

## THE SAME JESUS

- 1–The Christmas season is one of journeys. The angels journey to announce Jesus’ birth to the shepherds. Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem and most importantly of all, in Jesus, God journeys to share life with us.
- 2–Today is the feast of the Epiphany, the manifestation of the Lord. At Christmas Jesus was born but at the Epiphany he was shown forth to the nations.
- 3–The Epiphany also celebrates a journey. The Magi, these mysterious people from the east undertake a journey looking for the newborn king of the Jews. The most important thing about them is that they aren’t Jewish. They’re gentiles and yet they come to worship the newborn king of the Jews.
  - a–Something propelled them to leave behind what was familiar and to follow a light shining in the darkness. There was a desire within them that led them to have some get up and go and they got up and went
  - b–Now where do you expect to find a new born king—in a palace and that’s where they look. And yet the completion of their journey wasn’t a Jerusalem palace but a Bethlehem house.
  - c–There they bow before the child of poor people and present their gifts.
  - d–Pope Benedict XVI reflected that their exterior journey had ended but now they began an interior journey
  - e–This interior journey led them to think in a new way about power, about God and about what it means to be human; something that affects daily life.
    - i–Jesus comes not with noisy worldly power but with the defenseless power of love.
    - ii–God is so powerful that he makes himself defenseless and vulnerable
  - f–He calls them to inner change
    - i–They prostrate themselves and do him homage. They adore,

ii–Adoration involves giving, self-giving. Gifts we share are simply expressions of self-giving

iii–In worship or adoration of God we don't become less of who we are, we become more, we become who we are meant to be in relation to God, others and ourselves. Worship of God doesn't make us less. It makes us more.

4–The Magi remind us that Jesus comes forth not for one group, one tribe or even one nation but for all peoples. His mission is universal and the word catholic means universal

5–In the story of the Magi we find our own story

a–In our lives there are exterior journeys and also an interior journey of faith.

b–This journey of faith requires us to be attentive

c–This journey requires us to step out in the darkness of faith with the light of Christ to guide us.

d–This interior journey calls us to grow in our understanding of power, God and what it means to be human.

6–At the Epiphany, Jesus was shown forth and was adored.

a–Here in the Eucharist he continues to be shown forth to the world and we continue to adore him.

b–We adore Christ made present before us and with each worthy Communion he not only dwells before us but he dwells within us and we with him.

c–The Jesus who the Magi adored in Bethlehem is the same Jesus we adore at this altar at St. Therese Parish.

7–This speaks to us about adoring Jesus present in the Eucharist as he continues to be with us.

a–The primary place to adore Jesus here at Mass but when we spend time with Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament whether reserved in tabernacle or on the altar in exposition, it can be like a freeze frame where we continue to contemplate and ponder the gift Jesus makes of his presence to us throughout our lives.

- b—Additionally, we live in a noisy world, to spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament can be something calming, healing and even refreshing. It is good to spend time resting in Jesus.
- c—Eucharistic action at Mass can lead us to Eucharistic Adoration which in turn leads us in two different directions.
- d—One is to return once again to the Eucharistic celebration to gather as God's people, to listen to his word, to enter again into the one sacrifice and Christ and enter more deeply into a loving communion with him and each other.
- e—The other is to go forth and live lives that are Eucharistic, lives of intentional faith. We need all of Christ's faithful people, we need you, to live these Eucharistic lives in classrooms, boardrooms, workrooms, in homes, in the marketplace and wherever people may be.
- f—As a new year's resolution consider spending some quiet time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and let his presence enrich your interior life and also to help you live lives that more and more are Eucharistic.

8—The Eucharist is a type of Epiphany but it moves on from there.

- a—We share in this Epiphany so that we, by our lives, can become an epiphany, a showing forth of God's love. And that is what a saint is: Someone who lets the light of Christ shine through.
- b—The star of Bethlehem shone in a dark world, may the light of Christ shine in our often dark world, may that light of Christ shine through each and every one of us.
- c—May that light lead us and all we meet to the light, life and love that is our God.