

Welcome back to CCE from Christmas break! CCE classes are in session today, Jan. 5, Tuesday, Jan. 7, and Wednesday, Jan. 8.

I hope you had a very merry and blessed Christmas season! Celebrate the love of God in coming to live among us, to save us from bondage to sin, and to open the gates of Heaven to those who believe in Him. O, come, let us adore Him!



Breaking Open the Word for Families for The Epiphany of the Lord

By Ginger Herrington

Reading 1: *Nations shall walk by Your light and kings by Your radiance.* The prophet Isaiah prophesied that all nations will stream to Jerusalem. Today we celebrate the fruition of that prophecy, when all gathered, bringing the wealth of the nations to Baby Jesus. In the Magi are represented Gentile and pagan nations who saw Jesus' light and came from afar to worship Him. We are called to bring our "wealth," spiritual and physical, and lay it at the feet of Our Lord. We bring our hearts, our talents, our time as we volunteer in ministries, and our financial support to the Church founded by Jesus. Walking by His light, we journey together on our way to the Heavenly Jerusalem.

Reading 2: *By the stewardship of God's grace, all baptized Catholics are members of the Body of Christ, His Church, no matter where we come from.* St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the Gentiles are co-heirs of the Promise God gave to Abraham, that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on the seashore. We are the descendants of Abraham in faith. Let us thank God today that our ancestors converted to Catholicism and granted us a partnership in the Promise. Thank God, those who responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and entered the Catholic Church. Thank God that we found Jesus. Love Him, seek Him as the Magi did, and allow His light to guide your heart.

Gospel: *They saw His light and came to do Him homage; then they opened their treasures to Him.* The Magi were "overjoyed" when they saw Jesus. We, too, should be overjoyed when we see Jesus. Where do you see Him? We see Him at every Mass pre-eminently in the Eucharist: His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. We hear Him in the Sacred Scripture, especially in the Gospels. We see Him in the priest, who acts *in persona Christi* – in the Person of Christ. We see Him in each other, the assembled, baptized congregation. We hear Him often in our prayers if we're listening carefully. Watch for Him and see how many times you see Jesus, and be overcome with joy at the Presence of Our Savior. In our joy, let our hearts sing with the angels and do Him homage: "Glory to God in the highest" sang the angels at Jesus' birth; and "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts" sang the angels in the Revelation of John. In our joy and adoration, open your treasures to Him. Give Him your time in prayer, at Mass, and volunteering to help people. Give Him your talent as you sing at Mass or volunteer in a ministry. Give Him your treasure: your love and your trust, your faith in Him.



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