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**The Epiphany of the Lord
 January 7, 2024**

Pastor: **Rev. William 'Bill' Gearheard**
 Office Email: staugustine1803@gmail.com
 Office Phone Number: 318.379.2521
 Father's Email: frwgearheard@diocesealex.org
 Deacon: Dr. Harlan Mark Guidry 409.656.4651
 Deacon's Email: dcnmguidry@diocesealex.org
 Website: staugustinecanriver.com
 Office Hours: Wed–Fri 8:00 am–1 pm
 Parish Manager: Elizabeth Metoyer

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
 St. Augustine.....Saturday, 5:00 pm
Sunday, 10:30 am
 Mission: St. Anne:.....Sunday, 8:15 am
 3659 Old River Road, Natchitoches, LA 71457

*Holy Day's of Obligations & All Special Celebrations
 will be at 6:00 pm
Weekday Masses: 1st Saturday 9:00 am
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 Thursday and Friday 8:00 am

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Epiphany

Light is an invaluable resource. It's no accident that in Genesis we hear that it was created first. In complete darkness, we are all blind. For millennia, the stars enabled travelers to navigate at night and light from the moon enabled them to see their way. When the Israelites' long exile ended, Isaiah pointed to Jerusalem as a beacon, shining radiantly to draw families, rulers, and foreigners to its glory, even as it was still rebuilding after years of desolation. So too the star above nearby Bethlehem drew the magi, though it was to a humble stable, inhabited by a family that to Herod would have looked absolutely unremarkable. We may feel that we have nothing radiant in us or in our lives, but with the light of Christ in us we are in fact blessed with a source of light for ourselves and others.

Today-January 7-is the date on which Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas. In today's second reading we hear Saint Paul explicitly state that Gentiles are “members of the same body.” This was not a foregone conclusion. Paul could have written that Gentiles were second-class members or members of a lesser body. But the early church determined that the body of Christ is one and that all followers belong to it. So too today with all Christians, no matter when they celebrate Christ's birth.

The magi were truly wise, for not only did they set out at once for Judea once they saw the star at its rising, they also changed their plan to return to Herod after finding the child. They had an epiphany, as it were, after encountering the Messiah, after finding him a place they could not have anticipated when they'd left their homes. We would do well to be open to epiphanies of our own after an unexpected encounter with the Lord.

Have I had an epiphany, a sudden insight, after an experience where I've recognized an encounter with Christ?

Mass Schedule

Jan 06 Saturday 5:00 pm +Todd Roque, +Sylvester Sers and +Edna R. Gallien

Jan 07 Sunday 8:15 am +Amy Tobin & Agnes C. Mitcham

Jan 07 Sunday 10:30 am The People of the Parish

Jan 08 Monday No Mass
Readings: Is 42:1-4, 6-7, or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10; Mk 1:7-11

Jan 09 Tuesday 6:00 pm +Lester & Faye Sarpy
Readings: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1:9-20

Jan 10 Wednesday 6:00 pm Steph & Mike Landreaux & Family
Readings: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

Jan 11 Thursday 8:00 am Vicky Villemarette
Readings: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 25-26; Mk 1:40-45

Jan 12 Friday 8:00 am +Justin Picou, Aiden Picou and Josh Picou & Family
Readings: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

Jan 13 Saturday 5:00 pm +Todd Roque, +Isabel & Joseph Delphin, Sr., +Shirley Orndorf, +Bridgette Roque, +Mary Llorence, +Susan Dogens and +Larry S. Balthazar
Readings: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Jan 14 Sunday 8:15 am +Amy Tobin & +Cayer & Armstrong Families (Living & Deceased)

Jan 14 Sunday 10:30 am The People of the Parish

Week's Offering:	December 31, 2023 & Jan 1, 2024	
	St. Augustine	St. Anne
Weekly	\$ 4,356.25	\$ 392.00
Christmas Vocations	\$ 30.00	\$ 0.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 463.00	\$ 0.00
Online 12/25—1/1/24	\$ 1,453.25	Building \$30.00 St. Anne \$50.00

Thank you for your generosity!

This Week at a Glance

Tues 6 pm
 Wed 6 pm Mass followed by CCD
 (AA Meeting Wed, 7:00 pm at St. Anne's)
 Thurs Mass 8 am
 Fri 8 am Mass

Parish Service Schedule:

	LECTORS	USHERS	MO Holy Eucharist
Sat Jan 06 5:00 pm	Jackie Metoyer	Donald Balthazar Farrell Christophe	TBA
Sun Jan 07 10:30 am	Jerry Campo	Henry Rachal Chris Sylvia	TBA
Sat Jan 13 5:00 pm	Catherine Rachal	Mike Bordelon Kenneth Metoyer	TBA
Sun Jan 14 10:30 am	Peggy Braxton	Norah Sers John Scott	TBA

St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



On-Line Giving
 To give online through our new platform, visit our giving page on our website <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/staugustinecaneriver> You can also give through text message by sending "Give" to 318-217-8833 or just scan the QR code. Please regis-

Men's Prayer Group meets every Sunday @ 9:30 am

Please lend a helping hand for the Christmas decorations will be taken down after the 6 pm Mass on Tuesday, January 9, 2023. Thank you very much!



PARISH CARE MINISTRY - We ask for your prayers for: Nick Jackson, Andrew Balthazar, Carroll Poche, Donald Gallion, Henry Llorence, Jr., Cynthia LaCour, Lizzie Metoyer, Vanue Lacour, Sister Stephanie Langston and Theresa Roque.
 To add others to the list, contact Dcn. Mark @ 409.656.4651 or anyone in the ministry group (Henry Rachal, Catherine Rachal, Dianne Moran, Sylvia Lacour, Deloris Jones, Roosevelt Washington, Pat Jones, Angela Jones, PJ Jones, Dominick Metoyer, Joy McGraw and Tiffany Roque).

Memorial Mass for Augustin Metoyer: January 27 @ 5 pm followed by a covered dish supper with updates on the progress of the Badin Roque House. If you plan to attend, please bring your favorite covered dish.

2024 Collection Envelopes are located in the annex. Please pick them up. If you would like to register with us, please contact the office. Thanks!

March for Life across the state begin January 13
Lafayette: Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Festival De La Vie, meet at Parc San Souci, Downtown Lafayette
Shreveport: Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Meet at the grassy area near the Louisiana Boardwalk!
Baton Rouge: Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Meet at the Capitol Lawn.
Monroe: Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, 2:00 p.m. Meet at the Purple Lot at First West.
Lake Charles: Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Meet at the Veterans Memorial Park
Natchitoches: Friday, February 2, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Meet at the Riverbank in Downtown Natchitoches.
Alexandria-Pineville: Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Meet at Louisiana Christian University
 To learn more, please visit: <https://prolifelouisiana.org/lalifemarch>

The Church Today: The week of January 14, we will be taking up a special collection for our diocesan newspaper -- the Church Today. Every month, this 20-page newspaper is mailed FREE to every Catholic household in the diocese. All donations to this special collection go directly to the Church Today to help defray the cost of printing and mailing. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive the Church Today FREE each month, call 318- 445-6424, ext 209 to request it.

January 22 National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
 The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children": "In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion."

February 10 Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshops
 The next workshop for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will be held on Feb. 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches, Louisiana. The average time for the workshop is about three hours so please plan accordingly. The same information will be presented at each session. If you would like to sign up, please visit www.diocesealex.org or contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or by email