

The Stranger Knows Him

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Today's Gospel is very familiar to us. We have mental pictures of the three Wise Men traveling by night, riding camels, wearing rich robes, and each carrying treasure boxes full of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The passage we hear today is the first half of chapter 2 of Matthew's Gospel, ending with the adoration of the child by the Magi and the warning they received in a dream not to return to Herod. The rest of the chapter includes the flight into Egypt by Joseph and Mary with their newborn baby, the massacre of the innocent children of Bethlehem as Herod's men sought to rid the world of the infant king, and the return to Israel of the Holy Family after the death of Herod. It's a short chapter, only twenty-three verses, and it's all St. Matthew writes about Jesus before his baptism in the Jordan.

Saint Matthew was writing for Jewish Christians, and he took for granted that his audience knew Jewish history and the law and the prophets. In this short chapter, Matthew quotes the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) four times and each quote contains the name of a place—Bethlehem, Egypt, Ramah, and Nazareth. Why is Matthew



doing this? He is pointing out to the Jewish community that this Jesus is the fulfillment of all the prophets and the answer to their prayers; that he is not a stranger.

Luke, who was writing for Gentile Christians, mentions a different group who recognized Jesus. In his Gospel, he doesn't speak of the stranger but of the poor—the shepherds—who were the first to know him.

It seems that the Jewish religious and

political leaders should have recognized the Messiah. Herod consulted the chief priests and scribes, and they knew where he was to be born. Instead, strangers from the east, who had only a rumor to go by, welcomed him and did him homage.

Just so, it is possible for us to know the teachings but not know the teacher; to know the way but remain stuck on the path. The stranger sees what the native misses. The foreigner values what the citizen takes for granted. The poor and the alien recognize God.

Today we celebrate Epiphany—the light shines for all and into all hearts. Do we like what we see? If not, let's agree that rejecting the light of truth isn't the wisest response. Jesus promised that the truth will set us free (John 8:32). Garfield the cartoon cat said, "The truth will set you free...but first it will make you miserable!"

Have a blessed Epiphany! +

It is possible for us to know the teachings but not know the teacher; to know the way but remain stuck on the path.



Lord Jesus, so that our homes may be havens of peace, our families a source of joy, our children safe, and our elders respected, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 9–14

Monday, Baptism of the Lord: Is 42:1–4, 6–7 or Acts 10:34–38 / Mt 3:13–17

Tuesday, Weekday:
Heb 2:5–12 / Mk 1:21–28 or
Heb 1:1–6; 2:5–12 / Mk 1:14–20; 1:21–28

Wednesday, Weekday:
Heb 2:14–18 / Mk 1:29–39

Thursday, Weekday:
Heb 3:7–14 / Mk 1:40–45

Friday, Weekday:
Heb 4:1–5, 11 / Mk 2:1–12

Saturday, Weekday:
Heb 4:12–16 / Mk 2:13–17

Bringing Home
the Word +
January 8, 2023

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Bringing Home the Word +

The Epiphany of the Lord (A)
January 8, 2023

A Christ for Every Nation

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

"Go back where you came from!" What if the Magi heard this when they came to the place where the Child was and heeded that derisive message? The "signs of the times" that they read told them a king had been born. They might not have known exactly where to look, but they knew what they were looking for, and they recognized that king when they found him. These righteous men were not Israelites, yet God revealed this great mystery to them. Furthermore, there is no indication that they eventually became Israelites. Rather, "they departed for their country" (Matthew 2:12). God

really does not play favorites.

Then how are we to understand the claim of being God's Chosen People, whether ancient Israelites or the Christian community? What's the point of being chosen if you are not the favorite? While acknowledging God's special love for his Chosen People, both Isaiah and Paul answer this question. The prophet claims that "nations will walk by your light, kings by the radiance of your dawning" (Isaiah 60:3), and Paul writes, "the stewardship of God's grace...was given to me for your benefit" (Ephesians 3:2). In other words, some have been chosen by God to bring the light of God's love to others.

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates two important realities—the revelation of God to all people and the responsibility to reveal that astounding mystery to others. The Magi personify both realities. They were men of another faith tradition to whom God revealed the mystery of the Incarnation, and they returned home and probably proclaimed to others the wonder of that mystery. +

*Some have been chosen
by God to bring the light
of God's love to others.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The Magi humbled themselves before the unheard-of logic of God. They welcomed the Lord not the way they had imagined him to be, but as he was, small and poor. Their prostration is the sign of those who place their own ideas aside and make room for God. It takes humility to do this.

Angelus, Rome, January 6, 2022



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How respectful are you of the religious quests of others?
- In what ways might your life shine the light of God's love on others?



Parish of St. Vincent De Paul

"We as a community rooted in the Catholic faith seek to imitate Christ's Examples of love and service to others and spread the light of our faith to others."

Parish phone: 509-234-2262 Jan. 8, 2023 website: stvincentconnell.org

Fr. Miguel A. Gustavo Ruiz Juárez 509-318-0295 gruiz@dioceseofspokane.org

Deacon Arturo Biebrich parish phone: 509-222-9223 after 5 pm only

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| Epiphany of the Lord Mass Jan. 8, 2023 Lector: Victoria Ocampo EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Maria Garcia Greeters & Presentation of Gift Onna Pollock family Altar Servers: Josh B & Angie V. | 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time Mass Jan. 15, 2023 Lector: Marv Grassl EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: James Freitag Greeters & Presentation of Gift Wally & Maria Goade Alter Servers: Giselle & Aubriel |
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Pope's Prayer intentions:

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. @ St. Paul's in Eltopia
10:30 a.m. @ St. Vincent's (English)
12:00 p.m. @ St. Vincent's (Spanish)

Saturday: 7:00 p.m. @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Adoration @ St. Vincent's

8:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Vincent's

Confessions: Wednesdays 6:30 pm @ St. Vincent's

Saturday 4:30 pm @ San Juan Diego

Church Secretary: Elida Fernández - secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com

Tues, Weds. Thurs 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917 - 12 – 3:30 pm on Tues. Weds. Thurs.

Prayer Chain: Call Carolyn Nordhus @ 509-234-5972

Breezeway Calendar: If you have any parish events or meetings that you would like on the all parish calendar that is posted in the breezeway please contact Marla Goade @ 539-5354 wmgoade73@gmail.com

Weekly Bulletin: Please email Elida Fernández secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com by WEDNESDAY EVENINGS for information to be included in the upcoming Sunday bulletin.

Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917

Website: To add or send information, pictures or news to the website please email Jaeniffer Kaiser @ jaeniffer2002@hotmail.com

LIKE our Facebook page to get updated posts and information about our parish. You can also see photos of all the activities that have been happening. If you want to post church happenings on Facebook please email Onna Pollock at olpollock@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Altar Flowers

Jan. – Guadalupanas

Feb. – Altar Society

NO CONFESSIONS

This Wednesday the 11th, Jan.
@ St. Vincent Parish

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS ED

Meets this Wed. the 11th

Dinner @ 5:30 pm

Class starts @ 6:00 pm

Connell Food Bank

Banco de Comida

Seniors: Tuesdays

3rd Edad- Tues. / Martes

10 & 24 of Jan.

10:00 am – 11:30 am

General Public:

El público en general:

Wednesdays / Miércoles

11 & 25 of Jan.

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK FROM THE PASTORAL PATTERNS BY JS

PAULISH CO:

What insights about your own faith have you gained from learning about other faith traditions? What could you do to be like a star and lead someone to know about Jesus?

STEWARDSHIP

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

Thank you for your generous Weekly contributions

| Dec. 4, 2022 | Dec. 11, 2022 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10:30 am - \$2352.00 | 10:30 am - \$985.00 |
| 12:00 pm - \$547.19 | 12:00 pm - \$675.00 |
| Basin City - \$733.00 | Basin City - \$851.00 |
| Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day | |
| Connell \$ 340.61 | Basin City \$ 824.00 |

Annual Catholic Appeal

St. Vincent's Goal:

\$23,891.00

Donations as of

Jan.4th: \$24,772.66

Goal Accomplished! Thank you for your generosity.

FR. GUS'S SCHEDULE FOR 2 WEEKS: Jan. 8, 2023 – Jan.22, 2023

Monday Jan. 9:

Fr. Gus' Day of Rest

Tues. Jan. 10:

4:00 pm Confessions @ Eltopia

5:00 pm Mass @ Eltopia

6:30 pm Finance Council @ Basin City

Wed. Jan. 11:

No Adoration / Mass @ Connell

No confessions @ Connell

5:30 pm Youth Group @ Connell

Thurs. Jan. 12:

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Eltopia

5:00 pm Parish Council @ Basin City

Fri. Jan. 13:

8:30 am Prison Ministry @ Connell

6:00 pm Rosary @ Eltopia

Sat Jan. 14:

Noon funeral @ Eltopia

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun Jan. 15: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell

Keep Fr. Gus in our prayers

Monday Jan. 16:

Fr. Gus' Day of Rest

Tues. Jan. 17:

Fr. Gus on Vacation

Wed. Jan. 18:

Fr. Gus on Vacation

Thurs. Jan. 19:

Fr. Gus on Vacation

5:00 pm Guadalupanas Meet

Fri. Jan. 20:

Fr. Gus on Vacation

Sat Jan. 21:

Fr. Gus on Vacation

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun Jan. 22: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell