

Epiphany of our Lord-2026

Bible scholars and Historians have engaged in long debates about the Epiphany story. How authentic was its happening? Was there really a star that led the Magi -three kings- from the East to Bethlehem? Most Scholars agree that probably these wise men were astrologers from Persia or Babylon. But it would be beneficial for us to focus on the message of the story.

Jesus, “the true Light which enlightens everyone”, came to the world for everyone. For both the poor shepherds as well as the wealthy gentile wisemen. It is God’s plan that everyone should seek Him and find him.

Even though the special star of the east was risen for all people, *only the three wisemen could grasp the divine message behind it*. God sends his signs of salvation into the life of each person in various ways. Amidst our busy lives, we may fail to be attentive to those signs in life. The wisemen could get the message as they were in silence and prayer, seeking God’s mysteries with open heart.

Besides the physical journey the wise men made to Bethlehem was not *‘the only journey they made’*. They were not Jews. Possibly they could be followers of some kind of pagan religion. *They also made a journey in their hearts from paganism to worshipping Jesus*. Their interior journey *lead them from reading stars to worshipping Jesus as Savior and King, which is manifested in their offering of gifts*.

The three gifts the wisemen offered to Jesus are symbolic of what the child in the manger represents: Gold is a gift given to kings, and it points to the kingship of Jesus: frankincense refers to his divinity and Myrrh points to his mortality- humanity, as it is a sign of suffering and death. In fact, this reveals that he is the “Lamp of God, to be sacrificed for the salvation of the world”.

B&S, the message of Epiphany is the *unity and universality of God's grace*. It is not anymore reserved to the Jews-the chosen people of God alone, but open to all nations and all peoples. Sometimes, darkness and its powers seem to dominate the world, and hope can seemingly be an illusion. But God's light continues to enter the world to push back the darkness. We always need to deepen our awareness that "there is no name given to humanity on earth for salvation than the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord". And this morning, we just celebrated the Feast of "the Most Holy name of Jesus".

We each one of us, have a journey to make to Jesus. No matter who you are or what you have done in life. Jesus' light is shining upon you and your loved ones. Jesus is drawing all to himself, all who are seeking truth and goodness, everyone who is searching for answers to their deepest questions. Like the wise men, we too need to rely on the grace of God to lead us to the light of Jesus our Savior.

Perhaps, we may not have the privilege or fortune to have a star in our life to lead and guide us, but if you and me invite the Lord as the companion of our journey every day, inviting him to be with us in every step we make, the path in our life will be much easier and clearer.

Yes, let us rejoice and be glad that our light has come. His light is able to lead us always closer to him. Amen.