

FATHER SCHULTE HOMILY
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 3, 2021

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany means to make manifest or to show something.

In the case of the epiphany, God in the child Jesus is showing himself for the first time to the greater world in the persons of the Magi.

The epiphany fulfills what God promised through his prophets – that he would come to save not only the Jews, the race he was born into and was given the promises, but he came to save all humanity, Jews and Gentiles (represented by the Magi).

The apostle Paul speaks about how in the fullness of time – God sent forth his son born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law (*Gal 4:4*). This refers to the Jews.

But, Paul also speaks about how in Abraham “all the nations will be blessed.” (*Gal 3:8*).

- These are the “Gentiles” (*Gal 3:14*).
- This is good news for us – we are Gentiles.

Fullness of Time

This Epiphany or manifestation of the Messiah to both Jews and Gentiles took place about 4,000 years after the Fall of Adam.

- Salvation history has taken place in Epochs.
- These Epochs coincide roughly with the number of days in which God created the world, which was 6 days.

From:

Adam – Abraham – 2,000 years
Abraham – Jesus – 2,000 years
Jesus – 2nd Coming – 2,000 years (Age of the Church)
New heavens – New earth – 1,000 years (*2 Peter 3*)

- Total of 6,000 years from Adam until the 2nd coming.
- Plus 1,000 years which Christ “reigns”.

A total of 7,000 years.

7 in scripture is the number for fullness or completeness. i.e., 6 days God created – on the 7th day he rested (enter into his rest).

- 7 years of famine – 7 years of plenty (Joseph in Egypt).
 - 7th son (David) (*1 Chronicles 2:15*)
 - $7 \times 7 = 49$ years + 1 = 50 jubilee year.
 - Peter forgive 70×7 .
- God sent his son in the fullness of time – after 4,000 years—to save humanity.
 - He gives His church 2,000 years to spread the Gospel of salvation to the whole world.
 - After that period of time, he comes to collect the harvest (judgement).

As His Church – we are now the visible presence of Christ in the world.

- We manifest Christ to the world.
- When non-believers see us – they see Christ and should want to become part of his people the Church.
- We are his visible Epiphany to the world.

The Christmas season has 3 main phases:

- Christ is born.
- Christ shows himself to the world (Epiphany).
- Christ is Baptized as a grown man.
 - His Baptism is his 2nd Epiphany to the world.

We ask the Holy Spirit to grant us courage and strength to be God's presence (epiphany) to those around us.