

OUR CHURCH MONTHLY

Epiphany or the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles

A PRAYER—O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest Thy 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

In early times the twelve days from Dec. 25th to Jan. 6th were all festal days. The Greek Church on Jan. 6th celebrated our Lord's nativity, His manifestation at His Baptism, and His revelation of His Divine power by changing the water into wine at Cana of Galilee. After a time, in the fourth century, the Roman usage prevailed and the manifestation of Jesus to the Magi became the chief event celebrated on the "Twelfth Day" which is now called Epiphany. Manifestation is the key-note of the season.

"Manifestation of Christ to the three wise men, and through them to the world.

"Manifestation to my own soul, and through me to others.

THE BISHOP'S DREAM

"It is written, says Luther, 'that there was once a pious godly bishop, who had often earnestly prayed that God would manifest to him what Jesus had done in his youth. Once the bishop had a dream to this effect. He seemed in his sleep to see a carpenter working at his trade, and beside him a little boy who was gathering up chips. Then came in a maiden clothed in green, who called them both to come to the meal, and set porridge before them. All this the bishop seemed to dream, himself standing behind the door that he might not be perceived. Then the little boy began and said, 'Why does that man stand there, shall he not also eat with us?' And this so frightened the bishop that he awoke." Let this be what it may, adds Luther, a true history or a fable, I none the less believe that Christ in his child-

hood and youth looked and acted like other children yet without sin, in fashion like a man."

A DREAM

The lady in her elegant victoria drove up to the great dry-goods store, and, stepping daintily out, she walked into the busy place. Approaching a weary-looking girl at one of the counters, she said:

"What time do you get off duty?"

"Usually at six, madam," replied the astonished girl, "but to-day at five."

"Don't you get very tired working so long?"

"Yes, madam; but I must either work or starve."

"Well, will you let me take you for a drive for an hour, after you are through to-day? I'm sure it will do you good."

The girl, knowing the wealth and social position of the lady blushed with pleasure, and she was only too glad to accept the invitation so politely and kindly extended, and the lady with a cheery smile and bow walked out. Then the man who dreamed this woke up and wondered how the mischief people could dream such improbable and ridiculous things.—*Detroit Free Press.*

THE REALITY

A wealthy New York woman, leaving recently for a trip abroad, notified her physician that during her absence her coach and horses would be at the service of the hospital with which he is connected for the purpose of giving the nurses and convalescent patients regular drives in the park.

THINGS TO BE REMEMBERED

1. Let *nothing* induce you to speak disparagingly of your parish. Stand up for your church as you would for your mother.
2. Pray for your minister. He needs it. He is but a man, with great responsibilities, and many to please.



THE BOY JESUS