

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

3 January 2021

Rise up in splendor! (Isaiah 60:1)

Today we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, Gentiles from the East who came seeking the King of the Jews. Their arrival in Bethlehem is the fulfillment of today's first reading, in which the glory of God draws people of every nation to Jerusalem.

But look closely, and you'll find something surprising: "Your light has come," the reading says, and "the glory of the Lord shines upon you" (Isaiah 60:1, emphasis added). It's Jerusalem itself, symbol of God's chosen people, that is attracting the Gentiles, not a sudden blaze of glory coming from the heavens. It's the shining witness of a people who have bound themselves to the Lord and to each other. That's where the nations will find the glory of God.



Imagine that! We ourselves—the people of God working and praying together, loving, and forgiving one another—we can be the manifestation of God's glory to the world.

If you light one candle on a darkened, moonless night, you may be able to see it from a few feet away. But if you bring hundreds of people together and give each of them a lighted candle, you might see their brightness from a mile away. Bring enough people together, and you'd see the light from outer space! That's God's vision for us. He wants us to put aside selfish, sinful, or prideful attitudes so that we can love each other and serve each other—and so be his light. He wants us to follow him, not just because it's good for us, but because he knows that a life of discipleship brings us closer together and makes us shine out to the world even more brightly.

So join the Magi and bow before the infant Christ today. But as you do, pray for the Church. Pray for your parish. Pray for the domestic church that is your family. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep purifying you, and all of God's people, so that together we can shine more brightly and draw more people to him.

"Jesus, teach us to love each other so that we can fill the world with your glory!"

Called to Serve,

~Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

Safeguard the Children VIRTUS Sessions

The Office of Safeguard the Children is proud to sponsor a series of VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Zoom Sessions during January 2021. These sessions are for Clergy, staff, and essential volunteers. Those whose current VIRTUS® certificate has expired and need to take Keeping the Promise Alive or are new to their position have never taken the Protecting God's Children training. If you want to register for a session, please contact Felecia Johns at 323.291.1136 (office) or 323.600.5159 (cell) for more details.

Did You Know?

How the ADLA can help victim-survivors heal

When the Vatican released the McCarrick Report late last year, many victim-survivors of sexual abuse may have been triggered by the revelations in the report and the repeated mention of it in the news and on social media. In the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the Office of Victims Assistance Ministry was created to provide a safe and compassionate environment for victim-survivors who need to report abuse to be able to do so, and to receive assistance for healing. For more information about these resources, visit <https://lacatholics.org/departments-ministries/protecting-children/>.

Stewardship Thought

"..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

Weekly Offering for December 27, 2020

\$4,409.00 Tithe and Offering

PLANNED GIVING

A gift of appreciated stock avoids capital gains tax. You will be able to deduct the full value of the stock, avoid capital gains tax, and make a substantial gift to the parish or school.

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Cynthia Fortier, Michael Frierson, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Vylfred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, and Alice Williams.