

Reflection Questions

- How would you describe the way God has been revealed to you?

- What kind of support do you find from your local Church in order to further your spiritual quest?
 - Have you had an opportunity to support others?

- Is there something you have been reflecting on which requires action in the new year?

Sunday Mass Readings This Week

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Epiphany of the Lord



God dwells in all things. He can be found by those who go seeking Him. There are as many spiritual paths as there are those whom walk this earth. Yet, God still takes an active role in each of our lives and is more than just an abstract presence to be feared and respected.

As we honor the Epiphany of the Lord this coming Sunday, we are reminded of the spiritual quest upon which we have been sent. Having been familiar with Jewish scripture at the time—particularly the writing of Isaiah—magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem asking about the revelation of the Lord.

Knowing there is more to this spiritual experience they were undergoing, the magi sought further directions on where to go and where the Messiah is to be born. While their own calculations and intuitions got them to Jerusalem, experts in revelation and religion gave more specific detail on where to find the savior.

From Matthew's Gospel, we hear the remainder of this story:

*Then Herod called the magi secretly
and ascertained from them the time of the star's
appearance.
He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
"Go and search diligently for the child.
When you have found him, bring me word,
that I too may go and do him homage."
After their audience with the king they set out.
And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising
preceded them,
until it came and stopped over the place where the
child was.
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house
they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and
myrrh.
And having been warned in a dream not to return
to Herod,
they departed for their country by another way.*

Our own recovery, in some order, takes similar shape. Having spent considerable time navigating the uncertain waters of addiction using our own compass, we are given opportunities to follow the light that guides us. This means being open to change and setting aside our own expectations of what the solution should look like.

We have reason to be thankful each day for personal and spiritual freedom. Our own resources can only get us so far, which is a truth seen more clearly as we begin to admit our own powerlessness over addiction, unhealthy attachments, and people, places, and things. Others along the path will provide more detailed guidance once we start moving. God, who is active in our lives and pursues us along the way, will also provide further direction. Like the magi, the course of our lives may change upon coming to know Christ.