



## The Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2021

All kings shall pay him homage,  
all nations shall serve him.

— Psalm 72:11

### PROMISE FULFILLED

Isaiah reminds the people of God that the land shall be restored to their possession, they shall rejoice to see their people return from the bondage of exile, and they shall be a light to the nations. In other words, through the people of Israel, the Savior shall come to all people who seek God with a sincere heart. This brings joy and the radiance of God's glory to all the world and to all people everywhere. Through the fidelity of the people of God, and through God's fidelity to them, all people shall become God's children and rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

### FEAST OF FAITH

#### The Liturgy of Emmanuel

The assembly has gathered from near and far, on foot, by bus, by car, by subway, singly and by twos and threes: single people, couples, families. Now that movement is ritualized and made visible in the liturgy's entrance procession.

We are not alone on this journey; Christ is with us. The procession is led by the cross, with the image of Christ upon it. Candles, signs of a living presence, are carried around the cross. Candles also accompany the Book of the Gospels, another sign of Emmanuel, God-with-us. The priest presider is likewise a sign of Christ's presence in our assembly; he will act *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ, who presides at every Eucharist.

As the procession begins, we stand and sing together in our first act as a community. The joining of our voices begins to turn many into one. The songs we sing range from ancient chants to contemporary hymns, but they have the same purpose, to foster our unity and turn our thoughts to the mysteries we gather to celebrate. We may feel that we can't sing well, but "Christ always invites us to enter into song, to rise above our own preoccupations, and to give our entire selves to the hymn of his Paschal Sacrifice" (USCCB, *Sing to the Lord*, 14).

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52  
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a  
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30  
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10  
or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

### THE HOLY STAR

O Father, may that holy star  
Grow every year more bright  
And send its glorious beams  
afar  
To fill the world with light.



—William Cullen Bryant

### GENTLENESS

Feelings are everywhere—be gentle.

—J. Masai

### Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **January** offerings:

PLEASE mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. Include your offering envelope # with your donation.

1/3: Operating Expenses. 1/10: Capital Expenditures. 1/17: No 2<sup>nd</sup> collection.

### Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA Zoom

**Finance Council [FC]:** TBA Zoom

**Liturgy Committee:** TBA Zoom

**St. Teresa Ladies Guild:** Contact Diane, 823-6044

**St. Philip Ladies Guild:** Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

**Centering Prayer ZOOM:** Tues. noon/Fri. 930am - info [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org)

### ✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

1/03 Sun. 8am Mass for the People

1/03 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Marcella & Joseph Kiefer

1/10 Sun. 8am Mass for the People

1/10 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

### Prayer Requests: Leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James, Dennis M., Art H., Lynn, Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N.

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week  
Monday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Tuesday: St. John Neumann  
Wednesday: St. André Bessette  
Thursday: St. Raymond of Penyafort

### The Pastor Speaks.....

"December 8, 2020- Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter, namely "Patris Corde", on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. ...You are most welcome to read it in its entirety this week at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

December 16, 2020- Bishop Robert Vasa announced in his Presbyteral Bulletin # 85: "Present County Tier/Region Status: All Counties of the Diocese- Stay at Tier 1 – Outdoor only with masks and social distancing. Napa and Sonoma Counties are now linked with an area known as the Bay Area Region. Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte are identified with the Northern California Region.

December 27, 2020- Feast of the Holy Family- I wish that all our families imitate the model and spirit of the Holy Family. And I pray, "Lord, keep us taking the ordinary so much for granted that we treat the members of our family with contempt or forgetfulness or with a hard heart incapable of forgiveness. Grant us patience toward one another, so that we may begin to perceive the mystery of godliness at the heart of our lives and especially at the center of our families, parishes and communities."

January 01, 2021- Beginning of New Year & Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God- I wish you all a Happy New Year! I join my heart with Numbers 6:22-27 and extend my priestly blessing invoking God's name over you and beseeching the Lord to let His face shine on us with graciousness and peace. We all ask Mary to intercede that we speak God's holy name with her faith and love. Let us remember and be devoted to Mary who is the mother of the Word incarnate and our mother."  
**Father Bala.**

**MEMO ON OUTDOOR MASSES: Zoom informaton can be found at our parish website [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org)**

## RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for December 2020

We prepared for potentially cold and stormy skies for the December Rural Food distribution by purchasing drive



through tents to shelter our volunteers and the precious commodities they prepared to distribute. We were happy to see sunny skies and warm weather on Tuesday, 12/8, as we distributed food to 60 families totaling 139 people, including 24 seniors and 34 children. We received warm smiles and much appreciation as we also distributed socks, masks, scarves, hats and **Union Hotel handmade cookies** for all families who received nutritional support at the distribution.

We are so thankful for the support provided to make this program flourish. A new volunteer told us, "We were so happy to be there and it really touched our hearts to see all the love present."

This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection each month, private donations and awesome volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.



**RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in Hall**  
Sat., January 9, 9-10:00am: repackaging  
Mon., January 11, 8-11:00am: set up  
Tues., January 12, 8-11:00am: food distribution

## January 3, 2021 - The Epiphany of the Lord



A reflection by [Fr. Thomas Hoisington](#)

***"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."***

As the Church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany, we see three wise men arriving before the manger. They are men willing to sacrifice of themselves in order to find a newborn King. This is a sign of their wisdom: their willingness to sacrifice. Their sacrifice reflects not only their own wisdom. Their sacrifice also reflects the One they were seeking.

Each of the wise men was willing to leave his kingdom, where he was king—where everyone bowed down before him—in order to find a king even greater than himself. Each of the wise men was willing to give up his riches in order to find an even greater treasure.

Few persons don't want to be rich. However, there are many people who believe they're rich, but who have become satisfied with riches that—in the end—aren't going to do them real good. This usually happens because people don't recognize that inside the human soul, each of us has—if you'll consider this metaphor—two different wells to draw meaning from: to drink from as we try to find happiness, meaning, and peace.

Anyone who is made content—who is "filled up"—by things that you can see, and hold, and drive, and watch, is filling up the most

shallow part of themselves: that first well, the shallow well. Now every human being has this shallow well within him. It's not that there are shallow people over here, and deep people over there. Every single human being, including Jesus, has a shallow well inside, in addition to the well that is so deep that it has no bottom.

The purpose of the shallow well is to let us use and enjoy things of this world for worldly needs and purposes. This is a legitimate part of being human. It was a part of the life of Jesus. There is a real, true and good purpose for this shallow well. After all, God's the one who put it inside us. But when a person tries to live his entire life out of that shallow well, he gets into trouble. He goes thirsty.

Sometimes, even in his thirst, he doesn't even notice that second well, that deeper well. But that deeper well is the well that gives meaning to life, and that helps us understand that our lives are not about ourselves, and that our lives are not about this world.

If you peer into the deep well, the first thing you notice is its depth, and that can be frightening. Most of us, after all, have a healthy fear of heights. No one wants to fall. But falling into this well—which spiritually we have to do in order to draw from it—is a form of humility.

This humility is what we see in the three wise kings, who were willing to leave the splendor and riches of their kingdoms and enter a grotto where animals lived, in order to prostrate themselves before a child born of a peasant girl.

Picture this: these three wise kings fall to the ground in adoration before the newborn Jesus in a stable, where the hay of the animals was likely mixed with the waste of animals. Would you be humble enough to kneel in that hay? These three wise kings show us what it means to give up what we think is important in our little kingdoms in order to live from that deeper well.

Look at these three wise kings. Look at their sacrifices. There are at least two sacrifices that each king makes.

The first sacrifice is their journey. They leave behind the lands where they rule, where they are in control, in order to bow down before the Ruler of Heaven and Earth: in order to follow Him.

The second sacrifice is what they take from their treasuries, and place before the new-born King. But these gifts are given as a response to a greater Gift. From Jesus, from the Gift of God the Father, the wise man knows that the whole world, and every land, and every person in every land, will receive an infinite blessing. The gifts of the wise men are only responses to God's great goodness.





## Why We Pray

It is a sign of our catholicity and part of our mission as Catholics to reach out and find community in the spirit of Jesus. Since 2002, Catholics have celebrated the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. On December 12th each year, we celebrate the connection Indigenous Catholics feel between their Catholic faith and their own cultures. We also pray for respect and appreciation of Indigenous spirituality. We reflect on and celebrate what we share: the belief in a kind and giving Creator, the importance of being in relationship with our Creator, and our call to live a holy life.

*O Great Creator, we give praise and thanks to You for our lives and world. You make all things new and good, and You invite Your peoples throughout creation to receive and share all that is good with each other. Thank You for how wonderfully and intimately You share Your life with us all. Likewise, we seek deepening relationships with each other and all Creation.*



*The Cycles of Life* by Ojibway artist Mark Anthony Jacobson reflects belief in the Creator and the interconnected world of all beings.

*We commit to live and work with one another—our families; our communities; all cultures, nations, and peoples—in union with Mary, all the Saints, and our Grandfathers and Grandmothers who have gone before us and inspire us.*

*We thank Your Great Holy Spirit for the great variety of gifts and talents You give Your people, and we commit to always using Your blessings to help one another and all Creation.*

*Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



### Know, Think, Infer

1. How does the Mass prepare us for our mission?
2. Why is it important to understand what we share with Indigenous spiritualities and to respect differences?

