

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Solemnity of- the Feast of the Epiphany
Monday, January 07 2018

Year 2/Cycle B

Is.60:1-6, Lk:2:22-40

The Gift Experience

One can expect coming straight out of the Christmas experience the idea of gift and gift giving is still fresh in our minds; by now we have decided on which gifts we keep, give away or return to the stores. Yet, during this Feast of the Epiphany, the idea of the gifts take on a whole new and special meaning. The idea of having a day set aside for the presenting of gifts to a baby, is a nice idea; but realizing who the Baby is putting things in another dimension. The humble birth of Jesus in an animal shed for shelter and warmth, bring to focus, on just who is Jesus.... God made Man, the Messiah, Immanuel (God with us), the King of Kings, King of the Universe. Yet, coming to us as our Savior in such an unassuming manner is food for thought. There was no fanfare, no warm home, no handmade cradle; yet the stars in the night sky announced His coming and the heavenly chorus sang of His Glory. What an unusual series of events!!! The Supreme baby born had the ability to command the stars, move the heavens and the earth, yet was lying in a trough lined with hay.

The Solemn Feast of the Epiphany, which has the meaning of 'An Awakening' or Manifestation, has its significance in ancient history to the time of the birth of the Messiah.

*"Shine, for your light, has come,
the glory of the LORD has dawned on you." (Is. 60:1)*

We are reminded of this day of the power of the Magi's visit to Bethlehem. Who were the Magi, speculation called them kings, wise men, stargazers? We will never really know, but there are some things we do know, these visitors most likely did not know about each other

prior to the trip. There was a strange appearance in the night sky, which attracted their attention over many months reflecting on its significance and importance.

*“Nations shall walk by your light,
kings by the radiance of your dawning.” (Is. 60:3)*

The travelers were men of considerable means, as foreign travel was time-consuming and expensive. It can be concluded that the Magi represented visitors from various regions and territories of the known world

*“Caravans of camels shall cover you,
dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
All from Sheba shall come.” (Is. 60:6)*

It is with some certainty that to travel in this desert region the best means of travel was the camel. As these ‘Wise Men’ traveled they would, without doubt, have moved with a retinue of attendants and aides for this important purpose. Their men were respected and noble in their own right, they observed the rule so diplomatic protocol When you are a person of importance you know that you always present yourself to the highest authority in that area.

*“In the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,
saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We have come to do him homage.” (Mt. 2:1-2)*

The Magi believed they were going to visit a King, so their gifts were purposeful and significant. *“Then they opened their treasures and offered*

him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Mt.2:11)

The long diligent journey of these foreigners, was not undertaken without appropriate gifts with the thought in mind to whom they were going to present their gifts. The presentation of their gifts were in humble homage to one who was far greater than they could ever be, their entourage, their status, and their importance paled before the Baby lying in that manger

“They prostrated themselves and did him homage.” (Mt.2:9) .

The gift we recognize was important, yet their eyes beholding the Wonder-Counsellor, Might God, Prince of Peace was the true experience. How often do we give a present, but the joy becomes to see how it delights the receiver and brings joy to their hearts. Yes, the gift maybe small or maybe cheap, but the experience of giving the gift was well worth it all. What are your joyous gift experiences?



**May your gift experience remain and with you and give
you joy.**

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by

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