

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and Peace!



This Sunday, the Universal Church celebrates the Feast of Epiphany. This is one of the oldest feasts in the Church, possibly even before Christmas! From Greek roots, Epiphany means “appearance” or “manifestation.” The Church uses it with multiple meanings to describe how Our Lord reveals himself as the promised Messiah, and further along in Cana where he displays his Divinity by transforming water into wine. These multiple revelations cleave together within the Feast of Epiphany.

In the first reading, Isaiah glowingly prophesies that the nations of the world will travel to the Holy City following a brilliant light, offering gold and incense for upon them “*the LORD shines.*” Here in the second reading St. Paul expresses God’s newly revealed plan in radiant terms to the Church in Ephesus: “*the Gentiles are... copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.*” St. Paul thus announces this new revelation that supersedes old beliefs that salvation belongs only to the Jews. Now the mission field of Christ is the whole world!

Matthew’s Gospel supplies a refreshing sweetness on the intricate journey of the Magi. If God permits the Magi – foreigners and pagans – to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as King of the Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that would keep God from bringing *us* to Jesus. We see three groups of people reacting to the Epiphany of Christ’s birth—the first group, led by King Herod, tries to eliminate him: the second group of priests and scribes ignore him: the third group, represented by the shepherds and the Magi, come to adore him.

With grace, even we can imitate the Magi while worshiping Jesus’s True Presence at Mass—in the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility, and the frankincense of our adoration. Moving in a fresh direction in our own lives like the Magi did as they chose another route home, we could pray for a worthier way of life; abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits, and selfish behavior. In season and out of season, celebrating the gift of Jesus in our lives can take many turns.

If we drink from the fount of the Saviour each day, it will lead us deeper into eternal life and prepare us to throw off the burdens of this life easily and cheerfully at some time when the call of the Lord sounds.” Edith Stein (St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross). Amen.

A Blessed Sunday!