

LIVING FAITH

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 7, 2018



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Today, we remember the visit of the magi to Bethlehem. Were there "three wise men"? The truth is that we have no idea how many magi there were! The Bible doesn't tell us that—it only tells us that they brought three gifts to present to the Child.

Why gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? These valuable items were standard gifts to honor a king or deity in the ancient world: gold as a precious metal, frankincense as perfume or incense, and myrrh as anointing oil. In addition to the honour and status implied by the value of these gifts, scholars think that these three gifts were chosen for their special spiritual symbolism about Jesus himself—gold representing his kingship, frankincense symbolizing his priestly role, and myrrh predicting his death and embalming. In fact, this symbolism is the basis of the well-known Christmas carol "We Three Kings."

We are the magi of today.

- What gifts do you bring to Jesus?
- Where are you sent?

The Feast of the Epiphany: A Coloring Page



Pinterest

Subscribe to our weekly catechetical resource. E-mail: Familycatechesis@rcsj.org

Copyright ©2017, RC Episcopal Association for St. John's. All right reserved.

THE CHURCH TEACHES THE CALL OF GOD IN AND THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This week, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.
Baptism, for Christians, is the beginning of the journey with God and the community of faith.

FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." (CCC, #1213)

Baptism is the sacrament of faith. But faith needs the community of believers. It is only within the faith of the Church that each of the faithful can believe. The faith required for Baptism is not a perfect and mature faith, but a beginning that is called to develop. The catechumen or the godparent is asked: "What do you ask of God's Church?" The response is: "Faith!" (CCC, #1253)

For all the baptized, children or adults, faith must grow *after* Baptism. For this reason the Church celebrates each year at the Easter Vigil the renewal of baptismal promises. Preparation for Baptism leads only to the threshold of new life. Baptism is the source of that new life in Christ from which the entire Christian life springs forth. (CCC, #1254)

For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the *godfather* and *godmother*, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized - child or adult on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function. The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism. (CCC, #1255)





EPIPHANY PEOPLE BRINGING GIFTS TO JESUS TODAY THE GATHERING PLACE



For more information, visit:
<http://kindnesswanted.ca>



For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.
Matthew 25: 35-36



KINDNESS WANTED!

There are over a thousand people in St. John's living on the streets or in hostile boarding houses. They're struggling with any number of demons – hunger, abuse, mental illness, physical disabilities, and addiction. They're barely surviving from day to day. For many of them, The Gathering Place is their only safe place to go. Some come for a meal or a shower. Others come for medical care or a place to sit and rest. What they get there above all is dignity. Everyone deserves compassion. There is no "nobody" at The Gathering Place.

BE AN EPIPHANY PERSON, BRINGING YOUR GIFT TO JESUS TODAY: GIVE MONEY

Go to kindnesswanted.ca or call 709-753-3234 to find out how you can help The Gathering Place financially.

GIVE THINGS

Boots and underwear, toothpaste and toiletries, books and more. Go to kindnesswanted.ca or call 709-753-3234 to find out what the guests need most right now.

GIVE TIME

Cooks and counsellors, nurses and doctors, teachers and hair stylists, social workers and more. The Gathering Place cannot operate without volunteers. Go to kindnesswanted.ca or call 709-753-3234 to find out how to become one now.