

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Isaiah 60:1–6 • Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13
Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6 • Matthew 2:1–12



The Light for All Nations

The feast of the Epiphany, often called the “feast of manifestation,” celebrates the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of the world. The prophet Isaiah foretold this moment: “Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you” (Isaiah 60:1). Though darkness covered the earth, God’s glory would shine forth, drawing nations and kings to his light. This prophecy finds fulfillment when the Magi travel from afar, guided by a star, to adore the newborn King and offer him their gifts.



The Adoration of the Magi by Albrecht Dürer

St. Paul proclaims that this light is not for Israel alone, but for the whole world. What was once hidden is now revealed: the Gentiles are “coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Ephesians 3:6). The Epiphany reveals the *universality of salvation*—that every nation, tribe, and people are invited into the family of God through Christ.

The Magi model our response to this manifestation of God’s glory. They journeyed in faith, followed the light, and offered their treasures to Christ. As

Catholics, we are invited to do the same: to walk in the light of Christ and to offer him the treasure of our very lives in worship, obedience, and love. The Epiphany is not only about the manifestation of Jesus, but also about our call to manifest him to the world.

Living the Gospel

The Epiphany is a call to live as bearers of Christ’s light in the world. Just as the Magi followed the star and revealed their faith by their gifts, we are called to follow the light of Christ and reveal him through our actions. This week, take up a concrete practice that manifests Christ’s presence, whether through sharing your faith, serving the poor, or deepening your devotion in prayer. Let your life become a signpost pointing others to the true Light who has come into the world!

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIVbauy57S8>

Ponder and Pray

light through prayer, the sacraments, and Scripture, allowing him to illumine your heart more fully and transform what seems hidden in shadow?

- » Where in your life do you most need the light of Christ to break through the darkness? Epiphany reminds us that Christ enters even the darkest corners with his radiant presence. How can you invite his

- » The Magi laid their finest treasures before the newborn King in an act of profound adoration. What “riches” of your own life (your time, gifts and abilities, possessions) can you place before Christ this week as an offering? How can you give him not only what is convenient, but what is most precious, so that he may sanctify it and make it fruitful for his glory?

“ **The star came and stopped.... They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.** ”
—Matthew 2:10–11

- » The universality of the Gospel proclaims that every nation and every person is invited into the family of God. How does this truth deepen your understanding of the Catholic Church as truly “catholic,” or universal? How might it expand your vision of mission, urging you to see your daily life as an opportunity to bear witness to Christ so that others may be drawn to the light of his presence?

Make It Your Own

You and others in your household may use this space to write about anything related to today’s Mass. It might be your view of Jeff Cavins’s reflection, your priest’s homily, your answers to the questions on this page—whatever will help you and your household get the most out of today’s celebration.

Jeff Cavins is the author of *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation* and the creator of the video series *Sundays with Ascension*, from which this reflection was adapted.

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