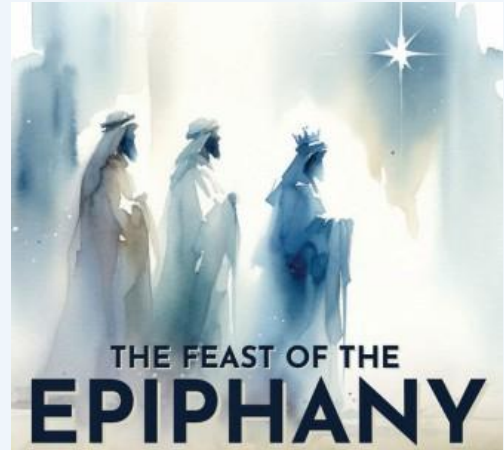




From the Desk of Father Peter

The Epiphany of the Lord

*In western Christian tradition, the first Sunday of January is celebrated as Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In the Hispanic and Latin cultures, as well as in some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day. Christmas celebrates a family that could not get a place to stay; a family that was homeless, with no place at the Inn. Mary had to give birth in a stable. The angels came and glorified God. Then the people of the East came and found the Wonder Child that King Herod had sought to eliminate because he felt Jesus was a threat to his parochial sense of kingdom. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the world. As Christians, how can we manifest our faith to others who are less fortunate in our lives? I am happy and thrilled with the outpouring of support we, as a parish, provided the many organizations represented on this year's Advent Giving Tree Project. It was wonderful this year to return to donating actual gifts for **The Margaret Home, Friendship Center, Nazareth Elementary, Daystar Kids, Focus Pregnancy Center, Mary's Place, House of Mercy, St. Michael's Woodshop, and Mother Theresa Center at Holy Apostles.** As your Pastor, I realize we have so many good things in us that we just do not talk about or share to let others know our outreach, especially when it comes to church related issues. We each have a hidden talent which we may consider ordinary but which turns out to be the basis for a new*



hope, a new lease on life for others. Thanks to all who gave so generously to those in need through our Angel Tree Project. May God richly bless your families and continue to shower you with His blessings. True joy, the protection of God, and a deepening knowledge that God wants to provide us with every good thing are among the gifts we can also become more aware of at this time of the year. To open our awareness, we may need to pause, to be silent and quietly contemplate our gracious loving God, and feel deeply that the Emmanuel is with us, in whose name we too have shared ourselves with others..



Happy New Year and God bless us all!

Fr. Peter