



YEAR C - EPIPHANY – JANUARY 6, 2019

The magi story today reminds us each year that Jesus came into our world not just for the chosen people of his time but for all people of all time, Jews and Gentiles alike. We are the Gentiles.

He came to dispel the darkness of sin in our world and to challenge us to let our light shine for all to see -- so that non-believers may be guided by the shining light of our example, not just our words, and be led out of the darkness of their world into the light of the kingdom God. Unlike the Holy Innocents, Jesus doesn't ask us to die for our faith, but he does ask us to live it.

Today Jesus is not found in a crib in Bethlehem of Judea. He is found in the hearts and souls of his followers who are willing to live the faith. They are the stars in the darkness of our world, pointing the way to Jesus. His spirit is alive and well in all who choose to follow him every day, not just on weekends.

Jesus says in Saint Matthew, chapter 5, "You are the light of the world." Notice, he doesn't say, "I'm counting on the Pope to dispel the darkness of sin in the world. He doesn't say, I'm counting on everyone except you to help the poor and the hungry.

He says, "I'm counting on you." Maybe your light isn't as bright as some of the great saints of our time. It doesn't have to be. All the darkness in the world cannot snuff out the light of a single tiny candle.

As I have said often before, "There are two ways to bring light into darkness. One is to be the candle; the other is to be the mirror that reflects it.

Jesus is the candle - we are the mirrors that reflect him. We need to clean and polish our mirrors every now and again, and the beginning of a new year is a good time to do that.

Jesus can be seen in our time, even more clearly than he was at the epiphany many years ago. At that time, the people did not have the advantage of hindsight. We do. We can recognize who he is. They were not able to do that.

More than 2000 years ago, God depended on John the Baptist to make Him known. Now he depends on us.

For a few moments in silence reflect on how you can bring the light of Christ into the part of the world in which you live. There is someone in your life who depends on you to do that.

Sometimes God sends angels as He did on Christmas Eve, mostly he sends us – you and me.

