

REFLECTION for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Fr. Don.

The word Epiphany has a theological and a secular meaning. For us today it denotes a Christian festival, observed on the Sunday nearest the 12th Day of Christmas. It commemorates the appearance of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles- that's us- by way of making Himself known to the Magi from the East. Jesus becomes the *Lumen Gentium- the Light to the Nations* of this world

However the word can also be defined as a sudden, natural awareness of, or insight into, the reality or essence of something or someone. This is usually instigated by some simple commonplace occurrence or experience. The simple occurrence today in our Gospel story was the Bright Star guiding the Magi from the East to the West to find their Lord, and our Lord, in Bethlehem as was prophesized. *Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the king of Israel!*

Let us meditate upon this quote: ***“Without the quest there will be no epiphany.”*** It might be a good thing to suggest that the reader stop here and spend a few minutes contemplating this quote in relation to today's Gospel story. Dwell on the word **quest**. It can lead your mind off into all sorts of imaginary places and place you among all sorts of imaginary people.

Let us frame our prayer-time in the context that we too are longing for an awareness of Jesus and that we too are setting out on a quest to find Jesus. Like the Magi, we have heard that He is the Messiah, the Saviour, and the Redeemer, promised from of old by God the Father. And remember and believe with all our heart that the **quest** is essential to achieving our goal. The goal, being the noblest of goals, is to find Jesus, to welcome Him into our life, and to expect His love and mercy *'all the days of our life.'*

Unlike the Magi, we do not have to travel too far; for the faithful all quests lead to the Light of the World, thus they lead to Jesus. He awaits our realization that we have found the WAY and He awaits our shouts of joy as we exclaim, "I've got it." That shout denotes that you and I have experienced a Holy Epiphany- like the magi we have found Jesus, our Light in the darkness.

Some will argue that this quest is difficult but Jesus Himself begs to differ- at least scripture tells us so. We are to look for Him in the ordinary everyday 'worries of this life. Allow our soul and our heart to be open to the Light of Faith burning brightly within us. Ask the indwelling Holy Spirit to awaken in us the knowledge of the love and mercy of God. Beg, if we have to, for the reality of believing that God is with us- call out to our *Emmanuel-God within us*. Then listen, follow the Light, and find waiting for us the essence of *all that is good and holy*- find and hold onto Jesus. He will never leave you or me; I wonder, can we be strong and never leave Him?

To end our **quest** and this reflection, let us ask yourself why the Magi found what they were looking for, the much prophesized Messiah and why Herod and his court and the priests of the synagogue did not find their Messiah. After all Jesus was born right there in their own land; right under their noses so to speak. I believe the answer lies in the notion of **quest**.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship parish in love with Christ.

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025

Curlingparish@hotmail.com
website--www.sacredheartcrparish.ca
Fax: (709) 388-1141

Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses this Week:
Wed-7 pm, Thurs 10 am
Fri 2 pm at Lohnes

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of each Month
2:00 p.m.

Reconciliation
Wed after Mass,
or by request

Marriages:
Six month notice is required.
A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms:
Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

January 3, 2016

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Collection	Dec. 24/25	\$3,391.00
	Dec. 26/27	1,401.90
Building Fund [all collections]		40.00
Dues [all collections]		325.00
Mass Stipends		40.00
Advent Folders		1084.00
Cost of Envelopes		20.00
Donation Men's Group		3631.00

PARISH BINGO

The holiday season is over and parish activities have begun again. Our monthly Bingo will take place **on Sunday Jan 10 at 2 pm in the school cafeteria**. Please come out for an afternoon of fun and support our parish.

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 4	No Mass
Jan 5	No Mass
Jan 6	7pm Gerald McHugh/ Dr. O'Connor
Jan 7	10am Intention of Marilyn Borden
Jan 8	2pm Intentions Rita Hall/John Mendes
Jan 9	Mary Russell
Jan 10	Parish Community

THANK YOU,

This year we had Masses from Thursday to Sunday for both Christmas and New Year's. This presented a true test of your commitment. Thank you for your attendance at Mass and for your continued financial support.

MEN'S GROUP DONATION

We would like to especially thank the Men's Group for their generous donation arising from the success of their Annual Ticket Sale. The amount is **\$3631.00**

LADIES GROUP APPRECIATION SOCIAL

All members are reminded of the supper and social that will take place at the parish house on **Friday Jan 8 beginning at 5 pm**. Several ladies have already indicated that they will attend but if you plan to attend please let Joan or Veronica know by Thursday afternoon.

CONGRATULATIONS

Last Sunday **Owen Llewellyn Dicks** was baptised at our 11 am Mass. We ask God's continued blessing upon him and his family.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to the Myles family on the passing of their mother and grandmother **Ada Myles**. Mrs. Myles was a devoted parishioner and we pray that she has received the joys of eternity with God and of being reunited with her loved ones who went before her. Rest in peace.

CONFIRMATION

Classes begin for reception of this sacrament in the New Year. We have some youth registered. If you know of any not registered please inform them and their parents that the classes are being offered.

JUBILEE YEAR of MERCY

The Jubilee Year of Mercy formally began with the opening by Pope Francis of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. On Sunday, December 13th, 2015, the remaining six permanent Holy Doors as well as all of those temporarily designated in all of the Dioceses of the world will be opened. Our Diocese has two Holy Doors – one at the Cathedral in Corner Brook and one at the Basilica in Labrador City. *The faithful of the Diocese are invited to consider making a pilgrimage to one of the Diocesan Holy Doors during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.*

MARY'S KITCHEN

Immaculate Heart of Mary School is planning to offer a meal to the poor/hungry each Friday from 5-6 pm at the school. They are seeking volunteers to help them in this corporal work of mercy during this Year of Mercy. If you wish to help in this effort please phone the school

WEEKLY SESSIONS HONORING MARY

Our Liturgy Committee is planning to offer a four week series of presentations focusing on Holy Mary and the Rosary. Each session will be an hour or so long. It will feature Prayer, Hymns, a 15 min DVD on Mary's role in salvation history, and recitation of the Scriptural Rosary. Of course a tea/coffee social is included. Full details will follow in the New Year.

BIBLE STUDY

We also hope to begin a Bible study group early in the New Year. If this is of interest to you and you plan to attend please let Fr. Don know over the Christmas period. By doing so, we can determine the level of interest and the best time to gather for this endeavour. This is an initiative of the parish in celebration of the Year of Mercy.

A Helen Keller Quote

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties."

POPE'S RESOLUTIONS SUGGESTIONS—

1. Always be happy,
2. Don't gossip,
3. Finish your meals,
4. Make time for others,
5. Choose the 'more humble' purchase,
6. Really and truly help the poor,
7. Stop judging others,
8. Befriend those whom you don't like.
9. Follow through on your commitments,
10. Make praying a habit

PRAYER FOR YEAR of MERCY

Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

HAPPY NEW YEAR