

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## Be Our Light

Father,  
you reveal yourself throughout the ages,  
showing us the light of your love.  
You said, “Let there be light,”  
and there was light.  
When you sent your Son to reveal  
yourself most fully,

you gave a star as a sign.  
Be our light.  
Fill us with your light  
that we might light the way to you.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, January 2, 2022**

## Overjoyed

*Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12.* “They were overjoyed at seeing the star.” The Magi had gone to the palace because their way of seeking wisdom—following the natural signs of the world—told them a king had been born. A king whose importance was so great that his birth was told in the stars. But the king was not in the palace. This birth, so significant as to be marked by a star, was hidden away in Bethlehem, a small town.

The Magi were not Jewish. They did not know about the promise of God that was now being fulfilled. But God gave them a light to follow. The new thing that God was doing—fulfilling the promises of old to bring salvation to the ends of the earth—included them.

Scripture tells us that when the star stopped over the place where Jesus was, the Magi were overjoyed to see it. Inside the home, they found Jesus with Mary, his mother. They fell down and worshiped him, so overcome were they with joy at what God was doing and at the gift of being allowed to share in it.

Then the Magi went home by another route. This is, of course, practical, in that they were avoiding Herod. But they went home a different way because they were themselves different. They were changed by their joy. What light has God given you to follow? When have you been filled with joy? How did it change you?



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, January 3

#### A Great Light

“The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light.” Jesus reveals himself as the light when he preaches the kingdom of God and heals those who come to him. One purpose of the healing Jesus performed was to return to the community those who were separated from society because of illness or disability. As Jesus heals, his identity shines forth as clearly as it did in the star of Bethlehem. With each healing, he also enters into the vocation of the messiah. *Today’s readings: 1 John 3:22–4:6; Psalm 2:7bc–8, 10–12a; Matthew 4:12–17, 23–25.*

### Tuesday, January 4

#### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first person born in the United States to be canonized a saint. As a young widow and mother of five, she converted to Catholicism. She founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph’s, and began the first Catholic girls’ school in the United States. She is the patron saint of Catholic schools. *Today’s readings: 1 John 4:7–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4, 7–8; Mark 6:33–44.*

### Wednesday, January 5

#### Perfect Love

“Perfect love drives out fear.” John certainly knew that the world was a broken place when he wrote his first letter. He had witnessed the crowds turning on Jesus and the early persecutions, in addition to the daily worries and anxieties all human beings experience. John knew that there were many dangers in the world. He does not say that perfect love causes fear not to arise. He says perfect love drives it away. This is not about a feeling but about whether we choose to let fear overwhelm us, or whether we choose a different path. Do not be afraid, God says. How can you choose love today? *Today’s readings: 1 John 4:11–18; Psalm 72:1–2, 10, 12–13; Mark 6:45–52.*

### Thursday, January 6

#### Fulfilled in Your Hearing

Proclaiming the Scripture from Isaiah, Jesus describes the messiah and the era he has come to inaugurate. As Christ’s hands and feet in the world, we too must live this fulfillment. What might it mean to proclaim glad tidings to the poor? How can you proclaim liberty to captives? Where can you heal brokenness? The heartbreak that you feel over conditions is your call to live in the kingdom of God. *Today’s readings: 1 John 4:19–5:4; Psalm 72:1–2, 14, 15bc, 17; Luke 4:14–22.*

### Friday, January 7

#### Carrying the Light

Some people keep their Christmas tree or manger until the traditional date of Epiphany, which was yesterday. There is also a tradition of keeping some decorations until the Feast of the Presentation in the Temple, or Candlemas, which is celebrated February 2. It can be beautiful to carry the joy of Christmas into Ordinary Time by leaving up a few decorations, possibly some lights to symbolize that Jesus is the Light of the World. *Today’s readings: 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; Luke 5:12–16.*

### Saturday, January 8

#### Joy Made Complete

Human beings are prone to conflict. In today’s Gospel, we hear the disciples of John the Baptist perceiving rivalry between John and Jesus. As a prophet, John knows that God’s project is healing all such divisions. He knows that he was called to prepare the way for the messiah, and now that the messiah is come, he feels nothing but joy. Where in your life has unnecessary conflict and rivalry stolen your joy? How can you be a peacemaker in those situations? John’s joy comes in seeing with God’s eyes. Can you look at a difficult situation with new eyes? *Today’s readings: 1 John 5:14–21; Psalm 149:1–2, 3–4, 5, 6a, 9b; John 3:22–30.*

