

All nations walk by His light!

PARISH CALENDAR

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, and Event. Rows include Saturday, January 5; Sunday, January 6; Monday, January 7; Tuesday, January 8; Wednesday, January 9; Thursday, January 10; Friday, January 11; and Saturday, January 12.



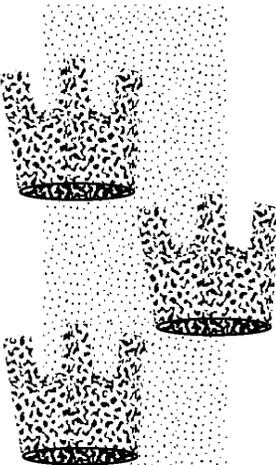
NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:42:1-4, 6-7: The servant of the Lord will establish justice
Acts:10:34-38:God's word to Israel is fulfilled in Christ
Lk:3 :15-16, 21-22: Jesus is baptized and filled with the Spirit

Reflection

The astrologers, or magi, stand in for all the non-Jews of the world, just as the shepherds on Christmas night stood in for all the poor and dispossessed, the most illogical of all worshipers. No one would have expected the glad tidings to be delivered to the lowly shepherds.

The doors are indeed thrown open to the whole world. As the new bright and shining Jerusalem, the Church must welcome all who come by any route, any route whatsoever. Every person who knocks at the door of Christianity and seeks Christ must be welcomed.



COME, LET US ADORE HIM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. RITA SOUVENIR BOOK: We are selling “St. Rita Souvenir Book”, the cost is \$15! Please contact Sebastian Lopez @808-224-6691, for more information.

DAY OF PRAYER: The Over 56 million abortions since 1973 decisions of Roe v. Wade and Doe v Bolton reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a “throwaway culture.” However, we have great trust in God’s providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord’s help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard. The general Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the “**Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**”: “In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, **January 22** (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and or penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.”

WORD OF LIFE: “Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!” Address of John Paul II to the Bishops and Apostolic Administrators of Albania on their “Ad Limina” Visit, February 3, 2001” © 2001 Libreria editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved

WEEKLY READINGS

Jan 06 Sun: The Epiphany of the Lord

Is:60:1-6; Ps 72: Eph:3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt:2:1-12

Jan 07 Mon: 7th Christmas Weekday

1 John:3:22-4:6; Ps:2:7bc-8, 10-12a;Mt:4:12-17, 23-25

Jan 08 Tue: Christmas Weekday

1 John:4:7-10; Ps:72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk:6:34-44

Jan 09 Wed: Christmas Weekday

1 John:4:11-18;Ps: 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk:6:45-52

Jan 10 Thu: Christmas Weekday

1 John:4:19-5:4; Ps:72:1-2, 14 & 15bc, 17;Lk:4:14-22a

Jan 11 Fri: Christmas Weekday

1 John:5:5-13; Ps 147; 12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk:5:12-16

Jan 12 Sat: Christmas Weekday

1 John:5:14-21; Ps 149: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; John 3:22-30

Roads

There seems to be no end of biographies and autobiographies and memoirs. We love to read of life journeys, of the paths people followed or the trails they blazed. We compare their stories to ours, their journeys to ours, their roads taken and not taken to ours. Epiphany is the story of a road taken by astrologers, passing strangers, wonderful and just about exotic, but not quite. For this story is also ours. Copyright © 2003, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

The shepherds went in haste
to Bethlehem and found
Mary & Joseph,
and the infant
lying in a manger.



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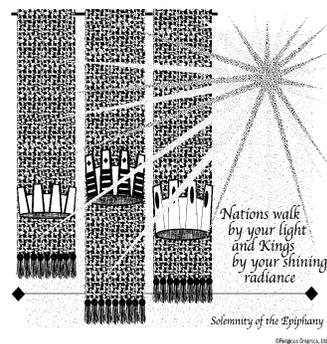
NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today’s second reading we hear Saint Paul teach the community at Ephesus that God’s revelation had come, not just to their community, but to others as well; that a broader community of believers was being allowed to exercise stewardship over the Good News. Good stewards recognize that it is in our life together as a Eucharistic community that we find ever new vistas and insights into God’s vast universe of love and mercy. If we take time to listen to one another, we discover stories of faith beyond our own. Pause this week to converse with others, listen to their prayers, and observe acts of kindness and generosity. See if you can gain an understanding of God and the world that you have not experienced or known before. (International Catholic Stewardship Council ~e-Bulletin)

Never has Jerusalem stood so high and proud as it stands today in the words of Isaiah. This reading is the last part of a three-author (at least) book that begins before Israel’s exile, the bitter, long exile itself, and finally the release and homecoming. This great wonderful day of release from bondage, this dream of triumph and glory is what we read about today. Here, Isaiah looks ahead to the great time when the city is awash in the Lord’s own light and brilliance. All roads lead to Jerusalem, this shining city on a hill. Jerusalem is addressed as a person to whom everyone hastens with great joy.

This reading anticipates all that is good. Everyone comes home. First come the regular folks—sons and daughters and babies—and then the rest of the world. The generous heart of Jerusalem opens to receive all the riches of other nations that flow ever toward it. The dromedaries and camels laden with gold and frankincense mentioned in this reading conjure up the wealthy and royal retinues that in Isaiah’s prophecy will one day trek toward Jerusalem.

But we, at the beginning of this millennium, think of the coming of the kings at Epiphany. The first reading resonates with the later coming of the astrologers or magi, those seers who consulted stars and dreams, as we see in today’s Gospel. These exotic astrologers came a long and perhaps circuitous route. They consulted the local potentate, Herod, who paid no attention whatsoever to Jewish ways. He surely would have paid no mind to these astrologers, except that they became a red flag. They threatened his hold on power, so he summoned them and cunningly and disingenuously inquired about how they read the stars and what it might mean (to Herod, of course). That duty done, the astrologers found their way to the Holy Family and offered the gifts fit for a royal child—gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Solemnity of the Epiphany
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