

**WE HAVE COME
TO DO HIM HOMAGE!**

*Second Sunday of
Christmas*



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

January 3, 2016

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

The “magi from the east” followed the light of a star. A light of heaven that guided them. A light of revelation that manifested “the newborn king of the Jews”. A light of warning that protected this Child from harm until his time had come. Like the magi, we must follow this light to the Light. Like the magi, we must



offer “the child” homage—the gift of our very selves become the Light of his Presence. A light that guides, reveals, warns.

We ourselves are the guiding light; we ourselves reveal God’s diving Presence through

the goodness of who we are; we ourselves warn others by the way we live of the danger of closing our eyes to this Light. We ourselves are to be the gift offered to others, a gift that shines brightly for all to see because this “newborn king of the Jews” dwells within us and among us. Such a light we behold!

Words to reflect upon: the goodness of who we are

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, Fr. Vega and Albert and Jerry Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Ian Murray, and **Maggie Maziarz**, for **whom we ask your unceasing prayer.** *Let us all make a special effort this week to remember to pray for all the thousands of Christians now being persecuted around the globe for their faith, especially in the Middle East. They are our modern martyrs and desperately need our help.*



Don't forget the parish “Octavitas” Party on Saturday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Academia’s new cafeteria. \$25 donation

Living the Grace of the Incarnation

Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospels), Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, contains an extraordinary idea...Christians are called to understand that the face of God for us is found on others. Most especially we are called to see the face of God upon those in poverty, in the cells of death row, on the homeless man panhandling for change, the immigrant without papers, the vulnerable, the drug addict, the oppressed, the marginalized, the faces of the unborn. Moreover, it is not enough merely to see these lowly as representations of God for us, challenging even as that is; **we are called collectively and individually, publicly and privately, in our churches and our governments, to serve them and to serve them with joy!**

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

Merciful Like the Father

A wild mercy is all around us though we may strain to see it. It is as pervasive as the grace that brings all goodness into being and all beauty to bear on the soul.

Our lives are over-run with it—a wild, chancy tampering with what we do, what is done to us and what we think of it all. Proof that God cares about us and about the way things turn out for us in our lives.

Mercy has as its source the heart of God intersecting with creation:

**The Corporal Works of Mercy —
Give Drink to the Thirsty**

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. In this **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, we should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

**January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany,
there will be an English liturgy
celebrated at 10:00 a.m.**

*Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord shines upon you!*

the epiphany



THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI

At our baptism, we were anointed with Sacred Chrism as priest, prophet, and king. As adults, we are reminded of our call to carry out the 3 tasks that correspond to this anointing: worship (priest), witness (prophet) and service (king). The three gifts that the Magi presented to the Infant Jesus directly correspond to these three dimensions: the incense stands for our worship, the gold for our service to the poor and the myrrh connects with our call to witness to our faith.



Through our gathering each Sunday for liturgy, we worship the God who has called us in baptism and who strengthens us each day for the journey. We are challenged by the Lord to continue to search out ways to witness to the faith in our daily lives. We are never too old or too young to learn through education or experience about the innumerable ways that God expresses his love each and every day. Finally we are sent each Sunday to build the Lord's kingdom by our service to the world. We do not gather simply to take care of one another; we are challenged to make a difference in our world.

Words to reflect upon: Build the Lord's kingdom, service to the world

Living the Grace of the Incarnation

Where do we expect to find this "newborn king" and who do we expect him to be? The pattern of our own lives is that of the magi: receive God's revelation, seek the Light, follow the light, encounter the Savior, offer our gifts, pay him homage. An important lesson here is that we must go beyond the obvious circle of light to find the true Light of the world that dispels all darkness. We cannot be limited by our own expectations, but must allow God to lead us to the real destination of our life's journey: to the Light

the church in jerusalem epiphany prayer

O God

Who by a star

guided the wise men to the worship of your Son

we pray you to lead to yourself

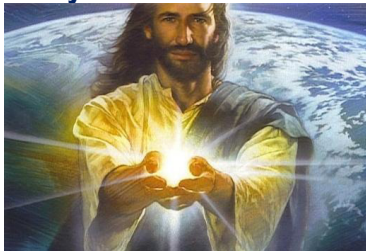
the wise and great of every land

that unto you every knee may bow,

and every thought be brought into captivity

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Feast 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. As part of our celebration of this Epiphany Sunday, it would do us

good to see ourselves as the destination of the Magi's quest. We are the ones who receive the Magi bearing gifts of God's love and peace, of salvation for all, the gifts of every Christmas, every Epiphany. So today we rejoice in the incalculable gifts that we have received—grace upon grace—and, as the second reading reminds us, we also meditate on our stewardship of those many gifts. Since we were not born in the time of Christ but in a time of technological wonders that would baffle our ancestors, in a time when we have the ability (if not the will) to solve most of the pressing social problems of history—hunger, poverty, injustice—how can we do other than rejoice and recommit ourselves to the work of the Gospel, to the care for all humanity and to living in the grace of the moment?

God leads us just as surely as the star led the magi to Bethlehem, so hold onto your stamina! In Puerto Rico, we still have another week of Christmas to go...

— The Liturgical Corner