



From the Desk of Father Peter

Epiphany

In western Christian tradition, January is celebrated as Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In the Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as in some places in Europe, it is know as Three Kings' day.



Christmas celebrates a family that could not get a place to stay. A family that was homeless, with no place at the Inn. Mary had to give birth in a stable. The angels came and glorified God. Then the people of the East came and found the wonder child that King Herod had sought to eliminate because he felt Jesus was a threat to his parochial sense of kingdom.

Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the world. As Christians, how can we manifest our faith to others who are less fortunate in our lives? Despite the hard economic times that everyone is facing, I am very happy and thrilled with the immense response and support we have as a parish to the many causes that were presented on our Giving Tree. As it is, hundreds of gifts were donated. I thank every one of you for your donation. We sometimes have treasures we do not realize we have until an outsider calls our attention to their value. The gifts we gave and presented to these various organizations or groups were a welcomed gift indeed. Those who were there for the collection and presentation of the gifts on Sunday, December 11, saw and felt the immense gratitude of our generosity on the faces of recipients.

As your priest, I realize we have so many good things in us at St. John's, our beloved faith community, that we just do not talk about or share to let others know of our parish's immense outreach. We each have a hidden talent which we may consider ordinary in itself but which turns out to be the basis for a new hope, a new lease on life for others. Thanks to all who gave generously to the Giving Tree as well as the various outreach done in the parish throughout the year. May you all receive tenfold what you have given in God's name to the needy and lonely of our community.

True joy, the protection of God, and a deepening knowledge that God wants to provide us with every good thing are among the gifts we also can become more aware of at this time of the year. To open our awareness, we may need to pause, to be silent and quietly contemplate our gracious loving God, and feel deeply that the Emmanuel is with us, in whose name we too have shared ourselves with others.

As we enter into the new year, may we, from this day forward, as we witness our faith as Church, remember the faith of our fore-parents and our responsibility to carry the mantle of discipleship to which each one of us is called.



Happy New Year and God bless us all!

Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu