

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@stmmr.org

Bulletin Deadline:
End of Monday
Parish Website:
stmmr.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 Peñafort,
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 ravening 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 MINSTERS
Tricia Pinkston
Neil Wagahoff

HOMEBOUND MINISTER:
Jan 4: Hocking/Krager
Jan 11: Dick Lyons
Jan 18: Carl Marten
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.

PARISH & COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

St. Raymond Sunday Social

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

Pro-Life Prayer

Friday mornings 9:00 am at St. Raymond

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

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

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

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 teethers

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

To Add a Name to Our Prayer List

Please email Kateri at kmarten@stmmr.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.



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.