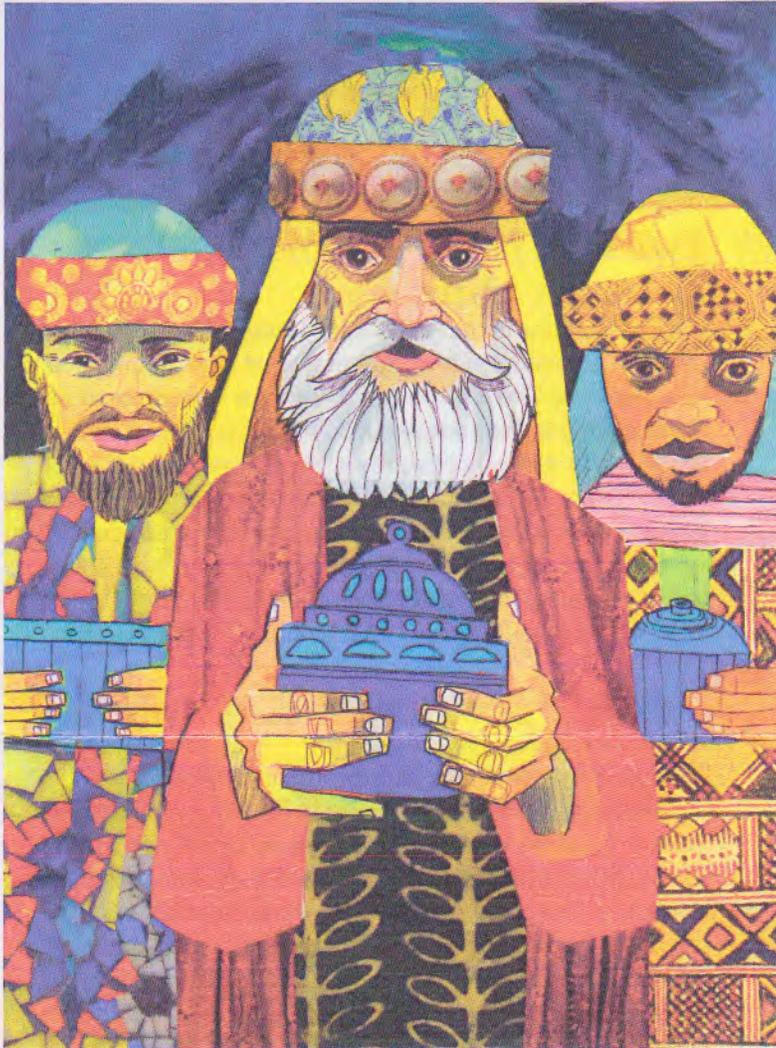


SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Serve the Lord

Creator of the stars of night,
who told your prophet, Isaiah,
of a time when the light would come,
when nations would walk by your light
and kings by your shining radiance.
You made it so, God of the Ages,
and still we love those words.

We bask in the light of your
newborn Son,
and like the kings, we come
to do him homage.

Open us to this holy moment, we pray.
Help us to be worthy gifts,
and to give ourselves generously
to the world you love.

We ask this through the same
Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, January 4, 2015

Witness to the Light

Today's Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12. Each Christmas Time, we proclaim the coming light of the world as we decorate our homes with lights and candles. As members of the Church, we participate in announcing that God has overcome the darkness. On this feast of the manifestation of God's presence, we might ask ourselves how we have witnessed God's light in our lives since the last Epiphany. During the past year, have we seen God working in our midst? Has our burden been lightened when we have looked about and found the glory of God?

The Gospel account of the search for Jesus and the magi's finding him in a house with Mary is a story of belief

and unbelief, of darkness and light. The magi have come from afar to find Jesus, who is in the midst of Herod and, indeed, of the chief priests and scribes that Herod has assembled. The priests and scribes know the Scriptures but are unaware of the child being in the vicinity. Herod is governed by his fear of a rival king and is unable to see the light. In the Gospel, only the wise men see the light of the star that leads them to Jesus. This account might cause us to wonder about the times that God has manifested himself to us but we have been unaware. How can we make ourselves more present to God? How can we manifest God's light to others?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, January 5, 2015

Memorial of St. John Neumann

John Neumann (1811–1860) became the bishop of Philadelphia at age forty. He is well-known for his holiness, spiritual writing, and preaching, but also for the parochial school system that he organized. He was the first US bishop to be beatified, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. Like Philip and the other disciples in today's Gospel, John Neumann answered the call of Jesus to "follow me." What are some concrete ways in which you are following Jesus Christ? Today's Readings: 1 John 3:22–4:6; Psalm 2:7bc–8, 10–12a; Matthew 4:12–17, 23–25.

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Optional Memorial of St. André Bessette, Religious

St. André Bessette (1845–1937) was a model of hospitality. As a Holy Cross brother in Montreal, André served as a porter for more than forty years. He greeted the poor and needy and visited the sick, who were often cured. He did not attribute the cures to himself but to St. Joseph. Today, we might want to consider how we are hospitable to others. Today's Readings: 1 John 4:7–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4, 7–8; Mark 6:34–44.

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Be Not Afraid

In today's Gospel account, Jesus urges the apostles to go ahead of him in the boat. While the apostles are at sea, the waves become tumultuous. Eventually, Jesus walks on the sea during the storm, saying to them, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Do we expect God in the storms of our lives? When God gets into our rocky boat and the turmoil of our lives calms, do we recognize him? Today's Readings: 1 John 4:11–18; Psalm 72:1–2, 10, 12–13; Mark 6:45–52.

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Encounter Christ

Christ proclaims in today's Gospel passage that the Spirit of the Lord has anointed him "to bring good news to the poor." If we are to be Christ in the world, we must wonder about our responsibility to the poor, about how we bring "good news to the poor." In a variety of settings, Pope Francis has referred to the "culture of encounter." He urges people to encounter people outside of their usual circles, especially the poor. Do we encounter the poor with an attitude of mercy, with a willingness to genuinely meet them? Today's Readings: 1 John 4:19–5:4; Psalm 72:1–2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Luke 4:14–22a.

Friday, January 9, 2015

Eternal Life

"God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son," today's First Reading states. Again, we see in a reading of Christmas Time a focus on eternal life. The message of new life in Christ, which is the message of the Resurrection, begins at Christmas Time while we celebrate the birth of Christ. Have you taken time during this Christmas season to contemplate the sense that Christ came into the world to offer eternal life? Has your attitude toward Christmas matured to meditate on the reason for his coming? Today's Readings: 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; Luke 5:12–16.

Saturday, January 10, 2015

He Must Increase

As we draw near to the end of Christmas Time, John the Baptist acknowledges that Christ has come, and that his work will diminish. "He must increase, but I must decrease," John tells his disciples. Are our lives marked with such humility? Are we able to step out of the way and let the Light of God be seen? Such is a humble act, but humility is fruitful, as Pope Francis said in a Homily only months into his papacy. Today's Readings: 1 John 5:14–21; Psalm 149:1–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b; John 3:22–30.

