

## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

*Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12*

The disease of indifference is no new contagion.

In today's Gospel passage, the indifference some people have for God leads to their becoming deaf to God's Word and blind to God's Glory. Some people no longer wanted to be "bothered" by God in the normal course of their living – sort of a, "don't call us God, we'll call you." Even though they were disappointed, anxious and unhappy, they still feared their lives could be worse so they simply stopped caring about God and about others. So strikes the disease of indifference.

They knew God's Word. They even quoted God's Word to the foreigners – the magi – who asked about it. But they had ceased seeking God. They no longer were drawn to God, instead preferring to stay put right where they were.

Indifferent to God and others. Ho-hum. Stuck in the moment.

This week I have wondered whether I would have seen God's light. And if I had seen God's light, would my mind and heart have been moved to follow the light to its Source?

I sure hope I would have taken notice and followed the God's action in my life. And yet after serving six months as your pastor, there are struggles I still have trying to finish my work all-the-while wanting to live a more balanced and healthier life.

Sometimes I fail by being more driven to complete my tasks than I am driven to find Jesus in the tasks. These are moments when I've lost a sense of the mission. I know I want it to be different but I don't always know what to do differently or how to do it another way.

We are at the start of what is not only a new year but also a new decade. So then, which way will we head? The right first step begins with the one thing many people seem to hate in our age – *personal responsibility*.

The popular 20<sup>th</sup> century British writer and distinguished university professor C.S. Lewis (d. 1963) sounded warnings about the dangers of holding fast to a spirit of indifference. Lewis quipped that the fiercest opposition to God does not come from those brimming with hatred and malice in their hearts but rather from those whom Lewis called "semi-believers."

Are we too busy for God? Are we too comfortable for God?

The New Year brings forth great hopes of something different in us all. Resolutions are made and, in most cases, rightly so to improve physically or emotionally or relationally.

What about our sense of mission? Both as Christian believers and as a parish family are we resolved to look for God more wholeheartedly?

- What would happen if we were to shed whatever is holding us back?
- What would happen if, this year, we moved beyond “semi-believing” and more earnestly gave ourselves to Christ and His Church?

As the New Year and new decade dawns, my first step is inviting Christ anew into my life. “Lord Jesus, I no longer wish to be too busy and too comfortable to seek and find you in my daily living.”

Friends, this new year and this new decade let’s resolve to make our way to Christ and to help one another make it happen.