



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

January 4, 2026

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

Starlight

Written by Jay Cormier for Connections, February 2023

I will read a reflection, but the reflection asks us a question: When have we had an epiphany? That is when did the “light” go on? It may not have been a “star” like the magi, but it was something that told us we are loved and it gave us a new self-worth of value that we can make a difference in this world. It caused us to go “home” another route, like the magi. Life would be changed for us in a better way. Things have never been the same since.

If our epiphany has not come yet, are we open to follow that “star.”

For those who are younger, be ready for this “light” as it can come at any time.

Here are some examples written by Deacon Jay Cormier.

He thumbs through the parish bulletin before Mass begins. Normally, a quick scan is all he gives the bulletin, but this particular Sunday a small box catches his eye. A group of parishioners have obtained a small house near the church and plan to turn it into a temporary residence for women and children in crisis. The project strikes a nerve with him and his wife: their daughter had escaped an abusive relationship a few years ago. He folded the bulletin and put in his pocket and called the parish office on Monday morning offering his help. He had found his star.

She was working the closing shift one Saturday night at the restaurant. As she wiped down the tables and mopped the floor, she sang. Singing was something she just did — most of the time she's not even aware she's singing. This night she sang just loud enough for a coworker to hear. "You're pretty good," he said. "Are you part of the school choir? You'd be great." It never occurred to her. Her days were filled with school and work, helping her single mom raise her younger sister. When auditions were held for the choir, her friend at the restaurant and her mom encouraged her to try out. She was scared to death — but she made the cut. Her star had risen.

Like most first-time moms and dads, her pregnancy was a time of excitement — and terror. *They* were going to raise a *child*? They still felt like kids themselves! But they found in one another the confidence and trust each needed. After a long night of labor, their little Sophia was born. They'll never forget the moment the nurse placed their daughter in her arms. Her star still illuminates their lives.

Jay concludes with this invitation for our New Year:

In our own search for purpose and meaning, in our seeking God in times and places we need to find him, "stars" of one kind or another show us the way. Like the experience of the Magi, the "stars" of our own Epiphanies require us to put aside our own fears and doubts and risk our own safety and comfort and begin our trek to Bethlehem. In this New Year, may we open our hearts and spirits to find our "star," leading us to the joy and fulfillment of realizing God's dawning in our life.

Prayer: Bringing Home the Word