

## Epiphany – An “Aha” Moment

The Epiphany of the Lord – January 8, 2017- Matthew 2:1-12

Within the celebration of Christmas there is this very special day that is called Epiphany. The Catholic Church celebrates the visit from the three magi to the Christ Child on this feast. It is important to note that this celebration has a much deeper and universal significance than just a visit from three wise men. Epiphany is that “Aha” moment for each person who comes to the realization and acceptance that Jesus is God and that God has come to dwell with us.

An epiphany, defined, according to the Webster dictionary, is “...*a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something, an intuitive grasp of reality through some event or an illuminating discovery...*” All of these seem to describe the greater truth we celebrate this day. It is that moment in one’s life when we stop, if only for a second, and realize that we have grasped a small understanding of God’s truth.

We know very little about the three magi. They appear only in Matthew’s gospel. They come for a visit, which is described as “...**magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star at it’s rising and have come to do him homage.’** Here in lies the nature and purpose of their journey. They have come to worship this tiny baby. They have come to give him respect and reverence. This story is written to inspire all of us to acknowledge the profundity of this call to worship God at all times.

In Catholic theology we understand that God deserves our worship and praise every day. God commands our worship once a week. This commandment, to keep holy the Lord’s Day, is considered the minimum amount of time we are asked to spend in worship. Yet, when a person experiences that “Aha” moment, one’s heart is forever captured toward a regular time of prayer, praise and worship which is the focus for each day of our lives.

The magi knew this very thing. Their hearts were captivated and motivated to journey toward someone and something that they had not quite grasped. They knew that their call to follow the star was a risk. What they found at the end of that journey was actually the beginning to something new for them and for the entire world! Let’s celebrate this great piece of the Christmas story today, bringing to our own lives the importance and dedication of worshipping the newborn King!

Merry Christmas!

  
Sue Schettler

Parish Life Coordinator