
Ardelle Tibor

Mass Intentions

Jan 3 rd	6:30 PM	Special Intentions for the Youth of St. Ann's
Jan 4 th	8:30 AM	+ Alma Conlon by Russell Gietzen
Jan 6 th	9:00 AM	Special Intentions for the Jacobson Family by Dolores O'Connor
Jan 7 th	6:00 PM	+ Joyce Erhardt
Jan 9 th	9:00 AM	+ Ernie Schantz
Jan 10 th	6:30 PM	+ For the Poor Souls in Purgatory by Ken & Mary Ann Duppong
Jan 11 th	8:30 AM	++ Victor & Ann Tibor & + Jean Raaf by Denis & Sara Tibor

Ministers

January 3rd - Saturday- 6:30 PM

Children's Mass & Christmas Program
Fellowship to follow the Christmas
Program- Donuts and drinks will be served

January 4th- Sunday- 8:30 AM

Lector: Kirk Peterson
Ushers: Lee & Sara Reinbold
Servers: Jovie & Levi
Rosary: David Johnson

January 6th- Tuesday- 9:00 AM

January 7th- Wednesday- Adoration 5:00 PM
to 6:00 PM; Mass at 6:00 PM

January 9th- Friday- Mass at 9:00 AM;
Adoration 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM

January 10th- Saturday- 6:30 PM:

Lector: Kevin Staiger
Ushers: Kevin & Toni Staiger
Servers: Kianna & Cassidy
Rosary:

January 11th- Sunday- 8:30 AM:

Lector: Kathy Sardelli
Ushers: David & Kathy Sardelli
Servers: Simon & Ambrose
Rosary: David Johnson

** Confessions 30 minutes before Mass**

First, third and fifth Wednesdays
there will be Eucharistic Adoration
from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
followed by Mass

Mass Schedule - Central Time

Masses at St. Ann's

Saturday 6:30 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM
Tuesday 9:00 AM
Friday 9:00 AM

Masses at Sacred Heart:

Saturday 9:00 AM & 4:00 PM
Sunday 10:30 AM
Thursday 9:00 AM

Parish Office Hours are 10 AM TO 1PM

Tuesdays and Fridays

**The Church is open from
7:30 AM TO 7:30 PM Everyday**

**ST. ANNS IS AN EMERGENCY STORM SHELTER
FOR THOSE IN NEED DOORS WILL REMAIN OPEN
DURING STORMS**

Daily Readings

Jan 4: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 5: *1 John 3:22—4:6*

Psalm 2:7-8, 10-12

Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Jan 6: *1 John 4:7-10*

Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8

Mark 6:34-44

Jan. 7: *1 John 4:11-18*

Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13

Mark 6:45-52

Jan. 8: *1 John 4:19—5:4*

Psalm 72:1-2, 14-15, 17

Luke 4:14-22a

Jan. 9: *1 John 5:5-13*

Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20

Luke 5:12-16

Jan. 10: *1 John 5:1-21*

Psalm 149:1-6, 9

John 3:22-30

Upcoming Events

***Bible Study**- Monday nights at 7:00 PM

***Giving Tree**- Thank you to everyone that donated to the Giving Tree. We will be able to help out families in our community during the Christmas Season!

***St. Gianna's Baby shower**- Will be January 11th after the morning Mass! Please put donated items into the play pen in the gathering space- list of items needed are on the playpen! Fellowship to follow the morning Mass!

***Children's Christmas items available in the St. Anns bookstore!**

Knights of Columbus- will be judging outdoor Nativity Scenes in Glen Ullin and Hebron, winners will receive a \$50 gift card. Contact Don Wanner for judging in the rural areas!

Knights of Columbus Free Throw

Contest- For boys and girls ages 9 to 14 will be at the Glen Ullin School on January 11th, forms can be picked up at either church or at the schools. Thank you!

Stewardship of Treasure

Adult: \$\$55

Loose: \$281

Christmas Collection: \$9,420

Thank you for your donations!

“And having been warned in a dream not to return to King Herod, they departed for their country by another way.”

On this Feast of the Epiphany, we admire the beautiful faith and the great courage of the Three Magi. Their journey through the perils and hazards of the desert region was one thing, but they were also entering into the Kingdom of King Herod, who was a petty and ruthless leader. The fact that they double crossed him and did not come back to him to inform him about the Christ Child meant that they were taking their lives in their hands. In fact, to avoid him, we are told that they had to go back to their country by another way. This was likely part of God's Providence, not only to spare their lives, but to offer us a beautiful spiritual lesson. Like the Three Magi, we must be changed by our encounter with Jesus Christ and go back to our daily lives in a different way. Like them, in returning to the world in another way, we must be more committed to bringing Christ to others, especially within the life of our family. In imitation of Saints Melchior, Balthazar, and Casimir, once you encounter the Lord on a deeper and more personal level, life can never be the same.

Difficult Scripture Passages

“The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by birth, and she begged Him to drive the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, ‘Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.’ She replied and said to Him, ‘Lord even the dogs under the table eat the children’s scraps.’ Then He said to her, ‘For saying this you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter’” (Mark 7:26-29).

Our image of Jesus is normally a person of great gentleness and compassion, but in this passage from Saint Mark's Gospel, Jesus comes across as harsh. The Syrophenician woman approached Jesus in a spirit of humility and profound respect, pleading with Him to exorcise the demon which controlled her daughter. Jesus seemed to care little about her or her daughter and to add insult to injury, He likened them to mere dogs, seemingly unworthy of His gift of healing. Despite this apparent humiliation, the woman was persistent and her persistence paid off; Jesus healed her daughter. It should be noted that Jesus was not cruel or mean spirited, but rather He was testing the faith of the woman. Jesus took the woman's reply as a sign of deep faith in Him and in His healing power. Because of her persistence and her faith, her daughter was healed.

In addition to the importance of faith, there is another significant theme in this passage: the prior claim of the Jews to the ministry of Jesus. The “children” referred to in this passage are the Jewish people, who have priority in the order of salvation history. As Saint Paul relates, *“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, for Jew first, and then Greek”* (Romans 1:16). Jesus refers to the Jews as His “children” to assert the obligation to the Chosen People first. The Church thus shares a close relationship with the Jewish people, for they were the first to hear the word of God and from them came our Messiah, Jesus Christ, who was fully Jewish, born to a Jewess, and raised by devout Jewish parents. Remembering then our indebtedness to the Jewish people and our common spiritual heritage, the Church condemns anti-Semitism in any form, such as charging the Jews with the death of Jesus or blaming the Jews for our society's financial, moral, and social problems. In the words of the Council Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, “The Church deplores all hatreds, persecutions, and displays of anti-Semitism levelled at any time from any source against the Jews” (Nostra Aetate, 4). The Jews were dear to Jesus and when the Church delves into the mystery of Jesus Christ, she always discovers her spiritual connection with the Jewish people.

O Come Let Us Adore Him: While many people have taken down their Christmas trees and their Christmas lights, the Church is still in the midst of the great celebration of Christ's birth in the Christmas season. One beautiful and time-honored way to do so is the tradition of the Christmas pageant. This weekend, January 4th and 5th, please join us after the Saturday evening Mass at Saint Ann's, when our children in the religious education program will relive for us the story of Christ's holy birth at Bethlehem. Then on Sunday, at Sacred Heart, the children in the religious education program will do the same with the Christmas pageant after the 10:30 AM Mass. At Saint Ann's, donuts and coffee/juice will be served after the Christmas pageant and at Sacred Heart, the Women of Sacred Heart and the parents of the children will offer a luncheon. May God bless our children for helping us to grow in faith in the Incarnation of Jesus by retelling the story of that holy night in Bethlehem. I was puzzled at first when I was told not to stand too close to the Star of Bethlehem at the Christmas pageants. I found out later that the concern was that the bright light of the star may reflect off my bald head and blind the people in the audience. I should be insulted, but they do have a valid point.

Thank You for Your Kindness and Generosity: Thank you to everyone who so kindly offered me prayers, the gift of Mass intentions, food items, libations, clothing items, devotional items, and pecuniary gifts for Christmas. Know that I am most grateful for these gifts, which are a sign of the outpouring of your love for me. May God bless you and reward you for your kindness extended to me at Christmas. Be assured of my prayers for you, especially when I pray before the creche in our parish churches.

On the Lighter Side, Epiphany Humor: On their way to Bethlehem, the Three Magi had to backtrack, delaying their journey by some days, because Balthazar forgot his gift. At first, he did not want to admit it, so Melchior pressed him and asked, *“Did you or did you not forget your gift!!?”* To which Balthazar responded, *“Myrrh or less.”*

A Christian Point to Ponder: *“Wise men still follow Him.”*



Saint Gianna Maternity Home Needs- anything is appreciated- no need to wrap the gifts!

Mothers are all in their 20's

Sizes are M, L and XL

Caps, Mittens, Gloves, Socks, Sweatshirts, Hoodies, Winter sweaters, Sweatpants, leggings, hairbrushes and combs, fragrances, lotions, shampoo, anything that a young woman would like.

Babies:

Boy clothes 6-9 months & 12-18 months, Girls clothes 12-18 months, toys and diapers

Gift cards: Walmart, Kohls & JC Penney

**St. Gianna's is so appreciative for this baby shower,
that will be held January 11th after the Sunday morning Mass.
Please give generously this Christmas to these wonderful mothers
who have chosen life for their babies!**