

Epiphany - January 7, 2018

We are finishing the twelve days with Epiphany which traditionally is celebrated on January 6th but Christmas season officially ends with the Baptism of the Lord which is tomorrow which is sometimes celebrated on a Sunday. This can be a puzzle to be figured out at your leisure. Maybe the Church just wants us to hang on to Christmas as long as possible. We celebrate God becoming man in Jesus and his revelation to all the nations. This revelation took place at his birth through the Magi or the three Kings and at his baptism in the Jordan by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the new Jerusalem in which God has taken up residence on earth. The magi's gifts which represent earthly wealth, religious insight, and mortality are the reparations that all humanity offers to God through the magi. They found joy at the end of their journey through the guidance of a star. We as followers of Christ are guided by his holy light. Jesus says: No follower of mine will ever walk in darkness. He also says: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one goes to the Father except through Me.

As followers of Christ, we are the restored Israel, the new People of God born in water and the Holy Spirit. Like the people of old, we have a God who travels with us in the Holy Mass, the Sacraments, the Scriptures, our brothers and sisters in the Lord. They are God's gift to us. In the person of Jesus the Christ. He gives us the greatest gift which is life to be lived to the fullest here and now and life which will never end in the life to come. Like the magi, we need to respond by giving the best gift we can give and that is the gift of our selves. Like the magi, we must give our homage through our works, our prayers and our very souls. We are instructed to Love God with our whole mind, our heart our whole soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves. That sums up the law and the prophets.

We as the disciples of the Lord and the New People of God are the presence of Christ in the world today. That same baby whose light brought such joy to the magi now through us offers light to every person. Jesus says if I be lifted up I will draw all people to myself. Through us Jesus feeds the multitudes, he heals the sick, he teaches the truth, brings hope to those in despair, peace and reconciliation, bringing salvation to all who are searching for it. Through the ministries of the Church or individuals who are the Church, the world encounters the presence of Christ

Let us resolve to give of ourselves more completely to Christ and let us resolve to bring more people to Christ in this new year of grace.