

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 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
1 John 3:22 -- 4: 6
Ps 2:7bc-8,10-12a
Matthew 4:12-17,23-25

Tuesday January 5
St. John Neumann
1 John 4:7-10
Ps 72:1-4,7-8
Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday January 6
1 John 4:11-18
Ps 72:1-2,10,12-13
Mark 6:45-52

Thursday January 7
1 John 4:19 -- 5:4
Ps 72:1-2,14,15bc,17
Luke 4:14-22

Friday January 8
1 John 5:5-13
Ps 147:12-15,19-20
Luke 5:12-16

Saturday January 9
1 John 5:14-21
Ps 149:1-6a,9b
John 3:22-30

The Season of Christmas ends with a celebration that focuses on the adoration of magi from the East who had sought and found Christ the newborn king.

The Greek word "magi" meant oriental scientists. Also called astrologers, their worship of Jesus does not validate astrology, which assigns power over us to stars and planets; rather, it validates that Jesus was born to bring salvation to all, Gentiles as well as Jews. Their arrival at the manger demonstrates that Jesus was born for the sake of all who recognize that only God should have power over us. Jesus was born to free us from sin and all other forces that control us.

The magi also demonstrate that gift-giving is a normal part of worship. The gifts of the magi become gifts that we

all give to Jesus: Gold represents our righteousness, which Christ's kingship over our lives makes possible so that we become more and more saintly each day. Incense represents our prayers going up to God – prayers that involve giving God the gift of our trust. And myrrh is the gift of suffering for Christ: the sacrifices we make for the sake of his ongoing mission of transforming our world.

The word "epiphany" means a moment of discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Did the magi have an



epiphany about Jesus when they came into his presence? Did they realize that they were looking at the Savior of the world? Did they want this little baby to save them from their own sins?

We can safely assume that they never forgot about their trip to Bethlehem. Surely they kept their ears open for news about him as the years went by. Probably they heard about the King of the Jews who was crucified.

We know that they in fact became very saintly Christians; their relics still exist and have been venerated since very early times.

What about you and me? Will we remember Jesus in some new way this year? Will our worship of him transform us? Will the power of sin be defeated by our faith in Christ when we face temptations?

Hopefully, we have been changed this Advent and Christmas Season by a new rebirth of Jesus into our lives and – through our lives – out into the world.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What's the gold you're giving to Jesus? What is your incense? What is your myrrh?
2. Describe an epiphany you have had during this past Advent and the Season of Christmas.
3. How will you take this out to others so that they, too, experience Christ more completely?