

# The Epiphany of the Lord

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA  
Rev. Jeff McGowan

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6**

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

**Psalm 72**

He shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

**2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

Brothers and sisters: [You Gentiles are] copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

**Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12**

He sent them to Bethlehem and said: "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

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This is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The awesome God whose Name faithful Jews would not dare to say out loud is enfleshed in this child named Jesus. We need to connect the epiphanies in our own lives to this great Epiphany for all.

One of our University students was filling me in on her week. Cindy was really frustrated. Her best friends had taken off for a three day New Year's cruise and planned to stay in Miami through the BCS Championship game. No one was on campus. Even her parents had gone skiing with friends. But she had come back to school early because she had to study or she was going to flunk her math course. She had reached the nadir of her life; a low she had never experienced before and she was feeling so sorry for herself that she couldn't even concentrate on the math,

She heard a knock at the door. "Hey, Cindy! Are you in there?"

"Peter?" Cindy opened the door to find her younger brother standing in the hallway. "What are you doing here? Where are mom and dad?"

"They are still skiing. Mom said you really got freaked out about flunking your math course. So I thought maybe I could help."

“Peter, I know you are good in math, but this isn’t like one of your high school courses.”

“I know that,” Peter said, “But I’m taking college level calculus this term. So show me what you’re working on. Can we order some pizza? I’m starved.”

Cindy stared at her brother in disbelief. Was this the football crazy kid she used to ignore?

They ordered some pizza and caught up on what was going on in their lives. Then Cindy explained the trouble she was having with her math course. Peter listened and then said, “I got it.” He then spent the next two days camped in his sister’s dorm room tutoring her in college-level calculus, coaching her, and making her laugh and actually enjoy it.

When Peter gathered up his things to return home, Cindy began to tear up. “What’s wrong?” Peter asked.

I just realized right now how much you mean to me,” she said.

“No,” Peter replied, “you just realized how much you mean to me.”

Cindy had reached the nadir of her life, alone, frustrated, feeling sorry for her self. Thanks to her brother Peter manifesting his love for her she reached an apex of new understanding, love and joy. That’s what we call an “epiphany.”

Can you make the connection? The God who people feared but mostly ignored has been born into our humanity. And the reality that takes us to the mountaintop, to our own apex experience, is that this did not happen because he means so much to us but because we mean so much to Him! Just think about it, let it be your filter to everything that happens in 2009 and please enjoy the Good News!!