



From Padre Miguel...

Lo que la Biblia dice de los Tres Reyes Magos

El Libro de Oración Común para nosotros es la guía para el culto que damos a Dios. También es un resumen de lo que creemos de EL.

En la parte de los Documentos Históricos de la Iglesia (pagina 756 LOC), en el Artículos de la religión, parte sexta, titulada; De la suficiencia de las Sagradas Escrituras para la salvación, podemos leer que dice: “La Sagrada Escritura contiene todas las cosas necesarias para la salvación, de modo que cualquier cosa que no se lea en ella, ni con ella se pruebe, no debe exigirse de hombre alguno que la crea como artículo de fe, ni debe ser tenida por requisito necesario para la salvación” (LOC pagina 762).

Después de Navidad nosotros celebramos 12 días este acontecimiento hasta la Epifanía del Señor Jesús o día de Los Reyes Magos el 6 de Enero. (por favor vea su calendario liturgico 2020)

¿Cómo se llama este tiempo después de navidad?, se llama el Primero y Segundo domingo después de la Navidad y es la celebración del recuerdo cuando vino y nació Jesús no solo un día sino 12 días.

¿Qué es la Epifanía? La celebración y recuerdo de la visita de los Reyes Magos a María y José cuando nació Jesús, El se manifestó como el Salvador del mundo, se dio a conocer a la humanidad representada en estos personajes.

Y que dice la Biblia de estos personajes? Dice muy poco y solo son mencionados en Mateo 2, 1-12 ; “Cuando Jesús nació en Belén de Judea en días del rey Herodes, vinieron del oriente a Jerusalén unos magos, diciendo: ¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos, que ha nacido? Porque su estrella hemos visto en el oriente, y venimos a adorarle. Oyendo esto, el rey Herodes se turbó, y toda Jerusalén con él. Y convocados todos los principales sacerdotes, y los escribas del pueblo, les preguntó dónde había de nacer el Cristo. Ellos le dijeron: En Belén de Judea; porque así está escrito por el profeta. Y tú, Belén, de la tierra de Judá, No eres la más pequeña entre los príncipes de Judá; Porque de ti saldrá un guiador, Que apacentará[a] a mi pueblo Israel. Entonces Herodes, llamando en secreto a los magos, indagó de ellos diligentemente el tiempo de la aparición de la estrella; y enviándolos a Belén, dijo: Id allá y averiguad con diligencia acerca del niño; y cuando le halléis, hacédmelo saber, para que yo también vaya y le adore. Ellos, habiendo oído al rey, se fueron; y he aquí la estrella que habían visto en el oriente iba delante de ellos, hasta que llegando, se detuvo sobre donde estaba el niño. Y al ver la estrella, se regocijaron con muy grande gozo. Y al entrar en la casa, vieron al niño con su madre María, y postrándose, lo adoraron; y abriendo sus tesoros, le ofrecieron presentes: oro, incienso y mirra. Pero siendo avisados por revelación en sueños que no volviesen a Herodes, regresaron a su tierra por otro camino”.

Y que no dice la Biblia de ellos: Que eran tres Reyes Magos, uno negro y dos blancos, estos últimos con largas barbas blancas. Sus nombres, Melchor, Gaspar y Baltasar. Los tres con sus respectivas coronas, como reyes que eran. Montados uno en un caballo, otro en un camello y el tercero en un elefante.

¿Entonces esta bien que creamos en los Reyes magos?. Yo aconsejo que si, como parte de la tradición de la iglesia y con su significado teológico o pastoral, es decir, es la Epifanía del Señor Jesús, el recuerdo de la manifestación de Jesús a la humanidad, a todo el género humano representada en estos personajes.

Yo meditaba que probablemente eran unos comerciantes, de esa época, de esos que iban y venían a Jerusalem con sus mercancías todo el año. Que pasaron por donde estaba María, José y el recién nacido; Jesús. Al verlos tan pobres y en apuros uno de ellos le regaló a José unas monedas de oro y siguió su camino. Otro le dio lo que traía para vender en Jerusalem, un medio kilo de incienso para que lo vendiera José y hacer tener otro poco de dinero para que se ayudara por la difícil situación en la que estaban. Otro comerciante que pasaba le regaló a María un frasco de perfume para ella, o para que lo vendieran y compraran algo de ropa para su bebé.

Pasaron muchos años, y al recordar este signo de solidaridad de estos comerciantes con José, María y Jesús, los primeros cristianos se imaginaron que eran reyes, se les vistió como los reyes y se les montó en un caballo, un camello y un elefante siguiendo una estrella para ir a adorar al Salvador del Mundo.

Bueno, no hay certeza histórica de estos personajes solo tenemos lo que nos narra San Mateo de ellos. Pero yo los invito, a que como cada año, sigamos celebrando la Navidad en 12 días y la Epifanía (los Reyes Magos) del Señor Jesús.

What the Bible says about the Three Wise Men

The Book of Common Prayer for us is the guide for the worship we give to God. It is also a summary of what we believe of EL.

In the part of the Historical Documents of the Church (page 756 LOC), in the Articles of Religion, part six, titled; From the sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for salvation, we can read that it says: “The Holy Scripture contains all the things necessary for salvation, so that anything that is not read in it, nor is proven, should not be demanded of any man who creates it as an article of faith, nor should it be considered necessary for salvation ”(LOC page 762).

After Christmas we celebrated this event for 12 days until the Epiphany of the Lord Jesus or Three Kings Day on January 6. (please see your liturgical calendar 2020)

What is the name of this time after Christmas? It is called the First and Second Sunday after Christmas and it is the celebration of remembrance when Jesus came and was born not only one day but 12 days.

What is Epiphany? The celebration and remembrance of the visit of the Magi to Mary and Joseph when Jesus was born, He manifested himself as the Savior of the world, made himself known to the humanity represented in these characters.

And what does the Bible say about these characters? It says very little and they are only mentioned in Matthew 2, 1-12; “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, some magicians came from the east to Jerusalem, saying: Where is the king of the Jews, who was born? Because we have seen his star in the east, and we come to worship him. Hearing this, King Herod was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And summoned all the chief priests, and the scribes of the people, asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him: In Bethlehem of Judea; because that's how it is written by the prophet. And you, Bethlehem, from the land of Judah, You are not the smallest among the princes of Judah; For from you a guide will come out, Who will feed my people Israel. Then Herod, secretly calling the magicians, diligently inquired of them the time of the star's appearance; and sending them to Bethlehem, he said: Go there and diligently find out about the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I also go and adore him. They, having heard the king, left; and, behold, the star they had seen in the east was ahead of them, until arriving, it stopped over where the boy was. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with great joy. And when they entered the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary,

and prostrating themselves, they worshiped him; and opening their treasures, they offered him presents: gold, frankincense and myrrh. But being warned by revelation in dreams that they did not return to Herod, they returned to their land by another path. ”

And what does the Bible say about them: That they were three Wise Men, one black and two white, the latter with long white beards. Their names, Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar. The three with their respective crowns, as kings they were. Mounted one on a horse, another on a camel and the third on an elephant.

So it's okay to believe in the Magi? I advise that if, as part of the tradition of the church and with its theological or pastoral meaning, that is, it is the Epiphany of the Lord Jesus, the memory of Jesus' manifestation to humanity, to all the human race represented in these characters.

I thought that they were probably merchants, from that time, of those who come and go to Jerusalem with their merchandise all year. That they passed through where María, José and the newborn were; Jesus. Seeing them so poor and in a hurry, one of them told Jose some gold coins and went on his way. Another gave him what he brought to sell in Jerusalem, a half kilo of incense for Joseph to sell and he had another little money to help himself because of the difficult situation they were in. Another passing merchant gave Maria a perfume bottle for her, or for them to sell and buy some clothes for her baby.

Many years passed, and remembering this sign of solidarity of these merchants with Joseph, Mary and Jesus, the first Christians imagined that they were kings, they were dressed like kings and they were mounted on a horse, a camel and an elephant following a star to worship the Savior of the World.

Well, there is no historical certainty of these characters, we only have what San Mateo tells us about them. But I invite you, as every year, we continue celebrating Christmas in 12 days and the Epiphany (the Magi) of the Lord Jesus.

*A Blessed and Happy New Year to all,
Padre Miguel +*

EPIPHANY

Our new church year began on December 1st – Advent (which means coming). It was a four Sunday week event marked by Hope, Love, Joy and Peace as we also began to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity, that is the birth of Jesus. Christmas, our second season began on Wednesday, 25 December and will last until January 6th, 2020. On Christmas, we celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Around January 6th, the symbol “**20+C+M+B+20**” (these numbers and letters are sometimes written in chalk above the doorways of Christian homes. The three letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. These letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* – “**May God bless this House**”. The beginning and ending numbers are the year and the crosses represent Christ.

Epiphany begins on January 6th and marks the beginning of our third Christian season and will end on 26 February – Ash Wednesday. Our “colors” for Epiphany will be Green (for Hope) which is also the color of all living things in God’s creation.

Epiphany has also come to be known as “Three Kings Day”. The Three Kings have come to be known as “The Magi”. The Magi arrived in Jerusalem guided by the Star in the East. The Three Crowns represent them and it is not certain how they heard of the Christ Jesus but presumably they heard of the Christ Child from the Jews living in their country and of the star heralding his arrival. The Magi brought with them three gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh. Each gift is symbolic in its own right: The Gold is symbolic of Christ’s kingship and royalty; the frankincense (incense) symbolic of his divinity and myrrh is symbolic of his humanity.

*Yours in Christ,
Joe Maldonado, Senior Warden*



January at St. Christopher's

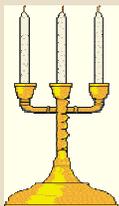


Saturday, January 11
9:00 a.m. VESTRY MEETING
Final meeting of the 2019 Vestry

Sunday, January 12
THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
11:15 a.m. Epiphany Observance in Rice Hall after the service
Epiphany Potluck Lunch and Rozca ~ Everyone please bring a dish to share!

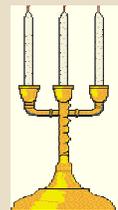
Sunday, January 19
11:15 a.m. ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
and Potluck Lunch
Everyone bring your favorite dish to share
at this most important congregational meeting!

Saturday, January 25
8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. VESTRY and LEADERSHIP RETREAT
with Rev. John Tober
Rector, St. James' Mesilla
Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided
Morning Sessions: Leadership and Spirituality
Afternoon Session: Vestry Planning for 2020



Coming in February

THE EUCHARIST OF CANDLEMAS
The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
10:00 a.m. Sunday, February 2



Candlight Procession ~ Litany for Candemas ~ Blessing of Candles
Bring your new household candles to be blessed

**CLERGY AND LAY MINISTRY REPORTS
FOR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

11:15 a.m. Sunday, January 19

**Please submit a signed copy of your 2019 written report to Holly for our files
Reports may be given orally at the meeting**

Rector's Report: Fr. JJ Bernal

Senior Warden's Report: Joe Maldonado

2019 Financial Report: Holly Truesdale

2020 Church Budget: Bruce Truesdale

Acolyte Report: Joe Maldonado

AG Report: Carlisle Navidomskis

Admin Report: Holly Truesdale

Music Report: Holly Truesdale

Outreach Report: Fr. JJ

WL Report: Bruce Truesdale

**Happy
Birthday**

**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

*Augie Vega 5
Carol Garcia 15*

**2019 Individual Contribution
Statements**

**will be available, in envelopes arranged
alphabetically, in the
narthex as of Sunday, January 5**

**Those not picked up will be
snail-mailed on Monday, January 6**

**Please notify Holly as soon as possible to report
any errors or omissions on your statement**

Thank you!

MEETINGS

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
9:00 a.m. VESTRY MEETING**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
11:15 a.m.
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
with Potluck Lunch
Meeting will be held immediately after
the service with lunch in Rice Hall
following the meeting**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
VESTRY and LEADERSHIP
RETREAT
with Rev. John Tober
Rector of St. James' , Mesilla**

**Continental Breakfast
Morning Prayer
Sessions with Retreat Leaders
Lunch at 12 noon**

Vestry meets at 1:00 p.m.



JANUARY PRAYER LIST

Please keep these members and friends of St. Christopher's in your daily prayers...

Erika Dominguez and family (Members) Virgie Shinn (Member), Robert Soto (Member), Mary Hernandez, (Member), The Bishop family (Members), Patty Lane (Member), Luis Garcia (Member), Mary Reyes (Cano), Roger McNeil (Mowad), Ray Vega (Vega), Gary Welsh, Richard and Kathy Schofill (Truesdale), Kevin Salcedo, Joe Heidrick (Shinn), Fernando Peña, Christy Darling, Jerry Brown (Shinn), Hank Hosford (Mowad), Octaviano Tavares (Rodriguez), Donna Hvizdos (Hudak), Maria Morgan (Anderson), Irma Lopez (Mowad), John Hudak (Hudak), Skip Bambrook, James Mowad (Mowad), Bill Fields (Fields), Alyson, Manuel Vida, Mariann Chavez (Shinn), Bob St. Jean (Truesdale), Roman Morales and family, Estela and Jesus Salcido, Mrs. Zapata, the Gomez Family (Cano), Sammie Garcia (Shinn), Alyson (Navidomskis), Chasaidy Cantrell (Truesdale)

Almighty God, we commend to your care and keeping all of the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad: Capt. Matthew Barchie USAF, Sgt. Charles Barden, Charles East, Navy, Matthew Barnes, Jerry Carreon, Adam Garcia, Navy, Magie Gonzalez, Lt. Jody M. Daniels, Navy, Roberto Salgado, Mark Logan, USAF, PFC Jose Gonzalez, Oscar I. Gonzalez, Comd. Darren Rich, Oscar Camuniz, SP Woody Needler, Dr. Richard Nahouraii, Army, PO2 Chester B. (Chip) Thomson IV, SST. Tim Hayes, Raymundo Ubina,

The families and friends of all who are serving at home and abroad

Please contact Holly to add or delete names

OUR MINISTRIES

HELP WANTED!!

2020 LAY MINISTRY OPENINGS

If you would be willing to serve in any of the Lay Ministries below, please let us know! Help is needed and training is available!

- Lectors (Readers)
- Acolytes (youth and adult)
- Altar Guild

And we are very much in need of additional Tellers! Duties are counting and recording all offerings and preparing the bank deposit each Sunday and at other services

New Tellers will be assigned with experienced Tellers for training

All of these lay ministries are vital to the ministry of St. Christopher's!

Please let Fr. JJ Bernal, Senior Warden Joe Maldonado, or Holly know if you would like to serve!



From Fr. JJ, Padre Miguel, and Fr. Alex for the most generous Christmas gifts given by the Church Family of St. Christopher's

To all who helped with preparation for the Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist and all who helped with the Christmas Pageant

To our Senior Warden Joe Maldonado and Fr. JJ for the countless hours they have spent overseeing the numerous improvement projects this past year

To all of our parishioners who prepared food for Sunday Coffee Hour and special events throughout 2019

To all of our volunteers who have given of their time and talent with cleaning, event decorating, and assistance with Fund-raising events

You are all greatly appreciated!

**CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE AND
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

300 Riverside Drive El Paso, Texas 79915

Church Office: 915 859-9329

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

Email:

stchristopherselpaso@gmail.com

Website:

www.stchristopherselpaso.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Eucharist & Healing 10:30 a.m.



St. Christopher's

Soup Kitchen

Outreach

11:00 a.m.

2nd & 3rd Saturday of each month

**BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE
OF THE RIO GRANDE
The Right Reverend Michael B. Hunn**

**CLERGY AND STAFF
The Reverend Canon José J. Bernal
Rector**

**The Reverend Miguel Ramirez
Associate Priest**

**The Reverend Alejandro Reyes
Associate Priest**

**Holly Truesdale
Parish Administrator**



**VESTRY
Joe Maldonado - Senior Warden
Carlisle Navidomskis
Virgie Shinn
Bruce Truesdale**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rector

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday

**Fr. Bernal will be also available
on Saturdays by appointment.**



**Administrator
and Church Office
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
Administrator in Office
at home on**

**Monday and Wednesday
852-3954 or 252-2475**

Church Offices Closed on Friday

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MISSION STATEMENT

*Our Mission, as vessels indwelt
by the Holy Spirit, is to proclaim
the Gospel and teach the Faith;
to bring Christ's healing power to
those who are wounded and hurting;
to share our blessings with those in
need; to administer the Holy
Sacraments; and to live our lives to
God's glory, sharing the love of
Jesus Christ with all people.*

