

January 8, 2017 – Feast of the Epiphany– Cycle A  
Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning! How are you? Blessed! Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, and there is a bunch of epiphanies during this season. Epiphany means revelation, it's how God reveals Himself to us. So He revealed Himself, first to the Jews, the Jews that nobody wanted to be around. Last week at the birth of Jesus it was the shepherds who were the first ones to come to see Jesus. The shepherds were the people who others didn't like, they were the low lives. So first Jesus comes and appears to the lowlife. Now He comes and appears to not believers at all, but to the Magi. Who were foreigners, who were pagans and He appears to them. Then we will see tomorrow when the Christmas seasons ends, even though it's going to end for us today, because we are going take everything down after Mass, because no one will be here tomorrow, at the Baptism of Jesus when He reveals Himself to all people, the Jews that were there.

So what this is, is that God comes and reveals Himself, but what we got to do, is seek Him above, everything else. That's what the Magi teach us today, even Herod wanted to find out. He goes and says to the Magi, "You go and search diligently for Him." But he didn't search diligently, then you come back and tell me. That's 90 percent of Catholics, not you but the other ones who are not here, you go ahead and find out how that is, and you come tell me about it. You'll never know Jesus that way. Never. You and I need to search diligently, in our own life, for Jesus Christ. The Magi left everything to find Jesus. Are you willing to leave everything to find Jesus? See the problem with us, is those of us who church all the time, and are really holy, holy, I'm not one of those, but the rest of us who are like "I'm holy, holy, I go to church." All these things, we take for granted our relationship with Jesus, it becomes commonplace, we cease to grow in our relationship with All Mighty God. We no longer search diligently for the child, we just expect it. We need to always grow, we need to always search diligently for Jesus. More than we do for money, more than we do for health, more than we do for pleasure, more than we do for anything else.

So the first question I ask you on the Feast of the Epiphany, is do you search for Jesus diligently in your daily life? If so how do you do that? Of course, we prioritize our time, and if we are searching diligently it's the first part of our time, Jesus. Right? And so how does that look that means we diligently give Jesus the most important part of our time every day. Again as we said a billion times. We never fit God into our day, we build our day around Him. So you decide what kind of time you give Him, you search with Him diligently. When you are there in prayer, you either shut up, right? You need to seek Him, you cannot, like I had one of my people here yesterday, who I am the Spiritual Director of, I'll get it tomorrow. But the whole Mass yesterday, he was here, he had his face down in a book. Even when I led up Jesus, he didn't even look up. EXCUSE ME! You can't look at Jesus and a book at the same time. Even now those of you, now that we got these screens, at Consecration, you're looking at the screen instead of looking at Jesus. Is there a problem, yes there's a problem! You don't look at a screen, when Jesus Christ is being held up in front of you. We search diligently for Jesus. Not screens or words. So what that

means is we got to spend time with Jesus every day, we need to listen when we are spending time with His words, we have memorized, we got to be doing that.

The second thing we got to do to search diligently for Jesus is spend time with His word, right? That means every day. Because sometimes we think we already know about God, we already know. Every day I go to the Scriptures and I have been doing this for many, many years, every day I go “oh I’ve never heard that before.” There’s never a time I go to His Word where He doesn’t say “I want you to read this, I want you to hear this.” Oh! I missed that, I’ve been reading the Word of God every day. Still every day He shows me something new. Every day He will show you something new. That means you will continue to grow. Another great way we could do that this year, is I would love it if every single one of our parishioners were involved in a Bible study. Because again, they’re starting a Bible Study, is it today or is it next week? Ed? Oh today, well it already started. You can join next week. Can they join next week? Ed? Ed is famous you know! Worldwide! On my thing, everybody talks about “who is Ed? I want to meet Ed!” Everybody here could be in a Bible Study. You can start one in your home, you could either do a Bible Study by book. Okay we are going to learn about the Book of Revelation. We are going to learn about the Book of Colossians. Or we are going to do a Bible Study and let’s study what courage is. Let’s study what discipleship is. So those are some things. You do not have to come here to do it. In fact I would be more excited is if you did it from your homes. You take turns, because now you are seeking diligently with other people.

People, the Magi did not go alone to find Jesus, they went with one another. That the best way for us to seek diligently for Jesus is with each other, we encourage each other, and we give each other strength when we are down. We do this together. Everybody here can start a Bible Study or meet with other people in your homes and then you start. This year, 2017 was the year I decided to seek diligently every day for Jesus Christ. Not tell someone else to do it for me as Herod did. I, myself, will seek diligently for Jesus Christ. Then once we find Him, and we will find Him more and more every time, what did they do? The Magi gave Him all their treasures. They gave that child all that they treasured.

When we come to Jesus and we find Him more and more we know that because we give Him our treasures. We don’t give Him what’s leftover, we give Him all our treasures, which we value the most. That’s the way that we find out, have I really sought Him? Have I really found Him? Because if I sought Him and I have found Him. I give Him the best of what I got. I don’t throw Him what’s left or whatever I think I can afford, they left everything, they gave everything.

If we are going to be people who are true disciples of Jesus this year and all the days of our life, we need to seek diligently for Him every day. Then once we find Him we prove that by giving Him that which we treasure the most, every day. Of course when we do that, are we going to be less? We are going to be blessed! We are not going to be less. Anyone who thinks that if you give Jesus the top, that you are going to be less, then you do not know Jesus Christ. You just

make sure you do not go to Hell when you die. Because once you know Him and you give Him the best, you will not be the less that you become. That's reality.

So this year let's not sit on our commonplace and so let us decide together that we will seek diligently for the child and we will give Him our treasure, every day.

You got it? Get it? Gonna do it? May each of you know His love today and forever,  
Amen.