

Homily Summary – Feast of the Epiphany

Introduction:

- The Epiphany celebrates God’s manifestation to the world, a revelation often celebrated even more than Christmas in some traditions.

Key Themes:

- **Revealing Jesus:** The feast reminds us that God continues to reveal Himself to us in various ways, helping us to know and love Him more deeply.
- **New Year’s Reflections:** As the new year begins, it’s an opportunity to reflect on the “stars” in our lives—people, moments, or resources that draw us closer to God, much like the star guided the Magi.
- **Modern Epiphany:** The story of a young man finding God through an unexpected epiphany demonstrates how God continues to unveil Himself and transform lives.

Lessons from the Magi:

- **Gifts of the Magi:** The gold, frankincense, and myrrh symbolize Jesus’ kingship, divinity, and His future suffering, respectively.
- **Being Stars for Others:** We’re called to be guiding lights for those around us, reflecting God’s love and leading others toward Him.

Practical Takeaways:

- **Spiritual Resources:** Utilizing tools like the **Formed.org** platform or Catholic apps can serve as modern stars guiding us in our faith journey.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** This sacrament acts as a bright star, offering healing and a path closer to God.
- **Epiphany Chalk Blessing:** A tradition of blessing homes using chalk, invoking God’s presence and protection, is encouraged as a tangible way to invite God’s blessing into daily life.

Conclusion:

- The Eucharist is highlighted as one of the greatest stars, where we encounter Jesus truly present.
- We are reminded that Jesus is always longing for our love, inviting us to draw closer to Him.

Rhyme Summary:

Today we celebrate the Epiphany's light,
God's love revealed, shining so bright.
Like the star that led the wise men near,
There are stars in our lives, guiding us clear.

We learn more of Jesus, God's mercy and grace,
With stars of faith, we find our place.
Through Mary, Reconciliation, and Eucharist’s glow,
We’re called to be stars, let our faith show.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>