

The Epiphany of our Lord
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St. Joseph Parish

God is revealed only in the person of Jesus. Light is revealed to us now only in the darkness.

Having left the dark and deceitful Herod, the three wise men come joyfully to Bethlehem by the leading of the star. This was not some chance star, but the one foretold by the prophet Balaam in the book of Numbers (24:17). Why did God reveal Jesus' having come into the world to these three Magi? The wise men were three gentiles from Persia, not Jews looking for their Messiah. Yet scripture says plainly that the three kings were seeking the King of the Jews- odd for Persian priests, as they likely were at least in part- what else did they know about or seek in this king who had come into the world and yet were perhaps reluctant to divulge? Was it hidden because they already knew or hoped what Jesus' kingship would bring?

It is likely their religion was a form of Zoroastrianism in which revelation by the study of, and trust in, the little points of light in the dark that we call stars came to them. So God provided the light to guide them by a single point of light..a star over a manger. He communicated His guidance in the way that they would understand from their studying the stars and interpreting their movements.

Dante, in the 33rd canto of his Paradiso, first sees God as point of light before his eyes were opened enough to behold the Trinity of God. But we behold a **person** who is light Himself and, as the message from Ephesians this morning tells us, we bear His light enkindled in our hearts.

How does His light within us show? Does it attract others? Are we truly our Savior's points of light to others? In other words, do people who look in our eyes or take our hands see the light of Jesus and feel the strength and the heat of His love coursing through our palms and fingers ?

In general, an epiphany is a startle.. an "Aha" moment. Epiphanies ignite conversions and light the way to a faithful walk with God. The prodigal son certainly had one. He came to himself and saw himself as his father, allegorically our God- saw him. In his epiphany, he saw the truth about himself when God turned on the light within him, and he now could see the way back to his father. Love was waiting there.

For each of us, what we are looking for is that moment of recognition that we are personally loved by the God who brought us into this world. In the Epiphany, His love gives us Jesus to be a king over each of our lives; He gives us a king like no other on earth. Our calling.. is to be servants of the one true King, the one who gave us life and light...to become in effect Christ's points of light, the light the stars share and men look up to when they hope, and to bear that enkindled light into the eyes and lives of others.