

Blessed Sacrament Parish
Liturgy of the Word
Epiphany of the Lord
January 7th, 2024

Entrance antiphon: *please stand*

(All) **Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.** (Mal 3,1)

To commemorate our baptism, and to begin our celebration, let us bless ourselves with the sign of the cross: (All) **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (All) **And with your spirit.**

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare our hearts to hear the Word of God and to receive his body in Holy Communion:

(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,
through my fault,
through my fault,

through my
most grievous fault;
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.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. (All) **Amen.**

We are gathered to hear the Word of the Lord, to give thanks to God for his blessings, to seek his guidance and to give Glory for his abundant grace. With the entire Church, let us recite together:

(All)

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to
people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks
for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ,
Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of
the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the
right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone
are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect prayer

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.**

FIRST READING

please be seated.

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah (60, 1-6)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord: (All) **Thanks be to God**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 72)

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

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.

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

In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him
tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

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

For he delivers the needy one who calls,
the poor and the one who has no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

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

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (3, 2-6)

Brothers and sisters: Surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation,

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

The Word of the Lord: (All) **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

please stand

(All) **Alleluia. Alleluia.** We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage to the Lord. **Alleluia.** (Matthew 2, 2)

The Lord be with you. (All) **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (2, 1-12)

All) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: '*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.*'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(All) **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

please be seated

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

please stand

With the entire Church, let us now proclaim our Faith:

(All)

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under
Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died
and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose
again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Claude) Let us now present our requests to the Lord, for the Church, for the world and for ourselves; let us pray with confidence to the Lord our God:

For the Church, light of the nations, witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord: (All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the members of all faith communities working in mutual respect and acceptance, we pray to the Lord:

(All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who seek to earn their living and a place in our community, we pray to the Lord: (All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For ourselves and God's people, yearning to follow the Light of Christ, we pray to the Lord: (All) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

(Claude) God, our Father, to your greatness, there is no limit. In your great goodness, look at our desire to collaborate for a more just world and grant us the grace to work tirelessly for your greater glory and the good of all. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. (All) **Amen.**

COMMUNION RITE

As we prepare ourselves to receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, and following the teaching and command given by our Saviour, we dare to say,

(All) **Our Father, who art in Heaven...**

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. You who live and reign forever and ever.

(All) **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

(All) **And with your spirit.**

Let us offer each other the sign of Peace.

(The Holy Ciborium is brought to the altar).

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

(All) **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

We shall now receive the Body of Christ, in Holy Communion. Let us recite together the communion antiphon:

(All) **We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

please stand

God our Father, you have opened a path of light for us by giving us your Son. Lead us to Him every day, and may this give meaning to our lives. Then we will be able to spread His peace around us and show what hope we have for ever and ever. We ask this through Christ our Lord, him who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. (All) **Amen.**

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

(All) **And with your spirit.**

Solemn Blessing – Feast of the Epiphany

May God, who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, pour out in kindness his blessing upon you and make your hearts firm in faith, hope and charity. (All) **Amen.**

And since in all confidence you follow Christ, who today appeared in the world as a light shining in darkness, may God make you took, a light for your brothers and sisters. (All) **Amen.**

And so when your pilgrimage is ended, may you come to him whom the Magi sought as they followed the star and whom they found with great joy, the Light from Light, who is Christ the Lord. (All) **Amen.**

May the Lord look over each of us and each of our families, may he protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life, and may the blessing of almighty God, † *the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit*, come down on you and remain with you. (All) **Amen.**

Let us go, in peace, to love and to serve the Lord.

(All) **Thanks be to God.**