



What does Epiphany mean? It's a Greek word that means manifestation or revelation.

What do we celebrate? God's manifestation to the whole world. God revealed himself not only to the shepherds or the Jewish people. The magi started their journey from distant lands following a star, which they interpreted as God's presence. This means that the Son of God should be recognized by all men, in all places, always.

What gifts did the magi give? The magi knelt and adored baby Jesus. Melchior gave gold which is offered only to kings, showing Jesus is a king. Gaspar gave incense which is offered only to God, showing Jesus is God. Balthasar gave myrrh which was used in burials, recognizing that Jesus is also a man and prefiguring His suffering and death.

Why do we call them magi? The Greek word (magoi) means wise men. Originally, the word referred to Persian priests who interpreted signs, particularly in astronomy. They had access to Jewish scripture that foretold the coming of a messiah, preceded by a star. (Numbers 24:17)

Where do the magi's names originate? The names originated from a painting in San Apolinar Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy. (6th century)

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