



January 6, 2024

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Blessing of Incense and Chalk

Today, after the Mass, we will bless incense and chalk. The chalk will be used to mark the top of the door frames of houses blessed after the feast of the Epiphany. The incense will be used for various purposes throughout the year.

A Festival Thought

The Epiphany star has not faded. Its wonder continues in the lives of committed Christians who are light for the nations.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 60:1-6

All nations will come to the Lord drawn by divine radiance that shines forth in the lives of the people of God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

EPHESIANS 3:2-3, 5-6

God's secret plan is now revealed. It involves the *salvation of the world* through the mysteries of Jesus' life and death.

MATTHEW 2:1-12

The magi respond to the star with a journey that brings them to bow in worship before the infant Saviour.

ENTRANCE RITE – Malachi 3:1b, Matthew 2:2

V. The Messenger of the Covenant in Whom you desire. Yes, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

R. We saw His star at its rising, and have come to do Him homage.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

ALLELUIA – 1 CHRONICLES 29:12a

Riches and honor are from You, and You have dominion over all.
In Your hand are power and might.

THE GOSPEL – MATTHEW 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!