

Epiphany of the Lord – Year A (2026)

Have you ever been in a situation where you asked yourself, "What are others seeing that I can't see?" Perhaps, it's a work of art (the Mona Lisa), a politician (fill in the blank), a shift in cultural morals (legalized marijuana), or even a statement from the pope (who am I to judge).

Two friends can look at the same thing and come up with vastly different viewpoints, opinions, or perspectives. In other words, what does my friend see in this person, this issue, this problem, that I cannot see?

Today we celebrate Epiphany, one of three great feasts of the Church in which Jesus is revealed to the world (the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana being the other two).

And yet this celebration is quite different from those others in that it doesn't have any dramatic "event" or unmistakable "action" (such as a voice from the heavens or the miracle of changing water into wine).

In fact, Jesus isn't "doing" anything. He's just lying there, with Mary and Joseph to care for him: helpless, dependent, gentle, and weak.

How many people probably walked past that house (stable, cave) without even batting an eye, without even knowing of the miracle in their midst?

How many people heard a baby crying and presumed it was just like any other baby—nothing special, nothing out of the ordinary, nothing worth taking time to investigate?

How many of us would have behaved in the same way, just going about our day without being aware that some great action of God was taking place?

Can you imagine the sight of seeing three grown men from a far-off land gazing in awe and wonder at this newborn baby (prostrating themselves and giving him precious gifts, nonetheless)? Would we not have scratched our heads and wondered, 'What are they looking at?' What do they see that I can't see?

One of the great traps we can fall into is believing that God doesn't act like he used to. God doesn't reveal himself to us as he did in the past.

We can often feel God was so much more connected to people long ago, so much more interested in their lives, their survival, their history.

And yet, the great truth of the Incarnation is that God doesn't just "pop in", or reveal Himself to us occasionally, or do something miraculous here and there; rather, God came to us in the person of Jesus—and He never departed. He's still with us—loving us, guiding us, saving us.

God even provides us with our own Magi. They are people who:

- See the good in every person.
- Find hope in difficult circumstances.
- Embrace the messiness of life, rather than run from it.
- Regard helping someone as a gift, not a burden.
- Believe that tomorrow can be better than today.
- Lift us when we have fallen one more time as a result of our poor choices.

In other words—people who see as God sees when he looks at the world, when he looks at his creation, when he looks at you and me—with love and compassion and mercy.

The Magi teach us to see God where we least expect him, and as unbelievable as it may sound, people even enter churches—often skeptical and filled with doubt—that they will see, hear, and experience God.

The Magi could only look on in wonder at what they found: the astounding miracle of the Incarnation. They allowed the newborn Christ to dwell in their hearts and change them.

As the Magi adored Christ in the manger, let us renew our promise to serve Him, placing our gifts, our intentions, our trials and burdens, on the altar in this Eucharist.

Let us give Him our very lives in thanksgiving. No lesser gift will suffice for our newborn King.