



January 7, 2018

The Epiphany of the Lord

MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday: 5pm
(Anticipated Mass)
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm
Monday – Wednesday 8am
Thursday Mass/Novena:
8am & 7pm
Friday, Saturday, Holidays:
9am
(Fridays in July & August:
8am)
Reconciliation
Saturday: 4-4:45pm
Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am
Library Hours
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

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Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.
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What the Magi Can Teach Us

By Fr. Ed Broom, OMV

The Magi, who came in search of the Child-King Jesus from the East, are sometimes called the *Wisemen*. Their travelling would have been very stressful; if they traveled on camels can you imagine the strain, duress, and physical exhaustion? In sum, they were willing to count the cost to encounter the Lord Jesus resting in the arms of Mary, contemplated by the eyes and heart of good Saint Joseph. As the saying goes: *“Wise men still find Jesus in the arms of Mary.”*

Are You Wise?

What indeed is wisdom? According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, Wisdom is the greatest of all of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. A short and easy definition for *wisdom* can be expressed as such: *“Wisdom is the Gift of the Holy Spirit that moves us to relish the things of God.”* As a child licks and savors chocolate dipped ice cream, so a true follower of Christ relishes all that refers to God, His honor and His glory and the salvation of immortal souls.

Let us turn and lift our gaze on how we indeed can truly be wise men and women by focusing on Jesus and giving to Jesus through these three symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The Gift of Gold to the Child Jesus

One of the wise men presented Jesus with the precious gift of gold. Even though this wise man was a King from the East, he recognized what he saw as he prostrated himself before that little baby: this little infant in the arms of Mary was indeed a king. This Jesus in the arms of Mary was the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and the Creator of the whole universe.

By the gesture of prostration, this earthly, but very wise King humbly put the Lord Jesus on the throne of his heart. Then for us let us dethrone all that is unworthy of our noble calling, as followers of Jesus the King. Let us reaffirm our allegiance to Jesus and enthrone Him as the King of our mind, heart, soul, and entire life. *“Long live Christ the King!”*

Gift of Incense to Jesus the Son of God

Incense is a fragrant aroma that once burnt ascends on high to the heavenly realm. In Holy Mass incense can be used in the celebration of solemnities. The altar is incensed, the Gospel, the priest who represents Christ, and most important the Host consecrated while lifted on high. Saint Paul says that we are called to be the aroma of Christ. This means that we are called to imitate Christ by living a virtuous life. Traditionally, incense is also symbolic of prayer, our intimate union with God.

As the white smoke from the incense pot (thurible) ascends slowly reaching the very roof of the Church and beyond if it were possible, so do our prayers ascend on high to the throne of the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Valentine’s Family Dance



The OLPH Youth Ministry is organizing a Valentine’s Family Dinner Dance for our parish. Come join us for a night of good company, food, awesome auction and door prizes, great performances, and of course... dancing!!!

Tickets: \$40 for adults and \$15 for children aged 3-6 years.

Auction Items: We are looking for donations of items for our auction. Bottles of wine, Gift certificates for restaurants or services, gift baskets, a weekend stay at a summer cottage!!

Volunteer: If you’re interested in helping out, we are looking for both parent and youth volunteers! Your help would be very much appreciated! For more info about this event, contact Theresa olphyouthmin@gmail.com.

Parish Lenten Retreat

Save the Dates: Our Parish Lenten Mission led by Fr Ray Douziech is scheduled to begin on the first weekend of Lent. The theme: A God For All Seasons which will take us through every season of our spiritual life. Please save the following dates: Sun Feb 18: 6pm (Following the 5pm Mass) Mon Feb 19: 7pm, Tue Feb 20: 7pm and Wed Feb 21: 7pm

Lord every nation on earth will adore you. - Psalm 72



What the Magi Can Teach Us... cont'd

Therefore, not only do we want to proclaim in a triumphant hymn of praise that Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings but He is also the Immortal, Infinite, all-wise, all-powerful, all-loving God, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Jesus in His incarnation is the Son of God made man. Let us renew our belief in the Divinity of Jesus. In the hymn of St. Paul, at the Name of Jesus may every knee bow in heaven and on earth and even below the earth proclaiming Jesus as Lord. (Philippians 2: 5-11)

A Gift of Myrrh to the God Made Man

What then is the third gift traditionally given to the Christ-Child by one of the Kings from the East? It is myrrh! This was an element utilized for the purpose of anointing a dead body. Symbolically the myrrh pointed to the Humanity of the Lord Jesus that was destined to suffer and die for the salvation of the world at large as well as each and every one of us individually. To be more exact the myrrh was already pointing to what would happen to Jesus on Good Friday. Jesus' bitter passion that He would undergo that Good Friday would result in His bitter death, and burial and the myrrh was an element used to anoint His dead Body. Interpretation for us? We are called to die daily to the flesh, to sin, to selfishness, to egoism, to pride—in a word, we are called to crucify and put to death all that within us is not of Christ Jesus. Furthermore, we are all called to suffer patiently in this short life that God has given to us, uniting our pains and sufferings to the Lord, so that one day we will be united with God forever in heaven.

Conclusion

In sum, let us leave aside all folly and become like the Wise men who travelled many miles from the East. Let us not allow our hearts to be weighed down by our attachment to the things of this world and materialism. Rather, may our hearts be ready to bow down in homage to Christ the King; may our knees bend in adoration to Jesus the Son of God made man; finally, let us look up to the cross and see Jesus as man who died for us so as to give us life and life in abundance. Let us die to self so as to live forever in heaven with the Trinity forever and ever. Amen.

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NEWS & NOTICES

Madonna Group Meeting: Happy New Year! Calling all seniors for Madonna Group meeting on Wednesday January 10th at Noon in the Church Hall. Meet your fellow parishioners, a light lunch will be served. Please contact Monica at 604-739-8837 if you need a ride.

Sunday Offering Envelopes: Your 2018 Sunday Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up this weekend in the church foyer. If your box of envelopes is not there or if you are new to the parish, please contact the office. Please do not use 2017 envelopes (or envelopes from previous years) after December 31, 2017. Thank you!

OLPH School Open House: Wednesday Jan 10, 2018 7pm-8pm. Application packages will be available that day.

OLPH School Reopens: January 8, 2018. Welcome back from the Christmas break!

Youth Safety Awareness Workshop: Prepare to join the evolution of martial arts with a program that combines numerous forms and styles from the traditional and modern combative arts developed over years by instructor Robert Lynds of Dojang. It is the 21st century way of learning a discipline which enhances your body, mind and soul. All teenagers welcome. For details email Theresa: olphyouthmin@gmail.com

Stewardship Reflection

"..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

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