

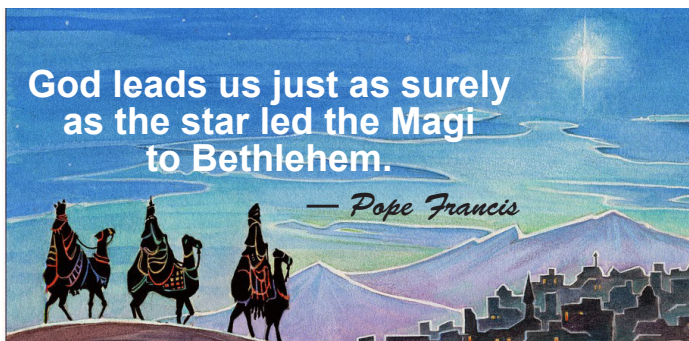
POPE FRANCIS



Pope Francis knows all the evils that plague our planet. Nevertheless, he encourages believers to live and to preach the joy of the Gospel: "The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures and a blunted conscience" (The Joy of the Gospel). Those who follow Jesus need to evangelize in the face of this with a fierce and unrelenting joy, "an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral". We must point out the truth and necessity of Jesus, our Light, in a world darkened by sin.

"Let us say yes to Christ, yes to God, yes to the Spirit and embrace the challenges Jesus presents to us; we are, indeed, to enter into the reality of other people's lives and know the power of tenderness".

"All the while, let us be ambassadors of that authentic joy God alone can give and that God has given without measure in Jesus".



Don't forget the Parish Christmas Party on Friday, January 10, 2015 at the "cancha" of the Academia San Ignacio. Tickets \$25 per person

— love poems from God

Know the true nature of your Beloved.
In His loving eyes your every thought, word,
and movement are always, always beautiful.

Hafiz (1320-1389)

God has a special interest in women
for they can lift this world to their breast
and help Him comfort.

Mira (1498-1550)

— THE LITURGICAL CORNER

The Feast day of the Lord's Epiphany reminds us that the light of Christ is a diffuse one; it permeates all the world, diffuses salvation everywhere and invites all people to live in the light. Our response: give of the treasure of our hearts. Give over our very selves to the light.

It is important for us to recognize that the liturgical year is a seamless celebration of the whole mystery of Christ. The year unfolds event by event and invites us to enter into Jesus' paschal journey. But this is not a historical journey; it is a liturgical journey calling us to pattern our lives more closely on that of Jesus. All the various events along our own journey to follow the light of Christ actually collapse into the one mystery of salvation.

Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. Isaiah 60

May all kings bow before him, all nations serve him. For he rescues the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help.

He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor. Psalm 72

The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. Ephesians 3

This great feast - celebrated in the East as the Baptism of the Lord - is a feast of "Revelation."

Jesus is the beloved Son of God,
a light for the whole world,
the very one who comes to us in time, this year,
to be our Savior:
to rescue the poor, to hear our cry,
to save us in our need, in our poverty.
May we bring him the gifts of our faith and trust
and hope.

May we recognize him as our Savior
who gave his own life to set us free from
the power of sin and death.

COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

Prayers for Daily Living

You are our God of the universe and without You nothing happens to us or can be done by us of our own accord. We ask when we just cannot understand why things happen. Help us to accept the good and the bad, to forgive and to move on with our lives with more energy and enthusiasm for the challenges to build your Kingdom that daily life and our daily personal encounters provide for us. Our hope is in the Spirit of Your Son Jesus to accompany and guide us. Amen.

— Fr. John P. Martin M.M.

We have come to do Him homage!

the epiphany



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

January 6, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Today's Gospel uncovers a number of contrasts: the Magi-Gentiles from the east vs. Herod and the Jews of all Jerusalem; the light of the star that guided the Magi vs. the darkness of Herod's heart; the "newborn king of the Jews" thought to be found in Jerusalem, the home of Israel's king vs. this Child being



found in the small village of Bethlehem; Herod breeding evil in his heart to keep his power and status vs. the Magi who paid homage and offered gifts to the Child. Searching for and finding the Christ necessitates a

choice in face of contrasts to accept or reject this new in-breaking of God. Further, there can be no encounter with Christ without a change in us.

Like the Magi we, too, will find Christ if we search diligently. God also gives us a light that guides us. The light is Christ, the Light of the world. This divine Light always presents us with a choice: to embrace the gift of salvation, or to remain stuck in our own ways, wallowing in our own self made darkness, brooding over our own fears of losing what we think is so precious to us. When we choose darkness we are choosing narrowness of vision, limited expectations, confined insight, restricted dreams, checked possibilities. When we encounter the light, embrace it and offer the homage of ourselves, we are choosing broad horizons, fresh anticipation, new openness, worthy ideals, unbounded options. The light changes us because it opens up for us a divine world we cannot imagine but is so attractive that we let go of self in order to allow God to fashion us in this Light that never fades. The magi followed the light, encountered the Light, offered homage to the Light. So must we.

Words to reflect upon: the Light changes us, there can be no encounter with Christ without a change in us

LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

Christ leads us just as surely as the star led the magi to Bethlehem. We must choose to trust in God's loving Presence and sure guidance. There will be inevitable setbacks and challenges as we struggle with following the light; our everyday lives are filled with obstacles and restlessness which can get us off track. We must "search diligently": God and God's will can be found in many circumstances of our family life, work, and leisure times. Sometimes we must change course and take "another way"; conversion is an ongoing milestone in Christian living.

Today's feast day of the Lord's epiphany reminds us that the light of Christ is a diffuse one; it permeates all the world, diffuses salvation everywhere and invites all people to live in the light. Our response: give of the treasure of our hearts. Give over our very selves to the light.

Words to reflect upon: God leads us just as surely as the star led the magi to Bethlehem.

prayer

*Lord Jesus, you are Light for all nations
and worthy of all homage!
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**- Feast of the Epiphany -
Tuesday, January 6, 2015
Mass in English at 9:30am**



*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers,
intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,
1 Timothy 2:1*

LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY for the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz**, and Peter Fiorito. *Let us continue to pray together this week for all displaced people and refugees, especially the children, and that this painful scourge be removed from the face of God's earth.*