

Homily - Epiphany C - January 6, 2018

How many times in your life have you been a star? Once, twice, never, always? We marvel at the stars in our lives. They can be music stars, athletic stars, humanitarian stars. No matter what shape a star might take, a star is someone that we admire, perhaps we emulate, definitely would love to meet. But a star can also be someone who can disappoint when the bright light of the star does not live up to our expectations. Not only that, but the greater the star, the greater the disappointment in our lives when the star falls out of grace.

That was really a stellar performance. There's that word "stellar." It comes from the Latin word *stella* meaning star. In this case, the performance was outstanding or stellar. Some people even have the name *Stella*, although we don't hear that very often. In any case, another example of star.

You've got stars in your eyes. Not exactly a compliment. We tell those people to get people back to facing reality. Then, of course, there is "When you wish upon a star...makes no difference who you are.."

Today, we celebrate Epiphany or the Three Kings, the Three Magi, the Three Wise Men. Lots of different terms signifying the same reality. Three men saw a star. They knew that this star was important. They knew that the star would lead them to someone very stellar. They knew that this star was a king.

But this star was unlike any other star. This star was the son of God. So, they find the child, the king to be, and present to him gifts, not simple gifts, rather stellar gifts fit for a king; nothing cheap, only the best, the best that they could offer.

So, where do we find ourselves in this story? Here we are on the 12th day of Christmas. Perhaps in coming to this feast of Epiphany we hear in the backs of our heads the carol about the twelve days of Christmas and a gift for each day. Or perhaps we hear the haunting melody of *Little Drummer Boy* recounting the story of the three kings.

We need to be in the picture as we honor and adore our King. Like the magi we need to follow our star, Jesus Christ. Like the kings we need to bring our gifts, not just the twelve gifts of Christmas, but the best gift that we can offer- ourselves. Hopefully, we don't have stars in our eyes, but we have Christ in our lives; may we always be ready to give Christ the greatest gift that we have, our very selves. May we become stars lighting up the darkness of our world and leading the way to Jesus!