

The Feast of the Epiphany *January 8, 2023*

- *From the archives of Monsignor John J. Gilchrist*
January 7, 1995

We celebrate today the wonderful feast of Epiphany, the commemoration of that day when the wise men from the East came to pay homage to the Christ Child.

The reading from the Prophet Isaiah is filled with the joy of the revelation that all of Israel will be filled with splendor and gladness because “the glory of the Lord shines upon you. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your radiance.” The prophet was telling the people that they must hold onto hope in the promise of a Messiah. God will surely not abandon them nor go back on His promise of a Savior.

And so, when the time of fulfillment came and Mary brought forth her child – the Son of God, the prophecy came to pass “...the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall come....bearing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.”

He responsorial psalm echoes the theme “...Lord, let every nation on earth adore You.” And the psalm itself speaks of justice for the afflicted...profound peace throughout the earth. Oh what possibilities the Promised

One would offer to those who would accept the message....and the messenger.

The gospel passage gives an account of the travels of the kings, astrologers from the East, who entered Jerusalem in search of the newborn king. In a journey of faith they left their homelands behind to seek for “The newborn King of the Jews.....in Bethlehm....as had been foretold by the prophet.” They had followed a star. They found the Child they sought. They listened to the message (probably from an angel) in their dreams and returned to their lands by a route which would keep them from Herod.

By means of a star, the Lord God manifested Himself to the wise men. In each of our lives there shines a star also. God desires only what is best for each of us and somehow, in some way, the will of God is made manifest in our lives. We must, however, be open to receive the signs. The wisemen from the east traveled in blind faith. They probably faced ridicule and abuse as they traveled a very difficult and dangerous route...but they were not deterred from their goal. Each of us has a divine destiny. For each one of us the journey to God is unique. The question we might ask ourselves today is very simple: “Am I following my star...my own personal route to the Lord Jesus Christ?”

主显节 (1/8/2023)

- 摘自 *John J. Gilchrist 蒙席案卷, 1995年1月7日*

今天我们庆祝奇妙的主显节，这一天是纪念来自东方的贤士朝拜基督婴孩的日子。

读经一中依撒意亚先知满怀喜悦地向世人预告以色列将充满一片欢腾和喜乐，因为【上主的荣耀已经照耀在你身上。万民要奔赴你的光明；众王要投奔你升起的光辉。】先知告诫人们必须要把希望寄托在默西亚的许诺上，天主绝不会抛弃他们，也绝不会对祂所承诺的救赎食言。

履行承诺的日子到了：圣母玛利亚分娩了她的婴儿 – 天主之子，依撒意亚先知的話以此应验：【... 万民的财富都要归你所有。成群结队的骆驼 ... 满载黄金和乳香而来，宣扬上主的荣耀。】

圣咏答唱咏也回应同样的主题：【... 上主，普世万民都来朝拜你。】今天的圣咏在讲述为受苦的人行公义及国泰民安。

福音讲述了来自东方的占星家 – 诸王长途跋涉来到耶路撒冷寻找刚诞生的君王。在信仰的征途上他们离开故土去寻求刚诞生的犹太人君王，正如先知所预言的，他们在白冷找到他。他们一直追随着一颗星星，找到了他们要找的婴儿。贤士们在梦中得到指示（可能来自天使）走另一条路回故乡以避免黑落德。

通过一颗星，天主把自己展示给东方贤士们。在我们每个人的生命中也有一颗星。天主愿意把最好的给我们每个人，祂会设法以某种方式把祂的旨意展现在我们生活中。因此我们必须开放自己去接纳天主显示给我们的迹象。东方贤士们的信仰之旅虽有些盲目，他们在那段充满困难和危

险的路途上旅行时，可能面对嘲笑和伤害，但没有什么能阻止他们的目标。我们每个人也有天主给我们设定的目的地。我们每个人与天主同行的人生之旅都是独一无二的。今天我们问自己的问题可能很简单：“在走向耶稣基督的人生旅途中，我是在跟随我生命中的那颗星吗？”