

HOMILY ON THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 5, 2025



The Second Sunday after Christmas we have a beautiful celebration, today we celebrate the solemnity of Epiphany. The word Epiphany is of Greek origin, “Epiphaninen.” It is a verb that means “to reveal” or “to manifest.” It celebrates the many ways through which Jesus has revealed himself to us and our world.

On December 25 we celebrated our God is with us, baby Jesus is among us, the birth of our Savior, but today we celebrate that this salvation is manifested to all people. This salvation is offered to all nations of all ages, Jesus is our light. So today, God reveals himself to us because he is good and loving. The light that shines forth upon us today is the light of life from which we must get our light and reflect it unto others. Today, the Lord Jesus Christ extends and expands the horizon of his love to us by not being selfish. He allows himself to illuminate the darkness of our lives.

The gospel of today is about the visitation of the three wise kings. They came to adore and offer gifts to the newborn king, Jesus Christ. This gospel is full of many lessons for us to learn. First, the three kings came to offer Christ genuine worship as the King of kings. Therefore, our worship must be sincere and from our hearts like that of the three wise Kings. It must not be like the proposed worship of Herod, which was false. We are invited to adore him today, to recognize whom is presented to us like our light.

Second, we must be ready to offer Jesus something. We must not appear before the Lord empty-handed. So, we must ask ourselves today, what do I offer the Lord for his goodness to me? The only gift we must offer God for his goodness to us is ourselves, the gift of a good life, the gift of love, the gift of obedience, the gift of humility, the gift of peace to our families and world, and the gift of sacrifice for one another. Also, we must learn to be generous to others as the three wise kings did to Jesus. If we recognize him like God, King and savoir, we must be open to give him the central place in our lives.

Third, we must learn from the wise kings that we must continue to follow the star and light that Christ shows us. That is, we must not allow ourselves to be deceived or distracted on our journey by Herod. Trusting that God will not mislead or misguide us, we must continue to look out for his star and light in our lives and along the part of our journey to eternity. And furthermore we must help others to follow the star: our neighbor, our kids, our families. Its part of our Christian life to point out the true light.

The new year has just begun. Let the lesson of the Wise Men serve as our guiding principle. Let us cast away the spirit of materialism, pride and egoism. Let us begin this year in the spirit of profound humility and awe before the glory of God. Like the Wise Men, let us seek Jesus in our lives, worship and love Him, and then we become heralds of the good news in the world. Amen

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