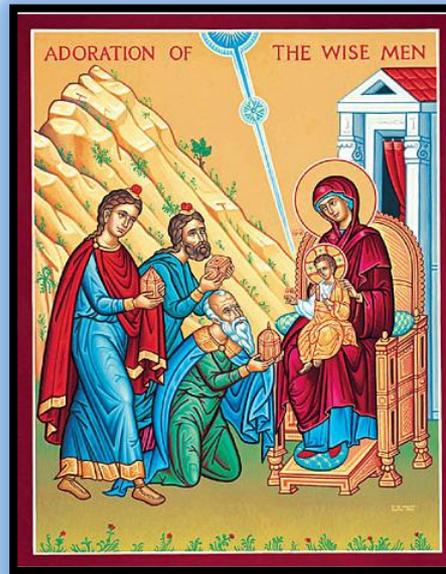


BIOGRAPHY

Dearly beloved brethren, rejoice in the Lord; again I say, rejoice. But a few days are past since the solemnity of Christ's Birth, and now the glorious light of His Manifestation is breaking upon us. On that day the Virgin brought Him forth, and on this the world knew Him. The Word made Flesh was pleased to reveal Himself by degrees to those for whom He had come. When Jesus was born He was manifested indeed to the believing, but hidden from His enemies. Already indeed the heavens declared the glory of God, and their sound went out into all lands, when the Herald Angels appeared to tell to the shepherds the glad tidings of a Saviour's Birth; and now the guiding star leadeth the wise men to worship Him, that from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof, the Birth of the true King may be known abroad; that through those wise men the kingdoms of the east might learn the great truth, and the Roman empire remain no more in darkness. Dearly beloved brethren, we recognize in the wise men who came to worship Christ, the first-fruits of that dispensation to the Gentiles wherein we also are called and enlightened. Let us then keep this Feast with grateful hearts, in thanksgiving for our blessed hope, whereof it doth commemorate the dawn. From that worship paid to the new-born Christ is to be dated the entry of us Gentiles upon our heirship of God and co-heirship with Christ. Since that joyful day the Scriptures which testify of Christ have lain open for us as well as for the Jews. Yea, their blindness rejected that Truth, Which, since that day, hath shed Its bright beams upon all nations. Let all observance, then, be paid to this most sacred day, whereon the Author of our salvation was made manifest, and as the wise men fell down and worshipped Him in the manger, so let us fall down and worship Him enthroned Almighty in heaven. As they also opened their treasures and presented unto Him mystic and symbolic gifts, so let us strive to open our hearts to Him, and offer Him from thence some worthy offering. (St. Leo the Great)



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**FEAST DAY:
6 JANUARY**

COLLECT

○ **God**, Who by the leading of a Star didst, as on this day, manifest Thine Only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we, which know Thee now by Faith, may after this life have the fruition of Thy Glorious Godhead: Through the same Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who Liveth and Reigneth with Thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen

PRAYER TO THE THREE KINGS

○ holy Kings, who didst see the rising of the Star and didst follow to pay homage to the Divine King and Heavenly Emperor of all Creation, hear my prayer. O Melchior, O Balthazar, O Caspar, thou didst travel from pagan lands to be the first of the Gentiles to pay tribute to the Christ seated upon the Holy Virgin: give me the love to follow the same Star to find the Holy One. Be near to me to guide me through the night to find the Light of the Father. O thou Wise Men, make my heart to burn with holy passion for my Redeemer. Amen