

Father Ben Nwosu celebrated The Nativity of the Lord, at 4:00 pm Wednesday, December 24, 2025, with 109 in attendance. Saturday the 27th we had 56 present for the Celebration of the Holy Family.

Contributions received in December
Offertory Collection: \$ 5,114
Other: \$ 290
Monthly Budgeted: \$ 7,500
-2,096
Christmas Collection \$ 871

Monday January 5
Jesus and Coffee meets
McCarty Center @ 10 AM

Saturday January 10
Carry-in Dinner after Mass

Wednesday January 14
Parish Council meets 2:00 PM

Monday January 19
Red Cross Blood Drive 12-4

**THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD
CELEBRATED
JANUARY 10, 2026
3:30 PM - Rosary
3:40-3:55 Sacrament of
Reconciliation
4:00 PM – Eucharist
Wilma Seaton*

Please pray for our Parishioner residing in Hermitage Nursing & Rehabilitation Center: Sally Fleenor.



**JANUARY PRAYER
REQUESTS**
*Clif and Mary Kay Brooks,
Helen Taylor, Bonnie Salmon,
Tracy Rotert, Jean Precht,
Helen Lutz, Mary Berry,
Jo Ann Mertz, and the repose
of the souls of Richard Burton and Jan Nelson.*



**PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN
AND WOMEN IN HARMS WAY**
*Caitlin Schaefer, Addie Schaefer,
and Faith Schaefer,*

The January issue of "Word Among Us" is available in the basket in Miller Hall. Please pick yours up and consider picking one up for our homebound members.

**Pope Leo XIV's
Prayer Intentions for January**

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



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Wise Men
Seek Him Still



**THE EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD
CELEBRATED
JANUARY 3, 2026
AT 4:00 PM**

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, & Thurs, 8:30a.m.– 1:30p.m.

Wed. By Appointment

Pastor: Father Benjamin Nwosu

bnwosu@diojeffcity.org

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 3:40 – 3:55 p.m.

Rosary: 3:30 p.m. Eucharist: 4:00 p.m.

Like us on Facebook

(facebook.com/stbernadettehermitage)St Bernadette's

website: stbernadette.diojeffcity.org

**ST BERNADETTE CHURCH IS A CENTER OF
CHARITY WHERE WE PRAY, GROW, LOVE,
AND LEARN TO LIVE LIKE JESUS CHRIST**



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED. Mark your Calendars for our next community Blood

Drive on Monday January 19, 2026, 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Sign-up at redcrossblood.org and use the zip code of 65668. Or call 1-800-red-cross.

"Rooted in the dignity of the human person, created in God's image and endowed with reason and free will, religious freedom allows individuals and communities to seek the truth, to live it freely, and to bear witness to it openly. It is therefore a cornerstone of any just society, for it safeguards the moral space in which conscience may be formed and exercised."

POPE LEO XIV

If you would like a copy of your 2025 contributions, please send Ron a note requesting them. Be sure to specify whether you would prefer printed copies or by e-mail. This year because of a bookkeeping program change in October, there will be two reports generated that you will need to add together for the total contribution.

2026 Catholic Calendars have arrived and are available on the table in Miller Hall. Please feel free to pick up one.

The Parish Council would like your help in our church Stewardship to our community. We are collecting one or more items a month from each church family. The item(s) for January are condiments. Please place items in the tub by the water cooler in Miller Hall. The items will go to Hickory County CARES Food Pantry for distribution. We thank you for your support in the act of giving.



The January carry-in dinner will be held on January 10th after Mass. This is a special dinner as we will also be celebrating Evalina Samborski's birthday that night. She will be turning 102 on January 23rd. The Parish Council will be providing fried chicken along with mashed potatoes and gravy and of course a birthday cake. They are requesting that those attending bring a side dish to share. Please join them for a night of great food, fellowship and celebration.

"Hell is not full of people God rejected. Hell is full of people who rejected God!"



Reflection for Matthew 2:1-2

The story of the Magi traveling to worship the newborn King is one of profound inspiration. It is a testament to God's guidance, the courage to seek truth, and the joy of worshiping Christ with a humble and sincere heart.

In the Gospel passage today, wise men from the East saw a star in the sky that signified the birth of a king. The star was not just a celestial body; it was a divine signal, guiding them toward the greatest discovery of their lives.

This star reminds us that God provides guidance to those who seek Him. Life can feel like an uncharted desert at times, but God places "stars" in our path—His Word, His Spirit, and His faithful servants—to lead us closer to Him. Are you looking for God's guidance today? Trust that He will light your way when your heart is open to following Him.

The Magi were not Jews; they were outsiders. Yet, they recognized the

significance of Christ's birth and undertook a long, perilous journey to find Him. They moved forward, unafraid of the challenges and uncertainties they would face.

Their journey teaches us the value of seeking truth with courage and determination. Following Jesus may sometimes mean stepping out of our comfort zones or risking rejection. However, the joy and peace found in Christ are worth every sacrifice. What "journey" of faith is God calling you to embark on today? Take the first step, trusting He will guide you.

When the Magi finally reached the child Jesus, their response was worship. They bowed down before Him and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Each gift held profound meaning: gold for a king, frankincense for divinity, and myrrh, symbolizing His future suffering.

Their actions reveal that worship is a response to the recognition of who Christ is. Worship is more than singing or praying—it's about offering our lives, treasures, and hearts to Jesus. Like the Magi, we should approach Him with reverence, humility, and gratitude.

*St. Bernadette
Pray for us*