



January 8, 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord

Upcoming Dates

Jan 22, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm
 Feb 1, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
 Feb 5, Bishop Vasa presiding
 Feb 15, Finance Committee meeting 4pm
 Feb 18, Annual Crab Feed
 Mar 12, Spaghetti & Wine Dinner

Mass Intentions

For all parishioners

Readings

Is 60: 1-6
 Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
 Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6
 Mt 2: 1-12

Pray For Our Brothers And Sisters

Who are ill or in pain: Tony Madrid

Parish Donations

New feature: Scan the QR code to make a donation.

Dec 31 - Jan 1	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$891.00	\$494.00
St. Catherine	\$157.00	\$345.00
St. Colman	\$110.00	\$20.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$2,017.00

Spirituality Of The Readings

Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, St. Louis University

King

The Wise Men, or “Magi,” cross into one more kingdom in their long journey.

Courteously they visit the monarch of that kingdom, not knowing he was the infamous Herod, whom they could have avoided. I suppose every amenity took place: formal welcome, diplomatic over-do, huge meals, fine drinks. Such excesses had to take place even in a commonplace kingdom.

Finally, when the moment arrives, they pose their question. “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have read the signs and know of his birth.” They trust Herod for truth, since, obviously, this infant will be the next in line from Herod.

What seems to them like a sincere question strikes terror into the Herodian heart. He maintains his diplomatic balance, temporizing, but with a promise to find the answer. He skillfully ends the meeting for that night. But, within him are the words, Newborn King? NO, NO, NO! I AM THE KING! My lineage is the answer to this menacing child. Herod’s insides shout for him to do something!

Do something!

He goes to the chief priests and scribes and charms them with what he presents as an idle interest, an “honest” question. Do you experts, busy studying day and night, do you know anything about the predicted Messiah figure we used to hope for? I wonder, if he were to be born today, where that would be?

“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they respond, where the great King David was born. These experts know the scriptures well, as Herod does not. This Messiah will be David’s successor, shepherd of the people Israel, fulfillment of everything the Hebrew people had awaited for centuries.

The Herodian head swirls. At last he forms a plan. Find him and kill him.

Herod will designate the town for these Magi and they will search out and find the baby!

He makes his way across the halls and utters the words, “Bethlehem is the place! The child is in Bethlehem! All you have to do is find him. Oh, and of course, let me know where he is. Why? So that I too may do him homage.”

The homage Herod has in mind is death. His lust for power will banish the command of love in order for him to stay in control. He is most willing to compete directly even with God and with the newborn Christ. *Notice, he is accepting the same deal Satan will offer to Jesus in the desert thirty years later. That offer was, “you can control the whole world if you will only fall down and worship me. Help me defeat God.” Satan too was a power-monger.*

The funny thing is that, for Jesus, “power” is not at all the same thing Herod and Satan are grabbing for. For their part they want to become bigger and bigger, to stretch beyond infinity. His goal is to become less and less, to become transparent, just as love is.

Heavy selfish greed is being offered, but it cannot demolish this heavenly plan. It surely can seem to. To Herod it certainly seems to.

The child’s weakness shows what God has in mind as an answer to evil: *tender, unfearing openness to love.*

In our sinfulness, we scoff at such a plan. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus will never win, will they? Evil will triumph in the end, won’t it? The cross will do what Herod could not, but that Satan could.

Will it?

Maybe Christmas is our down-payment on the cross!

Announcements

See’s Candy Sale Update

Thank you to all who bought candy and passed the message on to others for our Christmas holiday fundraiser. We had many online sales and response to our pre-ordered candy sold after Masses was generous. We sold all of our candy and have made a profit of over \$2,000. A very special thanks to Sherry Kulczewski, Mary Helt, Jeannine Rossi, Barbara Seymour and Linda Payne, who helped sell the candy at the Masses.

Visit from Bishop Vasa

Due to weather conditions, Bishop Vasa’s visit has been rescheduled for February 5.

Spaghetti and Wine Dinner

The Spaghetti dinner that was planned for January 15, 2023 has been cancelled. We have a future spaghetti dinner planned for March 12. The days will be longer and the heavy rains will be less likely in March, so please mark your calendars for this enjoyable event!

January 21-22 Second Collection for Latin America

There will be a special second collection on the weekend of January 21-22 for the church in Latin America.

Annual Crab Feed

Mark you calendars for our annual Crab Feed on Saturday, February 18th. Time and price to be announced.

Confessions

Fr Luis is available to hear Confessions after 9 am Mass on Fridays and before weekend Masses. Please call the rectory at 707-869-2107 to confirm with him, so that he knows to arrive early on the weekend, or stay late on Friday. Alternatively, a more convenient time can be scheduled with him by calling the rectory.

Discussion Questions

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

1. The First Reading says that, even though darkness covered the earth, still, light and glory came to Jerusalem. Are you aware of God’s light and glory? What about God’s actions in your life?

2. Did Jerusalem have light of her own, apart from God? Were nations coming to her or just to the light? What do you think draws people to the Church today, power or tenderness? The light of proselytizing or of love?

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

1. Paul spoke of a mystery that brightened the whole world. What was it? Why was the star an integral part of the story?

2. Paul says that a revelation was given him by the Spirit. He said that Christ’s life was too great to be limited to its starting place. His life was for all generations and not only the Jews but the Gentiles as well. All are “coheirs, members of the same body. Did the star’s light shine on each and every person, precious and irreplaceable in God’s eyes? Does this mean that we all need one another?

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

1. What is the main contrast between Jerusalem and Bethlehem? Between Herod and the Magi? What does this tell you about places and people God chooses? At the end of this Gospel story Joseph, Mary and Jesus ended up running from Herod. Who are the modern “Herods” who sow death in the world today?

2. How does Pope Francis suggest that our synodal journey in the Church is comparable to the Magi’s journey?

Finally, the Magi return “by another way” (Mt 2:12). They challenge us to take new paths. Here we see the creativity of the Spirit who always brings out new things. That is also one of the tasks of the Synod we are currently undertaking: to journey together and to listen to one another, so that the Spirit can suggest to us new ways and paths to bring the Gospel to the hearts of those who are distant, indifferent, or without hope, yet continue to seek what the Magi found: “a great joy” (Mt 2:10). We must always move forwards.

*Pope Francis Epiphany Homily
 January 6, 2022*

How can I help during these hard times?

You can now easily donate online *by scanning the QR code with your smartphone* or using the donate button at stelizabeth.churchtrac.com. Another great way to help is by selecting us as your charity when shopping online at Amazon -a small percentage of each purchase will benefit our parish. Just visit smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577 to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.



St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting	1 st Wednesday, 1 pm	St. Hubert Hall
Finance Committee Meeting	3 rd Wednesday*, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 th Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman

** of February, May, August and November*