

Saint Philip Neri
(Reed City)

Saint Anne
(Paris)

The Epiphany of the Lord
January 2, 2022



Pastor: Fr. Michael G. Hodges
Director of Faith Formation: Beth Dake
Administrative Assistant: Deb Vlaming
E-Mail: pneri831@stphilipanne.org
Prayer Chain: (231) 832-9453

Parish Office: 831 S. Chestnut Street
Reed City, Michigan 49677
Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Closed Fridays
Phone: (231) 832-5544

Sunday, January 2

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-6;
Matthew 2:1-12

8:00 AM Mass at St. Anne-*Parish Family

10:00 AM Mass at St. Philip Neri-*Parish Family

Monday, January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

1:00 PM Al Anon

6:30 PM – Knights of Columbus – Officers

7:00 PM – Knights of Columbus – General

Tuesday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

9:00 AM Mass at St. Philip Neri Pius X Chapel

7:00 PM Al Anon

Wednesday, January 5

St. John Neumann

1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52

9:00 AM Mass at St. Philip Neri Pius X Chapel

6:00 – 7:30 PM – Faith Formation

Thursday, January 6

St. Andre Bessette

1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22

9:00 AM Mass at St. Philip Neri Pius X Chapel

Friday, January 7

St. Raymond of Penyafort

1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16

9:00 AM Mass at St. Philip Neri Pius X Chapel

Saturday, January 8

1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30

3:00 PM Reconciliation – St. Philip Neri

4:00 PM Mass at St. Philip Neri-*Parish Family

Collection Report

December 24-26

	<u>St. Philip Neri</u>	<u>St. Anne</u>
Envelopes:	(61) \$3,150.00	(18) \$1,625.00
Loose:	<u>420.00</u>	<u>190.00</u>
Total:	\$3,570.00	\$1815.00

Wkly. Budget:	\$3,596.15
O/ (U) Budget:	1,788.85

YTD Budget:	\$89,903.75
YTD Collection:	<u>85,673.01</u> (\$4,230.74)

Schedule of Ministers

St. Philip Neri

January 8, 2022 4:00 PM

Word:	Lynne Kreger
Hospitality:	Steve Leporowski

January 9, 2022 10:00 AM

Word:	Leo Rosneck
Hospitality:	Stacey Rosneck

St. Anne

January 9, 2022 8:00 AM

Word:	
Hospitality:	

Fr. Mike's Musings

Today we celebrate the "Epiphany" or the "Feast of the Magi/Wise Men". One translation calls them astrologers - men who carefully studied the night skies. They were scientists. As such they give us the opportunity to say something about science and religion.

We know that the perceived conflict between science and religion causes many of our children to lose their faith. Studies show that children as young as ten give up the faith because they conclude that "science disproves religion". Often they are referring to a materialist theory of evolution that has no place for God. They see that science makes possible space exploration, medical miracles and cell phones. Religion by way of contrast, seems like fairy tales.

As Christians we need to recognize that science is our offspring. Modern science developed out of the medieval university system founded by the Catholic Church. Most of the great scientists - including Copernicus and Galileo - were practicing Christians. For sure, there were unfortunate episodes like the silencing of Galileo, but overall the Church has honored and promoted scientists. It's no accident that thirty-four craters of the moon and ten asteroids bear the names of Jesuit priests. Jesuits weren't the only priest scientists. Fr. George LeMaitre who first formulated the Big Bang theory was a diocesan priest. The "war of religion and science" is an imaginary war.

This "war" brings up a big issue: the authority of science. Some people want science to govern our lives. They consider science the only valid knowledge. This view is called "scientism". As Christians we love science but we avoid scientism. We do not believe that only science offers valid knowledge. For example in addition to science, history, literature and art deliver their own wisdom. Even fairy tales can communicate profound truths. Science contains much truth. History and literature propose different kinds of truth. But the Bible offers truth you will find nowhere else: God's truth, practical truth to guide us here on Earth and bring us to our eternal goal. Science is wonderful, but it stops short. It strips the universe of its wonder, there is no faith (by the strictest definition) as it deals in absolutes—things exist only if they can be seen and conclusively proven.

What does this mean to a young person who wants to discover life's purpose? First, we must recognize that science ultimately comes from God. Use science with gratitude, but do not worship science. Notice that when the Magi found Jesus, they realized they now had something greater than their science: *"on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage."* They continued to study the night sky, but now God spoke to them in another way. *"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way."*

Pope Benedict expressed it in this way: *"To be sure, we do not possess the truth, the truth possesses us: Christ, who is the truth, has taken us by the hand, and we know that His hand is holding us securely on the path of our quest for knowledge."*

Faith Formation News

Today we celebrate the 'Epiphany of the Lord'. The readings talk about a *"light that has come into the world."* Not just a light but a radiant light. Are we aware that that is Jesus Christ? Are we aware that Jesus came for ALL people? As I reflect on this light in the world (Jesus), I ask myself do I reflect this light? Am I a light for the people in my life and the people around me? Like at the gas station, shopping, or eating out. Am I full of the light of Jesus Christ?

I have also been thinking about Fr. Phil Shangraw and how he has been part of my life and ministry for so many years. A gift of light to me. At the end of December he will retire (and his birthday is December 31). Not sure exactly when I met Fr. Phil, I do know it was through my mentor Theresa Secord and it was many years ago. He has influenced my spiritual life and ministry ever since I met him.

When I was working at St. Thomas the Apostle parish in Grand Rapids, he met me at Wilcox Park next to the parish to discern accepting a job at St. Mary's Parish in Big Rapids. I remember his response to me as I talked through my thoughts and feelings. Fr. Philip said to me *"I was being overly responsible, and to follow where the Holy Spirit was leading me."* He was so right. Over the years he has been my Spiritual Director. When I took the internship in spiritual direction, he was my supervisor. He was not an easy advisor for sure. So honest about what he was seeing in me and the way I was handling the internship. His words stung but again he was honest about what he was experiencing with me. And my spiritual life grew deeper.

Over the years I remember when I had my first knee surgery, he made a trip to St. Philip Neri to anoint me as I had a tough time driving to Grand Rapids. He was at St. Philip Neri when my niece Virginia made her First Eucharist. The day after my dad died, I received a note from Fr. Phil that he had already said a Mass for my dad and was praying for me and my family. Over the years we have talked on the phone when issues in ministry have come up and I needed his wisdom and support.

As we celebrate Epiphany, the light coming into the world, it is a wonderful time to think about the people in our lives who have reflected Christ's light to us. Who are those people for you? Maybe reach out to them and let them know how they have been a light on your faith journey. May we all be light in this murky world and hope for the poor and suffering. We can do this by praying each day, reading Scripture, sitting in silence before our God in our house or before the Blessed Sacrament, by celebrating the sacramental life of the Church often. Having a deep relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will surely shine bright in you and others will see that light. In others darkness we can bring the love, hope, and joy that believing in Jesus Christ has given us.

In light and joy,

Beth Dake
Director of Faith Formation

Knights of Columbus



VOCATIONS SUPPORT

Founded by a parish priest, the Knights of Columbus has always worked hard to encourage young men to consider God's call to service in the priesthood.

Under the motto "Keep the Faith Alive," the Order's vocations initiative has a number of programs based on prayer and designed to reach the hearts and minds of young people, as well as to provide financial support during their years of seminary training or religious formation.

This year our council is providing financial support to Logan McGahan, a seminarian from St. John Paul II Church, Cedar Springs. Through the Knights of Columbus Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), money is given to seminarians to help with tuition, books, and other needs.

Weather Policy

As we enter into the winter season it is the policy of the parishes of St. Philip Neri-St. Anne to close operations (offices, meetings. Masses, etc.) should the Reed City School District close due to prevailing weather conditions during the course of the work-week. The policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of our parishioners.

Numbers and Addresses

Due to the increasing reliance on cell phones, texting, and e-mail in our society it has become increasingly evident that our contact information for parishioners is out-of-date. In order to correct this please either send your current contact information (phone number and e-mail address) to pneri831@stphilipanne.org or call the parish office at (231)832-5544.

Formed

FORMED.org is a FREE-FOR-YOU technology platform for the delivery of award-winning Catholic content, children's programming, audio talks, e-books, and more! You can access this platform on a computer/internet-connected device like a phone or tablet, a Roku stick, X-Box, or Apple TV.

Go to **formed.org** or contact the parish office at (231) 832-5544 for more information or help accessing this wonderful content.

Suggested Content: Footprints of God with Stephen Ray-"Jesus the Word Became Flesh", Chapter 2 (24:08- 52:42)

Notes from the Diocese

Help prevent the spread of illness. During the cold and flu season, and in general throughout the year, please follow these basic guidelines to help prevent the spread of illness in our parishes:

- If you suspect you have the flu or are suffering from a cold, please stay home. Your Sunday obligation is waived.
- Cover your mouth/nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands frequently using soap and water, or hand sanitizing products.
- Please do not hold hands during the "Our Father".
- Instead of shaking hands during the sign of peace, clasp your hands together; make eye contact with those around you, and say "Peace be with you," or "Peace of Christ."
- If you are feel you may be getting sick, please receive Holy Communion in the hand, rather than on the tongue, and refrain from receiving Communion from the cup.

For additional information, visit: <https://grdiocese.org/flu-and-mass-guidelines/>

Heartfelt Gratitude

Many thanks to all at St. Philip Neri-St. Anne for their generous gifts, prayers, and well-wishes. With the odd calendar dating this year (December 25th was a Saturday) I was unable to go home to Carson City to celebrate Christmas with my family. Rest assured though, my parish family more than made-up for the inability to be in familiar surroundings. This is more than 'OK' in my book. After all, we are all part of the family of God through Jesus Christ. Blessings to you all in this continuously joyous season.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022!**