

## The Feast of Epiphany – 4 January 2026

### All are Welcome!

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord continues the major liturgies of the Holy Christmas Season. Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, and now Epiphany, that Jesus our Lord and Savior came to redeem all people. God's glory is for all peoples throughout the world. Epiphany means manifestation.

The Prophet Isaiah in the first reading, focuses on Jerusalem, towards which he sees a long and joyous procession of her children who "come from afar" i.e. from the exile from which God had delivered them. The light from the new temple lights up the world. The mystery of the Epiphany – the showing forth – of the glory of God is both a present reality and an object of hope. That all people from every nation will adore God.

The Magi from the East follow a star. The ancient depictions of them never had royalty, but simply the Phrygian cap and garments of noble Persians. They belonged to a caste of sages of the Zoroastrian religion, a caste that believed in the coming of the Messiah. Though they are not named in the Gospel, a much later Italian manuscript in the ninth century uses the names Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar. And the three gifts they bring represent Myrrh, signified that Jesus for our human nature would die and be buried. Gold, that Jesus was the King whose reign would be without end. And incense, that Jesus was God who came to make himself known in Judea and to the ends of the earth.

God's Epiphany, God's manifestation is constantly occurring all around us. But we need to have the eyes of Faith to truly see God's plan unfolding. When we do see, we re-act with praise, reverence and service to God and our neighbors. This Christmas season what "gifts" might we give to God in our praise, reverence and service?

Pax Christi,

Fr. Dave

Pastor

Concord Carlisle Collaborative

Saint Bernard's Holy Family

AND

Saint Irene's