

## From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The word "Epiphany" is a Greek word which means "manifestation". On this day Jesus manifested that he was to be the savior not only of the Jews but all of humankind. This idea is presented in this weekend's Second Reading: "God's secret plan...has been revealed by the Spirit. ...In Christ Jesus the gentiles are now coheirs with the Jews, members of the same body and sharers of the promises through the preaching of the Gospel."

This feast manifests how Jesus was to be Savior of all of humankind, that is, what he was going to do in order to win salvation. The Church according to a very ancient tradition, sees the gifts of the Magi as symbolic of his mission and his character. Gold of course was the most precious metal of the day. It was intended to manifest the value and preciousness of the person of Christ; that value is infinite since Jesus is Christ himself. Frankincense, or simply incense, was used in worship, and it was a sign that Jesus would be a priest

who would give perfect worship to his Father in heaven. Myrrh was used to embalm bodies in preparation for burial. It

symbolized how Jesus would give worship to the Father, that is, by sacrifice, by the offering of his life as a victim.

And so, Epiphany brings out not so much that Jesus was a receiver of gifts from the Magi, but that he himself was to be a most precious gift to his Father in the worship of sacrifice. He was to save all of humankind by the offering of himself as a victim.

All gift giving is meant to say something. It says something about the giver and the receiver. It says that the giver wants to express his or her respect, his or her concern, his or her love. The preciousness of the gift says something about the receiver. It indicates his or her position, his or her dignity, and how high he or she stands in the esteem of the giver. In the Mass our gift says that we want to express our love, our esteem, our concern for God. And we give him the most valuable thing we can because of who God is.

It follows then that there must be something behind the gift. For example, if a man gives his wife a gift on their wedding anniversary, no matter how costly the gift, it may mean little or nothing to her, if she rarely sees her husband at home, if he seems to have little time for her, if they are always bickering and quarreling, then the gift is empty, hollow, even hypocritical. The gift should mean that she is the



first in the affection of her husband, not just a meaningless present. A gift is meant to be symbolic, to be acceptable, it must represent the giver.

And so, with ourselves in the Mass. Even our giving of Jesus as a victim to God may actually be meaningless. If we do not have time for God., if we rarely or never pray to him and think about him, if we are unfaithful to God in our daily lives, then the Mass does not mean for us what it should. It may be empty, hollow or even hypocritical.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

# Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	January 4	11:00AM
Dave & Ma Socorro		Lilibeth Licad
Jeebov	V	
Wed.	January 5	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
Thur.	January 6	11:00AM
Pablito & Concepcion		Lilibeth Licad
Lic	ad	
Fri.	January 7	11:00AM
Simeon Rojo†		Imelda & Dolly
Sat.	January 8	4:30PM
Joseph Noe †	Stella & Family	
Sun.	January 9	9:00AM
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		11:00AM
Special Intentions		
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#### Sunday Collection - December 26th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$201
Christmas	\$5976
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	\$150
Christmas	\$527

#### Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

## Holiday Hours

The office will be closed Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> in observance of New Year's Day!

# How do you celebrate the Epiphany?

Do you leave your shoes outside to receive a little gift from the Three Wise Men?
(Spain)

Do you participate in a parade or procession? (Poland, Guatemala)

Does La Befana bring you a little sweet or gift?

(Italy)

Do children leave out grass and water for the camels? (Peru)

Perhaps you throw a party with a Kings Cake? (New Orleans)

Maybe you prefer a plunge into icy water to retrieve a crucifix, or just take a dip through a crucifix shaped hole? (Bulgaria, Turkey, Russia)

There is also a taste of the sweet Rusca de Reyes with baby Jesus hidden inside?
(Mexico)

These are just a few of the many ways!

#### Special Second Collection Next Week

Every year our Diocese takes up a second collection for our financial support to our seminarians. I know this year is still a challenging year for all of us financially, but I humbly appeal to all of you to give your best effort to support our seminarians in their training and formation in your own unique and creative way. Most of all with our Bishop, I would like to request that you keep our seminarians in your prayers. Prayer especially during Holy Mass is the one of the most effective ways in campaigning and promoting vocations in our Church.

If you like to support their studies, please consider making an e-donation through the following website: <a href="https://oakdiocese.org/vocations">https://oakdiocese.org/vocations</a> Or send us a check to, Office of Vocations, 2121 Harrison Street, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612.

#### Fr. Carl Arcosa

**Director of Vocations and Seminarians** 



# Breaking Bread Mass Book

We still have a few books available. If you would like to follow along during Mass, the new Breaking Bread music and reading books (Advent 2021-Thanksgiving 2022) are still available. If you are interested in a personal copy for a \$10 donation, please come by the office or let Father Leo know!