The Epiphany of the Lord — January 8, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

As children we identified with the Magi. We joined their caravan to adventure and despised the people of Jerusalem who hid in the darkness. Today we are wiser women and men. If the star is still our hope for the future, it also reveals us as we are. We have done nicely; we have made a living for ourselves in the world as it is; we have shared in King Herod's presumption of rank.

Perhaps we do not want the light. Assuredly we do not want to be governed. We do not want to see ourselves as we really are, dependent on one another in our maturity as we were in our youth. We are never quite certain if revelation will be a blessing or a curse; we suspect that it may be both.

What has gone wrong that we are suddenly the ones threatened by darkness? We are good people surely? Indeed; and God has not only make known to us the mystery of Christ but has also made us stewards of his mystery for the world's good. The sign of the star is eternal; it says that God's light is stronger than a lifetime of exile and estrangement. Revelation comes to those who have been in a great darkness. And prophecy is a vision hat we hope our grandmothers and grandfathers will inherit before they die, when in the return of their sons and daughters the abundance of the sea shall come to them. The prophet Isaiah's message is not an empty promise; it is a light from the end of life, a vision of how things will be when we stop depending on ourselves and others, then will God be in our midst to save us. Until then, the glory of God's light shining through our exile, the star of Bethlehem, upholds us in our struggle against the darkness.

For today, the patient, expectant waiting that we began in Advent is fulfilled. The plan that God had prepared for the world's salvation, the revelation foreshadowed in so many ways in the long course of Israel's history, moves forward again. Rejoicing, therefore, we come again to the ancient sources of our story to drink deeply of God's love and to seek the light of revelation.

That God's vision should be for all of us without distinction, that none of us can shape it according to a private tradition – this is the Revelation, the blessing and the curse. It is so hard because it is so simple. The unsearchable richness of God's plan is a great mystery, not as something secret, but as usurpassable glory. We have caught its splendor enshrined even in such ancient systems as the code of Hammurabi and in the wise sayings of Confucius in China. In this way at Epiphany our humanity is married to the divine. The great exchange had been made. From now on, to be truly God like, we need only be ourselves - truly human.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**January 10**	**11:00AM**
Jessica Ouk (health)		Ma & Pa
Wed.	**January 11**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Thur.	**January 12**	**11:00AM**
Elma Nursement †		Donna & Pauline†
Fri.	**January 13**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Alma & Jong
Sat.	**January 14**	**4:30PM**
Thomas Wolthuis †		Roxene
Sun.	**January 15**	**9:00AM**
Arturo Balagot †		Arturo Balagot
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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