The Epiphany of the Lord

Come, let us adore Him.
Blessed Epiphany to all. This weekend, we spiritually approach the infant Jesus along with the three wise men to present our gifts to our Savior.

It is good to welcome back all those who have been traveling over the Christmas holidays. We look forward to getting back into the school year and pray for blessings in the new year. Our Donut Sunday will be next weekend, after everyone has had a chance to return from break.

We look forward to our Kindergarten and Preschool students helping at the 9 AM Mass on December 13.

Next week, on December 16, St. Thomas will host a nine-week course of Financial Peace University as presented by Dave Ramsey. This program teaches skills of financial management, so we are in control of our money rather than letting our money control us. Dave Ramsey talks about the importance of living on a budget, and the freedom of living without debt. A good householder manages one’s resources and is a good steward of his or her gifts. When we are in control of our finances, we can find peace as we decide how to use our money, setting some aside for savings, for charity, and for enjoyment.

I know several people who have testified to how FPU has changed their lives. Participants must enroll to take part. If you’re interested, please look at the additional details in this bulletin for more information.

-Mgr. Gray

Readings for the Week of January 6

Sunday  
Solemnity of the Epiphany  
Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Monday  
St. Raymond of Penyafort  
1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17,23-25

Tuesday  
1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday  
1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

Thursday  
1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22a

Friday  
1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16

Saturday  
1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30

Sunday  
The Baptism of the Lord  

Mass Schedule for the Week of January 6

Monday, January 7, 2019
7:00 a.m.  
Sue O’Donnell/Maria Diaz
8:00 a.m.  
Merton Hubert/Family

Tuesday, January 8, 2019
7:00 a.m.  
E.A. Presley/Jack and Margaret Weinstein
8:00 a.m.  
Barbara Adams/Dr. and Mrs. Mike Shekleton

Wednesday, January 9, 2019
7:00 a.m.  
Alice Eaton/The Highfill Family
8:00 a.m.  
Richard Durr/Tim and Diana O’Hanlon

Thursday, January 10, 2019
7:00 a.m.  
Karen Helton/Karen Middendorf
8:00 a.m.  
Dr. T. Joseph Varkey/The Joseph Family
9:15 a.m.  
Intentions of Deacon Bob Sondag/Ed and Cathy Mallow

Friday, January 11, 2019
7:00 a.m.  
Jack and Colleen Pearl/Tom and Rita Williams
8:00 a.m.  
Mary V. Kelly/John and Amy Kelly

Saturday, January 12, 2019
8:00 a.m.  
James L. Lawler/Sue Lawler Smith
5:00 p.m.  
Jim Scherer/Dr. and Mrs. Richard Flores

Sunday, January 13, 2019
7:00 a.m.  
Barb Adams/Mike and Kathy Barnett
9:00 a.m.  
For the People
11:00 a.m.  
Paul Russell/Mary and Mary Gschwend
5:00 p.m.  
Dianna Good/The Bender Family
Week of January 6

ST. VINCENT de PAUL, FOOD PANTRY AND CHRIST CHILD COLLECTIONS will be at all Masses this weekend.

CENTERING PRAYER Monday, January 7 at 8:30 a.m. in the church.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE Monday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement.

ROSARY Tuesday, January 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement.

CCD Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the school.

RCIA Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the old church basement.

ST THOMAS SCHOOL EARLY DISMISSAL Friday, January 11 at 12:15 p.m.

Weekly Collection

<table>
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<th>December 23, 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collections needed</td>
<td>$20,500</td>
<td>$533,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Collections</td>
<td>$20,697</td>
<td>$387,381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Collections</td>
<td>$3,017</td>
<td>$102,298</td>
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<td>Total Collected</td>
<td>$23,714</td>
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<table>
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<th>December 30, 2018</th>
<th>Fiscal YTD</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Collections needed</td>
<td>$20,500</td>
<td>$553,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Collections</td>
<td>$23,698</td>
<td>$411,079</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Collections</td>
<td>$3,017</td>
<td>$105,315</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Collected</td>
<td>$26,715</td>
<td>$516,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over/(Short)</td>
<td>$6,215</td>
<td>$(37,106)</td>
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</table>

Christmas Collection $21,689  
Solemnity of Mary Collection $4,667

Thank you for your generosity.

Our Sympathy

Ronald Hardgrove
Mary Hoffpauir (aunt of Kathi Simmons)
Emma Medendorp (mother of Brian Medendorp)
Catherine Metz (mother of Carol Vukov)

Wedding Congratulations

Maverick Rasmussen ~ Aleksandra Ratajczak

Welcome New Parishioners

Michele Angevine
Barbara Culjan
Kevin and Yvonne Lowery
Leslie Mallory

STS Students Helping Out at Neighborhood House

RCIA

All are welcome to join us in the school library at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 9, 2019 the topic will be Liturgy, Sacraments, Sacramentals, and Funerals.

Next week, January 16, the topic will be Baptism and Confirmation.

The Epiphany of the Lord
Thanks from St Vincent de Paul Society, 2018
The St. Vincent DePaul group continues to grow because poverty is forever present. The group currently has 36 members who are willing to give of their time and energy to see clients in distress, to staff the food pantry, and to support the Coming Together to get Ahead (CTGA) program. We try to alleviate the poor’s needs thru both short- and long-term solutions. We are dependent on the contributions of our parishioners every month.

Here is a summary of our activities from October 1 2017 through September 30, 2018:

1) The Food Pantry served 1500 families (average family size 3, a total of 4,089 people) 1500 volunteer hours were spent stocking shelves and distributing food twice weekly. Food sources include the Midwest Food Bank and the Peoria Food Bank; in addition, to assure healthy food sources, on occasion, we shop locally. This cost $8,955. We are ever cognizant of high-quality nutrition for our clients.

2) Client visits; historically this has been the core of our efforts. Every request we get from the diocesan office, we see, mostly in a home visit by 2 people. There were 257 visits this year, affecting 666 people. Our visits give us a chance to see their circumstances and evaluate needs. They usually call for financial reasons (rent, utility payments, etc.) We commonly detect financial, educational, training, or other needs. We look for community resources to assist them. A few of our clients will have no furniture- children sleeping on the floor, etc. Some are at risk for eviction, loss of utilities. They are a step away from homelessness. Expenses associated with these visits were $67,606 over this period.

3) CTGA is a recent Vincentian effort to encourage more of our clients to make sustained changes in their life, to get up out of poverty. We look for motivated people who have been in distress and are willing to study their problem. Sessions last 16 weeks, Mentor volunteers are recruited from the Vincentian conferences.

We try to use our knowledge of resources available to help our clients attain some stability in their lives. We are not always successful. However, in the Spirit of St. Vincent DePaul, we continue trying.

We sincerely thank you for your continued giving for the Vincentian cause. Your donations this year totaled $79,304.

If you are interested in this work, would like more information, we would be happy to talk to you. Call 309-258-2326. Our meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7PM

October 1, 2017—September 30, 2018
Donations $79,304
Food Pantry Expenses 8,955
Client Support 67,606
Operating Expenses (dues, etc) 3,047

Pray with the Pope
January 2019
Evangelization – Religious Minorities in Asia
That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

-Pope Francis

“I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayers changes us, and we change things.”

-St Mother Teresa of Calcutta

EMPOWER ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR
The application process for an Empower Illinois Scholarship for the 2019/2020 school year will begin on Tuesday January 15, 2019 at 7:00pm.

The application is a two-step process. The first step is to reserve your place in line through the Empower Illinois website at www.empowerillinois.org on January 15th beginning at 7:00pm. Applications are considered on the basis of the date and time that this first step is completed so it is important to complete step one as soon as possible once the process begins on January 15th.

The first step is a brief online form containing parent name, contact information and child’s name. After reserving your place in line through step one, you will receive instructions by email about completing step two of the application process.

If you would like help in applying for the Empower Illinois Scholarship please contact Pat at patwombacher@stthomas-school.net or at 688-3446, ex 1341 by Friday December 21st, and we will make sure that step one of your application is completed on January 15th.

Please remember that even if you received an Empower Illinois Scholarship for the 2018/2019 school year you will need to reapply for next year.
Hello St. Thomas Friends!

My wife Becky and I completed Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University class early in 2018 and it has started something life changing for our family. Aside from giving us a better plan for our money and our future, we have also strengthened our marriage and faith.

We are excited to be offering the Financial Peace University class at St. Thomas Parish beginning January 16th. Please see additional class information and the registration link below. Please also feel free to contact Becky or me with any questions about the class.

**What:** Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University  
**Where:** St. Thomas Church lower level  
**When:** Wednesday Nights from 6:30pm to 8pm; Begins on January 16th and lasts 9 weeks  
**Cost:** $109 special St. Thomas rate; See “What's Included” below.  
**How:** REGISTER HERE Registration Link: www.fpu.com/1076430

Financial Peace University is a nine-lesson video series course, taught by America’s most trusted financial guru, Dave Ramsey, and his team of financial experts, Rachel Cruze and Chris Hogan. Financial Peace University provides practical instruction on budgeting, saving for emergencies, retiring with dignity, and giving generously.

**What’s Included aside from the 9 week class?**

Every annual Financial Peace University membership comes with:

- 12 months of access to financialpeace.com Immediate access to an online account for one year. Memberships include all video lessons, tools, courses, budgeting forms, ongoing access to financial coaches, and membership in a vibrant digital community.

- Course workbook: Every annual membership includes a member workbook that follows along with each video lesson, highlighting valuable information and providing space to record key takeaways.

- 12 months of access to Every Dollar Plus: Save money and tackle payments with the world’s best budgeting tool, included with your membership! It’s the perfect budgeting companion designed to put the principles of Financial Peace University into practice. Plus, it syncs across devices and connects to your bank, keeping everything up-to-date!

- Additional courses for different life stages: Memberships now include special bonus courses: Smart Money Smart Kids and The Legacy Journey.

- Access to Ramsey Event live streams: Our events are world class, motivational, life-changing, and trans-formative. Now, with every Financial Peace University membership, you’ll have access to these incredible events from the comfort of your own home!


- Ongoing Updates and future content Your membership is always improving! We will be adding tools, courses, exclusive content, dashboard updates, updated lessons, and more on a regular basis as we continue to look for even more ways to serve you on your journey to financial peace.

Thank you, Erich & Becky Crismore

**Contact Info**  
Erich - Email: e.crismore@hotmail.com Phone: 309-696-2582  
Becky - Email: bmillerlite@hotmail.com Phone: 309-696-1001  
Registration Link: www.fpu.com/1076430
Catholic Charities Christmas Program
The Catholic Charities backpack Christmas program was a huge success. We were able to distribute backpacks filled with school supplies in LaSalle, Quad Cities, Normal, Champaign, Galesburg, DePue, Rantoul, Princeville, Canton and Peoria this year. For our Christmas program, we are always in need of toys, hats, gloves, baby items, wipes etc. We also would like to have gift cards of any denomination. If you would like to volunteer, please visit our website for more information. If you do not have time to shop or help — no worries — keep your eye out for the wish list and you can also donate to Catholic Charities here: https://cdop.org/catholic-charities/

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Peoria has been serving communities since its incorporation in July 1942. Since that time we have served the most vulnerable throughout the Diocese through a variety of outreach programs to provide help and create hope in the lives of those in need. One of the ways we provide help is through our Christmas Giving program. Items received through the Giving program help support all Catholic Charities outreach programs throughout the year. If you wish to participate in the Giving program by sponsoring a family or getting some toys for children contact us at evangelization@cdop.org or call 309-671-1550 and ask for Catholic Charities.

March for Life – Chicago Bus Trip – Jan 13
The Catholic Diocese of Peoria is sponsoring a bus pilgrimage to Chicago to attend the March for Life! Space is limited and will fill up quickly. Cost is $25 per person ($10 for current college students). You may reserve your spot here: https://cdop.org/march-for-life-chicago/

St. Gianna Baby Pantry
The St. Gianna Baby pantry offers clothing, formula, diapers, and other basic baby supplies to families. Baby items provided are based on the donations received from the community. We are in desperate need of size 5 & 6 diapers. Can you help us by donating to the baby pantry? If you can help please send the diapers to Catholic Charities Administration Office 419 NE Madison Ave., Peoria, IL 61603 or go to ccdop.org and click on the “How can you make a difference?” button on top right of page. You can purchase through the “Amazon Wish List” button and they will be automatically delivered to Catholic Charities or click “Give Online” button and you may make a monetary donation.

Nine Days for Life
US Bishop’s annual prayer and action campaign for Life: Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage: January 14 - 22, 2019 Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., D.D. invites all clergy, religious and faithful to Mass & Eucharistic Adoration for the Legal Protection of the Unborn on Friday, January 25, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria. For more information contact Susie Meismer at (309) 966-0385 or at smeismer@ccdop.org.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat
Rachel’s Vineyard, a retreat for women and men struggling with the pain of abortion will be held the weekend of: February 8-10, 2019 in the Peoria area. If you are a mother, a father, a grandparent, who has suffered the loss of abortion in your family, you need not suffer alone. Start your healing journey today by attending a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat. Registrations are currently being accepted for this February 1, 2019 weekend retreat. Rachel’s Vineyard is a safe place to renew and rebuild hearts broken by abortion. Scholarships are available upon request. For additional information, please call 309-264-1489, or email rrvpeoria@gmail.com, or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org. All communications are confidential.