

Dear Parishioners,

In the movie NATIVITY the three magi appear to be good friends who come to discover the formation of the cosmic alignment which caused the star to form over the land known as Judah. They were, in a sense, a comic relief in the telling of the story of the incarnation. However, what impressed me the most about the magi was their discernment about whether or not they should go to the land of Judah. To the magi, who were astronomers, the formation of the three cosmic lights, which came together and appeared as one, had great significance. To the magi this new light meant that a newborn king was to be born in Judah. As astrologers, they were dignitaries and so it was important for them to make that journey to welcome the new king.

Their discernment about making the journey was actually kind of funny, and I found the humor rather appealing. One of them was stubborn and did not want to go; he had a lot more pressing work to do in the observatory; he thought this trip would be too frivolous for all three of them. So the other two went and a couple of days later the one that did not go caught up with them and they made the journey together.

That star is symbolic; its light points us to the reality of the Christ who is our king. In the baptism ceremony there is a point in which a candle is lit and the priest or deacon says these words, ***“Receive the light of Christ. Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child has been enlightened by Christ and is to live as a child of the light.”*** As we grow up and experience the beautiful traditions of Christmas and of our faith we not only see that mysterious light, but hopefully, we also experience its warmth. There is an alluring appeal to the light of Christ. Our spiritual challenge is in making the decision to follow that light, and to live in its brightness each day of our lives.

This is what we celebrate in the EPIPHANY. The light of Christ enlightens our lives and calls us to recognize his presence in our lives. We have to discern whether or not we are going to follow that star. In our culture today there are so many other alluring lights that might drown out the light of Christ because they are simply more relevant to us. No matter what direction we travel in this life we have to remember that the light of Christ has already been given to us. We do not have to follow that star; it goes with us wherever we go. It is a part of who we are. The most important decision we have to make is allowing that light to shine through us for all the world to see.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel