

January 5-6, 2019
The Epiphany of the Lord
Ephesians 3:2-6

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Some Epiphanies occur in the middle of the night, when you walk into the hotel wall on your way to the bathroom and are immediately reminded that that you are NOT at home! Some Epiphanies occur when the returned University test score reminds you that you are NOT in High School any more. Some Epiphanies occur in the midst of a conversation when the words being exchanged either endear us more closely to one another or confirm an inner hunch that we are better off distancing ourselves from each other. Epiphanies speak of the future, they give us a sense of what is to come, they dispose us to prepare or alert us to future possibilities. Epiphanies provide guidance with fresh insights that beget further investigation or discernment. While the world moves on into the New Year, the Church still lingers upon the mystery of Christmas, the Incarnation (God becoming human) and all that it implies. With the EPIPHANY of the Lord, traditionally highlighted with the arrival of the Magi, (WISE persons from FAR AWAY), we are offered the reminder that we frequently do not recognize something important...even when it (HE) is right under our noses. Each of the Gospels was written, not as historically accurate records but as TESTIMONIES OF FAITH, directed toward specific groups of people: MATTHEW is directed towards the Jews – Jesus is the true king; MARK is written for those who have little background in Jewish faith but are intrigued by the person of Jesus...and are being persecuted and killed because of their interest – Jesus is the Son of Man; LUKE stresses the HUMANITY of Jesus, Jesus is the son of Adam; and JOHN, the only eyewitness observer of Jesus, wants his readers to know that Jesus is the eternal Son of God. Between now and next week, 30 years will come and go and we will hear of the ADULT Jesus being baptized in the River Jordan (a further example of the Gospels not being historical records.) On this Epiphany of 2019, AS WHOM have you come to know Jesus?

Thank you for celebrating the unfolding Christmas Season with our Santa Clara community. With the arrival of Epiphany, we are sent into the New Year with the WISE admonishment to ANTICIPATE the grace of God being present all around us...but in order to find it, we need to seek it, those who seek, find (hint, hint.) To all who contributed to our Christmas Flower fund...thank you! I hope you have been pleased with what our A&E Team did with your generosity. With the arrival of 2019, we not only anticipate our St. Francis School Open House (at the end of the month) but the unfolding of our 2019 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN (which will use the PSA pledge material as the financial collection method)...as well as our upcoming 2019 Good Friday Prayer Breakfast – ‘BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS....on April 19th featuring the YOUTH of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. July will bring the ordinations to Priesthood of Daniel Seo and Michael Nguyen...and, and, and. So much to pull us forward, so much to anticipate and so much in which to discover the grace of God. Please take a Bulletin home with you and remember, YOU ARE LOVED. FKB