



*Mother of God Catholic Church*  
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Dearest sisters and brothers in Christ,

On January 3rd, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Epiphany celebrates the revelation and manifestation of Christ the King to the Magi. The ***overwhelming joy*** the Wise Men experienced when they reached their destination where the Christ child lay was the joy that comes when the growing hope within them and their hope gave way to the attainment of a vision of Christ, which they believed in and hoped for beforehand (John 20:29; Hebrews 11:1-2; 1 John 3:2). What joy, Christ is the light and our King!

We have shared a year of severe darkness enveloped in the suffering of a global pandemic; darkness of suffering, lost jobs, hunger where there once was security and a feeling that our lives will never be the same again. We've made sacrifices to protect ourselves and each other from the ravages of ubiquitous uncertainties.

Where shall we look for the light to guide our way to the new year of hope and promise? What should we, as a Catholic family, do to bring light into our lives? We can hold dear in our hearts that our Lord is the light! As we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, let us pray for His eternal light to shine through us in all that we think, do and say! Let us write upon our hearts the remembrance of our Lord, through the solemnity of the Epiphany.

***“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult...”*** (Isaiah 60:1-6)

As we begin a new year, let us pray for the broken heart of our world that we may be healed by sharing peace, compassion and joy with everyone. Let us pray that our blessings, given by our Lord, will pass on to all those in need and all those suffering. Let us pray for a new year of love, healing and peace, in Jesus' name.

***Amen.***

In Christ,

Fr. Vincent Phung

### ***The baptism of Christ***

Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptized; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.

John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: *I ought to be baptized by you*. He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again. *I ought to be baptized by you*; we should also add: *and for you*, for John is to be baptized in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as to an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead. A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honor to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honor to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received—though not in its fullness—a ray of its splendor, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PLEASE PICK UP A 2021 CHURCH CALENDAR LOCATED AT THE CHURCH DOORS.**

**Please join us for a Mass dedicated to the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.**