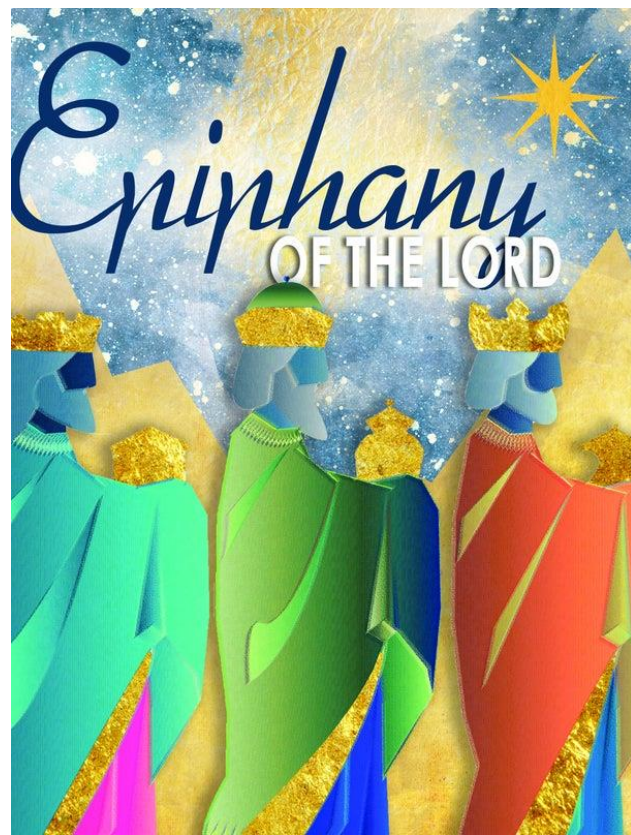


January 4, 2026  
Epiphany of the Lord



### Epiphany Blessing

Dear God,  
It was You who inspired the Magi to follow the star to find You. Inspire us to seek You, as well. Bless our homes and families this season, make them places where we can encounter You through prayer and community.  
Amen. ©LPi

Offertory will be reported next week.

When School is delayed or cancelled, weekday morning Mass, the Rosary & Holy Hour are also CANCELLED!

### Reconciliation Available

3:30 pm Saturday's St. Isaac Jogues  
11:30 am Sunday's Blessed Sacrament  
or by appointment

## Blessed Sacrament

**Intentions & Mass Cards:** Please call Rita Whitney at 518-338-6858  
1/4 Michael Schuster, Sr. *Req. Schuster Family*  
1/4 Michel Vachon  
*Req. Ginette & David Maslanka*  
1/11 All Souls *Req. The Schuster Family*  
1/11 John Abraham *Req. The Schuster Family*  
**Prayer Intentions:** call Pat Nugent 518-668-2765  
**Rosary:** Tuesdays at 9:00 am.  
**Daily Mass:** will be on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am, followed by Adoration.  
**Brunch:** Join us today for our New Year's Brunch. All are welcome as we start the year together in faith and community.

## St. Isaac Jogues

**Intentions & Mass Cards:** Please call the office 518-824-1176.  
1/3 & 1/4 People of the Parish  
1/11 Joseph Danial Turcotte  
*Req. Tom, Cindy, and the Turcotte Family*  
**Daily Mass:** will be in the Parish Center on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.  
**Help:** We need someone willing to wash and iron the linens used at Mass each week. This is a quiet but very meaningful way to serve our parish community.  
If you feel called to help, please step forward. Your care will ensure that our worship remains reverent and beautiful.  
Please contact the parish office or speak with Barb Carlozzi, if you are able to assist.

### What Makes a Church Vibrant

**Practical Practices That Sustain Vibrancy:**  
*Mission Orientation:* Keeping outreach and evangelism central, ensuring the church is outward-facing.  
*Consistency in Worship:* Joyful, meaningful, and Spirit-led worship services that inspire and renew.  
*Summary:* A church becomes vibrant when it is alive with faith, welcoming in spirit, active in service, and intentional about growth. It's not about size or resources, it's about cultivating a community where people feel God's presence and are moved to live out their faith together.



### Diocesan Appeal

The Diocesan Appeal supports many vital ministries, including the education and formation of clergy, deacons, and seminarians, as well as chaplaincy programs in hospitals and colleges, and other essential Diocesan Services that help our parishes thrive.

Opening the appeal early allows you to spread your gift over a longer period of time.

#### Parish Goals & Progress:

St. Isaac Jogues—Assessment: \$15,429 (an increase of \$88 from last year). Raised to date: \$15,371 with 37 gifts (99.6% of goal). Wow, only \$58 left to achieve our goal.

Blessed Sacrament—Assessment: \$18,895 (a decrease of \$2,147 from last year). Raised to date \$8,085 with 22 gifts (43% of goal) Getting there!

Each parish's goal is based on a three-year average of offertory giving.

"With the light and strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love that proclaims the Word and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity." --Pope Leo

The story of the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus, the newborn King, is a great one, isn't it? They had a great big star in the sky to lead the way. I am no Boy Scout, so I am not sure how well I would do following a star like that. But the important point here is that God led them to the manger. The manger was a place that unless God specifically showed you this was where the Christ Child was born you wouldn't have believed it. You would have passed on by.

In our lives, there are no big stars in the sky leading us where we need to go. It isn't so easy sometimes discerning where God is leading us. We may seek to use our gifts wisely, but in what manner and to what end is not always clear.

This is where prayer can make a huge difference. If we seek to cultivate a prayer life where we are mindful of the presence of God throughout our day, then the call is easier to discern. We can help the process by intentionally offering to God in the morning the entirety of the day to come: all our actions, all our time, and all our decisions. In the evening, we can examine the past hours of the day and reflect on when we responded well to Christ's call and when we fell short. Then we resolve to begin again tomorrow, inviting Christ to be with us every step of the way. God may not offer a star in the sky to lead us, but if we invite us on our journey each day, the path will be much clearer.

## Recognizing God in our Ordinary Moments

### The Stars We Follow

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak — to say, "I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough." Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking — really, truly knew. They were seeking "the newborn king of the Jews," yes, but did they understand who he was? *What* he was? I don't see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don't know how many of them there were. We don't know their religion. We don't know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power. They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you— tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth. ©LPi

