

Parish Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. Gerardo García  
**Business Manager:** Melissa Rodriguez  
 Melissarodriguez@stmaryrifle.com  
 970-625-5125 x20  
**Office Assistant:** Litzzy Rivera  
 Lrivera@stmaryrifle.com  
**Religious Ed Coordinator:** Mandie Dovey  
 MandieDovey@StMaryRifle.com  
 625-3891 x23

**Office Hours:**  
 Tuesday 4:45 pm—6:45 pm  
 Sunday (Classes) 7:30 am—9:15 am

**Family Life/Youth Ministry Coordinator:**  
 Sophie Simms, 625-3891 x107  
 SophieSimms@StMaryRifle.com  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday:12:30pm-2:30pm

**Maintenance:** Joe Skelly, 281-474-7650  
**Fax:** 970-625-1095  
**Email:** info@stmaryrifle.com

**Prayer Requests:** Call: 625-5125

**Submission Deadlines:**  
 • Bulletin - Tuesday  
 • Announcements - Thursday

**Parish Council:**  
 Representatives from all Groups and Ministries

**Finance Council:**  
 Michelle Duran, Rosie Ruiz, Susie Meraz, Bill and  
 Dianna Swigert.

We pray for...

Zack Sowieja & family, Ruben Quintero, Marilyn Bryan, Darrell Redman, Fred Garcia, Julie Kuper, Pat Schmeckel, Corky Wilson, Mary Ann Olson, Esther Jones, Joshua Jones, Lucy Wolff, Bob Christensen, Yvonne Diaz, Pat Squire, Marlene Brandt, Dolores Snell, Harry & Joan Bennett, Susan Buchan, Julia Heroux, David and Dina Fital, Ray Alarid Sr. Chuck Moroni, Roberta Nix (Mother of Michelle Duran), Cora Murillo, Lupe Hernandez and for all others in our Parish and Community who are in need of our prayer.

**For the souls of our departed:** Dora Castro, Dorothy Bruno and Amadeo, Rodney Olson, Clarence Gomez, Ted Diaz, Dorothy Ceremuga, Brian Garland, Helen Mahon (Jackie Vazquez's grandmother), Georgi Aibner, Patty Mobley, Dale Baker, Barbara Rossum, Criselda Chavez, Billy Woody, Rudy Alvarado, Linda Tomasi, Mike Frances, Selensky, Mary Ellen Smith Bouchard, Pauline Zoulek, Rita Carpenter, Norman Buchan, Therese Daily Gonzales, Martin Ghastin & Bernice Ghastin, Gregorio Murillo.

Sacred Heart Parish

230 NORTH 6TH STREET, SILT — SUNDAY MASS AT 7:30AM  
 ♦ COFFEE HOUR - 3RD SUNDAY AFTER MASS  
 ♦ CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS BY REQUEST  
 LECTOR ():  
 EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS ():  
 OFFERTORY: ATTENDANCE:

Stewardship

Offertory:  
 Attendance:

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

RESPECT FOR THE PLANET'S RESOURCES.  
 THAT THE PLANET'S RESOURCES WILL NOT  
 BE PLUNDERED, BUT SHARED IN A JUST  
 AND RESPECTFUL MANNER.

Pray for Vocations

**SUNDAY:** 3RD & 4TH YEAR THEOLOGY  
**MONDAY:** 1ST & 2ND YEAR THEOLOGY  
**TUESDAY:** 1ST & 2ND YEAR THEOLOGY  
**WEDNESDAY:** SPIRITUALITY YEAR  
**THURSDAY:** COLLEGE FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES  
**FRIDAY:** VOCATIONS MINISTRY  
**SATURDAY:** APPLICANTS & PROSPECTIVE SEMINARIANS



ST. MARY PARISH  
 CATHOLIC CHURCH

Liturgical Schedule

English Mass Schedule:

- MON., TUES., FRI. - 8:30 AM
- SATURDAY - 4:30 PM
- SUNDAY - 7:30 AM
- SUNDAY - 9:30 AM

Reconciliation Schedule (Bilingual)

- MON, TUES, FRI—8:00AM
- FRIDAY - 7:00-9:00 PM
- SATURDAY—3:30 -4:30 PM

Sacred Heart

230 N 6th St. Silt

- SUNDAY - 7:30 AM

Spanish Mass Schedule

- THURSDAY - 7:00 PM
- SATURDAY- 7:00 PM
- SUNDAY-12:00 PM
- SUNDAY-6:00 PM
- FIRST SATURDAY- 6:00AM

ADORATION SCHEDULE:

- FRI. 9:15 - 9:45 AM
- FIRST FRIDAY 8:00 AM - SATURDAY 6:00 AM
- EVERY SUNDAY 6:00 AM - 7:00 AM (MEN'S PRAYERGROUP)



Readings of the Week

January 3rd - The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

January 4th - Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

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

January 5th - Memorial of Saint John Neumann

1 John 4:7-10 Matthew 6:34-44

January 6th - Wednesday after Epiphany

1 John 4:11-18 Matthew 6:45-52

January 7th - Thursday after Epiphany

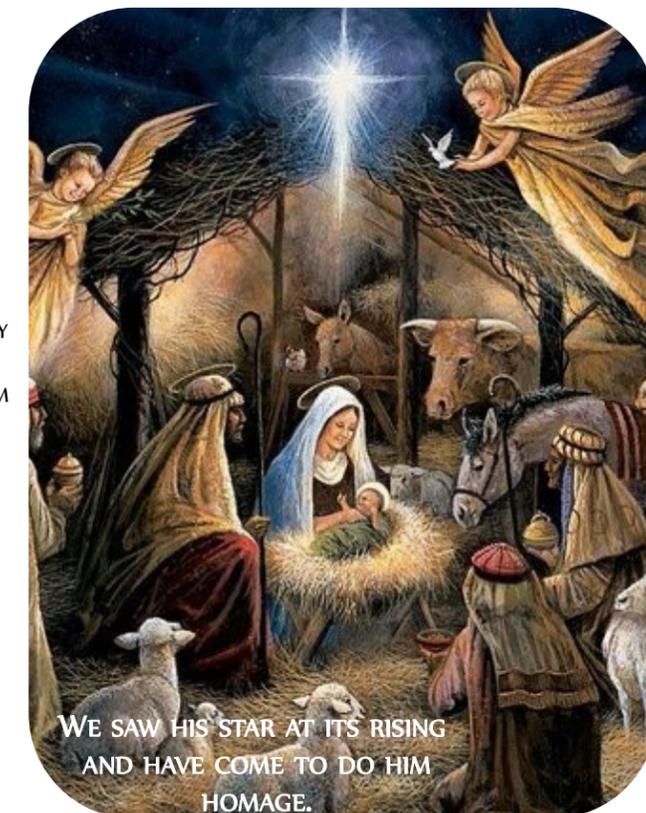
1 John 4:19-5:4 Luke 4:14-22

January 8th - Friday after Epiphany

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

January 9th - Saturday after Epiphany

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



WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING  
 AND HAVE COME TO DO HIM  
 HOMAGE.

ALL FROM SHEBA SHALL COME BEARING  
 GOLD AND FRANKINCENSE, AND HERALDING  
 THE PRAISES OF THE LORD.  
 ISAIAH 60:6

# Shepherd's Corner

NEW YEAR 2021

Pope Francis explained Thursday why the Catholic Church gives thanks to God at the close of a calendar year, even years that have been marked by tragedy, such as 2020's coronavirus pandemic. In a homily read by Cardinal Giovanni

Battista Re Dec. 31, Pope Francis said "tonight we give space to thanks for the year that is drawing to a close. 'We praise you, God, we proclaim you Lord...'" "It might seem forced, almost jarring, to thank God at the end of a year like this, marked by the pandemic," Francis said in his homily. "We think of families who have lost one or more members, of those who have been sick, of those who have suffered from loneliness, of those who have lost their jobs..." he added.

"Sometimes someone asks: what is the point of a tragedy like this?" The pope said we should not be in a rush to answer this question, because not even God responds to our "most distressing 'whys' by resorting to 'better reasons.'" "God's response," he stated, "follows the path of the Incarnation." "God is father, 'eternal Father,' and if his Son became man, it is because of the immense compassion of the Father's heart. Francis pointed to the example of the compassion of the Good Samaritan as a way to make "sense" of the tragedy of the coronavirus pandemic, which he said has had the effect of "arousing compassion in us and provoking attitudes and gestures of closeness, care, solidarity." Noting that many people have selflessly served others during the difficult year, the pope said "with their daily commitment, animated by love of neighbor, they realized those words of the hymn Te Deum: 'Every day we bless you, we praise your name forever.' Because the blessing and praise that most pleases God is brotherly love." Those good works "cannot happen without grace, without God's mercy," he explained. "For this we give praise to him, because we believe and know that all the good that is done day by day on earth comes, in the end, from him. And looking to the future that awaits us, we again implore: 'May your mercy always be with us, in you we have hoped.'"

Vatican City, Dec 31, 2020 / 10:20 am MT Catholic News Agency

## Dear Father

**A friend who is a fundamentalist insists Epiphany happened exactly as it says in the Bible. I say there's no way it could have. Who is right?**

Catholics believe each book of the Bible needs to be appreciated according to the principles of its own literary genre. We don't look to the Gospels for modern critical history or unbiased biographical/reportorial fact-telling. The four Gospels were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Each Gospel writer uses human skill to craft a true story, presenting the saving mystery of our Lord's life, death, and resurrection so that readers may come to know Christ, share his life, and be saved. Every story in the Gospels is shaped to communicate saving truth, but not every story is told as a direct "just the facts, ma'am" report of sequential events. So there is a saving sense in which, yes, the Epiphany happened exactly as it says in Matthew 2:1-12. And there is a more literal sense in which, no, the Epiphany probably did not happen exactly as it's recounted. What is most certain is the Gospel's saving message of the birth of our true king, the light to all nations, before whom we offer homage and who, when we encounter him, will change our lives and send us home in a new path.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship...For worship involves making an exodus from the greatest form of bondage: slavery to oneself. Worship means putting the Lord at the center, not ourselves.

EPIPHANY HOMILY, JANUARY 6, 2020

# Parish Happenings



## Retirement Fund for Religious

The second collection today helps religious communities care for senior members. Your donation helps hundreds of religious communities that lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. Thank you for giving financial support to those who have given a lifetime in serving others.

## FORMED

As a gift to the parishioners last year Fr. Garcia purchased a subscription to formed.org. He is pleased to announce that he has renewed the subscription again this year.

If you have not accessed this site you are really missing out. There are many enriching and inspirational programs about the Catholic faith, the Sacraments, Bible studies, movies, ebooks and much, much more in both English and Spanish. Grow in your faith, be FORMED.

There are 3 easy steps for new parishioners to Sign Up on FORMED:

1. Visit <http://signup.formed.org/>
2. Enter our parish zip code: 81650

Click on: St Mary Catholic Church 761 Birch Ave Rifle CO

Click on: Next

3. Enter your name and email address

Click on: Sign Up

**ALL OFFICE NEEDS WILL ONLY BE DONE OVER THE PHONE AT 970-625-5125 OR BY EMAIL AT [fr.garcia@stmaryrifle.com](mailto:fr.garcia@stmaryrifle.com) THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING!**

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to have a major fundraiser. Now we are in the process of a major undertaking, that being the installation of a heating / air conditioning unit and ceiling fan for our St. Mary Chapel. With a donation of a \$100, you will have a plaque with whatever name you choose to place on it and then put on one of the Stations of the Cross. Your donation will be highly appreciated. Fill out the form which can be found in the church with your donation and place it in an envelope. Then either deposit it in the metal box in front of the office or in the offertory basket in the church or in metal box by the elevator. Thank you for your generosity and support.

## Anointing of the Sick

This sacrament is for anyone of the Catholic faith who begins to be in danger of death due to sickness, long term or terminal illnesses, facing serious medical procedures or surgery, or suffering from the frailty of old age.

If in need of this sacrament contact Fr. Gerardo Garcia at the

Parish office - 970-625-5125 or email him direct at [fr.garcia@stmaryrifle.com](mailto:fr.garcia@stmaryrifle.com).

## Seating will be on a first come first serve basis.

Currently there is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass. If you are in a high risk group, have a cough, sick, or been in contact with a sick person, please do not attend. Risks exist and attendance is voluntary.

Garfield Public Health has issued these directives:

1. Masks (face coverings) shall be required by all guests, when at all possible. (Archdiocese states if under age 2-3 or for medical reasons exempt.)
2. Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between individuals or between groups of a single household.
3. Guests shall not be permitted to wait in the lobby area or in lines outside the door. No mingling time before, during, or after services.

Do not allow anyone to attend any event/activity in person if they are experiencing symptoms of any illness.