

Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Resources and Petitions for the Feast of the Epiphany Cycle A (4 January 2026)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Isaiah 60:2-3: "See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon *you* the Lord shines.... Nations shall walk by *your* light, and kings by your shining radiance."

Psalm 72:7-8, 12-13: "Justice shall flower in his [the king's/*your*] days.... May he rule from sea to sea, and ... rescue the poor ... and the afflicted He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save."

Ephesians 3:6: "The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, copartners in the promise ..."

Matthew 2: "'We [the three magi] saw his star at its rising'. ... And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed...."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

"The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. ... Solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. ... Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. ... Most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases ... released mainly as a result of human activity." (#23)

"We need to acknowledge that different approaches and lines of thought have emerged regarding this situation. ... At one extreme, we find those who doggedly uphold the myth of progress and tell us that ecological problems will solve themselves simply with the application of new technology and without any need for ethical considerations or deep change. At the other extreme are those who view men and women and all their interventions as no more than a threat, jeopardizing the global ecosystem, and consequently the presence of human beings on the planet should be reduced and all forms of intervention prohibited. Viable future scenarios will have to be generated between these extremes, since there is no one path to a solution. This makes a variety of proposals possible, all capable of entering into dialogue with a view to developing comprehensive solutions." (#60)

"[St. Francis] was ... a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace." (#10)

"I point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, ... the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious responsibility of international and local policy, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle." (#16)

† Comment for the day:

"Epiphany" means "manifestation", a presentation of what's happening. Today's feast manifests our Lord bringing universal salvation. The Magi represent all the peoples and nations on earth. Pope Francis wrote "all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another" (#42), ... "closely intertwined ... with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself." (#66)

The Climate Crisis remains a major manifestation of our time is. It's real and it's negatively hurting people. More and more people are getting the message about what is hurting people but too few care. Too many money-hungry people make it clear that world leaders have great ideas but too often don't admit their weak destructiveness to others and places. That's true of many among us. Pope Leo now as with Pope Francis before urgently asks that Catholics take these matters seriously.

The Magi in the Epiphany story were all Gentiles but committed to their task. They are symbolic of all the peoples of earth "members of the one Body of Christ, partners in the promise of God's creation", trusted stewards of creation. That means us! We all sit in the darkness covering much of the earth now, trapping many, especially the poor, in places where they can't see the stars through the pollution, much less their way to safety and health. Like the Magi, we, disciples of Jesus are called to side with the Creator and help bring light to all the nations by doing what we can to offset the damage that is being done to our "common home". Adjusting our lifestyle so we eat less meat, less gas, and use less plastic is an example of making a gift to the Savior and God's people. A good way to start this year of 2026 and to keep pursuing it.

† Related Prayers of the Faithful:

Option 1: That we all live and realize that God has entrusted us to care for our planet as our universal common home, let us pray to the Lord

Option 2: That we each take practical steps to reduce pollution in our families, our homes, and our communities, let us pray to the Lord

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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