



# CONSOLATA SHRINE THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY



5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

*"The glory of the Lord has risen upon you."*

### A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall walk by your light, and kings in the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. **The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72:1-2.7-8.10-13

**R. All nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgment. **R**

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall pay him tribute. The Kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R**

For he shall save the needy when they cry, the poor, and those who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

*“It has now been revealed that the Gentiles are fellow heirs of the promise.”*

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians**

Brethren: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to this holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. **The word of the Lord.**



***Alleluia, Alleluia***

*We have seen his star in the east,  
and have come to worship the Lord.*

***Alleluia***



## GOSPEL

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*“We have come from the East to worship the king.”*

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**



Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.”

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.” Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” When they had heard the king they went their way; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over

the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. **The Gosepl of the Lord.**

**REFLECTION – A King to Behold - by Dr. Scott Hahn**

An “Epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendorous lights and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears. Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise - one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David, the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth”. Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay Him homage. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king. The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfillment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob. Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth. Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon. One greater than Solomon is here. He has come to reveal that all peoples are “co-heirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches. His manifestation forces us to choose: Will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests



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and the scribes who let God's words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?

### **Announcement**

1. Today we are blessing our Tithe, our Families and our work. – **Choir lead us with a song.**
2. Today, there will be a Children's Mass at 3 pm to celebrate Epiphany. All children are invited.
  - Next Sunday, there will be a second collection for the Holy Childhood which will be sent to Rome for pastoral work. Please come prepared.
3. Registration for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation for both School children, adults and for Couples planning to get married is ongoing at the Catechist's Office.
4. St. Bakhita Small Christian Community will animate Rosary on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> after 5:00 pm Mass.
5. There will be no Children's Sunday Service in January 2025. The Children's activities will resume on 2 February 2025 with the Children's Mass.
6. Consolata Charismatic prayer group has organized Life in the Spirit Seminar from 19<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 2 pm every Sunday.

### **Wedding Bans**

There is a promise of marriage between:

1. *Sergio Bosco Tiburcio A. Antao & Anushka Gillian Mathews (1<sup>st</sup> Announcement)*

Kindly visit the parish notice board for more information. If anyone has an objection, please notify the father in charge.

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**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.consolatashrine.org](http://www.consolatashrine.org); **PARISH E-MAIL:** [info@consolatashrine.org](mailto:info@consolatashrine.org); Tithe Account No: 002215001004856 – ABC Bank: A/C Name: Consolata Fathers – Shrine; Allamano Project Account No. 002215001004394.: ABC Bank: Consolata Father-Shrine Project; **PARISH MPESA NUMBER:** 508702, Account Reason for payment; ALLAMANO PROJECT MPESA NUMBER: 804877; P.O. Box 14930 - Nairobi;