

## Second Hand Preacher

### *Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord*

January 4, 2015

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

The word catholic means universal. Its use in the Nicene Creed is actually with a small c capturing the idea of universality. Christianity took forth its Catholic roots when it went from Galilee to Jerusalem to the whole world. Jesus states a number of times that he came for the lost sheep of Israel but there are many instances that Jesus affected the broader world. On this feast of Epiphany it was the faith of these gentile kings that rules the day. They follow a star and bring gifts to a universal king they found in a manger. The Magi from the East showed the universal attraction of Jesus.

We believe that St. Paul believed that God's love was for everyone. He expressed this as encouragement to the Christians in Ephesus. The community was probably mixed between Gentiles and Jews and Paul's call was to believe that Jesus came for all. This is why St. Paul, who once preached as a Jew, worked so hard to spread the Christian message that he was so zealous for. He truly believed that including the Gentiles was his mission in life.

A priest once told me that the Catholic Church was set up the best to be the one church that the Christian faith united under. I liked the sound of that. I also believe that it is going to take our effort to cooperate enough with God so that this might have some chance to happen. We need to bust down barriers that exist in our church, other Christian churches, and with all people who profess a God. If we can break down barriers we can realize there is only one universal God that loves us all. Epiphany gives us the opportunity to reflect on that.