Jan 3, 2016
Slovak Catholic Parish

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Slovenský kostol Sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish

Zjavenie Pána.

The Epiphany of the Lord.

Budú sa ti klaňať, Pane, všetky národy sveta.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Videli sme jeho hviezdu na východe a prišli sme sa pokloniť Pánovi.

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Dnes oslavujeme Zjavenie Pána pohanským národom. Dnes majú sviatok všetci, ktorí s úprimným srdcom hľadajú Boha. Čítanie z Evanjelia podľa Matúša je ukážkou toho, akou cestou ľudia prichádzajú k Ježišovi. Králi, mágovia alebo mudrci, o ktorých hovorí dnešné evanjelium sa vydali na cestu hľadania Mesiáša. Pochádzali z oblasti Perzie, ktorej územie sa nachádzalo v oblasti dnešného Afganistanu, Iraku a Iránu. Pozrime sa na jednotlivé etapy ich cesty.
Snažili sa o poznanie Boha zo stvoreného sveta. Skúmali vesmír a objavili mnohé stopy božej múdrosti. Možno sa začudovane pýtame, ako je možné, že Boh k ním prehovoril skrze hviezdu, keď poznáme prísny postoj cirkvi k astrológii.
Boh si poslúžil ich presvedčením a zobrazil svoju pravdu tak, aby ju mohli prečítať aj národy, ktoré boli v zajatí rôznych povier. Stará múdrosť hovorí, že Boh dokáže aj do krivých riadkov písať rovno. Už Cirkevní otcovia museli odpovedať na rôzne deterministické predstavy staroveku. Hviezda ich viedla k vyvolenému národu Izraela. Veľké a Božie veci sa odohrávajú v skrytosti. V Jeruzaleme nevedia o narodení nového kráľa. Môžeme povedať, že mágovia sa skrze skúmanie prírody a skrze vyvolený národ dostali až k Božiemu Slovu. A toto Božie Slovo im nevykladá hocikto, ale ľudia, ktorí sú v tomto smere vzdelaní. Podobne ako židovská Veľrada bola oprávnená vykladať Písmo SZ, aj v našej dobe platí, že Písmo sväté nemôže vykladať hocikto, ale len Cirkev uprostred, ktorej Písmo vzniklo a ktorá prebrala aj dedičstvo Izraela. Písmo sväté určuje Mágom ďalší smer, Betlehem.
Evanjelium ďalej hovorí, že padli na zem a klaňali sa mu. „Klaňanie je základný postoj človeka, ktorý uznáva, že je tvorom pred svojím Stvoriteľom. Velebí Veľkosť Pána, ktorý nás stvoril a Všemohúcnosť Spasiteľa, ktorý nás oslobodzuje od zlého. Takáto poklona patrí len Bohu. I z darov, ktoré priniesli, môžeme usúdiť, za koho pokladali Ježiša: Dali mu zlato ako kráľovi, kadidlo ako Bohu a myrhu v predvídaní jeho utrpenia.
Epifánia je zjavením Ježiša ako Mesiáša Izraela, Božieho Syna a Spasiteľa sveta. Oslavuje spolu s Ježišovým Krstom v Jordáne a so svadbou v Káne i klaňanie, ktoré sa Ježišovi dostáva od mudrcov prichádzajúcich z východu. V týchto „mágoch", ktorí predstavujú okolité pohanské náboženstvá, vidí evanjelium prvotiny národov, ktoré skrze Vtelenie prijmú Dobrú Zvesť o spáse. Príchod mágov do Jeruzalema, ktorí sa prišli „pokloniť židovskému kráľovi" ukazuje, že vo svetle mesiášskej Dávidovej hviezdy hľadajú v Izraeli Toho, kto bude kráľom národov. Ich príchod naznačuje, že pohania nemôžu poznať Ježiša a klaňať sa Mu ako Božiemu Synovi a Vykupiteľovi sveta, bez toho, aby sa pred tým neobrátili na židov a od nich prijali mesiášske zasľúbenie ako sa nachádza v Starom Zákone. Zjavenie Pána ukazuje, že „veľké množstvo národov" vstupuje do „rodiny patriarchov" a získava tým „dôstojnosť Izraela".

When you give a special gift to someone you manifest your love to them and for them, you make yourself present to them. This is why we call a gift a present – your presence is given to the one to whom you present your gift.
The Wise Men came through this world's darkness to search out God in a heavenly light that is far above any earthly lights. They were astrologers looking for signs of the sacred who came to the Christ Child not simply to give Him gifts; they came to place their powers at His disposal. They recognized His kingship over them, a kingship that infinitely surpassed any earthly powers they had. Something profound was being exchanged in their exchange of gifts with Him. While they were giving to Him, He was giving to them. Moreover, in their giving they invite us to likewise give in order that God might give us anew what He gave to our original parents… heavenly life. What are we giving to God, the God who has given Himself to us? Are we placing our gifts at His disposal? Are we vulnerable to God? God has made Himself vulnerable to us. Will we return the favor?
We may not have riches to give, but He is not interested in our so-called riches. He wants, rather, that which is priceless and which as a value above all other values – our love, our care for Him. He wants our hearts, hearts not filled with mere wishful thoughts and sentiments, but hearts filled with determination to bring His presence to the world around us, to the hearts of those who live in darkness with their impoverished souls that hunger for peace, for justice, for truth, and for the God who made them for love.
What we are contemplating here comes from above just as the light from Bethlehem's star descended down from the stars of heaven. All of this is not of our doing; all of this did not come about from our human efforts. No, it came from God and comes to us today, in this Epiphany, from God.
We cannot justify ourselves; only God can justify us. We cannot make ourselves whole; only God can make us whole. We cannot sanctify ourselves; only God can sanctify us. We cannot make ourselves holy; only God can make us holy. As gifted and powerful we think we are, we are helpless… except for one power we have, the power to love.

Sources: Bernardín Šmid; Charles Irvin

Bulletin Announcements

***January 3 - Epiphany of Our Lord** "Frequently she (the Church) has condemned them (past errors) with the greatest severity. Nowadays, however, the Spouse of Christ prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity. She considers that she meets the needs of the present day by demonstrating the validity of her teachings rather than by condemnations…" - St. John XXIII

***ONE Conference 2016: In the Father's Mercy** The Church's mission is to make disciples, and you're invited! Whether you're already sharing your faith in some way, or it's something you're just thinking about, this conference is for you. With the Jubilee Year of Mercy upon us, this year's ONE Conference submerges us In the Father's Mercy. Hear inspirational messages from world class speakers: Angèle Regnier, Ken Yasinski and Gwendoline Allison, with an opportunity to visit local ministries and exhibits. Saturday, March 5, 2016, at the Vancouver Convention Centre. This event has sold out the past three years. Tickets are $45 and can be purchased online at rcav.org/one or at any parish.

***Enrich Your Vocation as a Parent** The Emotional Intelligence for Parents Workshop is a three-session workshop that will help parents develop self-awareness of their emotions and the impact emotions have on their choices and actions as parents. The workshop will also equip parents with tools to help their children with skills to face challenges with an attitude of confidence. Luz del Carmen Odiardi PhD will facilitate the program and help guide parents to develop tools to adapt their emotional responses which impact their relationships with their children. Tuesdays, Jan. 12, 19, 26 at Saint Patrick Parish, Vancouver. Cost: $15 per person or $25 per couple. To register, visit rcav.org/enriching-your-vocation-as-parent

***Spiritual Exercises for Men** Join us for a silent retreat open to men 16 and older. "Spiritual retreats are particular graces, they are privileged opportunities, where the soul, separated from the busyness of daily life, may dispose itself to listen to God, place itself under the direction of the Holy Spirit, and totally correct itself to establish the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in it, in order to love Him and serve Him more. Among all spiritual retreats, we give clear preference to the Ignatian Exercises, received by the Saint of Loyola from the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary." Friday, Jan. 29 to Sunday, Jan 31, from 4:30 to 5:30 at Westminster Abbey, Mission. Space is limited so register early at adultfaith@stannsabbotsford.ca

***Adoration** - spend a blessed hour with Jesus on Thursdays at our church from 7:15pm - 8:15pm.

Sunday's Collection from the Last Week

Our Weekly Goal	$1,500
Sunday's Collection	$1,347
Christmas Collection	$2,493

Thank You. Vďaka. God Bless Your Generosity.

Modlitba príhovoru v našom kostole túto nedeľu nebude.

There will be no prayer ministry this Sunday in our church.

Sun 3 9:00am	**The Epiphany of the Lord;** Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12	For parishioners	Fr. Juraj
Sun 3 11:00am	**Zjavenie Pána;** Iz 60:1-6; Ef 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12	Na úmysel	Mária
Mon 4 8:00am	1Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4;12-17,23-25	+ Josefa	Family Javier
Tue 5 8:00am	1Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44	+ Otto, Darryl and Ashley	Joyce
Wed 6 8:00am	1Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52	Martina Lewis	Carmen Cahill
Thu 7 8:00am	St. Andre Bessette; 1Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22a	Ján košľab	Family Beblár
Fri 8 8:00am	St. Raymond of Penyafort; 1Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16	+ Ricardo Marcos	Raymond Javier
Sat 9 9:00am	1Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30	Teressina Bennett	Salome Jotie
Sun 10 9:00am	**The Baptism of the Lord;** Is 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16,21-22	For parishioners	Fr. Juraj
Sun 10 11:00am	**Krst Krista Pána;** Iz 42:1-4,6-7; Sk 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16,21-22	Za zdravie a Božie požehnanie pre Hanku a rodinu	Rodina Bebjaková