



Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

•*Making Catholicism relevant* •*Restoring women's ordination* •*Living the change we envision*



Adoration of the Magi, abstract nativity, www.nuevart.com

“Star of Wonder!”

***Celebrating the Feast of Epiphany
January 4, 2026***

Introduction & Welcome

GONG

Good evening. Whether you are joining us online or in person, welcome to Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community in San Diego, CA, on the unceded territories of the many tribes and bands of the Kumeyaay nation, our neighbors.

Today we celebrate Epiphany, the feast of the Magi.

My name is... , one of your lectors this evening. Suzie Knapp is our homilist and in-person presider. Nancy Corran is our online presider.

We'd like to welcome any visitors with us today. For those on Zoom, please feel free to introduce yourselves on chat. For those visitors in person, if you feel comfortable, we invite you to stand and introduce yourselves and tell us where you are from.

[Pause for introductions]

Welcome All. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are.

For those of you joining us online, we invite you to join in our songs and communal responses in the worship aid located at mmacc.org. Prayer requests may be offered in the chat at any time. You may wish to have bread and wine or something similar with you to share in our communion. After our liturgy concludes, we invite our online participants to join in breakout rooms for some social time.

For those here in person, communion will be shared in both forms: gluten-free eucharistic bread, and consecrated red wine and white grape juice, which will be provided in single-use individual containers. Donations may be placed in the basket outside the chapel doors.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The All-Peoples Breakfast in Balboa Park is on Martin Luther King Jr Day, January 20th. MMACC has sponsored a table. Please contact Becky Wilder if you'd like to attend.
- Please see our bulletin for other community happenings and information.

Let us pause for a moment of prayerful silence before we begin this Epiphany Liturgy.

GONG

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Candle Lighting (in silence)

Magi, we of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

***O, star of wonder, star of night; star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.***

Born to rule on Bethlehem's plain; gold we bring to welcome this reign.
Ruler ever, ceasing never over us all to reign. **(R)**

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, voices raising, we worship you God on high. **(R)**

Glorious now Messiah arise, Holy, God, make justice your cry;
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds thru the earth and sky. **(R)**

Opening Rite

+In the Name of God who shared divinity with us, Jesus who shares humanity with us, and the Holy Spirit who unsettles and inspires us, we pray... **Amen.**

The grace of Jesus the Christ, the Love of God, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.
[R] And also with you.

Kyrie - Knowing God's Loving Kindness

As we begin, we acknowledge those times in this Christmas season that we did not recognize God manifest among us or in our world...

When we fail to recognize our longing for Your presence in our lives...
Help us to know Your Love.

When we are unable to hear the Good News that Your love casts out fear.
Help us to receive Your Love.

When we fail to believe that Your love rises in our hearts and radiates through us to the world.
Help us to bear Your Love to the world.

ALL: Divine Love, You are manifest in our lives. Empower us to realize Your presence for all to see and share our gifts with those around us. Amen.

Gloria [Ring Bells] "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo

See the babe in manger laid, Jesus, child of heav'n and earth;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, With us sing of Love's new birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Opening Prayer

adapted from "Ministry Matters"

Presider: *God of mystery, In the chaos of our world your light shines with grace and beauty. Open the eyes of our hearts to the glory of your love. May the mystery revealed in Jesus draw us closer to you. May the wonder of your love fill us with wisdom and peace. As we rejoice in your presence, teach us to seek justice and righteousness. Fill our hearts to overflowing with your joy, your glory, your hope. In Jesus' name we pray...Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6, 11a

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Arise! Shine! Your light has come!
The glory of God has risen, shining upon you!
Lies cover the earth, truth is not to be found.
People walk around unseeing - utterly blind.
But, cradled in a *holy* night, out of a nourishing darkness,
 the morning star is now rising on you!
Over you, healing rays can be seen!
Many people will come to your rising light,
 leaders to the promise of your dawn.
Lift your eyes and look around:
They all gather together, they all come to you!
Your daughters and your sons and all your children
 will journey from afar with young children on the hip.
Then, you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will throb and swell with joy.
The treasures of the sea will be brought to you.
Abundance from the land will be laid before you, in peace.
A multitude of camels will come to you:
 the young camels of Midian and Ephah,
 all those from Sheba will come.
They will carry gold and frankincense.
They will proclaim the praise of God.
Your gates will always be open to them.
Day and night, they will not be closed.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM*Psalm 89, Merrill, adapted*

The Psalm Response is sung:

R: We will sing of Your love forever...

We will sing of God's great Love forever!
Through all generations, we will tell the story of Your love—
 how You craft the cosmos and reveal Yourself in it.
You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
 whose descendants will be as the stars."
As Your holy ones gather,
 let the cosmos proclaim Your wonders.

R: We will sing of Your love forever...

Joyful are those who know the festal shout,
 who walk in the radiance of Love.
We exult in Your Holy Name and are exalted in You.
Your wisdom and beauty live within us and all creation,
 even as we live in You.
Delighted, we dance, O Loving Companion Presence!¹

R: We will sing of Your love forever...

A long time ago, You spoke in a vision.
You spoke to Your faithful beloved:
"I have found a servant, a ruler's ruler, a Chosen One,
 whom I have anointed with oil.
This child will be kept forever in my love,
 our covenant sealed with the holy blood of life.
Our immense Love will outlast and transcend even the cosmos."

R: We will sing of Your love forever....

Second Reading*Ephesians 3:2-7***A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians**

You have surely heard how the gift of God's grace to me was designed for your benefit, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation. I have described it briefly so that you might appreciate my insight into the mystery of the Christ.

In former generations, this mystery was not made known to humankind. Now, the mystery has been revealed to the holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, all people have the same inheritance, and form the same body, and enjoy the same promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. By the gift of divine grace given to me through God's power, I have become a servant of this good news.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

¹ "Loving Companion Presence" is a name for God from Nan Merrill's Psalm 89 in *Psalms for Praying*.

Gospel Acclamation

***Joy to the world, the Christ is come and Christ will come again.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Christ room, let heaven and nature sing
Let heaven and nature sing, let heaven, and heaven and nature sing!***

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Our God is with you.

And also with you.

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew.

Glory to you, O God.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of Herod, Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem asking, "Where is the newborn leader of the Judeans? We observed the child's star at its rising and have come to pay homage." When Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him. Calling together all the head priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this has been written by the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a leader
who is to shepherd my people, Israel.*

Herod secretly called for the Magi. He learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. He sent them along to Bethlehem, saying, "Go! Search diligently for the child! When you have found the newborn, bring me word so that I also may go and pay homage." Upon hearing these words of Herod, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star they had seen at its rising until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid homage. Opening their treasure chests, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then, having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by a different route.

The Gospel of God.

***You rule the world with truth and grace, and make the nations prove
the glories of Your righteousness, and wonders of Your love,
and wonders of Your love, and wonders, wonders of Your love.***

Homily - Suzie

Prayers of the Faithful 2026-01-04

Feast of the Epiphany

Even the rulers and wisdom-bearers of the world have acknowledged the message of God-with-us and honored Him with their distinctive treasures. Divinity has taken on humanity and we are called to take on divinity. Let us ponder the Mystery, and ask for all that we and all creation need.

Our response: God is with us, now and forever.

All: God is with us, now and forever.

That like the Magi, we be willing to take an alternate route when the promptings of the Spirit call us to it ... we pray ...

All: God is with us, now and forever.

That our lives show forth our God-intoxication like the lasting beauty of gold and the bittersweet scent of frankincense and myrrh ... we pray ...

All: God is with us, now and forever.

Scripture commands us to treat foreigners the same as citizens, and to love them equally, remembering that we, too, were once foreigners. Let us work to make our country welcoming to migrants, immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees ... we pray ...

All: God is with us, now and forever.

That we be as willing as the Magi to open our treasures to the Anointed One, manifest in all the members of the Body of Christ ... we pray ...

All: God is with us, now and forever.

The Earth contains the dust of countless generations of our ancestors, as well as the blood of Jesus and of our contemporaries killed in war. May this God-beloved Earth become for them and for us the garden of resurrection and new life ... we pray ...

All: God is with us, now and forever.

That we devote our lives to embracing the manifestations of God in every human person and in all the mysteries of the immense diversity of the Cosmos ... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

All: God is with us, now and forever.

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our Spirit-birthed community of epiphany and new clarity of vision. All who wish to share a prayer here in person, please come forward to the microphone. All who wish to share a prayer online, please raise your physical or digital hand and you will be called on in turn, or type your prayer in the chat and these will be read aloud. We ask that your prayers be brief petitions, and in consideration of our diversity of perspectives, remember the universal needs of all people.

[After each petition:]

All: God is with us, now and forever.

[After all petitions have been spoken:]

We lift up all those living with illness, injury, loss, and suffering, those who have gone home in Holy Mystery, and all the prayers here today that have remained unspoken, deep in the silence of our hearts...

(Short pause)

For these intentions and for all the prayers remaining in the chat and in our community prayer book ... we pray ...

All: God is with us, now and forever.

Concluding Prayer: *God of Life and Love, hear the prayers we bring to you today in trust and confidence. May the Magi inspire us to seek Your presence in new and unfamiliar places. May we share our gifts in service to all we meet, embracing a journey of love. In Jesus' name, we pray...Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Song – “Gift of Love”

Trupia

Gift of love, dawning bright, pierces through endless night:
God of life, sharing might, all creation holding,
Earth and sky enfolding. **(R)**

Gift of love, love, love. Gift of love, love, love.
Glory be, God, to You, God of life and mercy.

Then God spoke, called us nigh: “Choose to live or to die.”
Love to give or deny, life and love now blending;
Love is life unending. **(R)**

Jesus came on the earth, Gift of love, humble birth;
Shared our life, gave us worth; calling forth, inviting
Spirit now uniting. **(R)**

Our Eucharist

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

[R] *Blessed be God forever.*

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

[R] *Blessed be God forever.*

Pray that our offering opens our hearts to search for Wisdom's gifts.

[R] *May Your star light our way.*

Prayer with our Gifts, Presider:

Sacred Mystery, we recall the light of the Christmas star that led travelers to your glory. We celebrate the light that came into the world, teaching, healing, calling, and caring. We remember the light of the upper room where Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his beloved disciples. May your light shine in our lives as we share this sacred meal at your table, we pray... Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

God dwells in you.

[R] *And also in You.*

Come to the table with thankful hearts.

[R] *We magnify You, O God, and rejoice!*

Let us enter into the Great Mystery.

(Sung)

*O, star of wonder, star of night;
star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Presider

Sacred Mystery, in holy darkness, the light of Your star rises. Let Your vision of the Cosmos be revealed to us and in us.

Voice 1 (online)

Embraced by Your nurturing darkness, we follow Your rising star to Wisdom and Love as we join with all creation in unending praise:

Sanctus [Sung]

Silent Night

***Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon Mary, Mother and child;
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.***

Voice 2 (online)

Holy Love, You reveal yourself in Jesus' birth. In Jesus, we see the fullness of human possibility. In Jesus, hope is born.

Voice 3: We know this birth is a sign to us and to all the world of Your sacred presence in humanity and all creation, calling us to justice, integrity, and compassion.

Voice 4: We rejoice in Jesus who taught us that we live in You and that You are birthed in us and through us, that we might be Life for the world.

*O, star of wonder, star of night;
star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

[Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the bread and wine.]

Presider: And so, Holy Love, we praise You through Jesus. We recognize Your Spirit alive and at work in this bread and wine, and in us. We open ourselves to Your Spirit who sanctifies and transforms these gifts to become You in us, the body and blood of Christ, as we now fulfill Your command of love. We remember that...

All: *...on the night before Jesus died, while at supper with his friends, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them saying: "Take this, all of you and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me."*

[Pause]

In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with wine. He gave You thanks, and gave the cup to his friends, saying: "Take this all of you and drink. This is my life-blood, the cup of love. Do this in memory of me."

Presider

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: *(Sung)*

*O, star of wonder, star of night;
star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Voice 5

Remember Your people everywhere throughout the world and Your people gathered here. Remember all who seek You. Remember all who have died into Your cosmic embrace and continue to share in cosmic splendor. In Your goodness, may we experience Your life-giving presence in the company of all Your holy ones.

Presider

On this Holy Night, we remember that we are called to bear gifts and that we are among Your gifts to the world. We wonder at the mystery that, as You were born in Jesus, You are born in us. Together with the Magi, Mary & Joseph, saints of old, and with Jesus through whom Your goodness flows, we sing of Your glory.

*Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
In the unity of Sophia Spirit,
One God of all that is, may glory and honor be yours.*

Great Amen

(Sung)
*O, star of wonder, star of night;
star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Prayer of Jesus

Contemporary, recited

Throughout the centuries, the prayer of Jesus, often known as the "Our Father," has been translated and rendered in many different ways. Please feel free to use the words and language most comfortable to you. We offer this recited contemporary version:

*Loving God, in whom is heaven,
may Your name be honored everywhere.
May Your kin-dom come.
May the desire of Your heart for the world be done
in us, by us, and through us.
Give us the bread we need for each day.
Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others.
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For You reign in the power that comes from Love,
which is Your glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

Sign of Peace

May the peace of the Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another – and the whole world – a sign of holy peace.

Lamb of God [Sung, call & response]

Joe Wise

*How beautiful... on the mountaintop.... are the feet of those.... who bring Your Word...
How beautiful... on the city streets... are the lips of those... who speak your peace...*

Presider: These are the gifts of God for God's beloved.

We rejoice in sharing these gifts.

This is God's table, not ours, and all are truly welcome here. Christ is present with us whenever and wherever we are. May all who share with us in this communion be united with us in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. **Amen.**

Communion Song: "What Child is This?"

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the One whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste we bring our laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies the babe in mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good souls draw near; for dwellers here the silent Word is pleading. **(R)**

So bring your incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, magi, peasant, seeking.
Our song we sing, our gifts we bring; Our loving hearts embracing. **(R)**

Our communal response is:

Wise women also came.

Wise women also came.

Wise women also came.

The fire burned

in their wombs

long before they saw

the flaming star

in the sky.

They walked in shadows,

trusting the path

would open

under the light of the moon.

R: Wise women also came.

Wise women also came,

seeking no directions,

no permission

from any king.

They came

by their own authority,

their own desire,

their own longing.

They came in quiet,

spreading no rumors,

sparking no fears

to lead

to innocents' slaughter,
to their sister Rachel's
inconsolable lamentations.

R: Wise women also came.

Wise women also came,
and they brought
useful gifts:
water for labor's washing,
fire for warm illumination,
a blanket for swaddling.

R: Wise women also came.

Wise women also came,
at least three of them,
holding Mary in the labor,
crying out with her
in the birth pangs,
breathing ancient blessings
into her ear.

R: Wise women also came.

Wise women also came,
and they went,
as wise women always do,
home a different way.

R: Wise women also came.

CONCLUDING RITES

Closing Blessing

O God Among Us, may we be visited by angels,
may we follow stars, may we bring the gifts we have to offer.
Let the church say... **Amen.**

May we embrace the journey and travel in love.
And may Christ be the center of our homes and hearts this new year ahead...
Let the church say... **Amen.**

Sending Forth

This Mass has ended. The Christmas mysteries are manifest.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Song – Christ Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. **(R)**

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to heal us. Make us your living voice. **(R)**

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kin-dom come. **(R)**

We are grateful that you have joined us for worship today.

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. Financial support is essential to breathe life into this dream and to keep it alive for future generations. To underscore our commitment, we support a full-time paid priest and a variety of social justice activities, giving a percentage of our Sunday offering back into the community. To support our community, please visit <http://www.mmacc.org/donate>.

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