



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY January 5 & BEYOND

Can We See The Light?



For those who were born blind or have gone blind due to certain conditions, the question may sound inappropriate, almost sarcastic. However, throughout my life I have met physically blind people who can actually see more than some with a 20/20 vision range. These people are blessed by an inner light that enables them to shine in the darkness of this broken world and guide others through the apparently illuminated pathways of their lives. They do not let their physical darkness embitter them. Their faith and commitment to devote their lives to illuminate others surpasses all. I have always admired such people. They can be a real inspiration for those of us who have very good physical visions and are always complaining about the hardships of life.

But can we see the Light? The one that John the Evangelist describes as the Life of this world? The one that shone in the middle of the night for the shepherds keeping watch on their flock on Christmas Eve? The one that the wise men from the Orient followed so as to be guided to the presence of the child God? This is none other than the Light of Christ, God's Light. This Light wants to shine for all. It really wants to shine, so that the darkness of ignorance, prejudice, intolerance, selfishness and indifference can be dispelled from our lives, so that we can all be healed and have abundant light and life in us.

This is not the light reflected by lentils covering the garments of worldly celebrities. King Herod and his courtiers may have had that light, but they never saw the real Light. Some wise men had to come all the way from the Orient, from a foreign land, with a different religion (that of Zoroaster's maybe) to point out to them that the Light of God was already shining in their land! And then Herod tried hard to put out the Light. But as John the Evangelist proclaims: the darkness cannot overcome it!

This Light shines on and will continue to do so. Dark forces have tried hard to put it out, or to confuse us with some alternative lights: the light of money power, the light of fame, the light of spiritual pride even—the most misleading of all. But these ‘alternatives’ will lead us nowhere. They will only take us down into a spiral of ever increasing darkness and loss of our true identity as sons and daughters of God. Beware of these false ‘lights’. They can appear so pretty, so shiny, so deceiving...

May the true Light that guided the wise men be our guiding Light, so that just as they did, we can also be led to the divine presence, and offer there the most precious gift: the gift of our true inner lights, shining in unison with God’s Light. Then the whole of Creation will be illumined and all its creatures will rejoice in its awesome splendor!

Fr, Carlos Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6, 9 Psalm 72:1-2, 10-17 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Epiphany

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—*

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary Chapel)

WEDNESDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

6:30pm Contemplative Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

THURSDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

FRIDAY Noon Noon Prayer (St. Mary Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)