

In today's Gospel, we hear the last of the three "Manifestations" of Jesus as celebrated over the past three weeks.

The first was the Visit of the Magi, the second the Baptism of the Lord, and the third is the Wedding at Cana.

In each of these Jesus is revealed to the world, and to us ... and in each event we have the opportunity to learn something about ourselves.

In the Visit of the Magi, we need to look beyond our expectations to find God in places we might not look for Him ... in the Baptism of the Lord, we need to look beyond our image of ourselves to see that we are beloved of God ... and in the Wedding Feast at Cana, we are shown that it is appropriate to expect the unexpected; that is, to expect the miracle.

St. Paul speaks of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that are ordered toward service:

wisdom,  
knowledge,  
faith,  
healing,  
miracles,  
prophecy,  
discerning spirits,  
tongues and  
interpretation of tongues.

In all of these 'spiritual gifts' we need to expect the miracle to receive it.

If we truly believe that Jesus Christ is God, and came into the world; and is the beloved Son of God the Father, who enables us to become the beloved children of God; and that he pours out spiritual gifts on His followers, like so many over-flowing jugs of water ... then shouldn't that affect how we live our lives?

Shouldn't that affect how we see ourselves, and our day-to-day situations?

As we move into this new year, during the time between Christmas and Lent ... let us seek in prayer the gifts that God has given us. And not just the material gifts, but to look deep inside to find the spiritual gifts ... which maybe we haven't been paying much attention to.

As we approach this altar to receive the sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ; let us take Our Lady's advice ... Mary's advice ... in one of the few times she speaks in the Gospel: "Do whatever he tells you." And pray for a greater ability to follow the promptings of Our Lord in our lives ... to live more in the Spirit of God, and less in the spirit of the world.