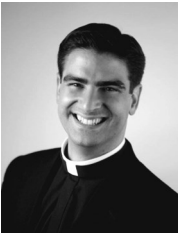

JANUARY 6 & 7, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord – the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to the whole world. Isaiah had prophesied that nations would walk by God's light, gathering under his radiance.

He spoke of caravans from Midian and Ephah and Sheba coming to praise God, bringing gold and frankincense.

We are the new Jerusalem of which Isaiah speaks – our light has come and the glory of the Lord shines upon us, manifested in the infant Jesus. There is great joy in these words: Our Redeemer has come. The long-awaited Messiah is revealed to us, bringing salvation and peace.

But there is also a challenge in Isaiah's words, and in the revelation of Jesus Christ. If *nations shall walk by your light*, as Isaiah says, that means we must be lit up. We must be strikingly different from the *darkness [that] covers the earth*. Our very lives should offer a contrast to the norms of our culture.

As members of the Church, we are called to bear light into the darkness of all the earth. To bring light to the widow across the street who is lonely. To bring light to our child's teacher who is bearing the weight of personal struggles on top of the work of education. To bring light to our brother who is struggling in his marriage. Whatever the darkness around us, we are called to *rise up in splendor!*

But how can we answer such a call, when we might be struggling with darkness of our own?

The Lord tells us: *Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you*. Jesus Christ has come to earth to dwell with us. The Light of the World was born in Bethlehem and has united himself with our humanity: *Upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory*.

We do not have to produce this light. We must receive Jesus, the Light of the World. Jesus has come to give all the love we need, all the wisdom called for, all the virtue necessary to be a light to others.

Jesus our Light speaks to us especially at Mass, giving himself to us in this Eucharistic feast. We are, like the moon, simply called to reflect the light that is poured out on us so lavishly. As did the Magi, let us offer this King of Light our treasures, and prepare our hearts to receive all the gifts he pours out on us.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Marco

BUS FOR MARCH FOR LIFE The National March For Life to end abortion will be, Friday, January 19 at 12 noon on the National Mall. There will be a bus leaving from IHM at 10 am. To reserve a seat call/text Mark Baysinger at 240-925-2677, or send an email to nbay9@hotmail.com. There is no charge, however a \$20 donation is requested.

LAZARUS COMMITTEE Are you looking for a way to support grieving families in our parish? Consider joining the Lazarus Committee, a group of volunteers who prepare and serve meals after the funerals of active and registered parishioners. This is a meaningful ministry that offers comfort and fellowship to those who have lost a loved one. To learn more or to sign up, please call Pat at 240-925-0021 or Linda at 240-298-5264. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.



MOVIE NIGHT IHM is hosting a movie night in the Parish Hall on Saturday January 27. The feature is Sight & Sound's version of Moses. Doors open at 5 pm and the movie starts at 5:30 pm. The event is free, bring your family and friends!

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE Sponsored by Knights of Columbus on Saturday, January 27 from 9 am until 2 pm at Knights Hall (41605 Fenwick St., Leonardtown, MD 20650). To donate, either sign up at WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG then insert KOC1470 into the box FIND A DRIVE in the upper right corner, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). After registering for your donation appointment, use Rapid Pass the DAY of the drive to fast track your donation "check in." Go to www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass to learn more.

IHM CRAFT GROUP Are you a crafter who enjoys making things with your hands? If so, you are invited to join us for a monthly craft gathering at IHM. This is a casual and relaxed group that meets to share ideas, skills, and friendship. We will meet in the large classroom every second Thursday of the month from 10 am to 12 pm, the next meeting is Thursday, January 11. You can bring any craft project you are working on or just come and see what others are making. This is a wonderful way to connect with other members of our church community and have some fun. If you have any questions, please call Pat DeCarlo at (240) 925-0021 or Anne Krech (301) 373-6106.

MASS INTENTIONS may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing julian@ihmrcc.org. Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

MASS Intentions

January 8 — January 14

Monday	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/ Mk 1:7-11
9:00 am	Estelle Thompson (D)
Tuesday	1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/ Mk 1:21-28
5:30 pm	Rev. Roderick McKee (D)
Wednesday	1 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
9:00 am	Bridget McDowell (D)
Thursday	1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/ Mk 1:40-45
5:30 pm	Bruce Colly (D)
Friday	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/ Mk 2:1-12
9:00 am	John Weir (D)
Saturday	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Mk 2:13-17
9:00 am	Rosa Kernast (D)
4:00 pm	Bridgette Lawrence (L)
Sunday	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/ 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42
8:30 am	Cayetano Toledo (D)
11:15 am	Bruce Colby (D)
1:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED On Monday, January 15.

COME HOLY SPIRIT! COME! New Wednesday Morning Bible study begins January 17 for seven consecutive meetings until February 28. Come join us as we return to *The Wild Goose: Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit*, a study by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR. Learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how important a role the Holy Spirit has in our lives. Each class will be held in the IHM large classroom on Wednesdays from 10 am to 11:30 am. All are welcome. If interested, please call Nancy Baysinger at 240-298-4713 soon so that materials may be ordered in time.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

FORMED To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press "sign up" and then enter the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!

WARM NIGHTS Immaculate Heart of Mary will once again be hosting the WARM Nights guests from the evening of January 14 through the morning of January 21. We are in need of monitors for three shifts through the night and a hot breakfast and dinner each day. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to serve the homeless of St. Mary's County. If you would like additional information or want to sign up, contact Marcie McLaughlin at (240) 298-1462 or go to warm.ihmrcc.org.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING On Monday, January 8 starting at 7 pm in Room Phillip. All are invited to attend!

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE AND EPHEBUS Join Fr. Harry Stokes and Fr. Ray Schmidt as they lead us in the Footsteps of St. Paul. We will tour many holy sites in Greece and then set sail on a 4-day cruise to visit several Greek islands and the Blessed Virgin's home in Ephesus. September 27 – October 7, 2024. \$4,811.00. For more information contact Margaret at stjoepa@comcast.net, or to register visit <https://sq408nio.paperform.co>.



PLEASE PRAY THAT THE SICK MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Kathleen Floyd, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Joseph, Rylee Corliss, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, Wanda Slater, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, Lisa and Paul Crowe, Adele Bavani, Violette Ghalbouny, Helen Pearson, John Flynn, Michael Briscoe, Patricia A. Louis, Susan Marie Hollis, Melva Coates, Frances Roof, Jayne C., Dcn. Barnes, Claude Clark, Coleen Corliss, Katie Beuchert,

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Follow us on



JANUARY 6 & 7, 2023

BREAD AND WINE (from *Sacred Signs* by Fr. Romano Guardini, 1927)

But there is another path that leads to God. Had not Christ's own words made it known to us so plainly, and the liturgy repeated them with so assured a confidence, we should not be bold enough to speak of it. Seeing God, loving God, by consciously turning toward him with our minds and wills, though a real union, is yet not a union of being with being. It is not only our minds and our wills that strive to possess God. As the psalm says, "My heart and my flesh are athirst for the living God." Only then shall we be at rest when our whole being is joined to his. Not by any mingling or confusion of natures, for creature and creator are forever distinct, and to suppose otherwise would be as nonsensical as it is presumptuous. Nevertheless, besides the union of simple love and knowledge, there is another union, that of life and being.

We desire, are compelled to desire, this union, and the Scripture and the Liturgy place upon our lips words that give profound expression to our longing. As the body desires food and drink, just so closely does our individual life desire to be united with God. We hunger and thirst after God. It is not enough for us to know him and to love him. We would clasp him, draw him to ourselves, hold him fast, and, bold as it sounds, we would take him into ourselves as we do our necessary food and drink, and thereby still and satisfy our hunger to the full.

The liturgy of Corpus Christi repeats to use these words of Christ: "As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father, so he that eats me, the same shall also live by me." Those are the words. For us to prefer such a claim as a thing due to us of right would border on blasphemy. But since it is God that speaks, we inwardly assent and believe.

But let us not presume on them as if in any way they effaced the boundary between creature and Creator. In deepest reverence, and yet without fear, let us acknowledge the longing which God himself has planted in us, and rejoice in this gift of his exceeding goodness. "My flesh," Christ says to us, "is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed...He that eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him...As the Father has given me to have life in myself, so he that eats me, the same also shall live by me." To eat his flesh, to drink his blood, to eat him, to absorb into ourselves the living God—it is beyond any wish we might be capable of forming for ourselves, yet it satisfies to the full what we long for,—of necessity long for,—from the bottom of our souls.

Bread is food. It is wholesome, nourishing food for which we never lose our appetite. Under the form of bread God becomes for us even the food of life. "We break: a

bread," writes Saint Ignatius of Antioch to the faithful at Ephesus, "we break a bread that is the food of immortality." By this food our being is so nourished with God himself that we exist in him and he in us.

Wine is drink. To be exact, it is more than drink, more than a liquid like water that merely quenches thirst. "Wine that makes glad the heart of man" is the biblical expression. The purpose of wine is not only to quench thirst, but also to give pleasure and satisfaction and exhilaration. "My cup, how goodly it is, how plenteous!" Literally, how intoxicating, though not in the sense of drinking to excess. Wine possesses a sparkle, a perfume, a vigor, that expands and clears the imagination. Under the form of wine Christ gives us his divine blood. It is no plain and sober draft. It was bought at a great price, at a divinely excessive price. *Sanguis Christi, inebria me* [Blood of Christ, inebriate me], prays Saint Ignatius, that Knight of the Burning Heart. In one of the antiphons for the feast of Saint Agnes, the blood of Christ is called a mystery of ineffable beauty. "I have drawn milk and honey from his lips, and his blood has given fair color to my cheeks."

For our sakes Christ became bread and wine, food and drink. We make bold to eat him and to drink him. This bread gives us solid and substantial strength. This wine bestows courage, joy out of all earthly measure, sweetness, beauty, limitless enlargement and perception. It brings life in intoxicating excess, both to possess and to impart.

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 8 — January 14

Mon:	7:00 pm	Parish Council Meeting
Fri:	6 pm to 8 pm	Estelle Thompson Vigil
Sat:	11:30 am	Estelle Thompson Funeral Mass
Sun:	All Day	WARM Nights in Parish Hall

LIVING AS A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN FAMILY Talk by Deacon Mike Crowe, accompanied by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday, January 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR ESTELLE THOMPSON IHM mourns the passing of longtime parishioner Estelle Thompson. The funeral services at IHM are as follows: Friday, January 12, Vigil prayers and Visitation from 6 pm to 8 pm; Saturday, January 13, viewing at 10:30 am, funeral Mass at 11:30 am, and the burial in the IHM cemetery after Mass.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DEACON? IHM is hosting a interest session given by the Archdiocese for those men who are interested in learning about joining the permanent diaconate. The event is Wednesday, January 31st starting at 7 pm.



January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

It's interesting how an event can be interpreted by different people. God's revelation of himself in the birth of the child Jesus is clearly one such event. The Magi, Gentiles from the east, had heard of this "newborn king of the Jews" and undertook a long and arduous journey to see him and offer him homage. They were edified and eager in their search. Herod, himself a king – of the Jews – did not have the same reaction. The very thought of this "newborn king" threatened him and filled him with rage and suspicion. In this moment in human history, the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (i.e., the Epiphany) unveils the truth of God's redemptive work for all of creation to be reconciled to himself. This truth has been accepted and rejected throughout time, and our celebration of this feast gives us an opportunity to give thanks in a focused and particular way for our acceptance of it – to give thanks for the gift of our faith. Perhaps it is even a moment for us to have our own, colloquial epiphany: an "aha moment," where we once again truly understand the depth of God's love for us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Magi, the Gentiles from the east, were changed after their encounter with the Christ Child; they were warned not to return to Herod and they obeyed and took a different route home. In today's second reading, St. Paul says it has been revealed that Gentiles are "coheirs, members of the same body" – the body of Christ. Just as the magi were forever changed by their journey, so must we be. Their journey is a model for us, but we do not have to seek Christ in the world as they did; he is here with us, in Word and in the Eucharist. The Incarnation of Jesus is pure gift to our weary, troubled world. As we heard in Isaiah, "rise up! ... [our] light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon [us]." As the Magi followed the light of the star, let us rise to the occasion and respond to God's light in our world by recognizing the good gifts God gives us each day. And then thank him for his enduring presence in our lives.

PRAY Lord God of heaven and earth,

*you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation
by the guidance of a star ...*

Fill us with the light of Christ,

that our concern for others may reflect your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

(from USCCB Epiphany prayer for blessing of home)