

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

The Epiphany of the Lord C  
January 2, 2022

Fort Yuma, California | P. O. Box 1176, Winterhaven, CA 92283

Website: [www.stthomasindianmission.org](http://www.stthomasindianmission.org)

Tel: 760-572-0283

Email: [saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com](mailto:saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com)

Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa  
Pastor

**Entrance Hymn:** — 345  
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
**Offertory Hymn:** — 364  
We Three Kings  
**Recessional Hymn:** — 336  
Joy to the World

**SATURDAYS:**

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm – Holy Hour  
3:45 pm to 4:15 pm – Confessions  
4:30 pm – HOLY MASS

**SUNDAYS:**

7:15 am to 8:15 am – Holy Hour  
7:45 am to 8:15 am – Confessions  
8:30 am – HOLY MASS



## Prayer of the Faithful

**Celebrant:**

We pray now for the whole world, for which Christ has been sent.

**Lector:**

For Pope Francis and the entire Christian people, that we may reflect the light of Christ in the words we preach and the actions we take so that that light may shine forth to all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

For cooperation among the world's nations and faith traditions on behalf of humanity and the future of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Manifestation of the glory of Christ will enable all nations to also recognize that every human life is sacred, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.

That God's people may more deeply discover the mystery of the Eucharist, and worship the Lord as did the wise men of old, let us pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for those who most need our prayers ... for the very poor... for victims of natural disasters... for those whose lives are threatened today, let us pray to the Lord.

Let us remember those who are seriously ill and have asked for our prayers ... *(brief pause — each one may mention names silently)*... for loved ones who are hurting and all those for whom we have promised to pray, let us pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant:**

God of all nations, hear these our prayers and grant them in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our newborn King.

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### The Mystery of Faith:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.

## **THE READINGS . . . SOME REFLECTIONS . . . AND GUIDEPOSTS.**

### **Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day**

Epiphany is an ancient, global celebration of Christ among us. It reveals that Jesus did not come for a privileged few. He came to the whole world, to people who saw, heard, and understood. We are not so much brought to Christ through institutions as by the powerful witness of those who—like the magi—have encountered him. Even today.

### **1st Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. <sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.* **All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13)**

**“Lord, every nation on earth  
will adore you.”**

<sup>1</sup>O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king’s son; <sup>2</sup>He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**R.**

<sup>7</sup>Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. <sup>8</sup>May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**R.**

<sup>10</sup>The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. <sup>11</sup>All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

**R.**

<sup>12</sup>For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. <sup>13</sup>He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

**R.**

### **2nd Reading – Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

Brothers and sisters: <sup>2</sup>You have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for your benefit, <sup>3a</sup>namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. <sup>5</sup>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: <sup>6</sup>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.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia** – (Matthew 2:2)

**Lector:** Alleluia, alleluia. **All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**Lector:** <sup>2</sup>We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage.

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

### **Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: <sup>6</sup>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.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance.

<sup>8</sup>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.”

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>They were overjoyed at seeing the star, <sup>11</sup>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

<sup>12</sup>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.*

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## HOW TO SEEK AND FIND CHRIST

Today's feast teaches that the salvation brought by Christ is offered to all — Jews and pagans alike (that is to say, Jews and non-Jews). In the persons of the magi the first non-Jews come to the Lord who reveals himself to them (gospel). The prophecy of Isaiah 60 is starting to be fulfilled: *"They all (nations) gather together, they come to you"* (first reading). And, as St. Paul would remind the Christians later, *"the Gentiles (the non-Jews) are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus"* (second reading). Precisely because of this, the Christian calendar calls the feast "Epiphany" (from the Greek *"epiphanein"*) which means "manifestation" — in this case, the manifestation of the Messiah to the nations.

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The late Archbishop Fulton Sheen once wrote: "Only two classes of people found him: the Shepherds and the Wise Men — those who know they know little; and those who know they do not know everything; never the man who thinks he knows." Christ's divinity is so profound that it could be grasped only by the extremes of simplicity and wisdom.

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The same opportunities to find our Lord were available to Herod and the Jewish high priests, but they didn't find him, either because they were uninterested or they had hostile intent. Herod wanted to find him in order to kill him. The high priests, although they knew where the Messiah was to be born, couldn't be bothered going there themselves to look for him. Their knowledge did not translate into spirituality. Christ can be found by anyone whose intent to find him is honest and who doesn't give up the search.

### Lessons from the Magi:

Thus, let us learn from the wise men how to be open to God's revelation.

*First, "they saw His star."* To see the star they had to be observant of the skies; they had to study the appearance and movement of the stars. And their diligence was rewarded for they actually saw the star of the "newborn king of the Jews?" What about us? Are we observant to the many ways God reveals Himself to us in our daily life? Do we encounter Him in the Eucharist, in the Scriptures, and in our neighbor?

*Second, "they have come."* They were courageous enough to leave the comfort of their dwellings to cross the desert in order to follow the star of the king. What about us? When we are aware of God's promptings and inspirations to be good and to do good, do we just sit on them, or do we rise and do something about them? Good intentions are worth nothing unless acted upon.

*Third, "they did Him homage."* Recognizing the divinity of the infant before them, the wise men prostrated themselves and gave Him gifts. Again, what about us? Is God the center of our lives? For instance, are we faithful to our Sunday obligations? Is God the priority of our life, remembering that all that we are and have are from Him?

*Fourth, "they departed for their country by another way."* After encountering the child Jesus, the magi were enlightened about the evil intent of Herod who had asked them to bring him word about the child Jesus. Thus, they departed for their country via another way. This teaches us that one who has truly encountered the Lord should be an enlightened person and cannot live the same life as before. A celebration of Christmas with Jesus truly and authentically at the center will always effect growth or progress in our spiritual life which becomes visible in our actions,

God reveals Himself to everyone. Happy are those who see Him in the occurrences of daily life, for truly, He is with us — Emmanuel — "until the end of time."

### Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season. How was your Christmas?

A young man aspiring to holiness, visits the hermitage of a pious old man who had lived in the desert for many years. The young man asks the wise old hermit, "Why is it that some men come into the desert, pray zealously, and yet leave after a short time, while others like yourself, remain on their spiritual journey for a long time?"

The old man smiles and says, "let me tell you a story. One day as I was sitting here quietly with my dog, a large rabbit suddenly ran past us. My dog immediately jumped up, barking loudly, and gave chase to the rabbit. Soon other dogs, attracted by his barkings, joined him. Slowly, however, they began to drop out, one-by-one, until only my dog persevered to the end."

"In that story is the answer to your question," says the wise hermit. The young man sits in confused silence. "Sir, I do not understand," he asked. "What is the connection between the rabbit chase and the pursuit of holiness?"

To which the old man replies, "Those dogs who dropped out of the chase did so because they had not seen the rabbit. Only my dog had seen the rabbit."

*During the rush hours of the Christmas season many of us followed the crowd with a frenzied urgency. We went around in circles in shopping malls. And then when the festive celebration was over and all the gifts were exchanged and opened, we dropped out, one-by-one, from sheer exhaustion. Sad to say, for many of us, that was Christmas.*

*When we reflect on the story of the magi, we must remember that the star was up there for everyone to see. But the magi were openminded and humble.*

*The star of Bethlehem was there for us to see, but did we miss it because our eyes were focused on many other things? For lack of vision, did we fail to grasp the meaning of Christmas for our lives? For lack of vision, did we fail to experience the unique presence of God in our Christmas celebrations? Without a clear vision we—like the dogs in the story—will get exhausted.*

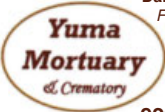


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