

JANUARY 7, 2018



# SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



ISAIAH 60:1-6

PSALM 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

EPHESIANS 3:2-3A, 5-6

MATTHEW 2:1-12

## REFLECTION

As a second grader in Mrs. Hanson's class, I realized that I couldn't see what was written on the blackboard unless I squinted really hard. I told my mom about this, and we went to the optometrist. No surprise here: I was nearsighted. I remember the day I tried on my brand new glasses. As I went throughout my day, it was like I was seeing the world for the first time! Everything was so clear—I could make out every single leaf on the tree outside my bedroom window. I could read the blackboard in school, even from the back row of desks. I could see the ants crawling across the sidewalk in front of my house as I played hopscotch outside. I literally had a new lens through which I saw the world.

The Gospel account for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord tells the story of the Magi who found their way to Jesus by following a star. The word *epiphany* comes from the Greek word *epiphainein*, meaning "to show" or "to come suddenly into view." The Magi asked Herod where they could find the newborn king so they could worship him. Presumably, this was the first that Herod had heard about any such thing. Scripture says he was "greatly troubled" when he heard this news. The last thing he wanted was someone entering the picture who might pose a threat to him and take away his power. Herod was looking at the situation through the lens of fear and pride.

The Magi experienced an epiphany when they finally arrived in Bethlehem to pay homage to Jesus. Their expectations were likely shattered—they found the newborn king not in a palace or fortress, not wrapped in royal garments, not resting comfortably in the lap of luxury. Instead, they found him in a stable, sleeping in a feeding trough. The Magi suddenly saw their situation through a new lens, too.

## ACTION

God chose to come to us as a tiny, vulnerable baby so that we could follow his example of humility and love. The Epiphany gives us the opportunity to view the whole world through a new lens—one of joy and hope in Christ. But it's up to each of us to "put the glasses on"!

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● What are the lenses you look through in your life? The lens of anger? Despair? Jealousy? Love? Joy? Peace?

● What is God's invitation to you? What is one thing you can do to "put on the glasses" of love and grace?