

Theme Sharing



Epiphany of Our Lord (Christ is the Light of All Peoples)

Today we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany of Our Lord and commemorate Christ as the light of all peoples.

The same scripture passages are used in the readings for all three liturgical years. So what message is it really trying to convey? It is that salvation is for all, not just for the chosen people – the Israelites. In the Hebrew Testament, God promised the Israelites that Jesus would be sent to them as their Saviour. However, when Jesus was born, his own people rejected him; and it was the Gentiles, the “outsiders” from a foreign land, who first came to adore the new-born Messiah.

Today's gospel shows that the entire human family would be the new chosen people in place of the Israelites who had rejected their God in the first place. The first reading prophesizes that all nations will be drawn to God, while the second reading reveals that salvation will come to all peoples. In the language of the Old Testament, the term “all peoples” or “Gentiles” simply means non-Israelites.

As the chosen people, the Israelites worshipped God and accepted God as their Lord and King. On the other hand, all non-Jews or Gentiles were despised and considered as outcasts who knew nothing about the God of Israel. They worshipped man-made idol gods who “have eyes but cannot see, and have ears but cannot hear.” However, it was prophesized that, at some point of time in the future, all peoples would come to know God and worship him as their Lord.

Although Paul was only called as an apostle following Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven, he was the first to realize that God's plan of salvation would encompass all humankind. So Paul set his mission to preach the gospel to all nations. In today's second reading, he proclaims that salvation is universal: “the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Brothers and sisters, it was 2000 years

ago when, by the light of a star, the Magi from the East were guided all the way to Bethlehem in Judea to pay tribute to infant Jesus. In fact, this is a sign of what is to come at the second Coming of Christ when all peoples will converge on him, and Jesus will be the King of kings and be adored by all. We are now living between the first and second coming of Christ. Just like the Magi, we are also guided by a star – our Mother Church.

The Second Vatican Council document “Lumen Gentium” states that today's Church is the “pilgrim church”, reflecting the light of Christ and symbolizing the budding and beginning of the Kingdom of God on earth. In close union with God, the Church is a sign and tool for unity of the human family. The liturgy of today's mass explains the universality of salvation and affirms the important role of the Church in God's plan. Our Church is the New Jerusalem prophesized by Isaiah and the mystery mentioned by Paul in the second reading. All peoples will gather within the Church to proclaim the glory of God; and through her preaching of the gospel, all peoples are able to enjoy the fruits of salvation in Christ.

Gospel of joy Evangelii Gaudium

Pope Francis advised “Gospel of joy” (Evangelii Gaudium) for 2014 «Gospel of joy»: Church to open the door, issuing prophetic voice

The fourth point: conversation and encounter. Dialogue with other Christian churches and other religious believers, and non-believers. Given that the Muslims enjoy freedom of religion in Western countries, the Pope humbly implored that the same religious freedom must be guaranteed to all Christians living in Islamic countries. He opposed to the privatization of religion, pointing out that the respect given to the minority number of agnostics and non-believers should not be a cause for the majority believers to keep silent of their faith. To Be Continued

Vatican Radio News

Pope Francis' Invite you to pray for the Family of the whole world

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, we turn to you in trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, make our families too places of communion and cenacles of prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and little domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may violence, closure and division never again be experienced in families; may whoever has been wounded or scandalized soon be consoled and healed. Holy Family of Nazareth, may the coming Synod of Bishops reawaken in everyone the consciousness of the sacred and inviolable character of the family, its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, hear and grant our supplication. Amen.

News & Others

2014 Pope's New Year's Message Stresses Strength, Courage, Hope

VATICAN CITY -- Pope Francis, laying out his hopes Wednesday for the just-begun year, urged people to work for a world where everyone accepts each other's differences and where enemies recognize that they are brothers.

“We are all children of one heavenly father, we belong to the same human family and we share a common destiny,” Francis said, speaking from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square, jammed with tens of thousands of faithful, tourists and Romans. “This brings a responsibility for each to work so that the world becomes a community of brothers who respect each other, accept each other in one's diversity, and takes care of one another,” the pope said.

Setting aside his prepared text for a moment, he expressed impatience with violence in the world. “What is happening in the heart of man? What is happening in the heart of humanity?” Francis asked. “It's time to stop.” He told the crowd this reflection was inspired

by letter he received from a man -- "maybe one of you" -- who lamented that there are "so many tragedies and wars in the world." "I, too, believe that it will be good for us to stop ourselves in this path of violence and search for peace," Francis said.

In his remarks to the often-applauding crowd, he also expressed hope that "the gospel of brotherhood speak to every conscience and knock down the walls that impede enemies from recognizing that they are brothers." The Catholic church dedicates Jan. 1 to the promotion of world peace.

Earlier, during his homily at New Year's Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Francis spoke of humanity's journey in the year unfolding and invoked what he said where "words of blessing," explaining that they are "strength, courage and hope."

"Not an illusory hope," he added, "based on frail human promises, or a naive hope which presumes that the future will be better simply because it is the future."

In his first year as pope, Francis has charted a path for what he calls a "poor" church attentive to the needy. While offering New Year's wishes to the crowd in the square, Francis pressed his campaign on behalf of the downtrodden.

"We are also called to see the violence and injustices present in so many parts of the world, and which cannot leave us indifferent and immobile," Francis said. "There is the need for the commitment of all to build a society that is truly more just and united." Hearing "the cry of peace from peoples who are oppressed by war and by violence," Francis prayed that "the courage of dialogue and reconciliation prevail over the temptation for vendetta, arrogance, corruption."

Parish Activities

Fr. Nguyen visit his hometown

Since Fr. Nguyen will go to visit his hometown from January 11 to February 6, Deacon John Wu will handle our Church matters during this period. Fr. Trienekens, Fr. Lowing, Fr. Ganowicz, Fr. Buttigieg and Fr. Mak will help out with the weekday and weekend Masses.

Tuesday English Marian Devotion Mass will be cancelled from January 14 to February 4.

Chinese New Year Banquet 2014

Date: Saturday February 8
Time: Reception from 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Venue: Chinese Cultural Centre, banquet by Cultural Centre Restaurant
Ticket: \$30 /adult, \$15/child (aged 12 or below), \$300 for a table of 10.
A FREE raffle ticket will be given to each dinner ticket holder at the banquet.
Banquet tickets will be sold at the Religious Article Centre after each mass beginning January 5. Parishioners can contact Church Group representatives or Goretti Shing at 403-295-8937 to purchase tickets. Donation of gifts for Banquet Draw would be much appreciated. Please contact Parish Pastoral Councillors or Parish Office for details.

SCOUTING BOTTLE DRIVE

OLPH 300 Catholic Scouts are fundraising for their Scout program & activities with a Bottle Drive this weekend (Jan 4 & 5) & Jan 11 & 12. Cans & bottles can be placed outside Lower Hall. Please save cans & bottles from your festive parties to support our scouts.

Together in Action 2013

Theme: "You will be my witnesses"
Our parish's final target is \$50,000.
Donation envelopes can be picked up from both the front and the side entrances. As of December 1, our campaign has received a total of \$ 58,072.44.
May God bless you for your generous support!

Weekly Activities

Wed, Fri 8, 10

OLPH Senior Centre

Time: 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon

Place: OLPH Church, Upper Hall

Fri 10

OLPH Scout

Time: 6:30pm.-8:30 pm

Place: Upper Hall & Lower Hall

Saturday 11

Legion of Mary (meeting)

(Immaculate Heart of Mary Praesidium)

Time: 9:45a.m.

Place: K of C Room

Faith Sharing Group (N.E)

Time: 10:30a.m.-12:00noon.

Contact: Sr. Sze 403-230-3801

Tai Chi Lesson

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00noon

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall
Yoga beginner class

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Yoga Class Party

Time: 3:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Upper Hall

Young Adults choir practice

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Place: OLPH Lower Hall

Faith Sharing Group (N.W.)

Time: 7:30p.m.-10:00p.m.

Contact: Wendy Tai 403-208-2268

Sunday 12

Deacon Wu Birthday Blessing Sunday School and Youth Group

Time: 10:00 a.m. Mass

R. C.I.A.

Adult Catechumenate Class

(Cantonese, Mandarin and English)

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:30p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Sunday School

Time: 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Place: Office Building

Imitating Christ

Chapter 25 :

Zeal In Amending Our Lives

Two things particularly further improvement -- to withdraw oneself forcibly from those vices to which nature is viciously inclined, and to work fervently for those graces which are most needed. To Be Continued

Stories Faith Sharing

Unrewarded

Most of us look to friends and colleagues for rewards: a slap on the back, a hero's medal, applause, a sincere compliment. But according to Jesus, the more important rewards await us after death. It's possible that the most significant human acts of all are carried out in secret, seen by no one but God. In a nutshell, the message of the kingdom is this: Live for God and not other people.

As Jesus explained it, we are accumulating a kind of savings account, storing up "treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:20) rather than on earth—treasures so great that they will compensate for any amount of suffering. The Old Testament has dropped a few scant hints about an afterlife, but Jesus spoke plainly about a place where "the righteous

will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matt. 13:43).

In their quest for a kingdom, the Jews of Jesus' day had been looking for signs of God's approval in this life, primarily through prosperity and political power. Beginning with this speech, Jesus changed the focus to the life to come (ch.6). He discounted success in this visible world. Invest in the future life, He cautioned. After all, rust, a thief, or a lowly insect can destroy all else that we accumulate (v.20).

Lord, help us not to seek the applause of our friends and colleagues, but rather to look to You for approval.

Teach us to put into practice the principles of the Sermon on the Mount. Amen.

Reward in eternity does not depend upon recognition in life.

Read More Know More

Christian Beatitude

1. The New Testament uses several expressions to characterize the beatitude to which God calls man:

- the coming of the Kingdom of God;
- the vision of God: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"
- entering into the joy of the Lord
- entering into God's rest:

There we shall rest and see, we shall see and love, we shall love and praise. Behold what will be at the end without end. For what other end do we have, if not to reach the kingdom which has no end?

2. God put us in the world to know, to love, and to serve him, and so to come to paradise. Beatitude makes us "partakers of the divine nature" and of eternal life. With beatitude, man enters into the glory of Christ and into the joy of the Trinitarian life.

3. Such beatitude surpasses the understanding and powers of man. It comes from an entirely free gift of God: whence it is called supernatural, as is the grace that disposes man to enter into the divine joy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

It is true, because of the greatness and inexpressible glory of God, that "man shall not see me and live," for the Father cannot be grasped. But because of God's love and goodness toward us, and because he can do all things, he goes so far as to grant those who love him the privilege of seeing him....

For "what is impossible for men is possible for God."

4. The beatitude we are promised confronts us with decisive moral choices. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement - however beneficial it may be - such as science, technology, and art, or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love:

All bow down before wealth. Wealth is that to which the multitude of men pay an instinctive homage. They measure happiness by wealth; and by wealth they measure respectability....

It is a homage resulting from a profound faith ... that with wealth he may do all things. Wealth is one idol of the day and notoriety is a second.... Notoriety, or the making of a noise in the world - it may be called "newspaper fame" - has come to be considered a great good in itself, and a ground of veneration.

5. The Decalogue, the Sermon on the Mount, and the apostolic catechesis describe for us the paths that lead to the Kingdom of heaven. Sustained by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we tread them, step by step, by everyday acts. By the working of the Word of Christ, we slowly bear fruit in the Church to the glory of God.

主日分享

主顯節-基督是萬民之光

我們今天慶祝主顯節，即「三王來朝瞻禮」。在這瞻禮，教會紀念耶穌是「萬民之光」。

福音的內容就是上面提起過的幾個賢士從東方來到耶路撒冷的故事。兩篇讀經從兩方面強調耶穌救世工程的普遍性。讀經一預言世界各國都要崇拜天主；讀經二聲明各國人民都要獲得救恩。聖保祿宗徒是耶穌復活後才蒙召的宗徒。他最早明白耶穌救世工程的普遍性。他以向萬民宣揚福音為自己的職務，他主張外邦人在基督內與猶太人同為繼承人，同為一體，同為恩許的分享人。

本節日的彌撒禮儀則把她比作一顆星，說她是依撒意亞先知所預言的耶路撒冷，是聖保祿宗徒所講論的奧

蹟。普世萬民都要齊集在她境內，宣揚上主的榮耀；藉著她的宣講，在基督耶穌內享受同樣的救恩。

本主日彌撒禮儀給我們兩個教訓：第一是熱愛和緊隨我們的慈母教會。目前，在我們的中國，宗教並不完全自由，教會的處境仍然很尷尬。在這種光景中，我們應該越加愛護我們的教會，維持她的純潔和忠誠，促進它與普世教會的共融以及內部各成員間的修和。第二是在我們個人的生活上反映基督的光，在我們的同胞中為基督作見證。這是我們對我們的國家和同胞們所能作的最好貢獻。

"節錄自梵崗電台主日聖道禮儀"

福音的喜樂

教宗方濟各的 2014 年新勸諭

《福音的喜樂》

「福音的喜樂」：教會要敞開大門，發出先知性的聲音

第四點：交談與相遇。與其他教會的基督信徒，與其他宗教的信徒及與無信仰者對話。鑑於伊斯蘭教徒在西方國家享有宗教自由，教宗謙卑地懇請伊斯蘭傳統國家也要保證基督信徒的宗教自由。他反對將宗教私有化，指出對不可知論者或無信仰者少數族群的應有尊重，不該令多數信徒的信念緘默不言。待續 梵蒂岡電台訊

教宗邀請信眾為全世界家庭祈禱

《聖家禱詞》

耶穌、瑪利亞、若瑟，我們在你們身上默觀真愛的光輝；

我們以信賴之心呼求你們。

納匝肋聖家，

讓我們的家庭

成為共融的場所和祈禱的晚餐廳，

真正的福音學校

和小型的家庭教會。

納匝肋聖家，

讓家庭永遠不再經歷

暴力、封閉和分裂；

讓每位受傷和失足者

盡快獲得安慰和痊癒。

納匝肋聖家，
願即將召開的世界主教會議
讓眾人重新意識到
家庭神聖而不可侵犯的特質
以及它在天主計劃中的美麗。
耶穌、瑪利亞、若瑟，
請俯聽和應允我們的祈禱。
阿們。

新聞及其他

教宗元旦文告 為和平發聲

教宗方濟各今天發表了情感洋溢的元旦和平文告，指出人心似已產生偏差，有太多人依然對戰爭、暴力和不公義漠不關心。

教宗的聖號便是取自阿西西的聖方濟各 (St. Francis of Assisi)，一位與和平關係最深的聖人。教宗吁請全世界，聆聽苦難人民的「和平呼聲」。他說：「我們必須在暴力的道路上止步！人心出了什麼問題？我們必須停止！」

今天也是天主教世界和平日，教宗說，「我們都有責任使世人有如手足弟兄一般，相互尊敬，接受彼此的多元性，並相互照顧」。

首位出自拉丁美洲的這位教宗說，暴力和不公義「無法使我們冷漠和一無所為」；並說，2014年應使人「真正致力於建設一個比較公義和團結的社會」。

教宗說，他希望，透過強化「親善」並由世上戰亂地區發出「和平呼聲」，能鼓勵加強對話，並「拆除使相互為敵的雙方無法視彼此為弟兄的高牆」。教宗今天稍早在聖伯多祿大殿的彌撒講道中，為「渴求世上正義與和平」的人祈禱。

他在大殿向數千信徒講道時呼吁，在來年展現「力量、勇氣和希望」。

梵帝岡電台

堂區活動

阮神父回鄉探親

阮神父將於一月十一日至二月六日回鄉探親，堂區事務將由鄔維揚執事暫代處理。

平日及主日彌撒將由 Fr. Bill Trienekens, Fr. Lowing, Fr. Ganowicz, Fr. Buttigieg 及麥

神父主持。

星期二晚上六時三十分敬禮永援聖母彌撒將由一月十四日至二月四日取消。

永援聖母堂 2014 年新春團拜

日期：2月8日(星期六)

時間：晚上6時恭候，6時30分入席

地點：中華文化中心禮堂，晚宴由中華大酒樓安排

票價：成人每位30元、12歲以下小童

每位15元、購票一席10位/300元

當天晚上，教友更可憑票換取抽獎券一張，欲免向隅，購票從速。購票詳情，請與 Gorette Shing (403-295-8937) 聯絡。

門票將於1月5日開始發售，教友可於每台彌撒後到聖物部購買，或直接與善會代表購票。春茗晚宴將設有大抽獎助興，盼望教友熱烈捐贈及贊助抽獎禮物，詳情請與堂區牧民議會各委員或堂區辦事處聯絡。

童軍收集瓶罐運動

永援聖母堂 300 旅公教童軍將於本主日(1月4及5日)、1月11及12日舉行收集瓶罐運動，請教友留下節日聚會後的瓶罐帶回聖堂下禮堂外作回收，所得款項將支持永援聖母堂 300 旅公教童軍經費及活動。

2013 教區公益金，齊來獻愛心

主題：「...為我作證人...」

本堂今年的目標是 50,000 元，捐款信封可在聖堂入口處拿取。截至 12 月 1 日，捐款已累積 58,072.44 元。

就讓我們立即行動，繼續慷慨解囊。在此感謝各位教友，並願主降福您們！

活動一週

星期三、五 8, 10

永援聖母松柏軒

時間：上午9時至正午12時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期五 10

永援聖母堂童軍

時間：晚上6時30分至8時30分

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂及下禮堂

星期六 11

聖母軍

(聖母軍聖母無玷聖心支團)

時間：早上9時45分(開會)

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

東北區信仰小團體聚會

時間：早上10時30分至12時

聯絡：施修女 403-230-3801

楊式太極班

時間：上午10時至正午12時

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

瑜珈初班

時間：下午2時至下午3時30分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

瑜珈班聯歡會

時間：下午3時30分至下午10時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

永援聖母青年團練習聖詩

時間：晚上6時8時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

信仰小團體 (西北區)

時間：晚上7時30分至10時

聯絡：Wendy Tai 403-208-2268

星期日 12

鄔執事祝福生日的主日學、青年會會員

時間：10時彌撒

成人慕道班 (粵語、國語及英語)

時間：上午9時30分至1時30分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

主日學

時間：上午10時至下午12時30分

地點：寫字樓大廈

師主篇

第二十五章、勤於改過自新

為幫助人改過，另外有兩件事情，就是凡肉身所偏向的，勉力不順從；凡為自己要緊的德行，熱切去修練。

待續

心靈小品

信友生活的理想與實踐

-你們該思念天上的事不該思念地上的事。

-因為你們已經死了，你們的生命已與基督一同藏在天主內了；

-爲此，你們要致死屬於地上的肢體，致死淫亂、不潔、邪情、惡慾和無異於偶像崇拜的貪婪；

-爲了這一切，天主的義怒纔降在悖逆之子身上；但是現在你們卻該戒絕這一切：忿怒、暴戾、惡意、詬罵和出於你們口中的穢言。

-不要彼此說謊；你們原已脫去了舊人和它的作爲，且穿上了新人，這新人既是照創造他者的肖像而更新，爲獲得新知識的；

-爲此，你們該如天主所揀選的，所愛的聖者，穿上憐憫的心腸、仁慈、謙卑、良善和含忍；

-如某人對某人有什麼怨恨的事，要彼此擔待，互相寬恕；就如主怎樣寬恕了你們，你們也要怎樣寬恕人。

-在这一切以上尤該有愛德，因爲愛德是全德的聯繫。

靈修小故事

祝福滿滿

每天在上下班的路上，我都有不少時間，可以讀一讀貼在前方車子保險桿上的標語。有的語氣傲慢，有的充滿了智慧，還有的簡直令人反感。然而，最近我看到的一張貼在車尾的標語，卻讓我們心自問：自己的人生態度到底如何。這貼紙寫著：「有福到無可抱怨」。

我必須坦白地承認，當我深思這句話時，心裡感到愧疚。我發現自己常常在事與願違時哀怨感嘆，卻未專注於天父已經賜給我的美好恩典。那天讀到的那句簡短信息，讓我重新立志，願意更加主動並一心向上主獻上感恩。因爲我的上主一直以來都很恩待我，這些恩惠不僅止於我所能數算的，還有更多是我所不能數算的。聖詠 107 篇糾正人們缺乏感恩的心態。聖詠的作者（許多人認爲是達味王），四次如此呼籲：「但願人因上主的慈愛和祂向人所行的奇事，都稱讚祂」（8、15、21、31 節）。他勸勉那些不知感恩、逐漸冷淡的人要回轉。因爲即使在最糟的時刻，我們仍有許多可以感謝的。願我們學習爲著上主的慈愛而感謝祂！

主的恩典，樣樣都要數，

主的作爲都要記清楚，主的恩典，樣樣都要數，必能叫你驚訝主奇妙看顧。常常存感恩之心，別等到擁有更多才感恩。

知多一點點

基督徒的真福

1. 對天主召人享受真福，新約用了許多說法，爲標示此真福的特色：天國的臨近；看見天主：「心裡潔淨的人是有福的，因爲他們要看見天主」（瑪 5:8）；進入主人的福樂；進入天主的安息（希 4:7-11）；

在那裡，我們將安息，我們將看見；我們將看見，我們將愛慕；我們將愛慕，我們將頌揚。看，這將是沒有終結的終結。除了抵達沒有終結的王國，我們能有別的終結嗎？

2. 因爲天主把我們安置在世界上，是爲了認識祂，事奉祂，愛慕祂，因此而抵達樂園。真福使我們分享天主的性體（伯後 1:4）和永生。得到了永生，人便進入基督的光榮和天主聖三生命的福樂。

3. 這樣的真福超越人的理解和人自身的能力。真福是天主無條件賞賜的恩典。因此人稱真福是超性的，猶如稱那準備人進入天主福樂的恩寵是超性的一樣。

「心裡潔淨的人是有福的，因爲他們要看見天主」。固然，天主的偉大和祂神妙無比的榮耀，「誰也不能見到天主而仍然活著」，因爲父是不可捉摸的；但天主因祂對人的慈愛、寬容及全能，祂竟恩賜敬愛祂的人得以享見祂；因爲「在人所不能的，在天主卻是可能的」。

4. 預許的真福使我們正視決定性的倫理抉擇。真福邀請我們清洗我們的心靈，滌除不良的本能，以求愛天主在萬有之上。真福教導我們真正的幸福不在財富或安逸，不在人間的光榮或權勢，不在任何人的事業，縱使非常有用，如：學術、科技、藝術，也不在任何受造之物，而只在萬善、諸愛之源的天主：

財富是今日的偉大的神明；對它，芸芸衆生，大批人群，本能地叩首膜拜。

人們以富貴來衡量幸福，甚至也以富貴來釐定尊卑。……這一切乃出自一個信念，就是財富能成就一切。於是財富成了今日的一個偶像，另一個偶像便是聲譽。……所謂聲譽，就是名滿天下，稱譽世界（也可以稱爲新聞人物），已被認同爲善的化身，善的至尊，也成了真正崇拜的對象。

5. 天主十誡、山中聖訓、宗徒的傳授，都給我們描繪了導向天國的道路。我們以每天的行爲，藉著聖神的恩寵，逐步努力前進。又藉著基督聖言的灌溉，在教會內，爲了天主的光榮，慢慢地結出果實。