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.
The revelation came, most recently, last Sunday evening—in the darkening church shortly before the 5:30 Mass. I had just come into the nave when Matthew approached me and said, “There is a man in the front row, who is homeless and looking for a blanket. Jennifer [Kelly] went home to find one, but I thought you might want to know.” I sighed, feeling how little I wanted to know any of it, and how much I just wanted to go and light the candles and get in my vestments before Mass began. After a full week of Christmas and a weekend of Sacraments, I felt spent, and the idea of encountering someone for whom I knew I had few answers seemed like a great burden. But, putting my things in the sacristy I came out—my sense of duty and shame stronger than my weariness—and greeted the man in the front row. And when he greeted me back, and told me how he had lost the blanket he had in his “keep” and was hoping to get one here, all the dread and weariness receded and I was just there with him, in that moment, looking at the dark eyes, lit by the church’s pendants, and at the hands, marked by tattoos and a few odd rings. We spoke for several minutes about shelters and why he avoided them, and I gave him a few dollars someone had given me earlier in the day, and a blanket my niece had given me last Christmas. Then Jennifer returned with a bigger blanket and some food, and I went on to prepare for Mass—the burden of time and task banished for awhile by the grace so unexpectedly manifest.

I should, of course, be used to these moments by now—be used to the way in which God catches me when I am full of plans or feeling sorry for myself, and shows me what Hopkins calls the “deep down things” that lie at the heart of this mundane existence. It happens in hospital rooms, when I get a call out of the blue from someone whose father has had a stroke and who doesn’t know anyone else to call. Dragging myself away from whatever I am doing, I go—often grumbling to myself and feeling very put upon—only to find, as I did this last week, a good man surrounded by two loving daughters and a granddaughter, all of whom feel overwhelmed in the worst day of their lives. But in the moments that follow, in the oil and touch, in the desire of the daughters and in the response of the pa-

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**Become Epiphany People**

*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man’s smudge and shares man’s smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.*

*And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.*

*Gerard Manley Hopkins*
tient to the care and love of his family and to the sound of the ancient prayers, all my trash and nonsense fall away. I see again what is real, what matters. I see the face of Christ, manifested in all those gathered in that room; and I see, again as Hopkins says, “the Holy Ghost over the bent / World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.”

So often, it seems, notions of holiness and spirituality stand divorced from our day-to-day lives—as though the way to God involves leaving the world of flesh and blood and entering some distant realm of angels and disembodied light. The world, after all, is filled with suffering and death, with wickedness and lies. We listen to the news or open social media and all we see is outrage and anger, viciousness and threat. We look about us and see our government taking children from their parents and caging them along the border, while pardoning those who committed atrocities in war. We hear the cries of indigenous peoples, driven from their lands by developers or by the ravages of climate change; and we watch as the specter of antisemitism again raises its bloody hand. We feel surrounded by propaganda and lies, and abandoned by those who ought to speak. Even those who profess faith—who speak of Jesus or Mohammed, of Krishna or Moses—seem caught in the politics of oppression and hatred, of power and greed. What we need, it seems, is to escape from this world; yet, what God gives, instead, is a call to full immersion.

In the Incarnation of Jesus, God ordains that holiness is no longer beyond this world, but at its core—waiting for those with eyes to see, with ears to hear, with hearts that lead them beyond the props and illusions that profess to be reality. Though the world may seem to be going to hell in a hand basket, we are a people called to a new and deeper vision, called to see beyond our own fears and angers, called—in the words of the Prophet Isaiah—to “Raise your eyes and look about!” For what we seek is not across the sea or in the sky; rather, it awaits us in every moment of love or hope or mercy, in every glance or tear or laugh; it is present in the rising sun or in the wind upon the branches; it is there, in the face of every child and the touch of every ancient hand. “The world is charged with the grandeur of God,” but like the Magi in the story of Jesus, we must be willing to look up and see, willing to recognize and follow what is already waiting for us. What is needed is not escape from this world, but epiphany—the desire to look upon all that exists with new eyes and new hearts, transformed by the love of God.

St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, believed epiphany to be at the heart of the Christian experience, telling his followers to “seek God in all things and all things in God.” Busy with various apostolic activities, he called his Jesuit brothers and others with whom he worked to become people attuned to the epiphanies of life, and taught them a prayer to aid in this renewed vision. This prayer—the Examen—is simple, because it relies less on our skill than on the grace of the God who wishes to be revealed. In praying the Examen, we are invited to open our hearts with thanks for all that God has brought into our lives, and then to ask for the grace of recognition of all the moments of graced given and missed since the last time of prayer. This recollection is the heart of the Examen, and the great training-ground for all who seek epiphany—i.e., the manifestation of God in the world. For each day, as we look it over, we can see the stars that rose to guide us, and the divinity that was offered to us in an instant: the daughter who sought our time in the morning, or the son who wanted to show us his art; the moonrise, as it pierced the clouds and behind the mountain, or the smile of the barista when we took our coffee; the sorrow of a coworker, looking for someone in whom to confide, or the homeless mother, sitting outside the QFC. In each of these moments—as in the stable at Bethlehem—the Son of God lies hidden, to those who have not yet made the journey to see. And in our recollection, we grow to discern and distinguish the light of grace—the epiphany—from the noise and blinding glare of all that would deceive us.

We cannot become epiphany-people all at once—even the Magi ended up in Jerusalem on their way to Bethlehem—and yet, unless we rise and follow, we shall never see the truth. The magi, who arrive at the home of Jesus, know nothing of the promises of Isaiah or the covenant offered to the Jewish people. But they knew that their lives were missing something, that their world was incomplete. They knew how to look up, knew how to flame into action the embers of their desire, and so they followed the star—the spirit of hope that moved them and led them deeper and deeper into the God-blessed world.

Today the world is filled with Herods—with men and women endowed with wealth and power, with privilege and cunning—but who lack the desire to see something more. They wait in their castle, as though someone else could bring this vision to them. But epiphany comes when we recognize our desire and our need. It comes when we look for God in the world, for there God is waiting to be found.

John 3:16
The Epiphany of the Lord
Welcome to St. Joseph. Please take a moment to silence your cell phones.

Prelude

What Star Is This?  
Prelude

What star is this with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed: “From Jacob shall a star proceed.”
And lo! The eastern sages stand to read in heav’n the Lord’s command.

While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys.
It urges them, with force benign, to seek the Giver of the sign.

O Jesus, while the star of grace invites us all to seek your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
May ev’ry tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise!

Entrance Song

We Three Kings

1. We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts, we traverse afar; Field and fountain, Moor and mountain, Following yonder star,
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him again; King forever, Ceasing never, Over us all to reign.
3. Frankincense to offer have I; In cense owns a Deity night; Prayer and praising, Gladly raising, Worshiping God on high.
4. Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, Bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to the perfect Light.
First Reading
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.

Isaiah 60:1-6
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.

Responsorial Psalm
Every nation on earth will adore you, Lord.
O God, with your judgment endow the king, with your justice endow the king’s son, With justice he will govern your people, your afflicted ones with right judgement. Ref.
Justice shall flow’r in his days, lasting peace till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, from the river to the ends of the earth. Ref.
The kings of Tarshish and the Isles offer gifts, those from Seba and Arabia bring tribute. All kings shall pay him their homage, all nations shall serve him. Ref.
He rescues the poor when they cry out, the afflicted with no one to help. The lowly and poor he shall pity, the lives of the poor he will save. Ref.
Second Reading
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.

Gospel Acclamation
Christmastime Alleluia
Chepponis

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.

Homily
Glen Butterworth, S.J.

Offertory Song
What Child Is This?
GREENSLEEVES

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping, Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
2. Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading, vacation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings sal— This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.
All are invited to come forward. If you do not ordinarily receive Eucharist, or choose not to, come for a blessing, indicating your desire by putting your hand on your heart.

If you have a gluten allergy, & need a gluten free host, please come to the presider & indicate this.
Song Of Praise

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILIO

Communion Song

The First Nowell

English
Young Adult Ministry

Soulful Soups
Soulful Soups is Back!

Tis’ the season for soup and friends! Join the St. Joseph Young Adult community for family style dinners every other week (late October through February). The January Soulful Soups will take place in the Social Hall at 7 pm on January 6th & January 20th. You are welcome to bring a drink, side, or salad to share. We take turns providing the soup, and you can sign up to bring soup at https://tinyurl.com/soulfulsoup. Email Callie Turgeon with any questions (cturgeon10@gmail.com).

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please join the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month in the Brebeuf Room of the Parish Center at 7pm. We have yarn, needles and patterns. If you do not know how to knit or crochet, we can teach you. All are welcome on Tuesday, January 7th we would love to meet you.

If you would like a Prayer Shawl for yourself or someone you know, email prayershawl@stjosephparish.org

YOU ARE MINE

January 11-12 | Cost: $115
Camp Huston in Gold Bar, WA

Carpooling & Partial Scholarships Available
To Register Go to: tinyurl.com/stjoe2020

Contact Theresa Shepherd-Lukasik at
TheresaL@stjospehparish.org

Young Adult Ministry Retreat
Marriage Enrichment Weekend

January 31 - February 2, 2020
La Conner, WA

Please join with married couples of all ages and walks of life as we gather for a weekend of spiritual reflection and fellowship.

**Brand New Day**

Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

$395 per Couple*
* Partial Scholarships Available

For more information or to register, please contact Deacon Steve at (206) 965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org.

* Price includes two nights lodging, Continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and the Saturday evening group dinner.
Faith Justice

St. Vincent de Paul
Collection
January 4 & 5

Agape Service Trip
• A week of upholding the dignity of our migrant brothers and sisters
• A week of living your faith and meeting Christ
• A week of hope joy, and purpose
• A week of Agape love

The Agape Service Project 2020 is scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd through Friday, August 7th and will take place in and around Skagit Valley. Youth Registration is now open and will fill on a first come, first serve basis.

The Agape Service Project is open to all sixth (6th) through eighth (8th) graders of the 2019-2020 academic school year. PARENT & CHILD INTEREST MEETING – JANUARY 8th at 6:00pm in the Parish Center. For more information and a set of registration forms contact Claire Hansen: claireh@stjosephparish.org

Faith Formation

Blood Drive
Monday, January 13th - Parish Center
Hours: 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm (closed 2:00 pm – 3:00)
To make an appointment, please sign up after Mass! Walk-ins welcome around scheduled donors.

We especially need help around this time to ensure an ample blood supply for our community around the holidays.

RCIC
Are you interested in making the Catholic Church a home for your older child? Consider enrolling your child in our Spring RCIC series! RCIC stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. RCIC is a process through which children become fully initiated members of the Roman Catholic Church. Starting in March, St. Joseph will hold sessions on most Wednesday afternoons from 4-5 PM. Children who are older than the 3rd grade who have not been baptized are warmly invited to join the group. This process will include prayer, instruction, working with peers, and the celebration of rites leading to the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Easter season. To enroll your child in this program, please contact Claire Hansen (Director of Youth Faith Formation) at claireh@stjosephparish.org.

Children’s Faith Formation Schedule
1/12/20 - First Sunday class of 2020
2/1/20 - CFF 1 Parent and Child Workshop 10am-noon
3/8-10/20 - CFF 2 Chalice Making Sessions
3/28/20 - CFF 2 Parent and Child Workshop 9am-noon

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