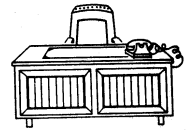


# The Epiphany of the Lord

## January 5, 2020



From the Desk of  
Fr. Romanus

**Dear Parishioners,**

### **Feast of Epiphany & New Year:**

The Church celebrates the feast of Epiphany this Sunday. It is a celebration that often goes unnoticed. The feast of Epiphany comes on the heels of Christmas and New Year celebrations, and is the official conclusion of the Christmas season. However, this year, Epiphany comes a bit early, making it seem a little pre-mature to wrap up Christmas.

Epiphany essentially means "manifestations." It is based on the belief that the birth of the Savior is to be followed by other manifestations of God's glory in the world. The special star seen by the Magi was one of those manifestations. Recall that the star guided the three wise men to the manger where they saw the baby Jesus and his parents, and gave praise to God. Hence, Epiphany is an invitation to watch for the manifestations of God's presence in our lives and in the world. These manifestations could be as subtle as a flash smile on a baby's face or as profound as an apparition.

Furthermore, Epiphany is an invitation to become agents for the manifestations of God's glory in the world. Kind words or gestures could reveal God to someone searching for meaning in life. Mean words or gestures manifest the absence of God's glory, and could be a hindrance to evangelization. We know that sometimes people who are normally nice and pleasant could become mean and soar due to the pains and anxieties of life. Still, those experiences do not justify meanness to others since part of our vocation is to manifest the glory of God. Recognizing and living out this vocation make for a good New Year resolution.

Most often, New Year resolutions revolve around health, finances, and good looks. We all know the typical New Year resolutions: sleeping more, losing weight, exercising more, quitting smoking, getting treatment for alcohol and drug abuse, changing hairstyle, paying bills on time, saving more, et cetera. These are good resolutions that promote healthy lifestyle and personal responsibility.

However, New Year resolutions need not focus solely on improving oneself. It is also important to consider resolutions that directly improve our relationship with God, namely: finding more time for prayer, attending Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of obligation, volunteering for parish ministries, increasing our financial support of the parish, et cetera.

By the same token, we should also consider resolutions that improve our relationship with family members, friends, and neighbors, namely: being more forgiving, asking for forgiveness, having time for family meals, being more patient, trusting more, sharing resources with the less fortunate, being nice to our neighbor, volunteering for programs that help the poor, visiting the sick, et cetera.

A balanced resolution is one that addresses the needs of an individual as well as those of the individual in relation to God and neighbor. New Year resolutions should be rational, realistic, and achievable. Apart from coming up with New Year resolutions, we also need to come up with good plans of action for accomplishing those resolutions. I sincerely hope that our New Year resolutions for 2020 would contribute to the ongoing manifestations of God's glory this New Year and every year of our life.

*Wishing everyone a Glorious Epiphany and a Happy New Year!*

*Fr. Romanus*