

Thoughts from your priest

A Season of Revelation

Something to think about during Epiphany...

Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.

He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col. 1:12)



This past Sunday the Church celebrated the feast of the Epiphany. In the current calendar, Epiphany can feel like just one more Sunday celebration in a long series of “post-Christmas” feasts (Mater Dei, Holy Family, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord). It’s worth noting though, that in the old calendar there was an entire liturgical season of the Epiphany known as *Epiphanytide*.

Vestiges of this mini-season remain. The days of this week are referred to as “Monday [etc.] after Epiphany.” Far from being a mere place-holder, Epiphanytide was a season of revelation celebrating those moments in the life of Christ when his divinity was made obvious in the midst of earthly ministry. Again, some vestiges of this remain. Consider the Sunday readings: Epiphany - Christ’s revelation to the gentiles (magi) also enhances the awareness of his unique nature among the local Jews, especially the shepherds. Baptism of the Lord (aka I Sunday of Ordinary Time) - the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus and the voice of the Father is heard from on high, “This is my beloved Son.” Finally, in what is - today - the II Sunday after Baptism of the Lord still features moments of Epiphany. In the A and B cycles of Lectionary Readings it’s John the Baptist proclaiming to his disciples, “Behold the Lamb of God.” In this year’s C cycle we hear the story of Jesus’ first public miracle during the Wedding at Cana. ‘again, proof of his divinity.

So often we focus on the terrestrial dimension of Christ’s life... his sympathy for our plight, his suffering with us, his friendly human nature. All of that is valuable *per se* and, certainly, with regard to us. That

said, there can be a temptation to forget that he is fully man and fully God. This temptation is part of a sincere cultural movement to make Christ accessible to all... again, a very good thing. But in this Epiphanytide, one might consider more strongly the Divine nature of the son. He is able to relate to us because he is human. He is able to save us because he is God. Likewise, our human nature is not ennobled by his humanity, but rather by the insertion of his divinity into our humanity.

Finally, there can be a very normal tendency to buck against such considerations. That Christ should come down to our level is comfortable. That we might need to be raised to his level can feel intimidating, reminding us of our smallness. Such intimidation is false; it has no grounds. Why? Because the light of the Epiphany is not a harsh light, but a warm glow. Christ’s elevation of our humanity by his divinity is not a scary or belittling reality. It is in fact the very epitome of humility. Aware of the love of our God for us, we happily embrace our smallness and let HIM elevate us by HIS efforts, which - because he is truly God - far exceed anything we could ever attempt.

I thank Jesus, that He is God and I am not... and I thank him for this beautiful season of the Epiphany in which we are reminded that it’s OK to be small, because a loving God is very much in control.

