



January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of The Lord

UPCOMING DATES

Jan 20, Finance Committee meeting 4pm
 Jan 24, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 4 pm: For all parishioners, Linda Payne.
Sun 11 am: For all parishioners, Linda Payne.
Sun 12:30 pm: Ella (mother in law of Sherry)

PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS

Who are ill or in pain: Carlos Lopez, Rey Rodriguez, Mary Barry, Diane Alvarez, Larry, Gary Carver, Rose Rodenberger, Francine Korn, Paul Aguilar, Jim Jennaro, Sonja Falero, Carolyn Falero Young, Bill Hatch, Cathy Olsen, Kim Warburton, Bill Harmon, Mike Hogan, Hernan Enrique Caceres, Veronica Natalia Chavez, Maria Sol Montel, Veronica Rodriguez, Luz Alejandra Bringas, Carolina Silvia Brizuela Perez, Rodolfo Martin Arruabarrena, Dorothy Maceira, Jack Burger, Charlotte & Neil Berry, Raul & Iris Bisbal, Frank Falero, Guillermina Hernandez, Gabe Snodgrass, Thomas Gregory, Nini Johnston, Don Creech, Nilda Falero, Don Schaffert, Ed Copeland, Andrew Cebalo, Nina Cantacessi, Posie, William Donnellan, Ernest Souder, Robert Cebalo, Kathleen Sheridan, Sister Gabrielle, David Cross, Helen Johnson, Billy Henthorn, Mary Crowther, Lorelie Fulwider, Fr. Andrew Metcalf, JoAnn Coules, Dinah Smith, Lorna Marie Hastings, Laverne Jones, Joanne & Bill Rodgers, Linda Schmidt, Michell Jackson, Jim Ward, Nini Sanchez, Jacqueline Donovan, Art McNulty, Terry Devlin, Mary Hall Smith, Stan Moorman, Maggie Nelson, Stella Dunne, Nina Cantacessi, John Hoffman, Mary Tamargo, Sarah & David, Ed Fulwider, Vicki Gonzalez, Jesus Chavez Torres

Who have been called to Eternal Life: Virginia Loosli, Steve Arcia, Renee Snodgrass, Ruben Montano, Robert D. Goudy, Bart Strady, Frank Danzart, Nettie Herbert, Don La Plante, Lee Torr IV, Helen Mik, Len Heinz, Emilio Porta, Allan Barich, Despo Pullaro, Claudette West, Susan Manick Dodge, Dana Couey-Harmon, Allo Castano, Cecilia Heinz, Lawrence Peterson, Evelyn Shuster, John Seymour, George Ayoob, Charlie Marbach, Joe Mercieca, Elaine Benson, Suzi Schaffert, Janet Guidotti, Doris Porras, Helen Leseberg, Bette Campbell, Margaret Maher, Carole Williams, Fr. Philip Ryan, Joseph Kobler, Janine Bekker Carrig, Matthew Gonzalez, Billy Ferree, Tom King, Tom Kelly, Axel Avera, Victor Theander, John Sanchez

READINGS

Is 60: 1-6
 Ps 72: 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13
 Eph 3: 2-3a. 5-6
 Mt 2: 1-12

PASTOR'S DESK

I just want to thank all of you who have given your time and talent to this community of faith. And sometimes I'm hesitant to single one individual because there are a lot of parishioners who have given their time.

For those who have prepare every Sunday, the outside church, for Carlos, Benjamin, Irene, Barbara, and Barbara Kobler; Nina, Susan Poirier; Sherry from St. Coleman, Pat Gluch, Andrew, Otto Kobler; our Lectors and Eucharistic ministers, Guild members from St. Elizabeth and St. Coleman, for Mila our assistant manager, and Michele McDonald, and most of all those who financially support us during this pandemic time, for our Financial committee members, thank you.

For our webmaster Irene, who constantly monitor our websites and kept you inform of what is going on the parish and Matthew Poirier; our computer tech and bulletin editor.

For those who gave me cookies during Christmas time there were delicious, most of you did not put your name on the container; but I really enjoyed the sweets especially this particular time with my Chai latte.

But most of all I want to give praise to God who have blessed us with so much dedicated parishioners.

Nature has a beautiful way of illustrating the growth process. Take the Chinese bamboo tree, for instance. The seed is planted, watered, and fertilized, and for the first four years, there is no visible growth. However, during the fifth year, the Chinese bamboo grows a staggering ninety feet in only six weeks. Now, did the tree take five years to begin growing? Not at all! Although growth was not visible, the root system experienced tremendous

development during those first four years, making it possible for the tree to realize its potential and become the kind of tree that nature intends it to be. In today's Gospel lesson, after a long, arduous, and risky journey, the "Three Wise Men" arrive in Jerusalem and ask, "Where is the Infant King of the Jews? We saw His star as it rose, and we have come to do Him homage" (Mt. 2:2).

On this first Sunday of the New Year, we come to this house of worship to do Him homage and strengthen our roots. Open yourself up completely and unconditionally to the Christ Spirit deep in the core of your being. Open yourself up to this awesome experience. Risk whatever it takes to make your life vulnerable to the Christ Presence, and, like the "Wise Men" of old, you will discover how to pay Him true homage. Like the "Wise Men" of old, you will be a gift-bearing person. With the Spirit of God at the center of your life, you will bear homage to the Newborn Babe through your gifts of heartfelt compassion, patient understanding, unconditional forgiveness, and genuine concern for others.

The odd truth is that our greatest gift to the world in this New Year 2021 or any other year is the gift of self. This is the homage you pay Him: to love others as He has loved you. Only in this Gospel-rooted way can you begin to grow into the fully human person God intends you to be.

Peace and blessings!
 Fr. Luis

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

by Anne Osdiek, St. Louis University

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

1. The First Reading says that, though darkness covered the earth, light and glory had come to Jerusalem. Are you aware of God's light and glory? What about God's actions in your life?

2. Did Jerusalem have light of her own? Were nations coming to her or to the light? Was the star shining only for the people in Jerusalem or for all people everywhere? What do you think draws people to the Church today: power, tenderness, people caring for those in need?

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

1. Just what was this mystery that brightened the whole world? Why was a star an integral part of the story?

2. Paul says that a revelation was given him by the Spirit. It said that Christ's life was too great to be limited to its starting place. His life was for all generations and not only the Jews but the Gentiles as well. All are "coheirs, members of the same body." Did the star's light shine on each and every person, precious and irreplaceable in God's eyes? Do we all need each other?

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

1. What is the main contrast between Jerusalem and Bethlehem? Between Herod and the Magi. What does this tell you about places and people God chooses? At the end of this story Joseph, Mary and Jesus ended up running from Herod. Do we find "Herods" in the world today? Who are the "Joseph's, Mary's and Jesus'" running from today?

2. "And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way." What are some alternative routes in our spiritual and national lives (climate crisis? social justice? immigration? prison reform?) that we need to take to find the "mystery of God" to which Pope Francis refers below?

The Magi ... fulfill the prophecy. They arise and shine, and are clothed in light. They alone see the star in the heavens: not the scribes, nor Herod, nor any of the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

In order to find Jesus, we also need to take a different route, to follow a different path, his path, the path of humble love. And we have to persevere. Today's Gospel ends by saying that the Magi, after encountering Jesus, "left for their own country by another road" (Mt 2:12). Another road, different from that of Herod. An alternative route than that of the world, like the road taken by those who surround Jesus at Christmas: Mary and Joseph, the shepherds. Like the Magi, they left home and became pilgrims on the paths of God. For only those who leave behind their worldly attachments and undertake a journey find the mystery of God.

Pope Francis Epiphany homily 2020
 12/15/2020

PARISH DONATIONS

December 27	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$468.00	\$594.00
St. Catherine	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Colman	\$56.23	\$50.00

Thank you for your generosity! \$1,168.23

1st Collection: general expenses, maintenance & diocese.
2nd Collection: parish restoration & repair.

St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting	1 st Wednesday, 1 pm	St. Hubert Hall	Canceled until further notice
Finance Committee Meeting	3 rd Wednesday, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall	January 20
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 th Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman	January 24

How can I help during these hard times?

You can now easily donate online by using the donate button at rchurches.com. Another great way to help is by selecting us as your charity when shopping online at Amazon -a small percentage of each purchase will benefit our parish. Just visit smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577 to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.