

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, a powerful reminder that Jesus manifests himself not just to a chosen few, but to all humanity. Like the Magi, we are called to seek Christ, guided by the light of faith. When we encounter him, in our worship and in our daily lives, we are challenged to offer our best. Let us, therefore, respond with grateful hearts, giving our time, talent, and treasure as a testament to our faith, and let us be a light to those around us who wander in darkness.

As you know on January 6, 2026, the solemnity of the Epiphany, Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to close the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica before celebrating the Mass that will mark the concluding act of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. We stand at a pivotal moment, not of farewell, but of transformation. For these months, we have journeyed together, seeking divine mercy, renewing our faith, and igniting the flame of hope within our hearts, inspired by Pope Francis' call to be "Pilgrims of Hope". May we continue to be pilgrims, carrying the light of Christ into the world, unafraid and full of hope.

Also, it is with great joy and gratitude to God that I announce and welcome our new Franciscan priest, Father Angel Garcia, OFM Conv., to Our Lady of Grace Church! Fr. Angel was ordained on March 25, 2023, by Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., Bishop of the Diocese of Lexington, KY. The ordination was held at St. Paul Parish in San Pablo, CA. Fr. Angel will reside at St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe Friary (Casa) and serve as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Grace Church in Castro Valley. We are truly blessed to receive him as "the Magi's generous gift-giving" and look forward to the journey of faith we will share with him.

Peace and all good!

Fr. Luke
Parochial Vicar