

Fr. Martin's Reflection – January 7, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend we celebrate the wonderful solemnity of 'The Epiphany of the Lord.' Today is the day that the Christ Child was introduced to the gentile world. The Magi, who represents us, comes to see the baby Jesus. This action, this happening, is to show us that the Child Jesus was born, not just for the Jewish people, but for all of humanity. Our 1st reading from the prophet Isaiah, tells us to arise, shine out, for our light has come. The Church chose the darkest time of the year to celebrate the birth of the God of light, a God who illuminates, not just the darkness of the day, but a God that illuminates the darkness of our hearts. The coming of Christ wasn't just for the holy and the righteous; actually, Jesus said he came for the sick not the healthy. Christ brings salvation not just to us, those who come to our church, but to the whole world—to all those grumpy, depressed, selfish, worried, suffering, disadvantaged people we meet in the street, most directly to Christians of every kind, but also to those who have not yet found Jesus. The Epiphany is the time when Jesus 'went public,' symbolized by the coming of the Magi from the East, the first people outside his own sphere to greet him. The Magi teaches us a great lesson, a wonderful lesson of faith. To believe the unbelievable, they followed the art of astrology to help bring them to Christ. They never gave up, they persevered, and had a great ability to recognize danger when it presented itself to them. We are not quite sure how long it took them to find the Christ Child, but what we do know is that their desire to find this Child was so great nothing was going to stop them.

Let us pray, asking God for the same depth of faith and courage shown by the Magi. May we too never stop searching for the Christ Child in our lives.

Epiphany Prayer

Jesus, we offer you the gold of our desire to love, even though our hearts are often cold; we offer you the incense of our longing to pray, although our spirits can be lukewarm; we offer you the myrrh of our frustrations and troubles, even when self-pity and bitterness creep in. Receive and make good our gifts out of your great love for us, and grant that we, like the wise men, may find some kneeling space at Bethlehem.

Fr. Martin