

JANUARY 3, 2016
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

"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
MY PEOPLE ISRAEL."

- MT 2:6



BREAD to Offer

A GOD WHO DOES NEW AND GOOD THINGS



By Fr. Barnabas Eichor, OFM, Cap.

The prophet Baruch, in his short Old Testament book, is speaking to God's people during the upheaval of the Babylonian exile. He tells them God is ready to bring the exiles back home, and the return home will be a glorious event. The Jewish exiles are ready to return home because of their repentance for having sinned against God, which is what led to the exile. By this time the Jewish people had lost hope that Jerusalem – and its Temple – would ever be rebuilt, and the exiles believed they would be spending the rest of their lives as captives in a foreign land. Baruch saw beyond their present captivity and knew that God was going to do new and great things for the exiles because of their repentance.

The Jews at the time of John the Baptist, 500 years later, were not a free people. The Temple in Jerusalem had been rebuilt, but the Jews were part of the great Roman Empire. Rome made the rules; Rome collected heavy taxes; Rome was brutal. At this time Roman soldiers marched through the streets of Jerusalem freely. The Roman governor Pontius Pilate, who was noted for his brutality, controlled all of Israel. Most of us think of Pontius Pilate as sympathetic – or just plain weak – because of the way he handled Jesus when Jesus was arrested. Most of us do not know that in a couple of years Pilate would lose his job because the emperor, who was not a nice man himself, considered him too ruthless and violent. But the prophet John the Baptist saw beyond all their oppression; he quotes from the prophet Isaiah: "All flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Baruch, John the Baptist, and Isaiah all saw and knew that if the people repented and turned their lives back to God, God would then have room to work in their lives and do something new and great for the people of Israel. Indeed because of Israel's contrition the exile ended, and the promised Messiah came for the salvation of all.

The same is true for us: if we want God to do new and great things, we have to give him room to do so. We give him room by our own willingness to change our lives, our habits, and our commitments. When the Lord is first in our lives, he has room to do new and great things for us.

In order to give God room in our lives, we too, like Isaiah and John the Baptist, "have to prepare the way of the Lord." To prepare means to look into our lives more deeply than, say, thinking of Christmas decorations, parties and gifts. St. Paul gives us an idea of what we should be doing to prepare when he tells the Philippians what he prays for them. He prays that their love for God and for each other may increase, that they keep a sense of what is important in life, and that they live lives devoted to prayer and good works. At the start of this new year let us all take the advice of the prophets and St. Paul and "prepare the way of the lord" in our own lives.

—Fr. Barnabas

ONLINE GIVING UPDATE

Thank you for generous support of St. John through the online giving program. There are some steps you will need to take in order to update your information in Online Giving for the coming pledge year. Each year these steps can be taken if changes need to be made in the amount/date that is withdrawn. **Steps to take:**

1. Login to your ACCOUNT. You can find the Online Giving link on the St. John website: www.saint-johns.net.
(If you need to find out your username or password check your junk mail when they send the email with that information)
2. Click on "My Active Online Giving"-This gives a list of all your active giving. Take a note of the gift type that you have clicked. (Pledge or Recurring)
 - A. If the "Gift type is Pledge"-Payments will end when that pledge amount is reached. You will need to go in and change that to a recurring gift. You can do that by clicking on "Give a New Gift" and enter as a recurring gift.
 - B. If the "Gift type is Recurring"-Payments will continue until you tell them to stop. If you wish to change the amount or the date which the payment is withdrawn you will do this from the "My Active Online Giving" screen (at the end of the line there is a little pencil, click on the pencil to change amount or date).

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Cris Denning or Samantha Romero at **(785) 843-0109**. Thank you for your continued generosity to St. John!

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

St. John the Evangelist, a Catholic Capuchin Franciscan Parish, welcomes all who are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaims His Gospel through prayer, worship, His Word, the sacraments, and each other.

Members, inspired by the Holy Spirit through faith formation and spiritual renewal, witness to the Gospel in lives of justice and charity, build up families and children through education, hospitality and fellowship, and serve those in need with compassion and commitment.

Simon Parish Center

Mailing Address 1229 Vermont
 Lawrence, KS 66044
 Phone (785) 843-0109
 Hours..... Mon-Thur: 8:30am-5pm
 Fri: 8:30am-4:30pm

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30pm
 Sunday..... 7:00am, 8:30am, 11:00am, 5pm

Weekend Spanish Mass

Sunday..... 2:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday 7:30am
 Saturday 8:00am

Vermont Towers Mass (1101 Vermont)

4th Thursday of the month 1:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 11:00am-1:00pm, 7:00-8:00pm
 Saturday 3pm-4pm and by appointment

Adoration

.... Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday,
 6:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m. in the Padre Pio Chapel.

Bulletin Deadline. Submit info by noon on Thursday to phaack@saint-johns.net ten days prior to the bulletin you wish info to appear. Please submit text electronically (via computer/email) as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.

Advertise in the Bulletin. Revenue from ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish. Please support your bulletin advertisers. For information on advertising, call **Lindsay Meyer**:

(913) 568-1570
 lmeyer@4LPI.com
www.SeekAndFind.com

Space for Church Ministries. Ministries are required to reserve rooms for meetings and events by completing a "Reservation Request Form."

Contact Ellen at the Simon Parish Center, 843.0109, esickinger@saint-johns.net.

Equipment. Coffeemakers, coolers, tables, chairs, etc. are not available for personal use.

Cemetery Plot at Mount Calvary. The cemetery is located at East 13th & Elmwood Street with a south entrance from Oak Hill Ave. For cemetery plot information call John Chavez, (785) 842-5602.

Membership. We welcome you to our parish family, and hope you feel at home and among friends. To join, go to www.saint-johns.net, click "Opportunities" and print a "New Parishioner Information Form." Contact Veronica Hamer, 843.0109.

Mass Stipend. Schedule Masses in honor of occasions or people. Suggested donation is \$10. We also have Mass cards. Contact Veronica Hamer, Assistant Administrator, at 843.0109.

Becoming Catholic. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the Church's process to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. For some, this process completes their Christian initiation, as they were baptized in another Christian community, and seek full communion with the Catholic Church. Questions? Michael Podrebarac, 913.647.0330 liturgy@archkck.org.

Giving. Make a donation by placing gifts in the collection plate. Checks payable to "St. John Church." Members can pledge to the Annual Giving Appeal. Form at www.saint-johns.net, click "Opportunities" and go to "Give to St. John." Questions? Contact the Church Office by phone at (785) 843-0109.

Bricks. Buy a brick in the Walk of Faith Brick Garden. One line engraving \$100. Two lines \$125. Print an order form www.saint-johns.net, click "Opportunities" and then click "Marketplace." Questions? Contact the Church Office by phone at (785) 843-0109.

Planned Giving. Consider leaving a bequest to St. John in your Will. Contact the Church Office by phone at (785) 843-0109.

Virtus. To increase awareness about child abuse, Virtus is required for adults who interact with kids 18 years and under. www.virtus.org. Contact Lois Mersmann, 843.0109, lmersmann@saint-johns.net.

Religious Ed. Children 3 yrs of age – 8th grade are invited to RE class. Traditional RE class for 4 yr olds-5th grade meet in the school building on Sunday 9:15am-10:15am. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd class is for children 3–12 yrs old and meet various days and times in the houses located at 200 and 202 W. 13th St. 2nd graders prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion. 6th, 7th and 8th grade Middle School students meet in the St. Bosco room, in the school, for Youth Night (aka The ROCK). The ROCK meets on Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. 8th graders prepare for Confirmation. All classes meet Sept–May. See www.saint-johns.net, select "For Your Faith" and "Religious Education" for detailed info, forms or contact Lois Mersmann, lmersmann@saint-johns.net, 843-0109.

Baptism. Contact the Simon Parish Center to arrange for Baptism Preparation. No baptisms in Lent.

Anointing of the Sick. If you are having major surgery or are seriously ill and want to receive the grace and healing of the Anointing of the Sick, contact the Simon Parish Center. The hospital does not notify St. John when one is hospitalized.

Funerals. Contact the Simon Parish Center for funeral arrangements. Dinner provided. For cemetery plot information call John Chavez at (785) 842-5602.

Communion to Homebound. Those who cannot attend Mass due to illness or age and want to receive Communion need to contact the Parish Center. Eucharistic Ministers can bring Communion to the hospitalized, homebound, and nursing home residents.

Confirmation. For 8th graders. Classes meet Wednesdays in the school 7pm-8:30pm. Jennifer Meitl Conrad or Lois Mersmann for info, 843.0109.

First Reconciliation/First Communion. Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion are prepared in religion classes at St. John School, Sunday morning Traditional Religious Educations and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Marriage. Contact Ellen Sickinger at the Simon Parish Center to schedule a meeting with Fr. Jeff or Fr. Barnabas a minimum of 6 months prior to wedding date. No weddings in Lent or Advent.

Joining the Knights of Columbus. Our St. John Knights of Columbus Council 1372 invite all Catholic men to join. The Knights host parish breakfasts, chili feeds, etc. Membership \$28yr. Contact Grand Knight Kevin Oneslager at (785) 840-9406.

Joining Daughters of Isabella. The Daughters of Isabella is a charitable organization of Catholic women founded on the principal of its motto: Unity, Friendship and Charity. Membership is open to all Catholic women, ages 16 and over. Contact Janet Huss at 785-393-4878 if you have any questions.

Parish Staff

Pastor..... Fr. Jeff Ernst
 Associate Pastor..... Fr. Barnabas Eichor
 Pastor Emeritus.....Fr. Mike Scully
 Business ManagerCris Denning
 Catecismo en españolMaría Mota
 Choir/Music Lisa Roush
 Stewardship Director.Samantha Romero
 Maintenance.....Jeff Jenicke
 Assistant Administrator.....Veronica Hamer
 RCIAMichael Podrebarac
 Religious Ed, Director.....Pat Newton
 Religious Ed, Assistant..... Lois Mersmann
 Technology..... Karen Dixon
 Stewardship CoordinatorEllen Sickinger
 Youth Minister Jennifer Meitl Conrad
 Website & Bulletin Pete Haack

St. John SchoolMrs. Pat Newton, Principal
 1208 Kentucky St.
 (785) 843-9511
www.saint-johns.net/school

Catholic Charities.....Nickie Daneke
 1247 Kentucky St. (785) 856-2694

Rummage House13th & Kentucky.
 Shop our second hand store of used items at discount prices. Shopping Hours:
 Wed. 11am-3pm Thurs. 1pm-4pm
 Sat. 8:30am-12:30pm

Centro Hispano.....Lydia Diebolt
 (785) 843-2039

MARRIAGE MINUTE

Feast of the Epiphany

Epiphany means, "Manifestation.:" This feast commemorates how God revealed Himself as the King of all nations through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. The key word here is gift. In the chaos of this season with parties, gatherings, travel, and gift wrapping, we can lose sight of the greatest gift that God has blessed our marriages with, our children. Children are the "supreme gift" of marriage (CCC 1652)

Pope Francis put it like this, "Motherhood and fatherhood are a gift of God, but to accept the gift, to be astonished by its beauty, and to make it shine in society, this is your task.

Each of your children is a unique creature that will never be duplicated in the history of humanity. When one understands is, or that God wanted each one, we are astounded by how great a miracle a child is! A child changes your life! We have all seen – men, women – that when a child arrives, life changes. It is another thing. A son or daughter is a miracle that changes in life." (Address to the Italian Association of large families, December 28, 2014)

Today, take a moment to give a gift of thanksgiving to Jesus, like the wise men, for the gift "manifested" to you through your children.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Come receive the sacrament of reconciliation in the Padre Pio chapel during any of the following times:

Wednesdays: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment - Call (785) 843-0109 to schedule one, or email:

frjeff@saint-johns.net or frbarnabas@saint-johns.net

THE HOMILIES OF FR. EARL MEYER

Year C, the third and final installment of Fr. Earl's collection of homilies, is available now in the parish office for \$10. Pick yours up today, as they will go quickly!

Copies are also available electronically at Amazon, and you can benefit St. John Catholic School by going to smile.amazon.com and designating it as your organization for all of your online purchases!

DILLON'S GROCERY REWARDS

It is time to re-enroll in the Dillon's Community Rewards program for 2016.

To re-enroll for 2016, go to www.dillons.com/communityrewards, and register your Plus Shopper's Card number and designate St. John School #29296. It only takes a minute. Once you are registered, a percentage of your purchase will be donated to St. John School. We received \$2,428 in 2015. Thank you to all who participate!

GRIEF SHARE

New Session Start Soon

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. At GriefShare, you'll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life. Or perhaps you know someone who would benefit from GriefShare. Please pass this information on to them.

GriefShare will meet every Tuesday, January 19 – April 19, 2016.

The afternoon session (if needed) will meet 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The evening session (if needed) will meet 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

GriefShare meets at Lawrence Heights Christian Church
2321 Peterson Road.

The cost is \$20.00 and scholarships are available.

Please call for information or to register.

Lori Myrick (785) 843-3072

VIRTUS TRAINING

Virtus, the awareness session of the Archdiocese's child abuse program Protecting God's Children, is required training for all adults who work with the children/youth of our parish.

Who should attend this training session? All parents, grandparents, anyone who plans to assist/teach in any of the parish Religious Education programs, coach any of the CYO sports and parents who want to volunteer in the school or with school activities. The material presented is good information for all parishioners.

The next Virtus session hosted at St. John Church will be held, in the church basement, **Thursday, January 28, 2016** from 6:30 p.m. to approximately 9:30 p.m. To register for this session - please visit the Virtus website: www.virtus.org. Select "registration" on the left hand side of the page and follow the prompts.

If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, please contact Lois at lmersmann@saint-johns.net or (785) 843-0109.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Your old glasses can go to help someone new!

Dr. Brent Crandon and a team of 14 other eye care professionals are heading to Guatemala in March 2016 to provide eye care and eyewear to disadvantaged communities.

Your donations are **deeply needed**, as we are short of glasses this year. Any prescription glasses in reasonable condition will be greatly appreciated, by the doctors and the less fortunate people who need your help to regain their sight.

Please bring donations to the parish office or to the Drs. Crandon's office at **1019 Massachusetts**.

Thank you in advance for helping the disadvantaged see!

GABRIEL PROJECT

Pregnant? Want Help?

The volunteer members of the Gabriel Project see in the birth of each baby a fresh expression of God's unfailing love. We offer immediate and practical help to any woman faced with a crisis pregnancy.

Gabriel Project Confidential Help Line: (913) 602-0306



ST. JOHN CAFÉ

There will be no St. John Café this Sunday, January 3.

St. John Café will resume Sunday, January 10, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Simon Parish Center to request someone for the "Prayer List" and be sure to update the Parish Center monthly regarding their condition or the name will be removed.

Matthew Arellano

Abel Ayala

Remi Brown

Dale Brueggeman, husband of Debbie Filkins

Donald Erker

Gene Hieman

Bob Holek

Tim Maniez

Marianne Fabac Means

Pam Hadl

Mary Helt

Logan Hemles, nephew of Mick Schurer

Jenny Hernandez

John Hite

Bob Holek

Nancy Hubble, wife of Tom Kellogg

Pete James

Susan Jones

Dan Menke, son of Steve & Barb Menke

Julie Patterson, niece of Norb & Jeanette Otter

Ernie Potts

Dorothy Purdy

Marlene Richard

Mark Salmans

Ethan Schuh, son of Jason & Cassie Schuh

Mary Kay Seidl

Ruth Theising

MINISTERS: JANUARY 9-10

Lectors

Saturday

4:30pmL1: J Snyder; L2: R Entwistle

Sunday

7am L1: C Zebas; L2: C Winkelbauer
8:30am L1: D Carlin; L2: J Wyatt
11:00am L1: C Bial; L2: S Tabor
5pm L1: B Walter; L2: R Bunner

Cantors

Saturday

4:30pm A Mauler

Sunday

7am K Colson & B Ennis
8:30am A Koster

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday

4:30pm D Weigel, L Arnold, B Brill
.....D Depenbusch, D&K Guth

Sunday

7am B Menke, B Osborne, L Wustefeld
8:30am L Scott, M Steichen, B Volz,
.....J Dvorske, D Foster, D Hoss
..... E Grob-Creasey
11:00am C & D Ehrlich, J Evers
.....T Gabrielson, S Galarza Liu
..... S Goodwin, P Gripka
5pm C Malone, A McCabe, S Murray
.....T Reznicek, D Schmidt, D Wulf-Walter

Altar Servers

Saturday

4:30pmE Fair, L Fair

Sunday

7am Volunteers
8:30am T Kempf, D Turner
11:00am C Finkeldei, E Bellerive, H Hummel
5pm O Schmidt, L Schmidt

MASSES: JANUARY 4-10

Monday

7:30am.....Fr. John Schmeidler

Tuesday

7:30am..... Joanie Riling†

Wednesday

7:30am..... Steve Wehmeier†

Thursday

7:00am..... Osborn-O'Connor Family†

Friday

7:00am..... Karol Thomas†

Saturday

8:00am..... Ervin & Mary Ann Huslig†
4:30pm Virginia Grob†

Sunday

7:00am..... Fr. Michael Scully
8:30am..... Joanne Male†
11:00am..... Mary Callicott†
2:00pm (Spanish) St. John Parish
5:00pm Robert Tomassi†

WEEKLY GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2015
through June 30, 2016

Information below
reflects donations received

July 1, 2015 through December 25, 2015.
Budgeted weekly amount \$30,692.31
Average weekly amount..... **\$28,342.74**
Budgeted YTD \$767,307.75
Actual YTD **\$708,568.59**
Net Shortage **\$58,739.16**
Christmas Collection..... **\$9,772.85**

RESERVING SPACE

Parishioners, if you would like to reserve a location on the St. John Church for an event or meeting, you must contact Ellen Sickinger:

(785) 843-0109 esickinger@saint-johns.net

To inquire about space in St. John School, contact Linda Alexander:

(785) 843-9511 alexander@saint-johns.net

MEALS FOR THE FRIARS

The Capuchins are looking for volunteers who can cook meals for the six friars in Lawrence. If interested, please contact Veronica Hamer at **(785) 843-0109**. Meals needed for Wednesdays in January!

Bring meals to the Simon Parish Center at St. John by 4:00pm. Fr. Jeff will take the dinner home to the friary.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS



The next Knights of Columbus Meeting will be Thursday, January 14. Social and dinner, provided by the Knights, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Location is the basement of St. John Church. Our council meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Anybody interested in becoming a Knight should contact Grand Knight Kevin Oneslager at **(785) 840-9406**.

On the first Friday of each month, the Knights host a rosary in St. John Church at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend!

PRÓXIMO RETIRO DE 15ERA

Enero 9-10, 2016 en el Ministerio Hispano. Por favor pagar los \$30 una semana antes del retiro.

PRÓXIMO RETIRO DE CONVALIDACIÓN

Marzo 5-6, 2016 en el Ministerio Hispano. Por favor registrar las parejas con la forma apropiada en español y pagar los \$60 una semana antes del retiro.

PRÓXIMO CONSEJO HISPANO

Enero 23, 2016 a las 9:00am en el Ministerio Hispano. Por favor manden a dos representantes por Parroquia Hispana y mándenlos un email con sus nombres, direcciones, número telefónico y email si tienen.

RECICLAGE

Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al (785) 218-1511.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR

Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE. Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota.

Las lecturas de la semana del 3 de enero de 2016

Domingo: Is 60, 1-6/Sal 72, 1-2. 7-8. 10-13/Ef 3, 2-3. 5-6/Mt 2, 1-12

Lunes: 1 Jn 3, 22-4, 6/Sal 2, 7-8. 10-12/Mt 4, 12-17. 23-25

Martes: 1 Jn 4, 7-10/Sal 72, 1-4. 7-8/Mc 6, 34-44

Miércoles: 1 Jn 4, 11-18/Sal 72, 1-2. 10. 12-13/Mc 6, 45-52

Jueves: 1 Jn 4, 19-5, 4/Sal 72, 1-2. 14-15. 17/Lc 4, 14-22

Viernes: 1 Jn 5, 5-13/Sal 147, 12-15. 19-20/Lc 5, 12-16

Sábado: 1 Jn 5, 14-21/Sal 149, 1-6. 9/Jn 3, 22-30

Domingo siguiente: Is 40, 1-5. 9-11 o Is 42, 1-4. 6-7/Sal 104, 1-4. 24-25. 27-30/Tit 2, 11-14; 3, 4-7 o Hch 10, 34-38/Lc 3, 15-16. 21-22

PROSPERO AÑO NUEVO!

3 de enero de 2016

La Epifanía del Señor

Jesucristo es para todos, es el mensaje central de este domingo de la Epifanía del Señor. Seguimos de fiesta en torno a la manifestación de Dios al mundo. Continuamos con la celebración de la Navidad reuniéndonos en torno a la Eucaristía. La oración Colecta nos ayuda a reflexionar en la importancia de desear la salvación cada vez más. "Señor Dios, que por medio de una estrella, diste a conocer en este día, a todos los pueblos el nacimiento de tu Hijo, concede a los que ya te conocemos por la fe, llegar a contemplar, cara a cara, la hermosura de tu inmensa gloria". Por este mensaje entendemos que nadie tiene la exclusiva de la salvación. Todos tenemos que trabajar en ella como bautizados. ¿Cómo trabajo personalmente y en comunidad para que la salvación de Dios llegue a todos los pueblos? ¿Cómo podemos contemplar a Dios en las necesidades de nuestros hermanos y hermanas?

Hoy es el día de abrir los corazones y las mentalidades de las personas para que el Evangelio sea ofrecido a los que no conocen a Dios. Esto es lo que el Papa Francisco y los obispos de los Estados Unidos nos piden. Abrir la dimensión misionera de la fe, ser discípulos con intención de serlo y no solo de apariencia. Los pobres, los sin voz, los inmigrantes, los enfermos y sobre todo los niños, tienen derecho de encontrarse con el Niño de Belén, de encontrar su luz y así iluminados por ella sean capaces de compartir lo que tienen. La Epifanía es un anuncio para los cercanos y para los lejanos, es el punto de unir todas las cosas en Cristo. ¡Gracias Señor por manifestarte en mi vida!

La Epifanía del Señor

El Evangelio de San Mateo es el único que nos narra la historia de los Reyes Magos. El Evangelista los menciona a ellos como magos y no como reyes. Recordemos que su nombre de magos, astrólogos o sabios viene según la traducción de la Biblia que leamos. Otro punto importante a recordar es que cuando fueron redactados los Evangelios la literatura judía narraba con gran gusto la infancia de los héroes de la Biblia. Se dice que los magos provenían de una comunidad de Persia que estudiaba las estrellas. Eran muy respetados y se asocia este día con el capítulo 60 de Isaías. "Caminarán los pueblos a tu luz y los reyes, al resplandor de tu aurora". Y el salmo 72 nos dice: "Ante él se postrarán todos los reyes y todas las naciones".

La intención de Mateo es clara y se percibe la dirección de su Evangelio, transmitir el enfoque de su misión. Jesús sería ignorado y perseguido por los suyos y aceptado por los pueblos paganos. Mateo nos invita de ese modo a recordar lo que el pueblo de Israel había sufrido y de cómo esos relatos ya anunciaban al Salvador. Por lo tanto los Magos representan a las naciones extranjeras donde Dios también se manifiesta. Los Magos se dejaron guiar por la estrella para encontrar a Jesús recién nacido. ¿Nosotros por quien nos hemos dejado guiar últimamente? ¿Qué sentimientos afloran en nuestro corazón al escuchar este Evangelio? Ojalá que todos adoremos al Señor, que nuestros regalos sean creer, seguirlo y cumplir su misión de llevar la buena nueva a todos los que nos rodean.