

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

RISE UP IN SPLENDOR, JERUSALEM! YOUR LIGHT HAS COME,
THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHINES UPON YOU.

—ISAIAH 60:1

JANUARY 6, 2013

~ Parish Life and Activities... ~

<p>FINDING GOD</p>	<p>The splendid magi, all sparkle and dash and solemnity, march right up off the pages of Matthew's Gospel and into our churches today. Matthew alone tells us this grand and seductive story so that we might see the light and know that the child these magi visited is the fulfillment of prophecy, the king of the world that stretches to the magi's home country and beyond, right down the ages to us.</p> <p>We too see and understand anew. Like the magi, our patron saints for this day, we see in the newborn child the king of the universe and light of the world. Like the magi, we find in ourselves a new faith and a new life, Like them, we return to our home by a new route.</p> <p>We are asked to come away from this festive season ourselves renewed and awake to the presence of God among us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found, to be attentive and surprised and ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts.</p>
<p>END-OF-YEAR STATEMENTS</p>	<p>As in past years, we will be happy to send 2012 end-of-year contribution statements to anyone who requests one. You may contact us via phone 562.439.0931 x 0; stmatt@stmatthewlb.org. or drop a note in the collection basket today.</p>
<p>WE ARE ALL CALLED TO ACTION</p>	<p>The challenge of inviting Catholics to exercise "faithful citizenship" requires more than instruction and formation in the Church's social teaching. Our tradition of worship, centered in the Eucharist, also calls Catholics to put their faith into action in the political and social arena. The connection between liturgy and life is learned through participation in worship experiences that enlighten our spirits and move our hearts to action.</p> <p>For example, what we believe, where we are, and how we live out our faith can make a great difference in the struggle against violence. We see the loss of lives. We serve the victims. We feel the fear. We must confront this growing culture of violence with a commitment to life, a vision of hope and a call to action. To learn more about how you can put your faith into action, read <i>Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action</i>. This is a 1994 pastoral message of the U.S. Catholic Bishops located on www.usccb.org</p>
<p>THANK YOU VERY MUCH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The dignity of life ...</i></p> <p>We are in need of several new ministers to the sick. If you think you have a calling to this ministry and would like information, please contact Mr. Walter Murdock at 562.788.3082 or email: wmurdock@ca.rr.com.</p>
<p>AN INVITATION TO COME HOME</p>	<p>Have you been away from the Church and are now thinking about coming back, or do you know someone who wants to come home to the Catholic Church? Our neighbor parish, St. Bartholomew, will begin a 6-week program for non-practicing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church. No matter how long you have been away—for whatever reason—you are invited to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church. The sessions will be held on 6 consecutive Wednesdays beginning January 9, 6:30-8:00p.m. with a welcome and overview of the series. For more information you may call Kathleen Flood at 562.434.3163.</p>
<p>NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 13, 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIRST READING: ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7 SECOND READING: ACTS 10:34-38 GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Let me thank God again for the gift of my baptism and those in my life who led me to the sacrament. Let me remember that faith is given to share with others.</i></p>