

Good day my fellow parishioners at St. Joseph the Worker. What I've captured in our readings and mass on Epiphany Sunday is the image and focused message of "Light". That would, of course, make a good amount of sense since Jesus is the "Light of the World" and we are celebrating his birth, entrance, and epiphany into our human world during this season of Advent.

In the first reading from Isaiah, the following phrases are used to describe the coming of the Messiah; The glory of the Lord shines upon you. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about. You shall be radiant at what you see. Sounds to me like Isaiah is providing a powerful image describing to his community of the coming of a leader that will provide "Light" for their future generations. It's through this "Light" that we, as Catholics, in this season of Jesus' birth, need to "Shine" and be "Radiant" examples of how the Lord wants his precious children to act on this Earth.

The second reading from Ephesians begins with a statement: *Brothers and sisters, you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace.* Yes, we have. But how many of us think about it throughout our busy days? Do we think about it at work, at school, at our sporting events, as we drive in post-holiday traffic, as we wait in line at the stores, as we say goodbye to family and friends that we may not see again until next Christmas season? I believe we need to. The reading's message tells us that we have heard and thus know that the mystery was made known to us by revelation. It was not known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed. Revealed through the Light of Christ and we are lucky enough to have heard the message and to believe. In this season of the Jesus' birth let's think and act on what we know and what we have seen through this revealing LIGHT.

The gospel is, in my mind, one of the most famous stories told in the New Testament. It tells a story of wonder, intrigue, a long trip, the birth of a leader/hero among men and of course the start of a wicked plot to kill this new born hero. And all along during the story we hear about the Star in the sky that is shining a marvelous "Light" onto the world. A light that is leading the magi (and eventually the shepherds) to see the new born baby Jesus "Rise up" in splendor. And when they see him, they were overjoyed. What I take away from this gospel is that we need to keep this feeling, this "Light of the Star" in our hearts throughout our days after Advent.

Epiphany Sunday focuses on the message of "Light" shining over the world. This "Light" is Jesus and his glory covering the Earth. We need to be overjoyed with the "Light" that has been revealed and recognize that the "Light" is shining on us every day. Let's try to keep these powerful images and joyous event of Jesus' birth and the Magi's epiphany in our minds to help us shine "our Light" on others as the star shined it's Light on Jesus' and the world.

Carl Try  
SJW Parishioner