

JANUARY 4, 2015



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



ISAIAH 60:1-6

PSALM 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

EPHESIANS 3:2-3A, 5-6

MATTHEW 2:1-12

REFLECTION

Have you ever had one of those moments in your life when you suddenly realized something really important or when things all of a sudden became clear? It's like someone pulled back the curtain or said "Ta-da, here's that answer you've been looking for." That's an epiphany. Today's Gospel story about the wise men is also an epiphany. Actually it's *the* epiphany. It's where the word comes from. The visitors who saw a star and followed it to find Jesus—wise men, kings, astrologers, magi—have been called a lot of different things. Whatever we call them, this solemnity marks an important moment in salvation history. In Matthew's account of the Gospel, the magi who enter the story here are a symbol of the Gentiles (all those who aren't Jewish) and signify that Jesus has come to be the savior of all people. We can't put limits on who God "belongs" to. God is the God of all people. It's a lot like the story of the shepherds and the angels—no one gets left behind or left out. Both the First Reading and the Responsorial Psalm outline this idea in dramatic images and poetic language and Paul says it straight up. It's quite an epiphany.



Go to [Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com) and in the search box type: "Epiphany," "Epiphany quotes," or "Epiphany Moments." You will find some amazing boards with inspiring quotes that you might then want to share.

ACTION

Look up the words to the song "We Three Kings" and read (or sing!) all the verses. Each verse describes the meaning of one of the symbolic gifts. Or read or listen to the short story *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry. You can download the text of the story or an audio file here: librivox.org/the-gift-of-the-magi-by-o-henry. It's a great reflection for today.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Write about a time when you had an epiphany. You may have suddenly realized something about yourself, had an insight about a relationship or experience that had puzzled you before. Did this revelation change anything?