LITURGY CORNER
JOURNEY TOWARD GOD

In our celebration of the Epiphany, two interwoven themes are present in the readings today. God is beginning something new, and God gathers all of humanity to participate. For Isaiah, God’s bright light, manifested in the people of Israel, attracts and summons people from many nations to Jerusalem. In the letter to the Ephesians, God’s grace makes the Gentiles co-heirs and co-partners in the gospel. Matthew tells the story of the fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel through the birth of Jesus, and simultaneously leading foreigners to share in these same promises. With the birth of Jesus, God chose a particular people, in a particular time and place, to enter most directly into the human story. Today’s readings teach that God did this in order to gather all people, all cultures, into unity with God. Like the magi, we are drawn into a journey toward God, becoming co-partners in God’s work.
First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The LORD shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The mystery has been made known that the Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:1-12).


We pray for the repose of the soul: Ricardo Roco, Lorrin Kroska

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY
January 2, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers, after having celebrated the solemnity of the Mother of God on January 1, and thus entrusting our new whole year under the protection of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power. The young Messiah is revealed or manifested as the light of the nations. Three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana.

Epiphany means manifestation. After being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation.

Let us look to the Magi as models. Inspired by the gap between their knowledge and their hopes, they set out to seek meaning that their lives had not yet given them. They reflected together on the signs of their times and sought wisdom from foreigners, confident that truth from another quarter would only add to the truth they already understood.

It reminds us of the Gospel passage, “seek and you shall find”. Jesus would reveal himself as the Light, as the Redeemer to anyone who would seek him honestly.

God Bless.
Fr. Joseph
MORE ABOUT SAINTS

Besides what the saints can do for us by their prayers, the very practice of venerating the saints does great good for those who are devoted to the saints. By practicing love of the saints we strengthen the unity of the entire Body of Christ in the Spirit. This in turn brings us all closer to Christ. "For just as Christian communion among wayfarers brings us closer to Christ, so our companionship with the saints joins us to Christ, from Whom as from its Fountain and Head issues every grace and the very life of the people of God." Love of the saints necessarily includes and leads to love of Christ and to love of the Holy Trinity. "For every genuine testimony of love shown by us to those in heaven, by its very nature tends toward and terminates in Christ who is the 'crown of all saints,' and through Him, in God Who is wonderful in his saints and is magnified in them."

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, S.C.-January 4
Founder of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph. Considered founder of the Catholic School system in the US.

Elizabeth Ann Seton was the charming "belle of the ball" as a young woman in New York City, linked to all the first families. At the age of 19, she fell in love and married the wealthy, handsome William Magee Seton. The two had a very happy marriage, raising five children. Ten years after they were married, William's business and health both failed, and Elizabeth was left a poor widow with five children to raise alone. Her love for the Eucharist led her to convert to Catholicism and founded the first order of religious women in America, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, a religious community based on the Rule of St. Vincent De Paul. She was able to still raise her children, as well as live the life of a sister and found several schools. She became the co-founder of the first free Catholic School in America.

Second or Special Collections 2022

January 1 - Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin
January 2 - Parish Maintenance
January 9 - Seminary Collection
January 23 - SPN School Support
January 30 - St. Vincent de Paul

Sanctuary Lamp offerings are still open for the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph at St. Philip Neri Church. The lamp will be lit for your special intention for a month and offering is $50 per month. Please contact the parish office at (510)373-5200. Thank you.

ST. PHILIP NERI- ST. ALBERT THE GREAT Alameda, CA Page 4

ST. PHILIP NERI
For the Repose of the Soul of Dave Rose

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT
Ven and Gloria De la Cruz

Blessed Mother
Dave Rose †

St. Joseph
Dave Rose †

JANUARY VOTIVE CANDLE OFFERINGS
In Memory of:
Denise & Daniel Maddox
Fr. Jerry Kennedy
Una Guerin
Mary Guerin
The Pro-Life Corner
Life: The Cornerstone

The Commemoration of the Holy Innocents is on December 29th. The Church remembers all of the poor little babies & children who were murdered by King Herod’s soldiers as they searched for the infant Jesus, a newborn King. Herod could not stand the thought of another “king” taking his place. He did not know that Jesus’ Kingdom was “not of this world.”

In this New Year 2022, we have the opportunity to refocus our attention on what really matters. Is Jesus still the King of our hearts?

What can we do to make that happen? Be watching The Pro-Life Corner for the big event......San Francisco Walk for Life on January 22, 2022. Details coming........

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Remember us, O God;
from age to age be our comforter.
You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.
Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright hope
that is ours in the coming of Christ.
You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.

Amen.

PROLIFE MINISTRY
This important ministry gathers every second Saturday at City Hall in Alameda to devoutly pray a rosary for Life.

For more information contact the Parish Office (510)373-5215

THE RCIA CORNER

The RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

If you know someone who wants:
• to become a catholic
• catholic but has not received the sacrament of confirmation as a teenager
• children not baptized and who want to enter full communion with the Catholic Church

Please contact the parish office.

January 7, 2022 is First Friday

Come spend some time on Friday, 9am to 4pm at St. Philip Neri, with our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Embrace the joy of being in HIS presence which ultimately can strengthen your faith.

“In the sacred Host, He is present, the true treasure, always waiting for us. Only by adoring this Presence do we learn how to receive Him properly.”

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin in the vestibule.
Parish Staff

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Julie Thomas
Interim SPN Elementary School Principal
521-0787 … juthomas@csdo.org

Parish Planning Committees

Finance Council
Meets bi-monthly 1st Tuesday at 6:00pm
CHAIR: Sandy Goya

Liturgical Committee
Meets 1st Monday at 6:30pm
CHAIR: Diane Bustos

Pastoral Council
Meets 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm
CHAIR: Ken Dorrance

St. Vincent de Paul Conference
assistance to the needy
call 373-5226 CHAIR : Richard White

BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club is starting a new book this month.
“How to Share Your Faith with Anyone”
by Terry Barber. Ignatius Press.

If you are interested in joining us, please call the Parish office at 373-5215 for more information.

BIBLE STUDY NEWS

Our next Bible Study evening is Friday,
January 7, 2022, 6:30pm at O’Brien Hall.
Please bring your Bible.

Learn more by contacting Sherry Eastwood- Falls, (510) 523-6270.

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January 1, 2022 is also ’World Day of Prayer for Peace’

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled as to console; To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.