



The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

On Sunday, January 6, 2019, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. In popular tradition, this day commemorates the arrival of the three kings at the stable in Bethlehem where Christ was born. The gospel reading for the day—Matthew 2:1-12—tells the story.

Over the years, a lot of tradition has grown around this story. Many people will tell you that the magi were three kings, named Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior, and they may note that Caspar is traditionally depicted with darker skin. But if you read those twelve short verses from Matthew’s Gospel, it becomes clear that we really know very little about the magi. We don’t know their names. We don’t know where they came from—Matthew only says “from the east.” We don’t even know that they were kings. The word used by Matthew is “magi,” meaning someone learned in esoteric knowledge.

Regardless of who the magi were and how the star showed them the way, the most significant part of this event is the identity of the one who is made know—Jesus, the newborn king, who is worthy of homage by all men and women.

National Migration Week

From Jan. 6-12, 2019, the U.S. bishops recognize National Migration Week.

Immigrants who come to the United States, and particularly those who are undocumented, are a particularly vulnerable population who have often fled violence and persecution and are often seeking safety, family reunification, and economic opportunity. Given the trauma many have endured, community efforts to accompany, assist, and stand in solidarity are vital. Our moral tradition calls on all people of faith and goodwill to stand up in defense of life and human dignity—regardless of one’s immigration status; it is a fundamental calling for us as Catholics. Scripture speaks repeatedly of the migration experience, from Abraham who was sent out from his homeland in the Old Testament, to the Holy Family who fled Herod and lived their lives for a time as refugees in a foreign land.



“They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.”

(Mt 2:10-11, Lectionary)

