



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. 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.

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. 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. . . Thanks be to God!**

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 72

Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. R.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. R.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. R.

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 2: 3-6

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. 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: 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. . . Thanks be to God!**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 2: 1-12

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. **The Gospel of the Lord. . .Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**

Tithe Update

12/24/23: Reg. collection: \$3,823.00 Utility: \$150.00 CM: \$65.00

SAVE-THE-DATE:

YOUR CITY CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

Help Shape the Mission & Ministries of Our City Church Together



VISIONING WORKSHOP

ST. MATTHEW PARISH
5401 Loch Raven Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21239

Sunday, January 7, 2024
2:30pm - 5:00pm



QUESTIONS?

Contact Geri Royale-Bird at 410-547-5338 or Geri.Bird@stmatthew.org

All are Encouraged to Participate. Your Voice is Vital to Shaping the New Model for Our City Church.

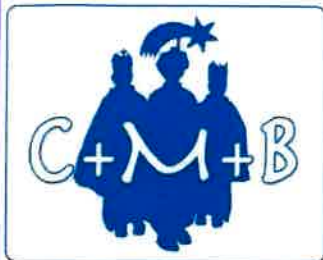
**Upcoming
Citywide Visioning
Workshop, Today,
Sunday, Jan 7,
2024 at St. Mat-
thew parish
(Signup link
available on
Website.)**

**Leadership
Gathering (TBD –
end of Jan) – op-
portunity to
share feedback
from the Vision-
ing Workshops
and next steps.**

Epiphany House Blessing

Today, we remember the visit of the Magi to the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we continue the tradition by blessing our homes.

Before leaving the church, visit the Christmas Crib and pray for all who live in your home. Take a piece of blessed chalk from the basket go home and then during the day have the members of your household gather at the front door of your home or apartment for prayer.



Write **"20+C+M+B+24"**
(Christian symbol of the cross, date of the New Year and the first initial of the names of the Three Kings: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar). Then continue with the following blessing:

LEADER: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and Of the Holy Spirit . . . Amen!

LEADER: Peace be with this house and all who live here.
Blessed be the name of the Lord. . .

ALL: Now and forever more!

LEADER: During these days of the Christmas Season, we keep this Feast of the Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, to John in the Jordan and to his disciples at the Wedding at Cana. Today, Christ is manifest to US! Today this home is made HOLY!

(HAVE EVERYONE GATHER AT THE MANGER IN YOUR HOME)

LEADER: A Reading from the Gospel of John:

And the Word was made flesh and made His dwelling among us,
And we saw his glory, the Glory of the Father's only Son, Full of Grace and Truth.

LEADER:

Lord our God, bless this home. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and keeping your Law. May we fill this home we have made with kindness to one another, with hospitality to guests, and with abundant care for every stranger. By the gentle light of a star, guide home all who seek you n paths of faith, hope and love, where we will join the angels in proclaiming:

Glory to God in the Highest. AMEN!



Weekly Mass Intentions

Jan. 7th, Mr. Peter Kumba Geh, on the 30th anniversary of his passing, requested by Mrs. Veronica Zeh and Family.

Jan. 14th, Mrs. Josephine Forte, on the 8th anniversary of her passing at the request of her beloved daughter, Mrs. Millie Jackman.

Jan. 21st, Mrs. Vivian Dyson, on the 20th anniversary of her passing, at the request of her beloved daughters, Dale & Gale Dyson. Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord and let your perpetual light shine upon them, may their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen

New Mass Book

The new mass book for the year 2024 is open for your mass intentions. First come, first serve and try to limit yourself to a few intentions to make room for others.

CELEBRATING 800 YEARS OF THE LIVING NATIVITY IN GRECCIO

Beginning December 8th and continuing until Feb. 3rd we celebrate the 800th anniversary of St Francis creating the Living Nativity Scene in the small Italian village of Greccio, to bring Bethlehem close to those who would never have



the chance to be in the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

To celebrate this great anniversary, the Capuchin Friars of St. Ambrose Friary will host a novena until Feb. 7th, 2024. Special indulgence has been offered by Pope Francis to anyone praying the novena prayer at the Crib in any Franciscan Church throughout the World and St. Ambrose is a Franciscan Church.

The Infant Jesus will be placed on the side altar for the veneration and devotion of us all, please stop and pray the prayer for your-

Thank
you

A Very Special Thank You

Dear St. Ambrose Family:

Almost daily, over the past year, with my various illness, or with my 90th birthday, I received a greeting and reminder of prayer of someone from St. Ambrose in my mailbox.

I love how you love my son, and that love is extended to me. I am grateful and I remember all of you in my daily prayers. Until we see each other! Happy New Year, Love, Mrs. Alice Zaborowski (Fr. Paul's Mom.)



Healing Prayer: Mary Adderly, Helen Augins, Jean Bennett, Parrish Boyd, Karen Brown-Berkley, Annie Bruce, Renee Bruce, Al Butler, Debbie Chase, Eric Cullings, Dale Dyson, William Ford III, Eric Frazier, Sarah Gamble, JoAnn Glenn, Angela Johnson, Cornell (Nelson) Johnson, Josie Johnson, Joseph Jones,

Sheila Leary-Smith, Charles Manns, III, Kimberly Merrill, Allan Noble, Charles Richardson Williams, Corey Richardson, Rhonda Rumbra, Carl & Bernice Shrieves, Daniel Smith Sr., Veronica Spears, Augustine & Archie Stith, Rosalita Stone, Gloria Tate, Ernest Thames, Jean Thomas, Rosalie Watkins, William Young, Sr. Eugene Zaborowski and Alice Zaborowski.