



Clement
Manor

PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Gospel

**When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
in the days of King Herod,
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?**

**We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.”**

**When King Herod heard this,
he was greatly troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him.**

**Assembling all the chief priests and
the scribes of the people,
he inquired of them where the
Christ was to be born.**

**They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea,
for thus it has been written through the prophet:
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.”**

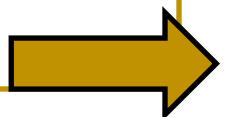
**Then Herod called the magi secretly
and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance.**

**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.”**

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.
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
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.
And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they departed for their country by another way.

A Manifestation to the World

The Epiphany of the Lord

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

The Magi were most likely from Persia, modern-day Iran. They were men who regularly engaged in a study of the stars. They were not Jewish but were most likely aware of the popular belief of the Jewish people that a king would be born who would save them.

These Magi were called by God to encounter the Savior of the World. Interestingly, God used something very familiar to them as an instrument of their calling: the stars. It was among their belief that when someone of great importance was born, this birth was accompanied by a new star. So when they saw this new, bright and brilliant star, they were filled with curiosity and hope. One of the most significant aspects of this story is that they responded. God called them through the use of a star, and they chose to follow this sign, embarking on a long and arduous journey.

God often uses those things most familiar to us that are part of our daily life to send forth His calling. Recall, for example, that many of the Apostles were fishermen, and Jesus used their occupation to call them, making them “fishers of men.” He especially used the miraculous catch of fish to clearly indicate to them that they had a new calling.

In our own lives, God is constantly calling us to seek Him out and worship Him. He will often use some of the most ordinary parts of our lives to send forth that calling. How is He calling you? In what way is He sending you a star to follow? Many times when God speaks, we ignore His voice. We must learn from these Magi and diligently respond when He calls. We must not hesitate and must seek to daily be attentive to the ways that God invites us to deeper trust, surrender and worship.

Reflect, today, upon God’s call in your life. Are you listening? Are you responding? Are you ready and willing to abandon all else in life so as to serve His holy will? Seek Him, wait on Him and respond. Doing so will be the best decision you ever make.

Lord, I love You and pray that I will be open to Your guiding hand in my life. May I always be attentive to the countless ways that You call to me each and every day. And may I always respond to You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of life and the countless blessings You have bestowed upon us. As we enter into this new year, we humbly ask for Your abundant grace to be upon us. Grant us the wisdom to make righteous choices, the strength to face challenges, and the courage to follow Your path. We entrust our plans, dreams, and aspirations for the coming year into Your hands, O Lord. May everything we do be guided by Your will and directed towards Your glory. Help us to be a source of love, compassion, and encouragement to those around us.



In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

New Years Blessings

If you have any personal intentions you would like to add they will be added to our list, contact Tom 546-7980 or tbrefka@clementmanor.org:

Weekly Prayer Intentions:

- **For those residents who are sick, may they feel the healing presence of God**
- **For those celebrating the birth of a child, grandchild or great-grandchild.**
- **For those who have lost loved ones.**
- **For those starting a new semester in school.**



Pastoral Care Staff

Tom Brefka	546-7980
tbrefka@clementmanor.org	
Fr. Bob Fictum	546-7383
bfictum@clementmanor.org	
Karyl Daluga	546-7336
kdaluga@clementmanor.org	
Sharon Hanson	546-7982
shanson@clementmanor.org	
Sister Nancy Sell, OSF	
	546-7037
nsell@clementmanor.org	
Ed David	

Offer Masses for your Loved Ones
The suggested offering is \$20.
Contact Tom Brefka – 546-7980

Reflecting Peace in the Darkness

Taken from Pope Francis's "A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace1"

As we embark together toward what we hope is a more serene and calm horizon, let us reflect together on the words of Pope Francis:

At a time like this, when the barque of humanity, tossed by the storm of the current crisis, struggles to advance towards a calmer and more serene horizon, the "rudder" of human dignity and the "compass" of fundamental social principles can enable us together to steer a sure course. As Christians, we should always look to Our Lady, Star of the Sea and Mother of Hope. May we work together to advance towards a new horizon of love and peace, of fraternity and solidarity, of mutual support and acceptance. May we never yield to the temptation to disregard others, especially those in greatest need, and to look the other way; instead, may we strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, "to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another".

O God of the expanse, whose love stretches beyond even the farthest distance we can imagine:

Amid a season of darkness, we can catch now—out of the corner of our eye—the light of your hope on the horizon.

Grant us, we pray, the courage and humility to serve as mirrors of that light: diverting and reflecting it into the darkest corners of our humanity. May our light shine a path of compassion for our brothers and sisters in need, that we might serve them concretely and practically.

O God, may the light of your hope on the horizon lead us to your peace, and may we never yield to the temptation of the darkness of disregard.

Through Christ, our Lord, we pray: Amen.



A Blessing for Epiphany

Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace.

Blessed be God forever.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.> When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham."

The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him. Stay with us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Head. Stay with us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing. Stay with us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory. Stay with us, Lord.

**Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation
by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it.**

Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pope Francis' January 2025

Monthly Intention: For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

St. Joseph, Wauwatosa



Eternal God

**Bless all schools, colleges, and universities,
that they may be lively centers
for sound learning, new discovery,
and the pursuit of wisdom;
and grant that those who teach
and those who learn
may find you to be
the source of all truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**



January 5

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sun and moon, bless the Lord.

All stars of heaven, bless the Lord.

Help us to recognize Christ, the Daystar in our life, and follow his call to be strong in faith, hope and love.

May our earthly pilgrimage lead us to new revelation of God's goodness today and every day both now and forever.

AMEN

January 6

St. Andre Bessette

Lord our God, friend of the lowly,

who gave Your servant, Saint André Bessette, a great devotion to St. Joseph and a special commitment to the poor and afflicted,

help us through his intercession to follow his example of prayer and love and so come to share with him in Your glory.

Grant us the grace to imitate his piety and charity, so that, with him, we may share the reward promised to all who care for their neighbors out of love for you.

AMEN

Saint Andre Bessette, PRAY FOR US.

January 7

Saint Raymond

Merciful God,

You reveal Your love for us through the saints.

As a capable administrator, Saint Raymond safeguarded the rights and freedom of all.

Bless all who minister to others with the gift of compassion.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

AMEN

Saint Raymond, PRAY FOR US.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

Sunday January 5, 2025

Reading 1, Sirach 24:1-4, 8-12

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

Gospel, John 1:1-18

Reading 2, Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18



Daily Reading for

Monday January 6, 2025

Reading 1, Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12

Reading 2, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Daily Reading for

Friday January 10, 2025

Reading 1, First John 4:19-5:4

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 72:1-2, 14-15, 17

Gospel, Luke 4:14-22

Daily Reading for

Tuesday January 7, 2025

Reading 1, First John 3:22-4:6

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 2:7-8, 10-11

Gospel, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Daily Reading for

Saturday January 11, 2025

Reading 1, First John 5:5-13

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

Gospel, Luke 5:12-16

Daily Reading for

Wednesday January 8, 2025

Reading 1, First John 4:7-10

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Gospel, Mark 6:34-44

Daily Reading for

Sunday January 12, 2025

Reading 1, Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

Gospel, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Reading 2, Acts 10:34-38

Daily Reading for

Thursday January 9, 2025

Reading 1, First John 4:11-18

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 72:1-2, 10, 12-13

Gospel, Mark 6:45-52



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