

Sunday Connection

A Gospel Reflection by Loyola Press

Sunday, January 4, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus
and do Him homage.



Family Connection

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

For more background information on the Gospel for the weekend, visit
www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

JANUARY 4, 2026

The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

100 S. Main St. - PO Box 187 - Spearville, KS 67876 - www.stjohnspearville.com

Pastor

Fr. John Forkuoh, 385-2212

Parish Secretary/DRE

Jenny Schmidt, 385-2202

Bookkeeper

Tena Gleason, 385-0615

Parish Council-1st Thursdays @ 8PM

President: Stephanie Hornung

Parish Center Office Hours

Hours listed are approximate and change often.

Fr. John - frjohn47@yahoo.com:

T/W/F : 10 am-12 pm

(by appointment for sacramental needs)

Jenny - jschmidt@stjohnspearville.com:

M-F: 12 pm-3:30 pm (during the school year)

MASS SCHEDULE: JANUARY 5TH - 11TH

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	MASS INTENTION
M-1.5	No Mass on Mondays - Father's Day Off		
T-1.6	8:30am	Parkview	Dean & Joyce Weis
"	9:30am	Southwind	Polly Nightingale
W-1.7	8:30am	Parkview	Austin & Katie Kropp
Th-1.8	8:30am	Parkview	Mary Ann Schmidt
F-1.9	8:30am	Parkview	Rick Indiek
Sat-1.10	6:30pm	Church	All Parishioners of St. John
Sun-1.11	8:00am	Church	Sonja Strecker

Confessions: Saturdays at 5:45 PM or by appointment.

MASS MINISTERS - JANUARY 10TH & 11TH

Collection:

MASS	SATURDAY - 6:30 PM	SUNDAY - 8:00 AM
Sacristan	Dana Howerton	Jenny Schmidt
Servers	Reece Schulte Blake Hornung	YOUTH MASS 7 th & 9 th /10 th /11 th grades
Lector	Chanda Schulte	YOUTH
EMHC	Katie Gleason Larry Tasset Jolene Tasset	Levi Benjamin Mary Benjamin Riley Schmidt
Music	Howertons	Howertons
Ushers	Kevin Rabe Greg Thompson	YOUTH
Gifts	Robert & Nancy Hattrup	YOUTH

Get Connected

formed

1. Visit formed.org/signup
2. Enter our zip code and select our parish.
3. Enter your name & email.

Join the Email Prayer Chain
To join the list or to send a prayer request, email Ginny Werner (ginny_werner@yahoo.com) or Lynnette Hessman (nettemae1984@yahoo.com).



St. Leonard's
Council #1539

K of C Meetings

1st Mondays

7:45 PM Rosary

Meeting Follows



The Daughters of Isabella
St. Vincent de Paul #211

D of I Meetings

2nd Mondays

7:00 PM

Oak Room



Scan
to follow
us on
Facebook!

BIRTHDAYS: 1/5-1/11

1.9	Scheon Elledge Isabel Bowman
1.10	Roberta Kiehl
1.11	Nancy Ackerman Reg Stegman Clayton Stein



Parish Announcements, News, and Events

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: Today we remember the three wise men from the East who came to pay homage to the infant Jesus, bringing him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gifts we bring – our time and service and some share of what we earn for the work we do – are equally precious in His sight.

TITHING REPORT for CHRISTMAS:

Box Collection: \$ 7,516.50

TITHING REPORT for DECEMBER 27th & 28th:

Box Collection: \$ 6,676.00

Online Collection: \$ 1,620.00

2026 TITHING ENVELOPES

If you still tithe using weekly envelopes, please find your box on the entryway table!

If you'd like to switch to online giving, please scan this QR code to find our parish's online giving platform:



PLEASE PAY DofI 2026 DUES:



Members of Daughters of Isabella are reminded to pay their 2026 dues. Dues are \$20 for all members over the age of 80. Dues are \$25 for all other members.

You can bring them to the meeting on January 12th or mail to Stephanie Hornung at 402 Sill Street, Spearville. Thank you!

St. John Parish's Annual PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 25th
@ St. John Parish Center
8:30 - 10:30 AM

Free-Will Donation
Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, & Orange Juice

ROSARY CHALLENGE:

As always, when you receive the statue, pray for increased vocations in our diocese, your own personal intentions, and the special intentions listed for the month below.

January Intention:

That praying with the Word of God provides nourishment for our lives and helps us to build fraternity and greater mission for our Church.



January 4th - January 11th:
TBD

VOCATION REFLECTION:

God does not call through trumpets and midnight visions, but through the quiet recognition in the heart that something new is happening. As the Magi were attentive to the signs of the times, be aware of how God is calling you to be a disciple. (Matthew 2:1-12)

If you're discerning the priesthood, contact our Diocesan Director of Vocations: **Fr. John Stang @ 620-227-1500 or vocationpromotion@dcdiocese.org**

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Check out these vocation discovery opportunities!

ANDREW DINNERS

Dinner, discussions on discernment with Bishop John & the Vocations Team, and Night Prayer.



SCHEDULE

DEC. 28	College & Post-college @ Wright
JAN. 25	High School Option 1 @ Garden City (St. Mary's)
FEB. 1	High School Option 2 @ Larned

To register, scan here or email: vocationpromotion@dcdiocese.org



MARIA DINNER

High school girls are invited to dinner, discussions on discernment with religious sisters, and Night Prayer.



SCHEDULE

FEB 15	ST. ANDREW'S - WRIGHT
BEGINS AT 6PM	
ENDS AT 8PM	

To register, scan here or email: vocationpromotion@dcdiocese.org



KofC MEMBERS:

Saturday, January 10th Annual Membership Stag/Stagette



Members of Council #1539-Spearville & members of Council #1862-Wright, as well as their spouses, are invited!

Come pay your dues for 2026 and enjoy a fun evening with us!

-Doors and bar open at 5:30 pm

-Meal provided by Council #1539 after Mass at 7:30 pm

-Stick around for card games & a good time.

St. John the Baptist Parish Center