



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
January 6, 2013

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

The Christmas Season continues with yet another view of God in our history. In his very flesh, Jesus is the revelation of God. This is a season to celebrate a baby, but even more the manifestation, "epiphany," of God to the whole world.

The gospel warms many hearts with the story of the three visitors to Bethlehem. Following the star, they come to offer gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Aided by the first two readings, we can open up the meaning of this vignette. God is present in our history. This is a gift for all. Whether arriving on dromedaries from Midian and Ephah or bearing gold and frankincense from Sheba, whole nations shall walk by this light. In the early Church, this meant that Gentiles would have to be seen as co-heirs with the Jews, members of the same body.

Enjoying the memories and mystery of this day should thus be more than thinking about the three kings. It is also far more important than any technical debate about the translation of "magi" (Greek). They have been called kings, wise men, or astrologers. In any event, they signal a day to celebrate God's manifestation of Christ Jesus. When we celebrate Epiphany we face the mystery of Christ's identity and our response in faith. Because this revelation is universal, we are presented with a further challenge. Do we treat some as "outsiders" as if we were not co-heirs? Do we act as if epiphany were for a few?



**A JOYFUL WELCOME** to the newest member of the Christian community, Riley Marie Jochim, who will be baptized this Sunday, January 6, 2013. We offer our prayers and best wishes to her parents, Brian and Beth Jochim.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.** Please check off your name on the list when you take your packet. If you would like to begin using envelopes, please record your name on a blank line and take the corresponding packet. Thank you.

**CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD'S Winter/Spring Lecture Series**, "*The Church Looks at Herself in Relation to the World*" will begin on Saturday, January 12, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in the Mount Angel Abbey Library. The cost is \$50 for the series (four Saturdays) or \$15 a session. Student cost is \$5 a session. The presenter, Dr. Katy Leamy, is a full-time professor of theology at Mount Angel Seminary, and has a PhD in Systematic Theology from Marquette University. She teaches courses in Moral Theology (Social Ethics, Health Care Ethics, and Sexual Ethics), as well as several others in the area of Dogmatic Theology. On Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Leamy will discuss *Gaudium et Spes*, the Constitution of the Church in the Modern World. For information call Cecile Beckerman, 503-393-5041.

**YEAR OF FAITH** -The Year of Faith began on October 11 of this year and will conclude on the feast of Christ the King, November 24, 2013. It is Pope Benedict's hope and prayer that Catholics will deepen their knowledge of the faith by reflecting on the documents of Vatican II and the catechism. We are asked to open more widely that door of faith, walk through it and rediscover the beauty and goodness of our relationship with Jesus and his church.

**COLLECTION FOR LAST SUNDAY:** \$3,844.20

**NEW YEAR'S:** \$3,698.25

Thank you.

For the Greek word *Epiphania* we say *Manifestatio* in Latin. On this day, then, the “manifested” Redeemer of all nations has made a solemn feast for all nations. And so we are celebrating to-day the Manifestation of Him whose Nativity we celebrated only a few days ago.

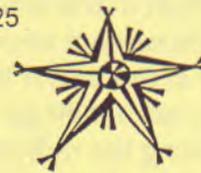
Now tradition has it that our Lord Jesus Christ, born twelve days ago, was adored by the Magi on this day. That they adored Him is a truth spoken by the Gospel; on what day they did so, is proclaimed by the fact that this glorious feast is observed everywhere. For, inasmuch as the Magi were the first among the Gentiles to learn of Christ the Lord; and because they, not yet benefiting from His speech, followed the star which appeared to them and which, in place of the Infant Word, spoke to their sight – like a tongue of heaven: it is but right, and right it truly is, that the Gentiles should gratefully acknowledge the day of the first fruits of their salvation, and with thanksgiving and solemn homage dedicate it to Christ the Lord.

Obviously, the first fruits of the faith and revelation of Christ among the Jews were the shepherds who, coming from the immediate vicinity, saw Him on the very day He was born. The news was given to them by the angels, to the others by the star. *Glory to God in the highest* was said to them; in the others there was fulfilled, *the heavens tell of the glory of God*. Indeed, like the beginnings of two walls coming from different directions – the circumcised and the uncircumcised – both have met at the Cornerstone, so that He might be their Peace, making both one.

(Augustine, Sermon 203, *Ancient Christian Writers*, vol. 15, Paulist 1952, 1980, pp 174-175)

### LITURGICAL READINGS

Today:	<u><i>The Epiphany of the Lord.</i></u> Isaiah 60:1-6/ Psalm 72/ Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6/ Matthew 2:1-12
Monday:	1 John 3:22-4:6/ Psalm 2/ Matthew 4:12-17,23-25
Tuesday:	1 John 4:7-10/ Psalm 72/ Mark 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 John 4:11-18/ Psalm 72/ Mark 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 John 4:19-5:4/ Psalm 72/ Luke 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 John 5:5-13/ Psalm 147/ Luke 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 John 5:14-21/ Psalm 149/ John 3:22-30
Next Sunday:	<u><i>The Baptism of the Lord.</i></u> Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/ Psalm 104/ Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



### HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

9:00 AM: Maryla & Greg Kaminski

11:00 AM: Jean & Bill Horton

If you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make sure you find a substitute. Thank you

## St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church

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### SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

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Reconciliation: Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Baptism and Anointing of the Sick: Please call the parish office.

Marriage: Six months' notice required.

### PARISH STAFF

Rev. James M. Kolb, C.S.P., Pastor

Joan Enright, Secretary - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

Interested in joining St. Elizabeth Parish? Give us a call. 503-222-2168

## REFLECTION

One of the first mysteries of our faith is that glory and power are manifest in the simplicity of a stable, in a helpless infant born to two people without rank, traveling on their way to a national census. The glory of the Savior is found in the most common of places, in the most basic surroundings, among the simplest of people. This is Good News, revealing the radical pervasiveness of God's grace, present to us in the most ordinary of circumstances.

