



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

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

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

“Precious Gift to Offer”

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

I hope and pray that everyone of you had a great time with family and friends to celebrate the birth of the Christ-Child, Jesus, and to welcome the New Year, 2024, with much hope and wonder. Occasions like these can spark so much joy that we cherish every bit until we get things back to the regular course of our lives. The most wonderful thing we can continue to do is to carry throughout our lives the message of these celebrations that God is with us. He journeys with us and gives us the courage and strength to face life's challenges. The Blessed Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of us all will embrace us with her mantle of love and care.

As we are to end the Christmas Season with the celebration of Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord, which is taking place on Monday, we can reflect further on what we can offer to the Lord as we embark on this New Year, 2024. The Magi offered their precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They journeyed to search for the child, and when they found Him, they presented their gifts. Now, what can we offer as a precious gift to Jesus?

We may have many things to offer, but we know that Jesus does not need our material gifts. Rather than thinking about material ones, why not think of the more spiritual ones? Like a life deepened with faith and love for Him that moves us to continue spreading His message of peace, love, and joy? Or maybe, committing oneself to help those who are poor and needy in our community or getting involved in the mission of the Church, even in our small ways.

Our world truly needs transformation and conversion. I keep saying that our world, families, and nation are troubled. For indeed, it truly is. The only way we can find the answer to restoring this life we live to become better is no other than to find it in Jesus. He is the Savior, the Redeemer of the World. With His message to be received and shared with all, we can transform ourselves and affect the people around us.

Living in this way, we truly understand that Christmas is not only a day to celebrate but a life-long celebration. Not anymore that we lay the Lord Jesus in the manger we set up, but rather to receive Him in our hearts where He can forever stay. When we can do so, we will experience what Jesus brought into the world and our lives.

Wishing you all a Hope-Filled 2024!

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual