

Epiphany: You Are the Light Today

My dear friends in Christ,

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany. Epiphany is a Greek word which means manifestation. In general, it reflects the appearance of the divine in time and space. In particular, it celebrates the revelation of Christ to the gentiles. The revelation of Christ to the Gentiles entails the revelation of Christ to the entire world especially to those who do not know him. This shows us that Epiphany sheds further light on Christmas as a continuing celebration of Jesus Christ who dwelt among us. While Christmas draws our attention to the birth of Christ in the flesh, Epiphany emphasizes and celebrates the earthly manifestations that tell us that the newborn child is the eternally begotten Word.

This revelation of Christ to the world came in a threefold manner: First, the star leads the Magi, *Wise Men*, to the crib of the newborn child; second, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River; and third, the miraculous wine at the marriage feast of Cana.

What are we to make of these three mysteries? What are the Magi to us? What meaning can Christ's baptism have for us today? How can we relate to the marriage feast of Cana?

Let us turn our attention to the first mystery, the coming of the Magi. It is important for us to remember that the Magi were considered Gentiles, for they came from pagan nations, but it was through their experience that the passages of Scripture relating to Christ opened their meaning to us, that Christ would be a light to the nations. Through his birth, he brought joy not to a chosen few, but to every soul. The star summoned the three wise men out of their distant lands and led them to recognize and adore Christ. As St. Leo says, "the obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all people to find Christ." We are called to have the same zeal to be of help to one another as we search for Christ.

Today's celebration shows us the Magi of yesterday so that we can become the magi of today. Let us make real in ourselves what we see in the figures of the Magi. Let us point others to the star through the example of our lives.

May the light of Christ's birth continue to shine upon you.

--Fr.
Parish Priest

Anthony

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