



USC Caruso
Catholic Center

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord; Most Holy name of Jesus

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia

Matthew 2:2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke:

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:
by Deacon Paul Pesqueira

epiph·a·ny, | \ i-'pi-fə-nē \

Websters Collegiate Definition

1 capitalized : January 6 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles or in the Eastern Church in commemoration of the baptism of Christ

2: an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being

3 a (1): a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something
(2): an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking
(3): an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure
b: a revealing scene or moment

I often tell people that the Roman Catholic Church has its own language. We say words like Trinity, Eucharist, Epiphany, and we assume everybody knows what we are talking about. Today the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. According to *Webster Collegiate Dictionary*, the first definition is what we as church are celebrating - the coming of the Magi, bearing gifts for the messiah, who has been revealed to all of humanity. The Magi came bearing gifts, but the true gift is the infant for whom the Magi were looking. We often look at our lives and have no idea the gift that God is bestowing upon us. It often takes time to pass before the gift of God is truly revealed. We can look back after some time has passed and say to ourselves, "Now I understand why I needed to go through this."

The third definition above states, "an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure." The Epiphany or illuminating discovery that 2020 has given me is how fragile humanity really is. A virus that cannot be seen has changed the way we live. And now, our lives are forever changed. A vaccine has been developed, a shot in the arm will be given, and everything will be back to normal? Like anything else in the world, it sounds too good to be true. And it probably is. If it is not COVID-19 what about COVID-20, 21, 22, etc. If it is not a virus that is wreaking havoc in our lives maybe there will be a natural disaster, or personal loss? As the saying goes, "It is always something."

Faith, my faith, is my foundation. With everything that has occurred this past year, I do not know how I could have survived without Christ. The revelation of the infant Jesus allows me to continue to grow in my faith the way Jesus grew in faith and wisdom. I feel like I have prayed more than any other year in my life. I have prayed recognizing the God in my life. I have prayed in thanksgiving, I have prayed for others through petitions to God seeking the intercession of Mary the Mother of God, St. Michael, Padre Pio, and all holy men and women. I have prayed for atonement. I have prayed.

I have experienced loss this year, whether it was material goods or the death of dear friends. 2020 has been painful. I am thankful for the things that I have, and the people in my life. I hope to lose something else in my life as well. This past Easter a new baptismal rite book was issued by the USCCB in conjunction with the Vatican. It takes many years to revamp a rite book. It is not a coincidence that the new baptismal, with this new prayer, ended up in my hands. There is a prayer that is said just before the baptism is to occur, and the word contagion is used. How often have we heard the word contagion this past year? The baptismal rite uses this word not in reference to a virus, instead the prayer speaks of the contagion of sin! We have a contagion that we have been born with and we need to fight the contagion of sin our entire lives. I will fight against the contagion of sin. That is what I want to lose in my life for 2021, sin. I want to have Christ guide me away from the near occasion of sin. I seek the vaccination of Christ through the Sacraments to keep the contagion of sin away from me and those I love. I pray for your health, happiness, peace, and prosperity in 2021.

Marana Tha! Come, Lord Jesus, indeed he has.

Nicene Creed:

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Presider: Christ, our light has dawned upon the world. In joyful hope, then, let us pray:

Intercessions:

1. That in our work and worship together, our Church and parish community may reveal God's living presence in our world:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

2. That all nations and peoples may walk together by the light God's peace:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

3. That all churches and faith communities may honor and respect one another as co-heirs and sharers of God's promise:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

4. That the happiness and love shared by families and households during this holy season may be celebrated in all seasons of the new year:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

5. That all who are experiencing despair and pain may discover the peace and healing of the Shepard of Israel:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

6. That all who have died in the peace of Christ may live forever in the light of the risen Messiah:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

Father, ever present to your people in everything that is good, hear our prayers. May your peace and justice be the star we follow in our lives' journey to your everlasting kingdom. We ask this in the name of your Light and Word to us

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

Closing Prayer:

Presider:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen