

Archdeacon's Corner Continued

The first Sunday after Epiphany is the gospel story of the baptism of Jesus. After Jesus is baptized by John the Baptizer, the heavens open and a voice declares. *“You are my son the beloved with you I am well pleased”* (Mark 1:11). God has miraculously declared Jesus is His son, and one day Jesus, will open the heavens for us.

The second and third gospel stories will be about Jesus traveling to Galilee and selecting Phillip and Nathanael to follow him. Then continuing in Galilee and picking Simon/Peter his brother Andrew and then the brothers James and John as his first disciples. Jesus called all of them as He calls all of us to follow him.

The fourth is from the Gospel of Mark. While in Capernaum and teaching, Jesus meets a man possessed by demons who ask *“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.* (Mark 1:24). Even the demons know who Jesus is. Shouldn't we too recognize that Jesus is the Christ?

The fifth reading is where Jesus heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law. After this miraculous event, the whole village surrounds their house and Jesus cures many that are sick or possessed. Throughout the Old Testament there are many miracles, but not as many as occurs during Jesus's short ministry. Jesus not only has the miraculous power to heal and cast out demons, but he can heal our broken hearts.

The sixth and last Sunday of Epiphany is *“Transfiguration Sunday.”* Jesus goes into the mountains and there, with Peter, James, and John, He is transfigured in their very presence. Jesus's very presence will change the disciples lives forever, as it does ours.

The Church has done a marvelous job of selecting gospels this season that truly define the word epiphany. Jesus will visibly demonstrate that he is the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah, the Holy One.

May each of us take the time this blessed Epiphany season to ponder the gospels, their mystery, and magnificence, as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ reveals himself to each of us.

Lastly, if you would like to start a new, old-world tradition. Catholics bless their homes by writing (in chalk, which can be blessed). the letters C, M and B and the numbers of the year, (e.g. 20 C+M+B 24) at the lintel (top) of their doors. The letters stand for the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. It has been popularly believed that the Magi's initials stand also for *Christus Mansionem Benedict* or *“Christ bless this house.”* The crosses are for Jesus.

Prayer *

Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Your law, the thanksgiving to God the

Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein.

Praying that our Lord finds you and yours well.

Archdeacon,
The Ven. Mark Richardson

*There is a much longer service on many Roman Catholic websites.