



BLD Trenton



# Community News

Volume 23, Issue 1

<http://bldtrenton.com>

January 6, 2023

## This Sunday's Counsel

### THEME:

We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ when we adore and offer Him our time, talent and resources.

### PROMISE:

"...upon you the Lord shines and over you appears His glory..." (Is 60: 2b)

### WORD:

Is 60: 1-6/ Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12 -13/ Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2: 1-12



Send your prayer requests to:  
[https://](https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory)

[www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory](https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory)

Lord,  
every nation  
on earth  
will adore you.

## Becoming Co-heirs

### REFLECTION:

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord celebrates God's manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah and Savior of the world. Symbolized by the journey of wise men from the East, commonly called Magi, in search of the new-born King of the Jews, God revealed His wonderful plan that salvation is not merely for the Jewish nation, but for all of mankind. With the coming of the Messiah, salvation made *"the Gentiles co-heirs, members of the same body and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel,"* (Eph 3:6). Epiphany reminds us that Jesus came to fulfill not only the hopes of His people (Israelites) but also the deepest yearning and longing of men, regardless of race and culture. Jesus is not only *"the radiance of Israel"* but is also revealed as the *"light of all nations."*

In the first reading, Isaiah's prophecy, predicting the radiance of Jerusalem over the rest of the world, was fulfilled when the Magi came to Jerusalem in search for the



baby Jesus, through whom *"nations shall walk by His light and kings by His shining radiance,"* (Is 60:3). The uncharted journey of the Magi, guided only by a brilliant star to bring gifts and pay homage to an unknown king, removed the dividing wall between the

Jews, known as the *"chosen people"* and the gentiles (non-Jews), representing all nations. All people of the earth are invited to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

As we grow in maturity as Christians, we begin to place a deeper meaning on the Epiphany of the Lord—why God destined the wise men to be guided by the Star of Bethlehem to do the baby Jesus homage and to offer him *"gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh,"* and why He guided them home *"to depart for their country by another way,"* (Mt 2: 12b). There are symbols here that we can apply to our life today.

Today, our faith journey is being steered by Jesus, our guiding Star, to direct our path towards Him. As we start a new year

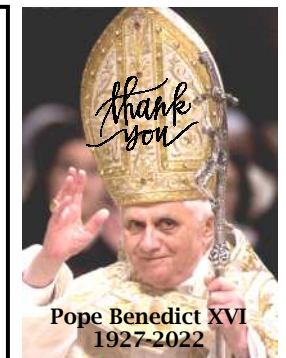
*Co-heirs - See Page 2*

## Tending the Flock

## Divine Glory Made Manifest

Let us now observe how glorious was the dignity that attended the King after his birth, after the magi in their journey remained obedient to the star. For immediately the magi fell to their knees and adored the one born as Lord. There in his very cradle they venerated him with offerings of gifts, though Jesus was merely a whimpering infant. They perceived one thing with the eyes of their bodies but another with the eyes of the mind. The lowliness of the body he assumed was discerned, but the glory of his divinity is now made manifest. A boy he is, but it is God who is adored. How inexpressible is the mystery of his divine honor! The invisible and eternal nature did not hesitate to take on the weaknesses of the flesh on our behalf. The Son of God, who is God of the universe, is born a human being in the flesh. He permits himself to be placed in a manger, and the heavens are within the manger. He is kept in a cradle, a cradle that the world cannot hold. He is heard in the voice of a crying infant. This is the same one for whose voice the whole world would tremble in the hour of his passion. Thus he is the One, the God of glory and the Lord of majesty, whom as a tiny infant the magi recognize. It is he who while a child was truly God and King eternal. To him Isaiah pointed, saying, *"For a boy has been born to you; a son has been given to you, a son whose empire has been forged on his shoulders"* (Is 9:6).

~ St. Chromatius of Aquileia (died 406 A.D.),  
Tractate on Matthew 5:1



Pope Benedict XVI  
1927-2022



### Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.  
Donate link can be found at  
[www.bldtrenton.com](http://www.bldtrenton.com)

Or mail check to:  
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1367  
Toms River, NJ 08754

### The Lord's Provision

**December 30, 2022**

Tithe :\$221.00  
Love Offering :\$980.00

*Thank you for your generosity!!!*

### Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407  
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541

### Missionary

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19).*

It is a request that the Lord makes to every Christian in every time. Jesus uses an easy and essential verb: 'go'.

Some might think that to be a good Christian it is necessary above all to reflect, to meditate. Instead, Jesus says: Go! It is a decisive verb, because it transforms the disciple into an apostle, it makes him a missionary.

And you too, dear friends, are called to go, because God does not like it when we are lazy on the couch; He wants us on the move, on our way, ready and willing to put ourselves on the line.

*~ Pope Francis*

### God's Blessings

#### Birthday

Emmanuett Nagbe	1/1	Carmela Palumbo	1/6
Grace Bustamante	1/3	Woody Woodard	1/7
Malou Yosunico	1/4	Jose Alvarenga	1/10
Patrick Mazo	1/5	William Colon	1/10
Eppie Rebong	1/5	Jeric Balmaceda	1/11
Jay Mijares	1/6	Gening Mabutas	1/11

#### Anniversary

Joel & Estela Bermudo	1/1
Vic & Lucy Mabunay	1/2
Jay & Tet Edralin	1/4
Rene & Edna Perez	1/4
Manny & Jocelyn Rodriguez	1/5
Leo & Nona Alquiros	1/8
Wendell & Mildred Lumapas	1/8



### Co-heirs - Cont'd from Page 1

with hopeful expectation, we can resolve to make Jesus foremost in our life and make this year a year of true spiritual re-awakening. Jesus is our one and only Lord who deserves our time, talent and resources, above all our priorities and attachments.

After being shaken by the many challenges caused by the pandemic and other environmental calamities, people have now realized how vulnerable life is; and God is truly in control of everything. The experience of sustained real threats to life might have become a breakthrough moment of conversion as people begin to open their eyes to the importance of having a sustained and deeper relationship with God, to grow spiritually and prepare for eternal life.

Epiphany is a call to all believers to share the divine concern for the salvation of all and to be the guiding star, through their exemplary witnessing, to announce the Good News to all people. It is in this context that we, as members of the BLD community, should lead in raising the spiri-

tual awareness of our family, friends, relatives, officemates and even strangers. Let Christ in us, through our Christian witnessing, win others and bring them to know Jesus more. Let us accept the challenge to be Christ-like at all times, keeping the faith, placing God above everything we have and do, loving, forgiving and being trustworthy servants of God. Thus, making us worthy of this promise – "...upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory," (Is 60:2b).

#### Prayer:

Lord, let Your light shine upon all of us that we might be the stars in the darkness of this world, to guide as many people who are lost in their journey towards their true destination. Give us strength to live up to our commitment and covenant with You, so that we may bless You and Your chosen people all the days of our lives. May we always live by Your word and be guided by it... Amen.



Adapted from [www.bldworld.org](http://www.bldworld.org)

### A prayer for the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Father, eternal shepherd,  
hear the prayers of your people  
for your servant Benedict,  
who governed your Church with love.

In your mercy, bring him with the flock  
once entrusted to his care to the reward  
you have promised your faithful servants.

May he who faithfully administered the mysteries  
of your forgiveness and love on earth,  
rejoice with you for ever in heaven

In your wisdom and loving care,  
you made your servant teacher of all your Church.  
He did the work of Christ on earth.

May your Son welcome him into eternal glory.

May your servant whom you appointed  
high priest of your flock  
be counted now among the priests  
in the life of your kingdom.

Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness  
and let your mercy win for us  
the gift of your life and love.

We entrust your servant to your mercy  
with faith and confidence.  
In the human family he was an instrument  
of your peace and love.

May he rejoice in those gifts  
for ever with your saints.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.