

St. Michael the Archangel

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Dear Parish Family,

On January 3rd we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany. The word epiphany means 'manifestation or revelation'. The Lord Jesus is manifested and revealed to the world which is waiting for the Messiah. One meaning of this Christmas feast is that His coming into our world is not intended for a group of selected people but for everyone!!!

Our Gospel reading on this Feast shares with us two distinct and opposite models to follow in response to the revelation of the Messiah as shown by the star. Live like the Magi or live like Herod. While both were eager to find the new born king, the Magi brought gifts while Herod brought death. He wanted to kill the baby. The Magi were motivated by generosity, but Herod was motivated by fear and a hunger for power and control. The Magi were willing to be led by the light of a star while Herod followed nothing but his own dark inner drives. The Magi gave generously and Herod hoarded greedily. The Magi were willing to be changed and Herod remained hard hearted to the end. He spent his life trapped in his own hell while the Magi were given a foretaste of heaven when they saw our Lord Jesus face to face in that manger.

Our Lord Jesus manifests Himself to us each time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist. He comes to us in the Bread and the Wine at mass. I hope and pray that our response to the Lord's manifestation to us will be like that of the Magi's!

Happy Feast of the Epiphany,

Fr. Dwight