

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Epiphany is a feast of light. Isaiah in the first reading says “Jerusalem, your light has come”. In the gospel, we watch the Magi as they follow the light of the star to discover the light of Christ. So, Jesus is our light. But how do we know when he is shining on us? After all, there is a great deal of darkness in our world: family crises, war, terrorist shootings. With all these evils around us, how do we know when Christ is present, when his light shines on us?



A number of years ago, there was a very serious storm in Rochester, New York. Thousands of people were without power. Utility crews were working around the clock. The customer service departments were overwhelmed with complaints. One irate customer kept an agent on the phone for over 20 minutes with a seemingly endless barrage of questions. Finally, he said “Now, how will I know when my power comes back on?” The agent thought for a moment, and then in her most professional voice she said “Sir, you will know because it will be brighter than it is now.”

We should not limit our search for Jesus only to places of light. We need to find Christ’s light in the darkness. The surest sign of his presence is when things become brighter than they were before. When we look at the hostility and violence of our world, we as believers are called to look for moments when enemies begin to talk to one another or when the will of the many holds sway over the power of the few. In those moments, things become brighter, and we believe that Christ is there.

As we deal with the child abuse crisis in our church, it is important to notice the courage of parents who speak out in defense of their children, the actions of some bishops who truly put protecting children first, and the many Catholic believers who continue to support their church communities and proclaim the message of Jesus. In all of these actions, there is more light, and Christ’s love becomes visible.

There is plenty of darkness in our families. Relatives who do not speak to one another, sickness that limits our abilities, the unrealistic demands of an aging parent that exhaust us. Here, too, we must look for those actions that increase the light. When warring relatives step back rather than making things worse, when the pain of a sick person eases enough to enjoy a simple day, when an aging parent sincerely says “thank you” for all we have done, the light increases, and we believe that Jesus is in it.

The feast of the Epiphany asks us to search for those moments when things become brighter and believe that Christ is there. This approach might not be as glorious and awesome as the Magi finding the Christ child in Bethlehem, but it still is of immense value. Because whenever we can see even a bit more light, we know that we are in the presence of the Light of the World.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. Jan. 9th - The Baptism of the Lord, feast

Is. 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mat. 3:13-17

Tue. Jan. 10th - Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28

Wed. Jan. 11th - Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39

Thurs. Jan. 12th - ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS, memorial
Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45

Fri. Jan. 13th - Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12

Sat. Jan. 14th - Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17

Sun. Jan 15th - 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is. 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor. 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Wed. Jan. 11th - 7 :30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Jan. 14th - 5:00 PM - A & A Taban,
J.Tuguinay.

Sun. Jan. 15th - 9AM - J & S Yip, A & V Collins. **11AM** - K & K Bui, S.Cho, N.Sanchez, A.Kolobova,
W. Del Rosario. **5PM** - Cecilia, Faustina & Teresa Le,
C.Akol & A.Mendoza.

A Word of Thanks from our Pastor

I hope all of you have had a Christmas filled with peace and joy. So many of our parishioners have been generous with their time so that the celebrations, in our church, truly reflected the light and joy of the season. Special thanks go to the Sacristans, the Musicians, the Altar Servers, and all those who helped with the decorations in the church, as well as to our Knights of Columbus, CWL and El Shaddai.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many cards, gifts and well wishes you have extended to Fr. Joseph and I, during this special time, it was much appreciated.

I look forward to another new year, working along side all of you.

*Sincerely,
Fr. Jun*

PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2023

Have you picked up your new sets of parish envelopes? They are arranged alphabetically. Anyone wishing envelopes for 2023, who are not currently using them or giving online, is asked to call the parish office.

RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult) is held every Thursday at 7 pm, in the church hall. The program is suitable for anyone interested in learning more about our faith, for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and for those who would like to deepen their faith. Interested? Know someone who might be? For more info call the parish office.



CWL NEWS

- **Friendship Day:** Join us this Sunday after the 9 and 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church.

- **Executive Meeting:** Monday, Jan. 9th at 7 pm in the church hall. All members of the Executive are asked to attend.

OPEN CHURCH

Can you spend one hour in prayer with the Lord? Our Open Church program is in need of volunteers. One hour a week is all it takes. If you are ready to make that commitment, please call Helen Low at 604-433-8520 or the parish office.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is in need of volunteers. Can you help? For info call Mr. Neo Regala at 604-307-9032

SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** Please join us this Wednesday at 9 am.
- **St. Jude School Accepting new Applications**

We are now accepting new applications for the 2023-24 school year. If interested, please call the school office at 604-434-1633 for application form.

FEAST OF STO. NINO Saturday, January 28th at 5 pm

Please join us for Mass at 5 pm followed by a procession.
All are welcome to attend!

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Mat. 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

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Chinese New Year Mass with Archbishop Miller

Join this Chinese New Year's Eucharistic celebration with Archbishop Miller on Jan. 22, 2023 at Our Lady of Fatima parish in Coquitlam, at 3:00 p.m. Learn more and register at: beholdvancouver.org/events.

Making Sense of Adolescence

Crossing the bridge from childhood to adulthood has never been so daunting. The time of adolescence is longer than ever, yet society today offers little support in understanding or facilitating this transition. This course is designed to be used by parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators, professionals - anyone who desires to make sense of adolescence. Parents of all ages will find this course invaluable as preparation for what lies ahead. As we enter into a new year, the Archdiocese of Vancouver is pleased to offer, for the first time Making Sense of Adolescence, a Dr. Neufeld video course with discussion facilitated by Keven Bredeman, M.A. Starting Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, weekly until Thursday, Mar. 9, 2023. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

Encountering Jesus - Sunday Gospel Meditations for Families

Is family prayer time a struggle? Are your children having difficulty paying attention during Mass? Take part in a family-friendly Mass reading preparation and/or review through a simple Lectio Divina based on the Sunday Gospel readings. This ready-made, on-demand AUDIO program is easy to follow and engages all ages - K-7 and teens/adults to "Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest and make Resolutions" in their lives to live out God's word. The short, yet effective sessions are designed for kids in mind. Guided prayer meditations included. Learn more and register at inspiredwithgrace.com/families

