

## Epiphany of the Lord 2021

My beloved brothers and sisters, the word: Epiphany is from the Greek, and it means a Divine Manifestation. Today we recognize that the Invisible God has made Himself visible in the Word Made Man, His Son Jesus The Christ, in a tiny, helpless infant! St. Bernard, one of the great mystics of the Church teaches: When we look at the Baby Jesus, in the manger, it is as if God the Father has given us a tiny purse filled with His Infinite Mercy. It was a very tiny purse, but it was infinitely full, Jesus is the purse of God. And God wants us to draw from this purse, which can never be emptied!

It is from this purse, that we receive everything in order to give back to God the Father- everything! The gospel tells us that the three Wise Men opened their purses before Him, because, even though hidden in a tiny child, in the midst of such poor conditions, they recognized in Him, not only a King, but the King of the Universe itself; they fall down in adoration before Him. How did they recognize Him? They recognized Him as their King and the God of the Universe, because their hearts were already searching for Him, their hearts were already opened to Him, and when they saw Him, they opened their hearts to receive Him in the fullness of His Divine Mercy.

God's infinite Mercy is made visible to us in Jesus Christ; He is truly present, Emmanuel! However, like the Wise Men, we too must open our hearts and lives to Him. When we do so, we experience the merciful love of Jesus, and our lives then become a gift poured out for others! That was the Secret of Mary, the Mother of God, and it is the Secret to making Jesus visible and rich in mercy in our own lives for others!