

Trinity News

The Epiphany of Christ. The Gift of Really SEEING.

The word “epiphany” means to manifest or “to enlighten”. Some travelers from the East came to Bethlehem looking for a royal child among the Jews. We do not know what prophecy they heard about him in their own land. Perhaps they had made prophecies about him themselves. They claimed to have seen a sign in the heavens. It was a journey of enormous trust. They came bearing gifts for someone they did not know in an unknown setting.

We also journey and look in wonder. We love the birth stories in Matthew and Luke, but like the Wise Men we have to trust that we have it right.

Bethlehem was not the end of the journey for the Wise Ones, but it was the end of their outward journey. It would touch their journey homeward and afterwards. They were told to skirt Jerusalem to avoid the violent reaction of Herod.

Their whole journey was made with the guidance of God. The Jews journeyed to the promised land. The Wise Men made pilgrimage to honour a royal son. They referred to him as “the King of the Jews”, the title that would be inscribed above his head at the Cross. He was never the King of the Jews, but he was the Royal Child who was ushering in a fresh revelation of the Reign of God.

We search all our life for what is real and lasting. Nothing lasts on earth except the bonds of faith, hope and love as the Apostle said. The love of God that we have access to through Christ Jesus is never extinguished. The impermanence of every thing is reversed!

The Wise Ones could hear prophetic words, take counsel, prepare for a journey and look for guidance on the way. But in the end they would have to SEE what they were looking for before its full impact entered their world view and their inner world.

Being able to SEE things as they really are is a huge revelation. Every time we overreact, pass judgment on someone, miss an opportunity to show kindness or withdraw love from those crying out for it, we cloud the picture. We may become a mental and emotional wall, unable to see.

Ravi Zacharias retells the story of Roger, an 11-year old boy, who had been battling with the authorities for the release of the body of his stillborn baby sister. He had named her Rachel. Their mother was in the drug rehabilitation center, the baby's father was unknown and his own father was dead.

This young boy fought very hard, even getting a church to donate a burial plot. After one year, Roger and his cousins held the funeral and carried the white casket to its resting place. He placed on it a baby blanket, flowers and stuffed animals.

“Since my father died, I never got to know him. And since my sister died, I never got to know her either. The good thing is she's with God and my dad is in heaven, and she's going to rest in peace”, he said after the graveside service” (Quoted in Ravi Zacharias *The End of Reason*).

That little boy began to see, really see, and in so doing he had discovered a gift more precious than those brought by the Wise Ones to Bethlehem. Of course the gifts that they brought paled before the GIFT that awaited them in the arms of his mother.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Jan. 10, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Group Study @ the Tutton's (#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, Makati), 7:30pm

Jan 12, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

Jan. 14, Saturday.

- *Contemplative Prayer and the Human Journey*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 89; Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11

TO PLAN:

January 20, 7pm. *Prayer for Christian Unity* [Santuario de San Antonio]

IMPORTANT—Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Church of the Holy Trinity will be held on **Sunday, January 29, 2012** immediately after the 9:30 Service.

It is important that all Church members please check the list of members posted on the church Bulletin Board to ensure their names are on the list of registered members, entitled to vote on the AGM Sunday date. This is truly important to have a fair and clear vote on the day.

If your names are not on the list, please let the office know.

In addition to regular business, there will be a vote for some new members of the Vestry. A list of candidates and Nomination Forms for proposing members for the Vestry is available at the church office.

Deadline for the submission of the Nominations will be on January 22, 2012.
