

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION  
The Epiphany of the Lord  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026



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MCCJ, pastor

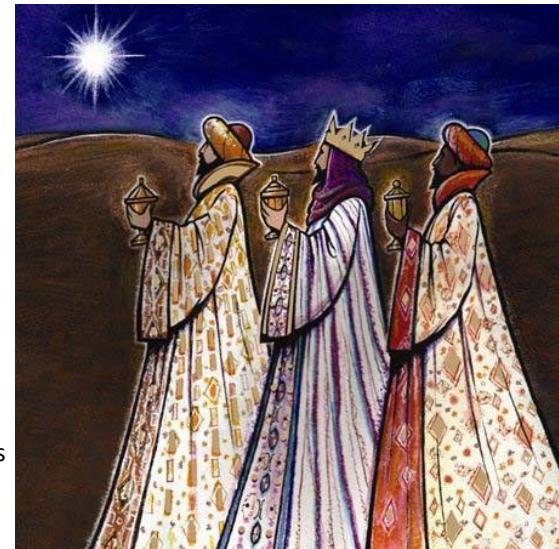
My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

Few scenes in Scripture capture the imagination quite like the journey of the magi. Their story is radiant and mysterious, filled with movement, longing, and profound hope. From childhood, we have pictured these travelers crossing deserts, watching the night sky, and trusting a single star to guide them to a newborn King. But what does this ancient journey have to do with our own lives today?

Matthew tells us that the magi were from the East, men of learning and curiosity. They noticed a light unlike any other and allowed it to interrupt their routines, their assumptions, and their comfort. Something within them whispered: Follow it. Do we ever feel that same whisper? Are there moments when God places a gentle light on the horizon of our hearts, an insight or a prompting or a new direction, and invites us to move?

The magi traveled hundreds of miles with no map, no guarantee, and no clarity except the glow above them. Why did they go? They believed that at the end of their journey they would encounter the One who is the way, the truth, and the life. Saint John Paul II once reflected that the magi represent all peoples of the earth who are searching for the fullness of salvation, searching for Christ even before they fully understand him. In that sense, they walk on our behalf. They ask our questions.

They reveal our longing. They show us the courage it takes to move toward God even when the path is uncertain.



When they finally enter the humble home in Bethlehem, the magi do not hesitate. They fall to their knees. They worship. They offer their gifts of gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, and myrrh for one whose mission will pass through suffering and death for our salvation. These gifts were not random. They were proclamations. What gifts do we bring to the Lord? Are they gifts of time, compassion, forgiveness, or faithful perseverance? Do we offer him only what is convenient, or do we give him what truly reflects our love?

Epiphany means manifestation, the revealing of God made flesh in our midst. It is both a moment in history and a daily invitation. The same light that hovered over Bethlehem still shines in our world and in our lives, although sometimes we have to look more carefully to see it. What star is God asking you to follow today? Where is he calling you to travel? Perhaps toward reconciliation or deeper prayer or renewed faith or acts of charity that stretch you in ways you did not expect.

Just as the magi returned home by another way, an encounter with Christ changes our direction. It reorients our priorities. It clears our vision. It reminds us that our true fulfillment is found not in the destinations we choose for ourselves but in the One who walks with us.

A blessed Epiphany to all. May the light of Christ guide your path and fill your heart with wonder.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Rudy

OUR LADY  
OF GUADALUPE  
FAMILY OF PARISHES



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH  
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH  
ST. LEO THE GREAT  
CHURCH  
ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE  
FLOWER CHURCH