

JANUARY 2, 2011

## Feast of The EPIPHANY of OUR LORD

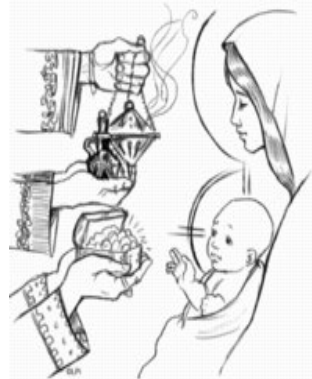
**EPIPHANY** means manifestation or showing forth. Here, outsiders discover the revelation of the mystery of God as a human child born among us. This child belongs to the world and will shepherd his people Israel, but reign over the whole peoples in forgiveness, justice and mercy. Those from afar off strangers see what those who are inside a religious tradition cannot perceive. Sadly even the teachers and priests who know the promises that were meant its own ends. There is the power to sustain the people under oppression live in collusion with their rulers who see these prophets' words as threatening to their own power.

Epiphany is about power and what power we worship. There is the power of the Word of God that sustains.

There is the power of Herod and nations that only serves of the Child of the Star who comes to liberate and free. There is the power of worship and pilgrimage in search of the truth. There is the power of dreams that protect others. What powers do we serve?



### **THE EPIPHANY**



As one scripture professor, speaking about gospel stories said, "It is all true, and some of it really happened."

The story of the wise men and the star may or may not have happened but it is true. Scientists have speculated on the origin of the star over the Bethlehem town. Some have said that it was a supernova or a new star, or a comet with a luminous tail, or—as been seen recently on the Discovery Channel—a planetary conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn which occurred about 7-6 B.C. when Herod was king.

According to folklore, stars were thought to herald the birth of great people. Matthew's mention of the guiding star of Bethlehem came from the Book of Numbers (22-24). Balak, the king of Moab, called upon Balaam, a seer, to curse Israel. He refused and instead blessed Israel saying that a future leader would come. "I see him, though not now; I behold him, though he is not near. A star will come forth from Jacob and a scepter will rise from Israel."

Bible scholars think this prophecy was referring to David and his kingship. Later Jewish scholars applied this prophecy to the long hoped for messiah of David's line. Matthew and the early church thought the prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus. Matthew molds his story around Balaam. Just as the wicked king was tricked so was Herod. Just as "Balaam went off to his home", Matthew tells us the Wise Men "went back to their own country" but not without faith in the one whose star led them to Bethlehem.

The Epiphany is a true story in that it declares God's concern for all nations. Just as the angels proclaimed at Jesus' birth: **"Don't be afraid! I have good news for you which will make everyone happy...Praise God in heaven!**

**Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."** God's concern is now seen to include every nation. We are to emulate that same universal spirit in all our dealings with one another. Then others will see epiphanies—the presence of God—through our witnessing.



**YEAR 2011 ENVELOPES** – Year 2011 Envelope Boxes are still available from Mr. Carmelo Villanueva after each Mass or at the FCMM Office. Please discard your Year 2010 envelopes and don't

forget to complete all necessary information (NAME and ADDRESS) when using your new ones !

**NOTE** :: We encourage you to follow the minimum donation of \$ 5.00 every Sunday and \$20.00 for the monthly pledge. Thank You !



**SEÑOR STO. NIÑO** – A Special Celebration of the Feast of the Sto. Niño will be held on Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. There will be the recitation of the Novena Prayers, Blessing of Children and Blessing of Images after the Mass. Devotees who would like to sponsor the Mass are requested to contact Mrs. Susie Alejandro, Mrs. Luming Silverio or the FCMM Office.

A **pot-luck** reception and Fiesta Filipino Program will follow after at the Church Basement. Please contact the Family Life Ministry for Food Assignments.



**THANK YOU !!! -**  
To all who made the  
FCMM's celebration of  
**ADVENT** and  
**CHRISTMAS 2010**



a big success...

**MARAMING SALAMAT PO !**



**'UNDECORATE' THE CHURCH! -**

Next Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> the church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord.

This feast marks the liturgical conclusion of the Christmas Season and it will be time to pack – up our Christmas decors. We will need your help on **SATURDAY, January 15** at 10:00 a.m. to “un-decorate” the church and prepare it for the big feast of the Sto. Niño. Remember that “Many hands make light work.” If you can lend a hand, it will be deeply appreciated...even a few minutes would help. Mark the date- January 19 Saturday. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!!**



**STEWARDSHIP-** *“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”*

*Matthew 2:11*

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow. Each of us is called to open our gifts before Jesus, offering Him what He needs.

**WHAT IS A REASONABLE WEEKLY DONATION TO MY PARISH?**

One suggestion that we make is to consider donating the equivalent of your

**"First Hour of Work"** each week to the Lord.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE** offered by **MARCY ELLASUS**.



### The Gift of the Magi

Of the mysterious magi, there is little more than mention in the gospel. The Venerable Bede is the one who gives us the colorful details: "The first was called Melchior; he was an old man, with white hair and long beard; he offered gold to the Lord as to his king. The second, Gaspar by name, young, beardless, of ruddy hue, offered to Jesus his gift of incense, the homage due divinity. The third, of black complexion, with heavy beard, was called Baltasar; the myrrh he held in his hands prefigured the death of the Son of Man."

About their lives after leaving that day, the Scriptures say nothing. Never at a loss, legend has filled the vacuum: Many years after Christmas, St. Thomas the Apostle visited the magi and, after catechizing them, initiated them into the Christian faith. They were then ordained priests, and later bishops. Toward the end of their lives, the Christmas star revisited them, this time leading them to one another for a reunion. The city of Sewa in the Orient is said to be the place of their burial. It was in the sixth century that their legendary relics were brought from Constantinople to Milan, and from there in 1164, by Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, to Cologne where pilgrimage has honored them for centuries.

(The Catholic Source Book, Rev. Peter Klein)



Last Advent and during the Christmas Season, our Church Environment was beautifully enhanced by flowers, lights and other Christmas Decorations. These came from the generosity of your hearts. We wish to acknowledge our donors and ask you to pray for their intentions.



#### AS THANKSGIVING OFFERED BY :

- MR. & MRS. FLORENCIO AGUIRRE
- CARIDAD BACOSA
- FR. ROGER BEGIN, PME
- THE DAIT FAMILY
- THERESA-PAULINE DIWA
- MANNY & LINA LAGASCA
- FR. GERRY LOISELLE, PME and HUGUETTE
- LEO & CYNTHIA PACHEO
- MR. & MRS. WENEFREDO REY and FAMILY,
- FLORA ABALOS TADEO
- ROSA VELASQUEZ

#### IN MEMORY OF:

- JUAN, MARCELINA, ROSARIO, CORAZON
- VIRGILIO, PRISCILLA , & MARGARITA
- PETRONIO, REGINA, DIOSDADO, RODRIGO IBAÑEZ
- ROBERT ELLASUS
- CRISPIN & BALBINO MAGNO,
- ANTONIO & MARCELINO ALLANA



#### ~ NEW YEAR PRAYER ~

God grant us this year a wider view, so we see others' faults through the eyes of You. Teach us to judge not with hasty tongue, neither the adult ... nor the young. Give us patience and grace to endure, and a stronger faith so we feel secure. Instead of remembering, help us forget the irritations that caused us to fret. Freely forgiving for some offense and finding each day a rich recompense. In offering a friendly, helping hand and trying in all ways to understand; that all of us whoever we are ... we are trying to reach an unreachable star. For the great and small ... the good and bad, the young and old ... the sad and glad, only love can make man kind and kindness of heart brings peace of mind.

By giving love, we can start this year to lift the clouds of hate and fear.