

The Work of the People

The Epiphany of the Lord

Today we celebrate the fact that the child born in the darkness of night in a lowly manger is revealed as the manifestation (the meaning of *epiphany*) of God. Christ is revealed in many ways: as Lord, as King, as the one in whom God is present and acts. All of these manifestations are "lights" that shine on Christ, revealing a deeper understanding of who he is. All the readings for today reveal, in a way, a different manifestation of who Christ is for all who believe. Traditionally, three events in the life of Christ are remembered today as manifestations of God's presence and action through Christ: the visit of the Magi, the wedding feast at Cana, and the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River.

In today's first reading Isaiah addresses Jerusalem, a symbol of the chosen people of Israel. He calls them to "rise up in splendor" because the light, the salvation of God has arrived. They will now be a light for the nations; they will be the messengers of the wondrous deeds of God.

In Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus, the issue of whether the Gentiles should inherit salvation without first becoming Jewish appears as a contentious one for the early Church. Paul, who came to be known as the Apostle of the Gentiles, makes it clear that God always intended that the Gentiles receive the grace of salvation.

Today's Gospel is from the Infancy Narrative of Matthew. The importance of this story within the Christmas narrative lies in its theological meaning. Jesus' birth has significance far beyond the religious boundaries and expectations of his ancestors. The intervention of God in human history will have universal repercussions and people of every time and nation will be drawn to the Son of God.

Today's reflection is from *Enter the Story* by Sr. Fran Ferder who is a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and a clinical psychologist.

The Magi's search takes them through places both unfamiliar and dangerous. Driven to carry on through unknown terrain, they are guided only by a mysterious light and their own interior trust that a momentous meeting awaits.

The journey of the Magi has all of the elements of any vision quest or spiritual search: Changing light in an otherwise dark sky. Unrelenting persistence toward an uncertain

destination. Detours and altered paths. Bewildering dreams. Moments of overpowering joy. Meeting the holy. Offering the gifts of the journey. Going home again—to wherever it is that the inner landscape of our souls calls us.

According to Matthew, Jesus had his very own star, a bright globe in the sky that guided those who wanted to meet him. Stars are glimmers in the darkness, shimmering bits of radiance that draw others forward. The same light that helped the Magi find Jesus is part of a mystery that illuminates all significant relationships. Over the course of our lives many people will come our way, sometimes led by curiosity, sometimes by happenstance. But often, attraction will beckon them, a light inside that is hard to explain—a brightness that can only be followed by those willing to make a journey and offer their gifts. We do the same in relationship to them. As sons and daughters of God we too have our very own star—our personal appeal, our individual influence, our unique way of incarnating the holy. We have gifts to offer. Some of us travel a long way to find the reception that the Magi found.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn. 3:22; 4, 6/Ps. 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt. 4: 12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday: 1 Jn. 4:7-10/Ps. 72:1-4, 7-8k/Mk. 6:34-44
 Wednesday: 1 Jn. 4:11-18/Ps. 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk. 6:45-52
 Thursday: 1 Jn. 4:19-54/Ps. 72:1-2, 14, 15bc 17/Lk. 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn. 5:5-13/Ps. 147:12-15, 19-20/Lk. 5:12-16
 Saturday: 1 Jn. 5:14-21/Ps. 149:1-6a, 9b/Jn. 3:22-30
 Sunday: Is. 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Ps. 29:1-2. 3-4, 9-10/
 Mk. 1:7-11

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star I the life of your children.

*"Jesus,
 thank you for getting into
 my boat with me.
 Come more deeply
 into my heart
 and life today."*

WORSHIP

Monday, January 4
8:00 am + John E. Auer

Tuesday, January 5
8:00 am + Mary Erich (Shawn Pfleger)

Wednesday, January 6
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, January 7
8:00 am + Christina Barbara Makowiecki
(Gerard & Martha Adamczyk)

Friday, January 8
8:00 am + Berry Zak Gay
Joan Rembielak & Phyllis Wronko)

Saturday, January 9
4:30 pm + Cecil Miller (Rose Miller)

Sunday, January 10
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Bob Brunot (Pauline Paker & Family)

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Mike & Vicki Graczyk (Jeanne Miller)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 5
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, January 9
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, January 10
Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To reduce the cost of mailing a report, if you want a year-end statement of your annual contributions to St. Anthony or St. Bernadette PLEASE CLIP THIS FROM THE BULLETIN AND RETURN IT IN THE COLLECTION BASKET BY MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021.

NAME: _____
(Please Print)

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARADSHIP	
Offertory	\$310.00
All Saints	10.00
Donation	150.00
Candles	14.00
Oplatki	2.00
Christmas	<u>305.00</u>
TOTAL	\$791.00
Catholic Services Appeal Pledged: \$5,805 Paid: \$5,805	

REQUEST FOR PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____
(Please Print)

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the rectory.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Who are the perpetrators? Traffickers can be anyone who profits from the selling of a child for sex to a buyer, including family members, foster parents, friends, gangs, trusted adults, or "boyfriends." Much of the trafficking of children has moved from street corners and truck stops to the internet where children are sold for sex. Online classified sites allow traffickers and buyers anonymity and accessibility when exploiting children. In some case, there is no identified trafficker, and it is the person buying sex from the child who is exploiting the child's vulnerabilities. A child cannot consent to being bought and sold for sex, and anyone purchasing sex from a child is committing a serious crime. If you suspect a case of Child Sex Trafficking you can call 1-800-THE-LOST or make a report at www.CyberTipline.org. Visit <https://www.eriecnd.org/childprotection/> to see what the diocese is doing to help maintain safe environments for children and youth.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$2,234.00
Maintenance	597.00
Candles	36.00
Oplatki	8.00
Energy	20.00
Initial	20.00
Solemnity of Mary	20.00
Missionary Co-op	26.00
Christmas	1,547.00
Immaculate Conception	5.00
Latin Mass	<u>115.00</u>
TOTAL	\$4,628.00
Catholic Services Appeal Pledged: \$26,924 Paid: \$26,354	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
