

Homily Summary – Epiphany

Short Overview: The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior of all nations. Through the journey of the Magi, we see that God's salvation is not limited to insiders or the already-religious, but reaches outward to seekers, outsiders, and all who follow the light God places before them. The Epiphany invites us to seek Christ, adore Him, and become bearers of His light to the world.

Main Points

1. Epiphany Means Revelation

- God reveals His Son not only to Israel but to the Gentiles through the Magi.
- Salvation is universal - no one is excluded from God's loving plan.

2. The Magi vs. the “Insiders”

- The Magi were outsiders, guided by creation (a star), yet they acted with courage and faith.
- The religious experts knew the prophecies but did not move; Herod responded with fear.
- True faith involves action, not just knowledge.

3. Seeking Leads to Adoration

- The Magi follow wonder, not power.
- Their gifts symbolize Christ as King (gold), God (frankincense), and Savior who will suffer (myrrh).
- Their worship points us to the Eucharist, where we offer Christ our hearts, lives, and wounds.

4. God’s Love Breaks All Barriers

- In a divided world, Epiphany proclaims unity, dignity, and universal love.
- Every person is loved, chosen, and invited into God's light.

5. Our Call Today

- God places “stars” in each one’s life - an invitation through prayer, people, or challenges.
- We are called to follow, adore, and return “by another way,” transformed.
- Christians are meant to become living epiphanies - signs of Christ’s light to others.

Key Bible Verses

- **Matthew 2:1–12** - The visit of the Magi
- **Isaiah 60:1–6** - “Nations shall come to your light”
- **Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6** - Gentiles are co-heirs in Christ
- **Matthew 5:16** - “Let your light shine before others”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

- **CCC 528** - The Epiphany reveals Christ as Savior of all nations
- **CCC 543** - The Magi represent the inclusion of the Gentiles
- **CCC 2566** - Prayer as a response to God’s revelation
- **CCC 1324** - The Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life

Reflection Questions

1. When have I felt like an “outsider” in my faith journey—and how might God be drawing me closer?
2. What “star” is God placing in my life right now?
3. Do I allow my knowledge of faith to move me toward action and worship?
4. What gifts—time, talents, wounds, or struggles—am I being invited to offer Christ?
5. How can I be an epiphany, a sign of Christ’s light, to others this week?

Rhyme summary:

On Epiphany's light, the Magi draw near,
At last to the manger, their quest crystal clear.
Guided by starlight through deserts so vast,
They kneel to adore, in wonder unsurpassed.

God's love knows no borders, no walls can confine,
Outsiders are welcomed, His mercy's divine.
So offer Him your gifts - heart, time, wounds, and all.
Then transformed by Christ, go back another way, shining His light and heeding Christ's call.

Some Scriptural reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Psalm 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>