



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2023

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

A Blessed Epiphany to all!

“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” (Mt. 2:2)

How wonderful it is to see many of you coming back to Church to praise and thank our Heavenly Father for giving us the gift of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We are only on our first week of the New Year, 2023. So many things have transpired: joyful Christmas season celebrations and welcoming the New Year with fireworks and resolutions.

Welcoming the New Year was so much fun celebrating it with family and friends. I hope that many, if not all of you, had a wonderful time after two years of not having such a gathering as we have now. God’s continued blessings are upon us amidst the many challenges in life, work, health, relationships, and so forth. The best thing we can do is to enlighten our spirits and keep trusting in God’s goodness and care as we journey in life this New Year.

As we close our Christmas Season by celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, the light that we saw at the Birth of Jesus is now for us to carry through all the days of the year. It can be dimmed if we allow it to do so, but if we keep it always aflame with His life and love, it will penetrate the darkness of sin and evil to bring light and goodness into the world.

If the Magi saw the star that enlightened their path and led them to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, for us, this light is no longer the star that we see only at night, but it is Jesus. He is the light that shines through day and night. He is the light that penetrates the human soul to bring peace, love, and joy amidst the darkness that can be overwhelming to see and experience wherever we go.

The experience of the Magi at seeing the star can also be ours when we look into Jesus. Whenever they saw the star, they were filled with joy. Gazing our eyes on Jesus can fill us with joy because we know He is Emmanuel, God with us, through thick and thin of our life. He is the light that gives us courage and inspiration to continue despite our hardships and sufferings. Knowing and believing in Him can spark our weary souls to rise and walk to face the difficulties with hope for a better tomorrow.

All the festivities we celebrate are moments of grace to see things in the light of our Lord. Our future is uncertain. The only certain thing that we know is that Jesus is with us always. Entrusting our faith, hope, and love to Him can bring much goodness into our life that this world cannot offer.

I pray for you all and your families. We journey together in the light of Christ and through the inspiration and intercession of our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. Marianne, and St. Damien.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual