

## **EPIPHANY.**

We had the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

We had the feast of the Holy Family.

We had the feast of Mary the Mother of God.

Today we are privileged to have an important solemnity,

**The Manifestation of Jesus to the World.**

The Gospel talks of three strangers from the East. Who they were we do not know...where they came from in the East we do not know...where they went after seeing and meeting Christ we do not know...They are depicted as ***Kings, Magi, wise men***, and even ***rich men***. In spite of being unidentified they seem to be well connected, well-known, and important personalities. That is why they sought direction from King Herod. Some remote sources classified them as **astrologers** who were well versed with **space, celestial beings, and stars**. They were guided by one of the stars which led them to where the Baby Jesus was. They were guided from that unknown city in the unknown East to Known Jerusalem and Bethlehem. They travelled back with the knowledge of Christ who was not known in these unknown lands. So Jesus became known through these great men. The Light led them to Christ, and that light will always lead us to Him, even today. Darkness will always take us away from Christ. We lose the light of the star whenever we sin...just as the star disappeared in King Herod's court and resurfaced again when the Magi left. The light gathered together the Magi, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. It is a sign of unity. It is a means of revealing Jesus to the world.

The Magi encountered difficulties, dangers, and challenges in seeking Jesus. On our journey in search of Jesus we too will face such situations...but we are called to persevere like them, to consult, and to look forward to continuing on our journey of faith.

We will be attracted by **Bright Ideas, Visions, and Hope** like seen in the Star, but we should realize that a star gets **dim and will disappear**. **Let's not lose our faith** even if we face challenges. **Difficulties, hardships, disappointments, challenges, scandals, and strong Church teaching should not take us off** (our path of seeking Christ). We must be strong and single-minded in seeking Christ like the Magi. Seeing Christ they offered Him the very best they were carrying.

What are you going to offer Christ this year? We must open our treasures of **Love, Caring, and Goodness**. In meeting Christ the Magi changed their direction, are we not called to change the direction of our lives after encountering Christ in Communion and the other Sacraments? **A new mentality, different perspective, and approach** to our vocation are required.

**May Jesus lead us to new heights in our faith this year.**