

# FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



## At Our Rising

God of glory,  
at its rising, the star drew Magi  
who traveled to Jerusalem  
bearing gifts for your Son.  
At his rising, your Son appeared  
to his followers,  
who traveled to distant lands  
bearing the gift of salvation for everyone.  
At our rising each day may we, your people,

move forward in faith and hope.  
May we become gifts for each other,  
gifts that enrich, that guide, heal, console,  
and uplift  
so that at our rising from the dead  
you may receive us into the light of your  
eternal glory.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**One God, One People**



*Today's Readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12.*  
When God led his people out of Egypt, they believed in the existence of many gods. In the centuries that followed, they would come to know that there was only one God, the Lord of heaven and earth. The First Reading reveals that not only the Jews but all people come to believe in the Lord alone. People from all across the world bring gifts and sacrifices to Jerusalem to pay homage to the one true God.

The arrival of the Magi in Jerusalem fulfills Isaiah's prophecy. By undertaking the long journey to pay homage to the newborn king, these Gentiles venerate the God of Israel. They reveal that "the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the

same body." In Christ, God invites all people to share in his divine life and glory.

The revelation we celebrate today is thus not only about who God is, it is also about the people God empowers us to become. The images in Isaiah's prophecy portray people acting in unity, in harmony, and with a common purpose. They praise God, which means they acknowledge all that God is and embrace all that God stands for: kindness, patience, compassion, truth, mercy, justice. As we pay homage to the newborn king and strive to imitate his selfless love, we become part of this epiphany, part of God's great love, and we help others who are lost in the darkness to find and follow the light.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, January 4 Still Shining

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, whom we celebrate today, was the first person from the United States to be canonized. She also founded the first Catholic school for girls and the Sisters of Charity. St. Elizabeth found ways to participate in the ministry of Jesus, spread God's kingdom, and keep the light of Christ shining. Learn more about St. Elizabeth. Ask for her intercession as you discern how you can more fully receive and share the light of Christ. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 3:22—4:6; Psalm 2:7bc–8, 10–12a; Matthew 4:12–17, 23–25.

### Tuesday, January 5 This Is Love

God's love is boundless and tireless. God loved us into existence. God incarnated his love in Jesus, who revealed God's love in every aspect of his ministry, from urging love for our enemies to healing and feeding people. Through Christ, God loves us into eternal life. If we have received this love, our lives will overflow with love for others. Share God's love today by volunteering at a soup kitchen or visiting someone who is sick or homebound. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 4:7–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4, 7–8; Mark 6:34–44.

### Wednesday, January 6 Perfecting Love

We're told that "there is no fear in love," and yet the disciples are terrified of Jesus as he strides toward them on the surface of the sea. We love God, and yet we are frightened of his power, his greatness, and even his love. The more we encounter God's love, the more imperfect we feel. Our fears will fade only when we accept God's love, when we welcome that love and remain in it every day, every hour, every moment of our lives. Meditate on a crucifix or other image of God's love. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 4:11–18; Psalm 72:1–2, 10, 12–13; Mark 6:45–52.

### Thursday, January 7 Look Around

St. John insists that our love for God, whom we do not see, must overflow into love for others, whom we do see. Too often, however, we don't see the people who most need our love. Jesus points them out in today's Gospel passage: they are people in prisons, homeless shelters, treatment centers, orphanages, and nursing homes. They live in the poorest part of town, the places we never see, the places we won't go. Look at a map of where you live. Who are all the "hidden" people in your area? *Today's Readings:* 1 John 4:19—5:4; Psalm 72:1–2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Luke 4:14–22a.

### Friday, January 8 Sharing in the Victory

Eternal life flows from God the Father through his Son to the world. The leper who met Jesus experienced this new life. All that he suffered—physical pain, loneliness, hunger, sorrow—was lifted from him at the word and gentle touch of Jesus. What in your life needs to be healed, cleansed, and restored? Pray Psalm 130, and imitate the leper by prostrating yourself before the Lord. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; Luke 5:12–16.

### Saturday, January 9 Belong to God

As we conclude our reading of the First Letter of John, we are reminded that sin and evil persist in our world. God's Son became human and shares his light and life with us, yet even we who are baptized in his name sometimes fall back into sin. We continue to need his light, his word, his Church. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation, celebrate all the ways God has incarnated his love in your life. Ask forgiveness for those times when you have failed to receive and to share this love. *Today's Readings:* 1 John 5:14–21; Psalm 149:1–2, 3–4, 5 and 6a and 9b; John 3:22–30.

