

PASTOR'S CORNER



Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.

Ever notice how inaccurate that Nativity Scene is? I mean, come on, it's more than a week after Christmas, and the shepherds are still hanging around? Don't they have work to do? Today we bring the three kings into the picture as well, and things are starting to get a little crowded. Of course, the Gospel today spoke of magi or wise men, not kings – we were also told they *entered a house* so apparently Mary and Joseph got out of the stable – and if you noticed, we are told there are three gifts but it did not say there were three magi bringing those gifts.

But to critique the nativity scene that way is to entirely miss the point. The Nativity scene is not meant to be a diorama of a day in the life of baby Jesus – it's not meant to be a substitute for a selfie that would have been taken if Joseph had had a smart phone. The Nativity scene is meant to be a collection of profound truths gathered together for our contemplation: the whole narrative of the Christmas story in one place so that we might remember and reflect.

It tells us of the poverty and humility with which the all power God and King of the Universe entered into his creation. It tells of how the lamb of God was first made known, not to the priests and leaders of the people, but to the lowly and simple shepherds. And it tells of how this babe – worthy of all adoration – was not just born for the Jewish people but for the entire world.

The three kings are particularly there to teach us about the extent of God's saving plan. These three – representing all ages, representing the three corners of the known world, representing all the wisdom and prayer and suffering of history, standing as rulers of the earth, fall down, *prostrate themselves and do him homage*. And they teach us one of the most radical ideas in all of history: that God is catholic, meant for everyone in every time and place.

May we truly join the magi in seeking the Lord in our offerings and our worship – knowing the love of God that is meant for all peoples even you and me.

In Christ, through Mary,

Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP