

# JANUARY 4, 2026 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## THE PARISHES OF

### ST. MARY

310 Nobbe St.  
Farmersville, IL 62533

### ST. RAYMOND

306 S McElroy  
Raymond, IL 62560

### ST. MAURICE

706 SE 4th St.  
Morrisonville, IL 62546

**Fr. Florent Kanga**, Pastor  
(414) 460-0335  
fkanga@dio.org

**Kateri Marten**, Secretary  
kmarten@stmrm.org

Bulletin Deadline:  
End of Monday  
Parish Website:  
stmrm.org

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting  
and Investigation: (217) 321-1155

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

5:00 pm St. Mary: The Deceased Members of  
the St. Isidore K of C Council #1152

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

8:00 am St. Raymond: The People of Our Parishes  
10:00 am St. Maurice: Richard & Lou Norris

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

8:00 am St. Mary: Velma Langen

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

8:00 am St. Raymond: Rose Schilling

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00 am St. Maurice: Marge Held

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

5:00 pm St. Mary: The People of Our Parishes

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

8:00 am St. Raymond: Denny & Danny Held and  
Clarence & Jan Smith  
10:00 am St. Maurice: Mary Eileen Weitekamp

## RECONCILIATION

### SATURDAYS

3:00-3:30 pm St. Maurice  
4:00-4:30 pm St. Mary

### SUNDAYS

7:00-7:30 am St. Raymond

## ADORATION

### ST. RAYMOND

8:30 am Wednesday - 8:00 am Thursday

### ST. MAURICE

8:00 am - 9:00 pm Wednesday

## SAINTS OF THE WEEK

January 5th: St. Edward, King of England  
January 6th: St. Carlo da Sezze, Franciscan  
January 7th: St. Raymond of Penyafort,  
Dominican & Co-founder of the Mercedarians  
January 8th: St. Lawrence Giustiniani  
January 9th: St. Andrew Corsini,  
Carmelite & Bishop  
January 10th: St. Agatone, Pope  
January 11th: St. Peter of Caesarea

### WINTER WEATHER MASS NOTICE:

If school is canceled due to bad weather,  
weekday mass will also be canceled.

## FATHER'S COLUMN

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,  
in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east  
arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the  
Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have  
come to do him homage."

Today is a feast of Gospel reversals. Herod had taken the  
title of "king of the Jews" to himself and perverted it by his  
ambitious grasp for power. In contrast, Jesus was born a  
powerless king of the Jews, the title that will be ironically nailed  
to the humble throne of his cross.

Historical controversies aside, the magi thrill our imagination  
and bring wonder and excitement to the faith-filled search for  
Jesus that is the focus of every disciple's journey through life.  
The magi are the surprising, seeing ones, guided to Jerusalem  
by their own drive to seek wisdom and by nature's partial  
revelation in the star that rises in the east.

In that city of Jerusalem, they learn where they will find the  
child from the special revelation of God's word and wisdom to  
Israel. They see through the hypocritical protestations of Herod's  
wish to go to pay homage himself to the newborn child. Herod  
and his circle of courtiers are blind; they have access to the  
wisdom of the Scriptures, but they refuse to see the meaning of  
what the prophets wrote.

Herod is agitated at the possible risk to his power, while the  
magi, aristocratic scholars from abroad, are almost naively  
willing to take risks and add to their scholarly wisdom the  
wisdom of the Hebrew Scriptures in their search for the royal  
child. In the ravaging company of Herod and his cohorts,  
Matthew sees the magi as witnesses to the later call for all  
disciples to be "shrewd as serpents and simple as doves" (Matt  
10:16).

The beauty of this story encourages us to do what poetry  
generally encourages us to do: keen listening, silent reflection,  
transcendence of the ordinary by giving it our full attention. A  
star, a baby with its mother, human and holy words can lead us  
with the magi into and beyond the mystery of Christ in silent  
homage.

In our Christmas creches, the magi may seem "odd men" in  
the humble company of Mary, Joseph, and the child. But with  
their fine gifts and opulent robes, they do belong there, for they  
are symbolic of every nation on earth that, in the words of the  
responsorial psalm of this celebration (Psalm 72), we pray, will  
come to adore God and participate in a kingdom of justice  
and peace that only God can establish, especially for the poor  
and needy of the earth.

As we gaze on the magi and hear their story, are we mindful  
of strangers who come to our own place, not in rich robes but  
usually in the poverty of contemporary seekers and stargazers:  
the refugees and asylum seekers from many nations; those  
tired of hypocrisy and disillusioned about political power; the  
young who want a star that is worth following to rise in their  
lives, even though the journey may be difficult, the old and  
middle-aged who still dream of something more to enlighten  
them?

And do we not all, at some time, feel ourselves to be  
strangers and foreigners seeking to belong to a true home (as  
the second reading explains) that will be the new Jerusalem?

## MINISTRY SCHEDULES

### ST. MARY

#### LECTORS

Saturday, January 3:  
Mary Jane Fuchs

Saturday, January 10:  
Tony Krager

Saturday, January 17:  
Dan Martin

Saturday, January 24:  
Kathy Rovey

Saturday, January 31:  
Kevin Clark

Saturday, February 7:  
Carol Hupp

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, January 3:  
Mary Jane Schmidt  
& Patty Clarke

Saturday, January 10:  
Emily Martin  
& Mary Jane Schmidt

Saturday, January 17:  
Carolynn Clark  
& Emily Martin

Saturday, January 24:  
John &  
Mary Jo Brown

Saturday, January 31:  
Mary Ann Rimini  
& Carolynn Clark

Saturday, February 7:  
Patty Clarke  
Mary Ann Rimini

### ST. RAYMOND

#### JANUARY

LECTOR Cheryl Gonet  
CANTOR Deb Held  
HOSPITALITY Phil Borgic  
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS  
Tricia Pinkston  
Neil Wagahoff

HOMEBOUND MINISTER:  
Jan 4: Hocking/Krager  
Jan 11: Dick Lyons  
Jan 18: Carl Martin  
Jan 25: Noller/Morehouse

### ST. MAURICE

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

LECTOR ..... Ed Goebel

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS .....  
Catherine O'Connell  
Diane McWard-Sullivan  
John Bergschneider

USHERS ..... Larry & Karen Goebel  
Richard & Rochelle Grundy

SERVERS ..... Macie Ferrill  
Adelaide and Gentry Dunkirk

## PARISH ENGAGEMENT FOR DECEMBER 27/28

### ST. MARY

Collection: \$6,929

### ST. RAYMOND

Collection: \$8,624

### ST. MAURICE

Collection: \$7,125  
Attendance: 100

## OUR PRAYER LIST

Lucy McGrath, Mike Armstrong, Toby Dean, Carl Armes, Larry Lucas, Drake Lucas, Georgetta Dean, Jacob Mizera, Sara Cawthon, Martha Beeler, Marcia Rosenthal, Jim Weitekamp, Janet Locander, Alan McFarlin, Brant Weitekamp, Trent Boston, and for the end of all war, especially for peace in Cameroon, Fr. Florent's home in Africa.

Remember to pray for our also

Pope, Bishop, Priests and seminarians, and for the increase of vocations to priesthood and religious life.



### St. Raymond Sunday Social

Join us Sunday, January 4 after Mass for coffee, donuts & more at the KC Hall. Hope to see you there!

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### Pro-Life Prayer

Friday mornings 9:00 am at St. Raymond

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### Nokomis supports Seniors

Quilt Raffle and Soup and Sandwich Luncheon Benefit For Nokomis Senior Meals. Free will donation. Sunday, January 11 from 10 am to 1:30 pm at the St. Louis Parish Center in Nokomis

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### Afternoon Program with Visiting Priest

Have you ever wondered why Catholics believe they receive the true body and blood, soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ during Mass? Have you ever wondered why Catholics confess their sins to a priest?

Come find out more about these sacraments Sunday, January 18

2:00 pm at the K of C Hall in Raymond

Fr. Augustine from the Springfield Corpus Christi Priory will lead an afternoon discussion. Bring your questions! Light refreshments will be served.

Fr. Augustine will also be giving the homily at the 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond and the 10:00 am Mass at St. Maurice on these topics.

Questions? Call Cheryl at 217-415-4949

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### Save the Date for Trivia Night Hosted by the Morrisonville K of C

February 21 at the Fuller Street Building in Morrisonville. More to follow

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### Disciples of Mercy Ministry at St. Maurice

If you or someone you know could benefit from having meals provided while on hospice, recovering from surgery and hospitalization, or welcoming a new baby, or if you would like to join this ministry, contact: Marietta Dunkirk 217-825-6018, Pat Christian 217-825-9811, or Claire Weitekamp 714-204-1300

### St. Raymond Pro-Life Ministry Collecting Baby Items for Pro-Life Month

Help us support moms in need. Items we're looking for:

diapers, wet wipes, blankets, creams/lotion, zinc oxide, changing pads, onesies, sleepers, bottle brush, bibs, burp clothes, baby shampoo, and teethingers

Please place items in the back of Church anytime during the month of January.

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### To Add a Name to Our Prayer List

Please email Kateri at [kmarten@stmrm.org](mailto:kmarten@stmrm.org) and specify how many weeks you'd like that name to appear for (1 week up to a maximum of 12 weeks). You're always welcome to re-add the name at the end of this period if the need for prayer is still present, but this will help keep the list focused and fresh.

If you know of a parishioner that you'd like added to Father's visitation list, please let him or Kateri know.

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St. Maurice parish would like to thank Gerry Goebel Construction for removing the old speaker hanging from the center of the sanctuary. The old speaker has not been used for many years but was a challenge to remove.