



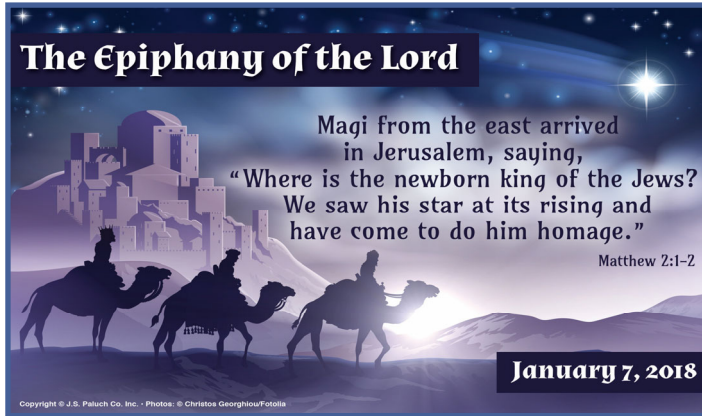
# St. Joseph Parish

1709 Wyatt Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481-3615  
715-341-1617

www.togetherinfaith.org

January 7, 2018, Volume LIV, No. 1

Mission: Together in faith, we celebrate Christ through prayer and service.



## ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY 7-14

- Sunday, January 7  
9:00 a.m.—Call to Justice Meeting
- Monday, January 8  
7:00 p.m.—Holy Hour for Families
- Tuesday, January 9  
6:30 p.m.—RCIA
- Wednesday, January 10  
4:15 p.m.—CCD  
6:30 p.m.—CCD  
6:30 p.m.—TYME
- Thursday, January 11  
12:00 p.m.—1/21/18 Bulletin Deadline  
6:30 p.m.—Parish Education Meeting
- Saturday, January 13  
8:00 a.m.—Crafting Event  
St. Anne's Chili-To-Go Pre Order after Mass
- Sunday, January 14, St. Anne's Chili-To-Go  
Pre Order after Mass

## PARISH

**Thank You**—St. Joseph Parish wishes to thank Pastoral Council President, Rich Boden. Rich has served the parish in this capacity for the past 7 years and has stepped away from the council after the closing of the December Council meeting. Throughout his time as President, Rich has brought a calm and reassuring face to the Pastoral Council. He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the council to a new awareness of parish needs. We are truly grateful for all his guidance, support and endless hours of time used to serve St. Joseph Parish. God Bless you, Rich!

**Pastoral Council News**—Welcome to new member Mike Hess who has agreed to serve a three year term on the council. At its December meeting, Pastoral Council chose Laurie Schroeder as it's new president. Laurie is in her second term as a member of the pastoral council. Dave Kunze remains as the council's vice-president and Mary Stroik as secretary. We thank them for stepping forward and serving St. Joseph Parish in this capacity,

**Mass Schedule Change:** Fr. Jerzy and Fr. Lindner will both be away during the week of January 8-12. St. Joseph and St. Stephen Parishes will not have morning Mass from January 10 through January 12. Parishioners are asked to attend Mass at Holy Spirit Parish with Fr. Todd during this time. Here is the Mass schedule for that week:

Mon., 1/8	8:00 a.m. Mass	St. Joseph
Tues., 1/9	8:15 a.m. School Mass	St. Stephen
Wed., 1/10	8:15 a.m. Mass	Holy Spirit
Thur., 1/11	8:15 a.m. Mass	Holy Spirit
Fri., 1/12	8:15 a.m. Mass	Holy Spirit

We thank you for your patience during this time.

**Monday Morning 8:00 a.m. Mass** will continue at St Joseph Parish through Monday March 26, 2018.

**Due to Christmas and New Year's Day, the financials for December 30/31 will be posted in next week's bulletin.**

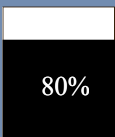
### Special Collections 12/24/17

Milk Can Fund	\$44.00
Building Fund	\$755.00
Keeping Our Father's House	\$1,000.00
Retirement for Religious	\$50.00

### Envelopes/Basket Summary—12/24/17

Weekly Giving	\$17,377
Weekly Giving Budgeted	\$7,096
Giving to Date	\$181,092
Budgeted to Date	\$184,496

<b>DAA 2017/2018 GOAL</b>	\$50,565
Weekly Pledges Received	\$7,175
Total Pledges Received	\$40,680
Total Payments Received	\$35,600
Food for Poor Housing Goal	\$3,600
Total Received	\$200



**Mass Schedule and Intentions**

MONDAY, January 8, The Baptism of the Lord  
8:00 a.m. †Sandra Retzki

TUESDAY, January 9  
8:15 a.m. *Mass at St. Stephen Parish*

WEDNESDAY, January 10  
8:15 a.m. *Mass at Holy Spirit Parish*

THURSDAY, January 11  
8:15 a.m. *Mass at Holy Spirit Parish*

FRIDAY, January 12  
8:15 a.m. *Mass at Holy Spirit Parish*

*Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

SATURDAY, January 13, St. Hilary  
4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of  
Alois & Esther Shulfer Family

SUNDAY, January 14  
10:30 a.m. The Living & Deceased Members  
of St. Joseph & St. Stephen Parishes

**Liturgical Ministers for January 13-14**

**4:00 p.m. — Saturday**

**Mass Preparation:** Marcia Molner  
**Altar Servers:** Ben Formella, Ben Kroening  
**Hospitality Ministers:**  
John Meyer      Rose Stoltz (w)      Virginia Zakoski (w)  
Maurice Stoltz      Bob Rogers      Val Omernick  
**Readers:** Brian Formella  
**Eucharistic Ministers:**  
Lori Bartlett      Lucy Ksionsk      Rich Mrozinski  
Dave Ksionsk      Marcia Molner      Anne Swenson  
**Gift Card Sellers:** Dede Schroeder

**10:30 a.m. — Sunday**

**Mass Preparation:** Terri Chang  
**Altar Servers:** Sarah Hopp      Lily Miskowski  
Andrew Pisarski  
**Hospitality Ministers:**  
Michelle Daniels (w)      Joe Daniels      Savannah Nieman  
Amy Nieman      Perry Pazdernik  
**Readers:** Sandy Cekosh & Jean Groos  
**Eucharistic Ministers:**  
John Chang      Kevin Hopp      Terry Miller  
Terri Chang      Gail Klauck      Don Showalter  
**Gift Card Sellers:** Laurie Schroeder

**PARISH**

**Operation Bootstrap**—The parish will collect cans of soup for Operation Bootstrap during the month of January. Anything you wish to donate will be gratefully accepted.

**Thank You**—The decorating committee would like to thank ALL who helped make this Christmas season at St. Joseph Parish beautiful! The large trees were donated by the Holy Name Society and a generous anonymous donor. The beautiful trees around the crèche were donated by the St. Anne's Society. The "fluffing" and lights of the large trees were done by Mike Daniels and Brian Zimmerman. Boy Scout Troop 297 helped with some HEAVY lifting and tree decorating. Many people donated poinsettias in memory of their loved ones. Countless volunteer hours were spent behind the scenes by cleaners, musicians, readers, Eucharistic ministers, hospitality ministers, committees, and of course, our awesome decorating committee (including some very nice husbands) to keep this church running and beautiful. It takes our St. Joseph community coming "Together in Faith" to make it all happen. Thank you. Thank you...THANK YOU!



**Meal of Hope Thank You**—The St. Joseph Parish Call to Justice Committee would like to express our appreciation to all of the individuals, families, and groups who have helped with the Meal of Hope. Our monthly Meal of Hope regularly has more than fifty people who come for the meal and fellowship. We especially want to thank the following who shopped for, cooked, and/or provided financial support for one or more of the monthly meals:

- St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council
- St. Joseph Parish Finance Council
- St. Joseph Parish St. Anne's Society
- St. Joseph Parish Holy Name Society
- Father Jerzy and friends
- Knights of Columbus
- Thrivent Financial
- Kurszewski, Mrozinski, Swenson and Wallner Circle of Faith
- St. Joseph Parish Discussion Group
- St. Joseph Parish Family Life Committee
- St. Joseph Parish RCIA Program
- St. Joseph Parish Call to Justice Committee
- St. Joseph Parish Folk Choir
- St. Joseph Parish Sacred Worship Committee
- The Martin and Stoltz Families
- Joann Kronebusch for making homemade rolls for many of the meals
- Beth Sekerka and Amy Formella for organizing student volunteers

And the many volunteers who helped greet our guests, donated baked goods, helped with setup or cleanup, and in so many other ways! Thank you for answering the call to serve those in need!

**PARISH**

**Congratulations** to our parishioners who are celebrating their Wedding Anniversary the week of January 8-14



Marty & Jacki Goetz, 32 years

George & Sandi Lepak 37 years

May God bless and grant you many years of happiness.

**Fr. Jerzy** will be away the month of January. Please pray for his safe travel and that his time away will be spiritually uplifting. While Fr. Jerzy is away, please contact Fr. Todd Mlsna, 715-252-8157, for emergencies only. Thank you!



To the family of Sadie Behm, who passed away on December 29. May the Lord hold you in his loving arms during this time of sorrow. Be assured the family of St. Joseph Parish will continue to pray for you.

**Baptism Class Schedule**—If you are planning to bring a child for Baptism, be sure to call the parish office at 715-341-1617 x101 to register for one of the preparation classes. Please note the following future class dates: January 21, March 11 and June 10.

**School Building Update**—Altmann Construction is on site and the demolition of the school building has begun. The courtyard doors continue to be closed during this process. The estimated time to take down the building is six weeks, bringing us to the end of January. Please use caution around all of the fenced in areas. Thank you.

**Adult Education Opportunity**—RCIA will be discussing Catholic morality on January 9, 16 and 23. All are welcome to join. Sessions start at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Family Center. Please call Kris Hansen at 715-341-1617 x112 if you have any questions.

**Gift Card Seller** is needed after Mass on the fourth Saturday and fifth Sunday. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Jacob Stiemann, 715-341-1617 x102.

**Thank You**—On behalf of Stevens Point Council 1170 Knights of Columbus, we would like to thank St. Joseph Parish for the contribution of windows from the school. They will help us brighten up our clubhouse. As always your support of the Knights of Columbus is greatly appreciated.

**St. Joseph Parish Prayer Corner**—Please pray for the health of Sally Nash. If you would like your name placed on the weekly prayer list, please call Renée at 715-341-1617 x101, or send an email to: rschneeb@togetherinfaith.org.

**St. Anne's/PCCW**—*Ladies Group 5* will be responsible for the month of January. These ladies are asked to help with any funeral dinners.  
Kathryn Bemowski Linda Losinski  
Cynthia Hawley Mary Ann Russell  
Sharon Hutnik Kathy Schlice  
Co-Chairs Barbara Bartkowiak and Lucille Lutz

**myParish App**—Receive a daily video reflection of Pope Francis by accessing the new “Message of the Day” button found on myParish App.

**Ehr Hall Update**—Updates and work in the hall are ongoing. Painting is in process for Ehr Hall and we are still waiting on the contract for the new floor from the diocese. We will continue to update you on the progress of this project in future bulletins. The bathrooms remain closed during this time.

**A Celebration of Ministry**—St. Joseph Parish members, staff and councils recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in calling forth Anne Swenson, Tari Wallner and the Decorating Committee for creating the beautiful atmosphere during the Advent and Christmas season. The Church looked beautiful.

*How is the Holy Spirit calling you to use your gifts for our community?*

**Sponsor of the Month**—Thank you Dental Health Center of Stevens Point, for your generosity in sponsoring our bulletin. St. Joseph Parish would not be able to publish our bulletin without your support. Please see their ad on the back cover of this bulletin.



**Weekly Reflections**—The Magi found the new born king in a most unlikely place, in the most unlikely circumstances, yet they had no doubt that they had found what they were searching for. We are also called to a journey to seek God and discover his will for us. Where have you encountered God's presence? Think of the moments when you felt God's hand in your life. Consider how you seek to be open to God's direction. What can you do to become more attuned to God's direction in your life?

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

—Isaiah 60:1

**PARISH**

**Holiday Light Fundraiser**—Bring in your broken or worn out holiday lights and extension cords. The parish will turn them in for recycling and be paid for the copper inside the lights and cords. This fundraiser goes until January 15, 2018. Items may be placed in the red box in the Gathering Space.

**AREA CHURCHES, SCHOOLS & DEANERY**

**Holy Hour For Families**—As we begin the new year of 2018, family is a very important part of the celebration. The Holy Hour is a great way to pray together as God's family. Council 1170 of the Knights of Columbus is proud to sponsor the Holy Hour for Families at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8, at St. Joseph Parish. The hour includes Exposition, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Benediction, prayer and Confession.

**Label Collection for Pacelli Catholic Schools**—Campbell Soup labels will no longer be accepted by Pacelli Catholic Schools. The Campbell program is set to expire in early January. With the relocation of the Pacelli Early Childhood Program, St. Joseph Parish will no longer be a drop off point for the collection of milk labels or box tops. Those wishing to donate these items should take them directly to the PCS Office, St. Stephen, St. Peter or Holy Spirit schools.

**Pacelli Catholic High School** will be having a fundraiser with Noodles Inc. to help support the Pacelli Catholic Middle School Student Leadership Team. This team works to support the school and community. Please consider supporting this worthy cause by dining in or carrying out from Noodles Inc. on January 22.

**Ponczka Sale**—St. Mary-Torun is now taking orders for their annual Ponczka Sale which will be held on Saturday January 20. Order now to make sure you can get your tasty Ponczka! Cost is \$7.50 per dozen for unfilled and \$8.00 per dozen for prune or raspberry jelly filled. To place your order, call 715-344-9665 or 715-575-1719, email [ponczka@toruncatholic.org](mailto:ponczka@toruncatholic.org) or online at [www.toruncatholic.org/ponczka](http://www.toruncatholic.org/ponczka). All orders can be picked up on January 20 after 3:00 p.m.

**St. Adalbert Breakfast Event** will be held to celebrate Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Menu includes all-you-can-eat potato and buttermilk pancakes, scrambled eggs, toasts, hash browns, sausage, bacon, desserts and beverages. Homemade Ponczka and Kluski noodles will be for sale. See flyer on the bulletin board.

**DIOCESE/WIDER CHURCH****Popes Prayer Intention for January**

Evangelization: Religious Minorities in Asia  
That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

**Help End Exploitation of Aborted Fetal Tissue in Wisconsin**

—Two bills that would end the trade of aborted fetal tissue (Senate Bill 423) and promote ethical fetal tissue research (Senate Bill 424) have received a public hearing, but continue to languish in the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety chaired by Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). To learn what you can do to help, visit [www.hearlwithoutharm.org](http://www.hearlwithoutharm.org).

**January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

—There are millions of slaves on the earth today, including millions of children who never see the inside of a classroom. Plan to learn something this month about Modern Day Slavery. Visit: [sistersagainsttrafficking.org](http://sistersagainsttrafficking.org).

**DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD**

**ABUSE**—The Diocese of La Crosse, through its policies and procedures, seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (employee, volunteers, vendors, religious or clergy). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to the Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, Bishop of La Crosse, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Karen Becker, Victim Assistance Ministry, 608-519-8002 or [kbecker@cclse.org](mailto:kbecker@cclse.org). The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of the Vicar for Clergy or on the diocesan website at: [www.dioc.org](http://www.dioc.org). Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local parish and on the diocesan website. If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Monsignor David Kunz, Vicar for Clergy, Diocese of La Crosse, at (608) 791-2679; or [dkunz@dioc.org](mailto:dkunz@dioc.org).

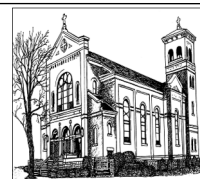


## St. Joseph Parish

Parish Office-715-341-1617  
Website—www.togetherinfaith.org  
Office Hours: Wed., 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Friday, 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Closed Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

<b>Parish Office</b> <b>Fr. Jerzy Rebacz, Pastor</b> Fr. Todd Mlsna, Associate Pastor Art Schaller, Deacon Mike Horgan, Deacon	715-341-1617, x103 pastor@togetherinfaith.org
Renée Schneeberg Admin. Assistant	715-341-1617 x101 rschnee@togetherinfaith.org
Jacob Stiemann Finance Secretary	715-341-1617 x102 finance@togetherinfaith.org
Custodian	715-341-1617
Kris Hansen Pastoral Minister	715-341-1617 x112 khansen@togetherinfaith.org
<b>Religious Education Office</b> Lynn Meyer Director of Children's Ministry	715-341-1617 x114 lmeyer@togetherinfaith.org
Jodi Moss Director of Youth Ministry Youth Website	715-341-1617 x113 youthminister@togetherinfaith.org saintsyouthministry.weebly.com
<b>Pastoral Council</b> Laurie Schroeder, President	parishcouncil@togetherinfaith.org 715-345-0939
<b>Sacred Worship</b> Ellen Miskowski Kris Hansen	sacredworship@togetherinfaith.org 715-344-2952 715-340-7751
<b>Parish Family Life</b> Mary Stroik Terry Miller	familylife@togetherinfaith.org 715-345-1810 715-340-2471
<b>Call to Justice Committee</b> Mary Droske	calltojustice@togetherinfaith.org 715-824-5485
<b>Parish Education Committee</b> Pat Wenzl, Facilitator	pec@togetherinfaith.org 715-344-3906
<b>Finance Council</b> Bill Wallner, Co-Chairman	715-341-7750
<b>Building and Grounds</b> Ron Kobishop	715-344-2276
<b>Picnic Co-Chairs</b> Josh Miskowski Bill and Tari Wallner	715-295-4161 715-341-7750
<b>St. Anne's Society/Parish Council of Women</b> Kathy Tetzloff, President	715-344-7150 stannes@togetherinfaith.org
<b>Holy Name Society</b> Rob Jaworski, President	715-344-3717
<b>Senior Citizens</b> Ron & Aggie Kobishop	715-344-2276
<b>PCS</b> Central Administrative Office	715-341-2445

*Mission:* Together in Faith,  
we Celebrate Christ  
through Prayer  
and Service.



*Welcome to St. Joseph Parish* to those who are new to our church or just visiting. We are grateful to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you are not currently a member of a local church, we invite you to become part of our parish family. Visit our Parish Office to sign up, ask questions or receive more information about our parish. We're glad you're here and hope you become involved in our parish family. Our website is [www.togetherinfaith.org](http://www.togetherinfaith.org).

*Remember St. Joseph Parish* in your Legacy. St. Joseph Parish has seen a decline in giving over the past year, while at the same time expenses have gone up. The Parish would like to continue with expansion of many worthwhile programs and projects successfully. Please, ask Fr. Jerzy how you can help by giving to St. Joseph Parish General Fund..

### *Sacraments*

**Baptism:** Please call the Parish Office for detailed information on infant Baptism, as parents are asked to attend a baptismal preparation program. The Baptism will be scheduled after completion of the class.

**Marriage:** Marriage is celebrated for couples who are active and registered members in the Parish. Please contact the Parish Office at least eight (8) months prior to the requested wedding date.

**Reconciliation:** Confessions are heard on Saturday at 3:30 p.m., before the evening Mass, or you may call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

**Funeral:** Please contact the funeral home director who will assist in making arrangements. The funeral director will then contact the Parish Office.

### *Services*

**Visitation of the Sick:** If you become homebound because of illness and would like a visit, please call the Parish Office.

**Bulletin Deadline:** Articles are due Thursday by 12:00 p.m. Drop off the articles at the Parish Office, or send by email to [bulletin@togetherinfaith.org](mailto:bulletin@togetherinfaith.org), with a copy to [rschnee@togetherinfaith.org](mailto:rschnee@togetherinfaith.org).



# Relationship with GOD

## More than Just SUNDAY

### Epiphany, a Feast of Light

Quick, what are God's first words in the Bible?

They are, "Let there be light" (Gen. 1:3).

This is good to remember on the Feast of the Epiphany, which is a feast of light. In fact, the word epiphany comes from Greek, meaning "to shine out."

The Magi are led, in the dark of night, by a light in the sky – a star – to the "Light of the world" in a manger. Though his light is hidden beneath his humble infant form, their eyes are open to see his radiance.

Have you pondered the mystery of light and darkness? It is so familiar that we may not give it a second thought. But God didn't have to create a world in which light and darkness alternate. He could have created a world in which it was light everywhere, all the time. Seriously.

But God gave us light and darkness because they are ideally suited to communicate something deeply spiritual. In fact, it is interesting that we use light in symbolic ways all the time even just on a human level. We say, for example, "I saw her eyes light up." Or we talk about someone's appearance being "radiant." Or we say, "His face suddenly darkened." Of course there is no actual change in physical brightness or darkness in these cases, but we are communicating something interior about the person's psychological (or moral) state. We are saying something profoundly true, but using the symbolic keys of light and darkness.

Reflect, too, that it is in the dark that we stumble and fall, lose our way, become afraid. We dread the "dark alley" where crimes are more likely to be committed. Many evil deeds are done in the dark, hidden from view, away from the light that would expose them. Sin wants to hide in the dark.

When light comes, it 'casts out' darkness, because darkness is not a 'thing' in itself, but only the absence of light. And on a spiritual level, the absence of the light of Christ is the absence of grace, it is the darkness of sin and spiritual death. Remember how John's Gospel describes the moment when Judas leaves the Last Supper after Jesus has announced that one of them will betray him:

"After he took the morsel, Satan entered him. So Jesus said to him, 'What you are going to do, do quickly.' ... So he took the morsel and left at once. And it was night" (Jn 13:27,30).

Sobered by that reflection, let's now come back to the more joyous theme proclaimed in today's first reading from Isaiah:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth,  
and thick clouds cover the peoples;  
but upon you the LORD shines,  
and over you appears his glory.  
Nations shall walk by your light,  
and kings by your shining radiance (Is 60:1-3).

Here we read so many references to light breaking through darkness, bringing promise, joy and glory. This is what the Magi traveled day and night to behold – and then at last they knelt before Him with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This infant Jesus to whom they bow is the one who will later say, "I am the Light of the world" (Jn 8:12), and who will command his followers:

"Walk while you have the light, so that darkness may not overcome you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light." (Jn 12:35-36).

On this Feast of the Epiphany, then, this feast on which the light of Christ 'shines out' to the whole world (the Magi from the East represent the world beyond Israel and Judaism), what is our 'takeaway,' what should we commit to do?

We should first do what is one of the hardest things for us to do: contemplate. We should contemplate the radiant beauty of the Light of Christ, asking Him to help us to open our eyes and our hearts, to be filled with wonder and joy. Then let's pray that He will help us always to walk in His light, and to carry that light to others. That will be our salvation and our deepest joy.

By Christopher Ruff, Director of Ministries and Social Concerns

