

January 4 - 5, 2020

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-6

Matthew 2:1-12

The magi astrologers had to be a little crazy leaving the security of their homeland, their routines, and their lives, to venture forth into a strange country with a mad king like Herod. Most of us can't even give up our routine church parking spots, or goodness let someone else worship in our seats. How preposterous! We all have our routines, our structure...but in this rigidity we might risk discovering the hidden graces God has waiting for us.

The Epiphany of the Lord commemorates the visit of the Magi, the wise men, to the child of Jesus. On this day we celebrate that God showed the glory of Christ not only to the Jewish people but to the whole world. The magi followed a star, seeking what they did not know. 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.

The visitors from the east, after they had given Jesus their gifts, left the stable and did not stay there. As we look upon the Nativity, we cannot stay there. Like the shepherds and magi, we too are called to move away and tell others about Jesus. We are asked to not only admire the light of Jesus, but to take the light of Jesus with us. The light of Epiphany is given to us as a gift, and we cannot keep it for ourselves. Through the quality of our daily lives and how we treat each other, we are called to be the presence of Jesus to all whom we encounter.

Epiphany weekend is a parting gift as we move away from Christmas, a reminder that the surprises, wonders, graces, love, strengths and presence of God is not limited to the Nativity...they surround us in our daily lives as we go forth into the world. The grace of God is present all around us, but in order to find it, we need to seek it. The Holy Spirit will strive to lead each of us if we are willing to look for the unexpected.

God used a star to call the Magi into a foreign place to seek out the newborn King. What is God using to call you?

As the Christmas Season comes to a close with our Epiphany celebrations, thank you for sharing these days of worship with our Santa Clara community. To all who contributed to our Christmas Flower fund...thank you. **Special thanks go out to all those who helped transform our Church from Advent into Christmas...you have each been a blessing to the whole community!** The New Year of 2020 begins...time to leave the Nativity and get back to the real world...and, as the Magi traveled together and found the Christ Child, so we, as Santa Clara, travel together as well, seeking God's graces in unexpected places. New Year, fresh opportunities, new struggles...but some things remain the same.... you are STILL loved. FKB