



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast
January 10, 2021
First Sunday After Epiphany
(The Epiphany, January 6)

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew for Epiphany (Matt 2:1-3)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;...[emphasis added]

“What is Epiphany?”

You’ve probably noticed the word “epiphany” has made its way into American advertising. In fact, there is a Krylon spray paint commercial using the word “epiphany.” Here’s the scene and dialog: (Imagine a man and woman are looking at a bright yellow coffee table.)

Woman: That table looks amazing! Is it new?

Man: It’s not. The other day I looked at it, and I had this epiphphphph... phany.
(flashback showing man spraying yellow paint onto the table..phphphphph).

Woman: Nice job!

Man: Thanks!

To many, epiphany (little e) is a sudden flash of insight, often a quick action without much thought – “I know: I’ll just paint this old table yellow and it’ll be like new.” However, Epiphany (capital E) celebrates the arrival of the three Magi to honor the birth of Jesus Christ. Therefore, Epiphany has a more profound theological significance: the recognition of God’s immanent presence in our world, a gift of grace, and reassurance of justification by faith.

With all the chaos now in our country, the importance of the Epiphany (capital E) can be felt even in our times. The birth of Jesus Christ was not just a quick coat of paint over an old social and political system 2000 years ago (indeed, Herod was afraid, for good reason). The coming of the Christ is a complete make-over, a new creation. Let us all open ourselves to God’s gift, going forward in this new year. (And please put away the Krylon-you do not need it.)

May it be so, AMEN.

Special prayers this week: give thanks for Chris’s progress; pray for Mary’s recovery; prayers for good health for Emerson and his family. Lastly, pray for peace and calm in our country.