

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)

Presentation of Our Lady

01/07/2024

Church



Epiphany of the Lord

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of Presentation of Our Lady Catholic church, are inspired by the holy spirit to live out Christ's commandments by showing love to ALL people, though the gifts God has given each of us. We commit ourselves to the virtues of faith, hope and love by worshipping God, in word and sacrament. Strengthened by God the Father, we shall strive to live out the Gospel in serving the needs of our parish faith family and the global community.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

CHURCH

695 Julian St.

PARISH OFFICE

665 Irving St

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am to 12:00 p.m

1:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m.

(303) 534-4882

FAX: (303) 893-5056

Web Page: www.presentationdenver.org

Official Facebook page:

Presentation of Our Lady Off.

Rev. Israel
Perez Lopez
Ext 119

Deacon
Pablo Salas
Ext 117

Deacon Edgar
Valle
Ext ---

WELCOME NEW

MEMBERS!

Please register as a member of the parish. Forms are always available at the church entrance or at the parish office. Return forms to an usher or the parish office.

Moving?

Please notify the parish office.

Max Lopez
Office
Manager
Ext 119

Diana Soto
Receptionist

Sunday Masses

8:30 am (English)

10:30 am (Bilingual)

12:00 pm (Spanish)

5:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Saturday Mass

4:30 pm (English)

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday

8:00am (Bilingual)

For Religious
Education, Adult
Inquirer's classes,
Baptism classes,
or Marriage
preparation call
the Parish office
for more
information.

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCIES

Anointing of the sick

Last Rites

Please call

720-473-9053 anytime

David Vallejo
Bldg. Maint.
303-552-7947

St. Vincent de
Paul
Ext 122

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SUNDAY HOMILY:

The Light Shines in the Darkness

January 7th, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

The Epiphany of the Lord celebrates His manifestation to the Jews and the Gentiles, represented in today's Gospel by the Magi. There is a profound connection between Christmas and the Epiphany. The prologue of John's Gospel explains that "no one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." (John 1:18)

God is unseeable to the human mind. We are equipped by nature to understand the essences of material things. The human mind naturally sees neither God nor angels. Nonetheless, we can naturally know something about God, even if indirectly, just as it is possible to know things about an absent and hidden artist by studying his works. In that way, the human mind can discover that there is a God and even some of His attributes. Yet, that knowledge is indirect and susceptible to many errors. Common sense tells us that the idea that a human mind can conceive of God must necessarily be infinitely inferior to the ver reality of God.

At the same time, knowing the truth about God is the most excellent vocation of the human person. This claim sounds strange in our pragmatistic and utilitarian culture, in which the highest values are power and material possessions. However, it is vital to vindicate the primacy of the human person's contemplative vocation. With Thomas Aquinas, we can state that the truth is the last goal of the universe. It is from the knowledge of the truth that every other aspect of the human vocation attains its fulfillment.

It is particularly relevant to remember the intimate relation between truth and freedom in a culture which claims that human freedom must be understood without reference or subordination to the truth. Without truth, there is no true freedom. Jesus stated with absolute clarity that the truth sets the human person free. The contemporary cultural despisal for the truth corresponds to a distorted understanding of the human person. Its origin is worthy of our attention.

If we agree with Jesus on the liberating power of the truth, it will be easy to understand how to deprive people of true freedom. The most effective manner of dominating people is to steal the truth from them. Kill the root, and the tree and its fruits will simply die. The best course of action would be to make people despise the truth. Moreover, given the traditional nature of human knowledge, the robbery would be more convenient sooner than later. Human persons come into this world knowing nothing and in need of being taught by their parents and other people. Therefore, steal the truth from the parents, and you will be a more effective tyrant.

That was the plan of Lucifer, the most megalomaniac tyrant ever. He stole the truth from our first parents to dominate the entire human race. Nevertheless, a good thief knows that you must be as unnoticeable as possible if you plan to steal a precious work of art. Even more, if you could replace the stolen goods with a fake one to hide that a treasure is missing, that would be the master plan. Accordingly, the devil enjoys replacing the truth with clever and manipulative lies. He invites us to despise the truth and worship material possessions and power. Both things are closely connected to the knowledge of the truth, for nothing is more intimately possessed than the things known, and the knowledge of truth empowers in order to govern others.

The Epiphany celebrates that the hidden God has become one of us in the mystery of the Incarnation to show us through His humanity the truth about the Father and, consequently, the truth about ourselves. John's Gospel refers to the Son of God as the Word. What is a word? If we are asked to explain what something is, we use words to answer the question. Those exterior words are a manifestation of our mind's interior words. Interior words are an internal manifestation of the knowledge we have about things. What we know are real things.

Nonetheless, knowledge is interiorly expressed in words. Moreover, human knowledge needs many words to express the understanding of different things. Sometimes, many words are required in order to explain one thing. That complication is not a sign of our perfection but the opposite. Indeed, intelligent people can say more with fewer words. Teachers know it very well. When a student does not understand an idea, a good teacher breaks the idea into smaller and less complicated ideas or images to help him.

God is so perfect that He knows Himself entirely and can express that comprehension in only one word that manifests what God knows about Himself and the perfect knowledge He has of everything else, actual or possible. That Divine Word is a Person, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. That is why even though God as One is the First and Eternal Truth, the name "Truth" is fittingly appropriate to the Son of God. Jesus said of Himself that He *is* the Truth. Son, Word, and Image are the personal names of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

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That Personal Word of God, who perfectly expresses the Truth about God and about everything else, became man so that He could render testimony to the truth and make it known to us. He is the light of the world that reveals what really matters, that is, the countenance of the Father. That is the Eternal Truth that sets us completely free with the glorious freedom of the children of God. Those who receive this word receive the power to become children of God and thus princes, heirs of eternal glory.

However, He came into this world in the humility of the flesh. The living and true God became a defenseless baby who was capable of being rejected. One day, He will come again in Majesty and Glory and will be recognized by everyone. But, God has decided in His infinite love and wisdom to operate the history of salvation in this mysterious way. His method has something that also manifests who God is. God's power is especially manifested in His love and mercy.

The humble and humiliated humanity of Jesus is an astonishing manifestation of God's love and mercy, especially on the Cross, which was already announced by the wood of the manger. What a sign of contradiction! The flesh of the Incarnated Son reveals the Father. Even the word "revelation" has an interesting ambivalence. On the one hand, it can mean revelation as manifestation, but on the other hand, it can mean something that veils twice.

Today's Gospel presents two groups of people. The humble (Joseph, Mary, the Shepherds, and the Magi) receive and adore Jesus. In turn, the proud, powerful, and rich (Herod and his companions) reject the Light of the World. Herod and his cohorts had information but did not know the Truth. They remained in the darkness voluntarily. They were under the influence of the devil, who aims to steal the truth so that he can establish his tyranny in which material possessions and worldly power have the price of becoming a servile minion of the one who is above and has more dominating power. Lucifer puts a steep price on the power he offers. It is the price of the true freedom of the one becoming his follower.

Today's solemnity calls us to welcome the Incarnated Word in our hearts to be truly enlightened and liberated. Even more, the Epiphany is also a calling to share Jesus' mission. Today's first reading shows how the Church must shine with Christ's light to glorify God. Rise in splendor, Jerusalem! The Bride of Jesus cannot share His mission by operating with a different method than the one her Spouse used. The mission of the Church cannot be done from Herod's palace but only from the manger in Bethlehem. Perhaps what we lack in our Christian mission is not a world that is less pagan or a better social position from which we can be a more considerable influence and have more impact on society. Maybe we lack the disposition to embrace the spirit of the Beatitudes and imitate the Son of God, who being rich, became poor to make us rich.

Presentation Of Our Lady Offertory

Weekend of Dec. 30 & 31, 2023

4:30 Mass Regular Collection \$ 503.00

4:30 Mass Second Collection \$ 110.00

8:30 Mass Regular Collection \$ 639.00

8:30 Mass Second Collection \$133.77

10:30 Mass Regular Collection \$405.00

10:30 Mass Second Collection \$57.00

12:00 Mass Regular Collection \$1,099.07

12:00 Mass Second Collection \$185.00

5:00 Mass Regular Collection \$285.00

5:00 Mass Second Collection \$228.00

Second Collection

Total: \$2,931.07

Regular Collection

Total: \$713.77

Candles \$233.00

New Year's Regular Collection :

8:30 am \$159.00

10:30 am \$136.00

12:30 pm \$310.00

MASS Intentions

Day	Date	Time	Intention	Offered by
Sat.	Jan. 6	4:30 p.m.	Presentation for Jairo Brienes (3 yr Old)	Luisa Barrientos
Sun.	Jan. 7	8:30 a.m.	† Rudy & Moeve Cordova & the Ortega Family	Cordova Family Becky Ortega
		10:30 a.m.	† Freddy Emanuel Baptista	The Family
		12:00 a.m. Spanish	Wedding Anniversary Jose & Angelica	Blessing for Angelica Zuñiga and Jose Soto (34 Years)
		5:00 p.m. Spanish		
Mon.	Jan. 1	8:00 a.m.		
Tues.	Jan. 9	8:00 a.m.		
Wed.	Jan. 10	8:30 a.m.		
Thur.	Jan. 11	8:00 a.m.		
Fri.	Jan. 12	8:00 a.m.		

The second collection this weekend will go towards the needs of the church. Please continue giving generously!

Thank You



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The Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday gives us all an opportunity to ask ourselves: am I willing to go outside of myself, as did the Magi who made innumerable sacrifices to simply gaze upon Christ? Our brothers and sisters the Holy Land and in other war-torn nations literally risk their lives to attend Mass or make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.... How blessed are we to live in a country where we still have freedom to worship!

May this New Year be full of grace and peace as we continue to journey the road of Eucharistic Revival together!



In Jesus,

Sister Alicia Torres, F.E.

MANAGING EDITOR

Join us in praying the rosary
 Altar & Rosary is leading the Rosary every Friday at 5:00 pm, in the Church. All are invited and welcome to come pray the rosary.

PRAY THE
ROSARY

Adoration	Prayer Group
Fridays	Wednesdays
5pm-9pm	7pm-9pm

 

Follow the official page: **Presentation Of Our Lady OFF.**