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SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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www.stmchurch.com

The Epiphany of the Lord January 3, 2010

Gospel Summary:

The Epiphany gospel is a continuation of the Christmas story in Matthew's prologue to his gospel (chapters 1-2). The prologue is a theological masterpiece in narrative form through which Matthew anticipates the major historical events he will present in his gospel to explain the significance of Jesus for us.

The names of Jesus are revealed: Messiah, King, Son of David, Son of Abraham, Emmanuel (God with us). As Son of Abraham, Jesus fulfills the divine promise that in Abraham's seed "all the nations of the earth would be blessed" (Gn 22: 18 and Mt 28: 10). The miracle of the virginal conception heralds the beginning of the climactic end-time of sacred history. The gentile nations as foretold by the prophet Isaiah come to the New Zion with their treasures to praise the Lord. Jesus will be rejected by many, will suffer persecution and death, but will ultimately triumph through the Father's providential care in the resurrection.

In today's gospel reading, Matthew tells us that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem looking for the newborn king of the Jews so that they might do him homage. When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and asked the magi to bring him word of the child's whereabouts so that he too could pay him homage. When the magi found the child with Mary his mother, they did him homage and offered him their gifts. Warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country by another way.

Life Implications:

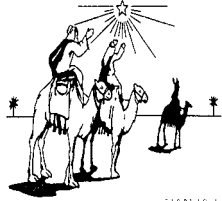
The good news of Epiphany is that Jesus is the revelation of God as one who offers himself to us in love. Jesus is the epiphany of the invisible God in all the events of his life: as a helpless child lying in a manger, as a young man dying on the cross -- the ultimate revelation that God's glory is love. This feast reminds us that each Sunday's liturgy with its gospel reading is an epiphany of the Lord to be reflected upon in the quiet of faith.

As in every offering of love, the Lord awaits the response of our heart. Will it be that of Herod who perceives it as a threat to his own autonomy and power? Will it be that of the magi who perceive this offering of love as the fulfillment of the human quest? Epiphany is the revelation of the purpose of the Incarnation: that God and we, God's creatures, might enjoy each other in the embrace of love. Who could be afraid of a God like that?

The church anticipates the good news that the mutual exchange of divine and human love is the deepest meaning of the Incarnation by giving us a reading from the Song of Songs at an Advent Mass a few days before Christmas. This "greatest of songs" is a love poem describing the wonder and excitement of the divine-human exchange of love in beautiful erotic images. The poem can help us realize a bit of the astonishing mystery we celebrate. The Lord says to each of us: "Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come" (Song 2: 10). One is also reminded of Christina Rossetti's lovely epiphany poem "In the Bleak Mid-Winter." *What can I give him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring him a lamb; If I were a wise man I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him Give my heart.*

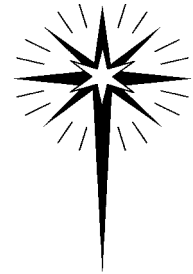
The epiphany of the Lord is actualized in every celebration of the Eucharist. Jesus reveals himself and identifies himself as the bread of life. One could not imagine a more powerful sacrament or symbol to reveal that the ultimate meaning of Jesus is to give himself to us in love. Bread has no meaning by existing for itself. Bread exists in order to give life to those who receive it as food. The prayer after communion for the Mass of Epiphany expresses this mystery of faith: "Help us to recognize Christ in this Eucharist and welcome him with love."

Campion P. Gavalier, O.S.B.



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**O God
Who by a star
guided the wise men to the worship of your Son
we pray you to lead to yourself
the wise and great of every land
that unto you every knee may bow,
and every thought be brought into captivity
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
(The Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East)**



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Staff

Pastor: Church & School

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This Week's Events

Tue. Jan 4th

Legion of Mary,

Scanlan Hall, 6:00 pm

Communion & Liberation,

Scanlan Hall, 8 pm

Friday, Jan 8th

AACC Youth Group

Scanlan Hall 6:30pm

Prince of Peace

Scanlan Hall 8:30pm

Sat. Jan 5th

RCIC Classes , 9am

in Flower Sacristy

Bible Study Group

Alma Via 7pm



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SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian;

10:00 AM English

11:45 AM Arabic;

8:00 PM English

Weekdays:

8:30 AM

(Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.);

5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)

Holy Days:

8:30 AM & 8:00 PM

First Saturdays:

10:00 AM Burmese

First Fridays:

8:30 AM

7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Followed by Mass for healing at **8:00 PM**

Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Communion to the homebound and the ill: Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.

Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

For Children and Youth: Under 6 years old, STM offers a "Crying Room" where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, we have the "Children's Liturgy", RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps

For Adults: English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM; St. Benedict's Group (18-late 20's) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM; Arabic Youth Group, Fridays 6:30 PM; Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM; Burmese Youth Group, Sundays 2:00 PM; SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus) [Pls call the office for contact numbers.]

For Families: Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary; Communion & Liberation; Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adoration.

Queenofpeacefoundation.org, an independent Foundation created to serve the needy.

Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit

Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday

Regular Activities

Parish Council
Liturgy Committee
Legion of Mary
Communion & Liberation
Charismatic groups for different ethnics

To Be Announced
As Announced
Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, 8:00 PM
See schedule
Bible Study & Prayer
AACC Youth Group
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino
Prince of Peace
FLA Youth Group

Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
Friday, 6:00 PM
Third Friday, 7 PM
Friday, 8:30 PM
1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30PM

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 pack of pasta, 1 can of beef or chicken, 1 can of tomato sauce, 1 can of fruit or fruit juice. Pls., no glass items. Thanks.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**TO ONE AND ALL!
MAY THIS YEAR BRING
PEACE, LOVE AND JOY IN
OUR HEARTS & MANY,
MANY BLESSINGS TO
EACH ONE, TO OUR PAR-
ISH FAMILY AND TO THE
WHOLE WORLD.**

*This weekend our second collection will be for tithing. Thank you for your generosity!

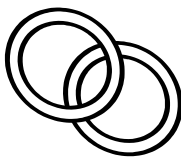
***Church Decorations.** Thank you for your offerings of cash for flowers, thank you to those who offered them in honor or in memory of loved ones. Thank you too, to the numerous volunteers for their hours of work, a true labor of love. With your generosity, our Christmas environment truly reflects the love, the joy and the magnificence of the season. Donor names and those honored are on the enclosed insert. Thank you too, to Marie Chiong, and friends for the hours of work on the flower arrangements, to Sister Leonora and Del Pelayo for the beautiful banners. The Christmas lights would not have been without the labor of love from numerous volunteers. And once again, the manger scene is a wonder to behold (pardon the cliché). Indeed a joint effort of community; a collaboration of love, an STM tradition that we cherish as a parish family.



STM Mission Statement
"We are a diverse Eucharistic family united in Jesus Christ and His Church. We accomplish our mission to spread the message of God's love through the gifts of the Holy Spirit who guides and inspires us and with the prayers of our Blessed Mother, Mary."

***Walk for Life-West Coast 2010!** Join the 6th annual pro life walk on Sat Jan 23rd, to peacefully proclaim our message that abortion hurts women & we all deserve better. To volunteer or arrange buses, visit www.walkforlifewc.com or contact us at (415) 586-1576, or email info@walkforlifewc.com.

* **A Solemn Eucharistic Celebration** with renewal of vows for those celebrating their **25th, 50th, or 50+ Wedding Anniversary** will be offered at St Mary of the Assumption Cathedral SF by the Most Reverend William Justice on **Feb 27th, 2010 at 12noon**. Registration forms for the couples interested are available by download at www.sffamilylife.com. For more info please call (707) 552-3394 or email sfcath@gmail.com



MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 3rd — Jan 9th, 2010

- 1/03 Sun 10:00am People of STM
- 8:00pm Maria Pacita Malatag †
- 1/04 Mon 8:30am Gloria Topacio Saquit †
- 1/05 Tue 5:30am Norma Bustos †
- 1/06 Wed 8:30am Balthazarah Gonzales†
- 1/07 Thu 5:30pm Irene & Russell De Haven †
- 1/ 08 Fri 8:30am Severino Arguelles †
- 1/ 09 Sat 8:30 am Sara & Collin F-Noguera
- 5:00 pm Wilfredo Fernando(sp. int.)

Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.



All the sick people in our parish, to be read during Masses:

especially Msgr. John Foudy, Isabelle Muzio, James Roach, Wilfredo Fernando, Rhona Palencia Jesus Uchi, Anthony Angeles, Tina Bish, Jeff Semelka, Anita Soliz, Cecilia Reyes, Brigit Suazon, Christian Yousef, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Gordon Lu, Ann, and for all who are ill in our parish.

Let us also pray for all the deceased in our parish, esp. Curtis Vogl.

(Please call the office for names of people we should pray for. To facilitate this process, names will also need to be taken off after 3 weeks, pls. call the office for names to be put back in. Thanks.)

Weekly Offering



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Dec 20th: \$ 3837.53

X'mas Masses: \$7562.66

2nd Collection:poor: \$1078.49

Dec 27th: \$3634.14

Thank you for your Generosity!



REGISTRATION SLIP FOR ST. THOMAS MORE

If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.

I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (s) _____

Email: _____ I want to receive the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.

Yes, please _____ No, thanks. _____ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com