

Fr. Rito's Homily

The Epiphany of the Lord
January 7, 2018

12:15 PM Mass (in Spanish) and Sunday 5:00 PM (Youth)

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The prophet Isaiah describes Jerusalem's joy, because it is the beginning of a new era of light and glory, as a gift from God for all humanity.

Epiphany means manifestation, resplendent light. "The word became Flesh and placed his dwelling among us." We have seen his glory, glory that correspond to the Son of the Father, full of grace and of the truth.

Epiphany is a manifestation of the glory of God over Jerusalem and the world. It is the revelation of the hidden mystery. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, for all those who were near and those who were far, to unite us through faith as one people and guided by His same love.

In the arrival of the Son of God, there is no exception for anyone, but it was the poor who were the first to know that Christ had come to the earth. The poor were the first to receive the good news of salvation. Let us remember those humble shepherds.

The prophet contemplates how the light shines in the darkness. This light is the Son of God and the Son of Mary. The Child born in Bethlehem overcame evil and brought to all the redemption of our sins and eternal salvation.

God is overflowed in goodness. Jesus, as a child, left Heaven to be born on earth. He left His glory to become a small and needy child. He is the new King of Israel, the Son of David, announced by the prophets as a redeemer. Jesus is our hope, our joy and our peace. In Jesus, love and faith is contained as an expression which we celebrate every day.

This is what we celebrate in the Epiphany of the Lord; the manifestation of love. God, through the star, manifested Himself to the three Kings, who come to Bethlehem to worship the King of kings, revealed in a newborn child, Jesus, the Messiah.

With this manifestation, Jesus demonstrated his ability to call upon each person in different ways - no matter what their origin was, their race, their town or nation, their belief, or their convictions. Jesus revealed himself and touched our hearts, so that we recognize him, as the true God. We will prostrate and worship him.



The journey for the magi men was not easy, nor was at the beginning. They were able to accomplish their journey, overcoming all the difficulties on their path, because they had faith and humility for the new King, "Jesus." Those Magi men knew how to look for him and that is why they were able to find him. They responded with promptness, obedience, humility, and diligence.

This is how we have to answer on our path of faith! When Jesus calls upon us, so that he may manifest himself, we answer with promptness and humility.

For the Magi men, it did not matter that Jesus was King in another country; nor did it matter to them to make a long and tiring trip; nor did it matter to them that the star disappeared for a time. It did not matter to them to find the King of kings in the midst of extreme poverty. The important thing for the magi men was that this was the King, whom they came to worship.

The Magi men were seeking a King that would fill their hearts with hope and life. They discovered the supremacy of the "King" who was born in Bethlehem. Jesus Christ is the answer of God, for our search each day. Our faith leads us to Jesus.

Both the prophet Isaiah and the Gospel tells us that the Three Kings offered gifts:

- **Gold:** represents our love that we offer to the Lord. Jesus is the reality and the deliverance of God's love to us. You and I can offer our lives to the Lord to correspond for His love, revealed in Jesus.
- **Incense:** symbolizes our constant prayer that we offer to the King of heaven and recognition of the divine presence among all His people.
- **Myrrh (Mir):** signifies the patient acceptance of the labors, the sufferings, and the difficulties in our lives in God.

When we know how to offer God our small things in life, the star of faith will lead us to where Jesus is. Today, Jesus accepts our weaknesses, sins, poverty, and fragilities, to rehabilitate us with his love and make us fully happy.

Today, our answer is to seek Him and follow his path without worrying about our difficulties and problems. The important thing is to know how to prostrate and worship him. Also, to know how to offer our gifts, which is our service, deliverance and worshiping him, with all our hearts and our soul.

May the Child Jesus manifest himself to us today, through our experience of faith and bring us, in this new year, peace and joy in our lives. Today, Jesus manifests himself to us, through his Word and on this Eucharist, which we are celebrating together. Never let the star of faith deviate to wrong paths. Jesus is our light, our way, and our truth. We follow him with faithfulness and persevering love. Amen

Fr. Rito's Homilies are on our parish website:

www.EmmausParish.org.

Reach Fr. Rito at fr_rito@EmmausParish.org



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