

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Monday January 9 Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7
or Acts 10:34-38
Ps 29:1-4,9-11b
Matthew 3:13-17

Tuesday January 10

Hebrews 2:5-12
Ps 8:2ab,5-9
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday January 11

Hebrews 2:14-18
Ps 105:1-4,6-9
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday January 12

Hebrews 3:7-14
Ps 95:6-11
Mark 1:40-45

Friday January 13

Hebrews 4:1-5,11
Ps 78:3,4bc,6c-8
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday January 14

Hebrews 4:12-16
Ps 19:8-10,15
Mark 2:13-17

Let's consider the humble adoration of the magi for the Christ child. The magi were Gentiles, and the Greek word "magi" meant oriental scientists. Despite sometimes being translated as "astrologers", their visit to the manger does not validate astrology.

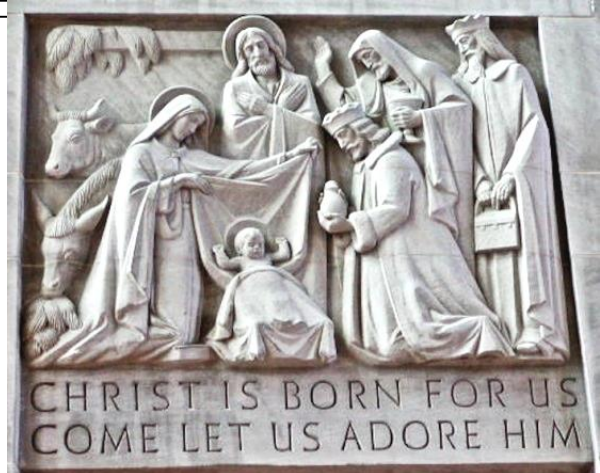
Because they were not Jews, their determination to meet the Jewish savior says much about what the word "epiphany" means. The magi are good examples of believing in the importance of Jesus even without understanding what it would mean to them personally or to the rest of the world.

They worshiped Jesus as a King-Messiah before they knew how he would become king or how his kingship would save the world from evil. As scientific scholars, they had studied religious writings from beyond the scope of their own culture.

Then, they acted on faith in response to the Spirit of God who activated them, and it changed their lives.

Only the Spirit of God can move someone to have faith, because faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 12). The word "epiphany" means discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Epiphanies are gifts from God as he collaborates with our desire for new growth.

We can imagine how the magi felt when they experienced an epiphany in the presence of the Christ child.



Although they did not understand how this baby from a poor family could become king, they remembered him for the rest of their lives and listened for news from the land of Israel about Jesus. We know that they heard about his crucifixion and learned what his followers were teaching about it, for they became Christians – their relics have been venerated since very early times.

Reflect & Discuss:

† What sign from God, like the star that the magi followed, are you waiting to see?

† What signs is God already showing you?

† What epiphany – new understanding – is Jesus giving you about what God is doing in your life?

† God has given you faith to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. How do you act on this faith? And how do these actions evangelize non-believers?