

Focus on the Word

The Sunday readings are placed in this bulletin for the benefit of those who might have a hearing impairment, and for your reflection before Mass and during the week. Since an important part of our Sunday worship is hearing the scripture proclaimed, we urge you to LISTEN to the readings as they are proclaimed. Thank you.



Reading I

Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading II

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord

Epiphany of the Lord

Stars are amazing-not the people who claim star-status because of their work in sports or entertainment -but the stars that populate the universe. Most are between one and ten billion years old, a time span impossible to comprehend. Other than the sun, the closest star to Earth is Proxima Centauri, about twenty-five trillion miles away, another calculation that is impossible to comprehend. The exponential numbers scientists use when working with stars, whether it is age, distance, weight, composition, luminosity, or any other characteristic, race beyond our everyday calculations of hundreds and thousands. Stars are just too big for us humans.

No wonder Matthew's infancy narrative included a star as the sign for the newborn king. Everything about this child's birth seemed unimportant: born in Bethlehem instead of the big city, Jerusalem; unknown to the important people of the day; the pregnant woman taken into Joseph's home quietly so as not to cause scandal; a quiet, unremarkable birth in an unimportant country in the empire.

But then there's that star! Big, shining, revealing that there is more to this event than meets the eye. Visitors come from afar, and upset the balance of power as they seek the child who would be king. Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the world. And the star shows him to be who he really is-king of the universe and Lord of all. So it shouldn't seem so strange to us that Matthew would point out one of those incomprehensible entities in the night sky as the signifier of the One who is beyond all human understanding. What is remarkable is that that One came to be one of us so that we could understand him.

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COMING SOON:

The Elizabeth Ministry

What is it? Watch future bulletins for more information.

Liturgy

Jan. 3 at 9:45 am

Presider..... Reverend Jeremiah Boland
Cross Bearer..... Caretha Carroll
Candle Bearers..... Julia Haynes
& Vincent Giampa
Banner Carrier..... Tom McElligott
Lectors..... Dawn O'Holleran
& Dan O'Holleran
Responsorial Psalm..... Sheila Luss
& Arenea Luss
Communion Ministers..... Donna Raclaw,
Virginia McElligott, Sister Theresa, Debra
Higgins, Diane Allen, Sr. Mary Therese,
Pearl Luss
Altar Servers..... Amare Wilson
& Marlayna Gandy

Next Sunday, Jan. 10 at 9:45am

Lectors..... Lettece Lee
& Eleanor Kotleba
Altar Servers..... Alonzo Johnson
& Jazá Gandy

January Greeters

Matthew May, Ruthie Jones Clay, and
Sal Giampa

January Collection Ministers

Eastside..... Miguel Rios
East Center..... Tom McElligott
Westside.....
West Center..... Gregory Wolf

Please Remember in your Prayers:

Steve Archer, George Canino, Daphne
Connolly, Terrence Connolly, Hervene
Glass, Gertrude Hill, Cozetta Morris,
Carol Roman, Keith Schuler, Christine
Watson, and Endy Williams

Recently Deceased:

Sister Mary Ellen Dolan

Sunday Collection

Dec. 20.....\$2,848.78
Dec. 27.....\$4,680.06
Christmas.....\$7,665.76

Are pennies (or other coins) weighing
you down? Why not empty your
pockets or purse and feed the hungry
Penny Jar in the back of Church?

**Please take action to help fight
hunger.**

Non-perishable donations for our food
pantry can be brought to church and
placed in the back southwest corner.
Or, you may wish to place a monetary
donation in the collection basket in an
envelope clearly marked "Food Pantry
Donation".

Ireland Tour

Gerry Dignan,
longtime Holy
Family Parish/Choir
member, and
Cantor for 5pm
mass, and his wife,
Denise, will lead a
10-day tour to Ireland this summer
2010. The "Magical, Mystical, Musical
Tour", June 28-July 7, promises to be
quite a special time. Email them at
dignansong@aol.com or call 815-439
-3701.



TAX TIME

Wondering how you'll file your taxes
this winter? Let the dedicated
volunteers of Ladder Up's Tax
Assistance Program prepare your
income taxes for FREE! Visit one of 22
Tax Assistance Program community
sites to have your taxes electronically
prepared and e-filed for free by a
volunteer professional. Sites are open
on Saturday mornings from January
23 to April 10, 2010. For a full site list
and more information, please visit
www.goladderup.org (312) 409-
1555.

**Graduates of St. Hyacinth Basilica
School!**

The school would like to update
records and be able to keep in
contact with you. All we need you to
do is email our director of
development, Tatyana Rodriguez at
trodriguez@sthyacinthbasilicaschool.org
Call us at 773-342-7550, mail your
information to 3640 W. Wolfram,
Chgo, 60618, or go to our website:
www.sthyacinthbasilicaschool.org and
click on the Alumni Tab to fill out the
information. We need your name,
address, phone number, email, year
graduated, updates about you, and
what you are doing now (family,
career, etc.).

Please save your cancelled stamps

With Christmas cards arriving almost
every day, this is an excellent time to
help the missions by saving your
cancelled stamps. If you are able to
cut a 1/4 inch border around the
stamp, that would be a big help, if
not, just save the whole envelope. The
Sisters sell the stamps to collectors and
use the proceeds to buy pipes so the
women of the villages in the Cameroon
don't have to walk so many miles each
day carrying heavy jugs of water
back to their homes. There will be a
box marked "Stamps" in the back of
church where you can leave them. The
Sisters of the Congregation of Notre
Dame are grateful for whatever help
you can give. Over 20 villages now
have the water piped in, but there are
about the same number waiting for
pipelines to come to their villages.

Bible Study

This week Bible Study will be on
Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 10 am. The
following week, the group will meet on
Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 10 am.
Please note the change.

SHOP AND SHARE

PLEASE remember to take and use
the Jewel Shop & Share coupons in
the back of the church. At no cost
to you, you are helping support
Holy Family Parish. This week's cou-
pons are for the Historic Front Door
Restoration project.

Our warmest welcome to all who
celebrate with us. Whether long time
residents or newly arrived at the
parish, we thank God for you! If you
are not registered, or if your address,
or phone number has changed, please
see Jerry Hossli.

Calendar

Jan. 5th - Bible Study (Tues) 10 am
Jan. 13th - Bible Study (Wed) 10 am
Jan. 31st - Chile Feast in Damen Hall
after 9:45 mass
Feb. 12th - Valentine Stepper Dance