

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

As a noun with a lower case letter “e”, the word epiphany refers to any sudden revelation or manifestation. The equivalent Greek work (which is the origin of the English word) also means revelation or appearance. If you capitalize the word, it takes on a more specific religious meaning. Epiphany, or the Epiphany of the Lord, refers primarily to the coming of the Wise Men, or Magi, from the East to give praise and honor to the baby Jesus. In different parts of the world, there are different names, like the Three Kings day, which call to mind how God began to reveal His Son and our Savior to the world. Even though Jesus was born in relative obscurity, the three important visitors tracked him down and gave the baby gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; gifts which are fit for a King. God’s presence was made manifest in the newborn Christ child.

We know that Jesus said his Kingdom is not of this world but even the “Kings” of this world recognized his authority. It is, as Jesus said, all authority on heaven and earth. God the Father sent his only Son to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven, and the Magi teach us that it is a Kingdom to which all people are called to belong. The Kingdom starts here on Earth.

The traditional date to celebrate the Epiphany is January 6th, however the date can change if it is celebrated on a Sunday. This year the 6th and the Sunday fall on the same day. The 6th is the twelfth day of Christmas and (nearly) the end of the Season. This year the Christmas Season will end on Sunday, January 13th. There are other revelations or appearances of God’s grace and presence in the scriptures, all of which point to God’s goodness in sending his Son take on our human flesh and show us the way to heaven.

This day let us remember the Epiphany of Jesus’ divinity in the manger at Bethlehem and pray that it be our inspiration to proclaim God's message of love and forgiveness to everyone whom we meet. Blessed New Year everyone!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the typed name.