

SUNDAY JANUARY 10: SUNDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE EPIPHANY



WE ALL BELONG TO EACH OTHER

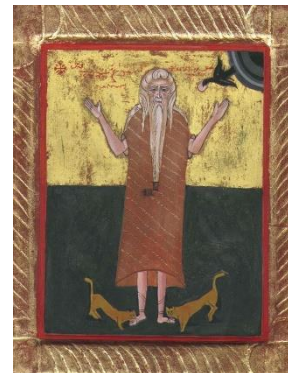
(ROMANS 12, 5)

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Today we celebrate the Sunday in the Octave of the Epiphany. Epiphany means *manifestation* or revealing or showing, and all the Gospels of this time are about how *Jesus shows Himself*. Today we think about how Jesus *showed Himself to the doctors* (the learned people) - Luke 2, 42-52. But we, too, must manifest Jesus - and this is what the epistles of this time teach. The epistle for today reminds us that as Christians *we all belong to each other* as members of a single body, the Body of Christ (Romans 12, 1-5).

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We likewise celebrate today the on-going octave of the Epiphany, as well as *St Paul the First Hermit*, also known as *Paul of Thebes*, who died this day in 341, at the age of 113. For 97 years he lived in a cave, dressed in palm-leaves and eating only dates. In the collect, we ask for grace to imitate his actions - but this is not so much his specific way of asceticism as the will they represent, the determination to live *a life which puts God first, and makes salvation its primary concern*.



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This year, due to COVID, there will be *no house blessings*. However, *chalk and water* were blessed at the Epiphany mass and you are invited to take these away to bless your houses yourselves.

DIRECTORY: We will be putting together a new parish directory in 2021. If you were not included in the last edition, please see our editor, Rose: rosemamarti@gmail.com. In relation to the parish directory, a copy of the *parish membership list* is posted on the noticeboard in the narthex. Please check this and correct it as necessary.

SNOW & INCLEMENT WEATHER: The Lord loves you, and so do I. Please do not come to church if weather conditions are dangerous. If need be, the church can come to you.

CALENDARS: The Liturgical Calendars from St Patrick's have now arrived and are on the table at the back for collection, \$11 each for those who ordered them. Please leave your payment in the basket provided, and mark on the list that you have paid. There are two calendars spare.

PRAYER LIST: As a new year begins, we have pruned the prayer list. If you would like anyone included (living or departed) please let Fr David know.

POINSETTIAS: The Octave of the Epiphany (Jan 13) marks the end of the Christmas Cycle. So, please think about adopting a poinsettia - or gifting one to a friend or relative. *Please note, though, poinsettias are poisonous to cats and dogs.*

FOCAL: Back issues of *Focal* (from August 2019) are available to all members on the Parish Council Google Drive. Thank you, *Edie*, for this!

PROPER

INTROIT: ON a throne exalted I beheld, and lo, a man sitting, whom a legion of Angels worship, singing together: behold, his rule and governance endureth to all ages. O be joyful in God, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness.

COLLECT: O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee: and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same. *Commemoration of the Octave; Commemoration of St Paul*

EPISTLE: Brethren: I beseech you by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think: but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another: in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GRADUAL: Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel: which only doeth wondrous things. The mountains also shall bring peace: and the little hills righteousness unto the people. Alleluia, alleluia! Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Now the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when Jesus was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem, after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey: and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him: Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them: How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, and stature, and in favour with God and man.

OFFERTORY: Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands, serve the Lord with gladness: and come before his presence with a song: be ye sure that the Lord he is God.

SECRET: We beseech thee, O Lord, that this sacrifice, which we offer unto thee, may evermore avail to quicken and defend us.

PREFACE: ... Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who, in substance of our mortal flesh, manifested forth his glory; that he might bring us out of darkness into his own glorious light ...

COMMUNION: Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them: How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

POSTCOMMUNION: We humbly beseech thee, Almighty God: that we, whom thou dost vouchsafe to regenerate with thy holy sacraments; may continually serve thee in all virtuous and godly living.

PRAYER LIST

Pray for One Another – James 5, 16

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop Yohanna, held captive by ISIS; our armed forces and first-responders; those suffering from corona virus, and those fighting against it; Carole; Dru; Katie; Olivia; Grace; Joanie; Stella, Bill and family; Rebbekah; Adele; Beau; Aram; Gary; Jeff; Eric; Ann; Georgette; Linda; Lyle; John; Deacon James and Shamassy Linda

+ Patriarch Meletios; Exarch George; Bishop Luke; Archpriest Michael and Kh Adeeba; Priest John; Priest Nicholas; Priest Gabriel; Priest Justin; Priest Patrick; Subdeacon Lawrence; Albert and Malkie; Florence and Walter; Joanne; Valerie; Chuck; Adrien; Frank; Frances; Earlene; Le Ann; Stacey; Nancy

KALENDAR

Monday: In the Octave, comm. St Hyginus, Bishop and Martyr

12: Tuesday: In the Octave, comm. St Benedict Biscop, Abbot: Exarch George Massad, RIP

13: Wednesday: Octave of the Epiphany: Baptism of the Lord: Mass, 6.30pm: Earlene Lindsay, RIP: *Vespers today marks the end of the Christmas Season*

14: Thursday: St Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop, Confessor, Doctor, comm. St Felix of Nola, Bishop and Martyr

15: Friday: St Maur, Abbot: Abstinence: Rosary, 6.30pm (zoom)

16: Saturday: Our Lady of Saturday, comm. St Marcellus, Bishop and Martyr: Vespers, 5.30pm

PARTING THOUGHT

With what longing, with what intense desire did Mary and Joseph seek for Jesus? And us, how do we seek Him? *My God*, says the Psalmist, *I seek You with deepest longing; I thirst for you; I yearn for You* (Psalm 63, 1). Is this how we seek God?