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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 5, 2019

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Epiphany can be understood as an extension of the Nativity of the Lord that we celebrate on December 25. While at Christmas we celebrate Jesus’ coming as the long-awaited king and Messiah of the Jewish people, on Epiphany we celebrate the revelation that Jesus is the Savior and Light of all nations—Jews, Gentiles, and all people.

The star shines so brightly that it attracts magi who come from far distant countries to worship Jesus. They are not Jews, yet they are drawn to the Light of the world. The letter to the Ephesians reveals that the Light of the world was for the Gentiles as well as the Jews—Christ gathers all people into the light of his love. The reading from Isaiah also describes a gathering of diverse peoples, but this time it is to the light that emanates from the people of God.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Life hands us many epiphanies or “wake-up calls.” A few years ago, a young couple adopted a two-year-old child in a morass of red tape, complications, and court hearings. At the baby’s baptism, the priest suggested appending an “adoption blessing,” wherein the new relationship was expressed and affirmed. There is a place in that rite for the child to speak, and instead the priest said, “Can you give Daddy a kiss?” Standing in the midst of his church, the young adoptive father suddenly welled up with tears as he embraced the child. Afterward, he explained that through all the hassles and legal struggles he never until that moment in church understood that he was the parent of this child. The ritual claimed them for each other, gave expression to their relationship that the legal documents never could, and firmly cemented this child into the heart of a community as everyone erupted into heartfelt applause. This assembly witnessed in a powerful way what happens in every baptism: the mystery of adoption, the free flow of grace, the overwhelming sense of God’s presence at the heart of our life’s journey.

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TODAY’S READINGS

ODAY’S READINGS FOR YEAR A

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The LORD shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).
Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).
Second Reading — The mystery has been made known that the Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).
Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:1-12).

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, 7-8; 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 — 5:4; 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; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10;
Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

In case of an emergency, and you are needing a priest, please contact St Mary’s at 731-668-2596

HEROD AND THE EPIPHANY

Why impious Herod, vainly fear
That Christ the Savior cometh here?
He takes no earthly realms away
Who gives the crown that lasts for aye.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord;
National Migration Week
Monday: St. André Bessette
Tuesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort;
Julian Calendar Christmas

Jan 12th
Lector Mary
E/M Ann /Peggy
Usher Michael/ Olivia
Server Jesus

Jan 1st
\$195.00

Dec.25th
\$391.00

Dec 29th
Budget
Actual

\$822.00

Offertory 12/22/2019
BUDGET \$1351.00
ACTUAL \$
\$2060.00