

Feast of the Epiphany

Extraction of Francis' Spirit

Opening Song: "The First Noel"

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,
Fell reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who with the Father we adore
And Spirit blest for evermore.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Leader: Let us pray:
Father of light, unchanging God,
Today You reveal to people of faith



The resplendent fact of the Word made flesh.
Your light is strong, Your love is near.
Draw us beyond the limits that this world imposes,
To the life where our Spirit makes all life complete.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 61:1-3
Silent reflection on the Word.

Members take turns reading the Virtues:

A Salutation of the Virtues
Saint Francis of Assisi

Hail, Queen Wisdom,
may the Lord protect You
with Your Sister, holy, pure Simplicity!

Lady holy Poverty,
may the Lord protect You,
with Your Sister, holy Humility!

Lady, holy Charity,
may the Lord protect You,
with Your Sister, Holy Obedience!

Most Holy Virtues,
may the Lord protect You,
from Whom You come and proceed.

There is surely no one in the entire world
who can possess any one of You
without dying first.

Whoever possesses one
and does not offend the others
possesses all.

Whoever offends one
does not possess any
and offends all.

And each one confounds vice and sin.
Holy Wisdom confounds Satan and all his cunning.
Pure Holy Simplicity confounds
all the wisdom of this world
and the wisdom of the body.

Holy Poverty confounds
the desire of riches, greed,

and the cares of this world.

Holy Humility confounds pride,
all people who are in the world
and all that is in the world.

Holy Charity confounds
every diabolical and carnal temptation
and every carnal fear.

Holy Obedience confounds
every corporal and carnal wish,
binds its mortified body
to obedience of the Spirit
and obedience to one's brothers and sisters,
so that it is subject and submissive
to everyone in the world,
not only to people
but to every beast and wild animal as well
that they may do what they want with it
insofar as it has been given to them
from above by the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God,
We celebrate the day when Your Word was made flesh
For all the world to see.
In becoming one with our human family
He sanctified human activity and made us holy
Through His life-giving Word.

Through the ages, His message has continued to
Touch the hearts of men and women of every place,
Taking flesh in our lives through their Christian service.

Be with us today, Lord our God,
As we choose one of these saints as our patron for this new year.
With the help of Your Holy Spirit,
May the saint given us today
Inspire us to exercise Christian virtue
And to follow your Son more closely as we pray for each other in our Franciscan family.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 100

Leader: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;
Worship the Lord with cries of gladness;
Come before Him with joyful song.

ALL: Let the earth cry out to God with joy.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God,

Our maker to whom we belong,
Whose people we are, God's well-tended flock.

ALL: Let the earth cry out to God with joy.

Leader: Enter the temple gates with praise,
Its courts with thanksgiving.
Give thanks to God, bless His name.

ALL: Let the earth cry out to God with joy.

Leader: Good indeed is the Lord,
Whose love endures forever,
Whose faithfulness lasts through every age.

ALL: Let the earth cry out to God with joy.

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: Almighty, eternal God,
You were pleased to make Your Church illustrious
Through the varied splendor of the saints of the Seraphic Order.
As we venerate their memory,
May we also follow such shining examples of virtue on earth
And be faithful followers of Francis.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. AMEN.

Closing Hymn: "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.
Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Extraction of Francis' spirit follows.

In this service, each member draws one of each of the following:

- A card with the name of a Franciscan saint or blessed or holy one,
- A name of the fraternity member to pray for this year,
- A virtue,
- A Scripture passage,
- Words of Francis.

Trust is placed in the Holy Spirit for appropriate selections; if not immediately clear what the selection means to you, they will become clear at some point.

During this year, practice the virtue, internalize the Scripture passage and Francis' words, and seek the intercession of the chosen Saint.

