

## Epiphany 2018 Homily Outline

*What is the Solemnity of Epiphany about?*

On the Solemnity of Epiphany the Church continues to contemplate and to celebrate the mystery of the birth of Jesus the Savior. In particular, this day stresses the universal destination and significance of this birth. – Pope Benedict XVI

IT WAS NOT MADE KNOWN TO PEOPLE IN OTHER GENERATIONS  
AS IT HAS NOW BEEN REVEALED  
TO HIS HOLY APOSTLES AND PROPHETS BY THE SPIRIT:  
THAT THE GENTILES ARE COHEIRS, MEMBERS OF THE SAME BODY,  
AND COPARTNERS IN THE PROMISE IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGH THE GOSPEL.

In today's Second Reading Paul recalls that all nations, not just Israel, would be able to benefit from the promises Our Lord has made through the Gospel.

- Israel thought for a long time that salvation was reserved to them alone and that the Messiah would only come to save and lead them.
- The Three Magi in today's Gospel is the first signs of that fact.

Today's Gospel teaches us that the light of Christ extends farther than our "chosen people".

- The Three Magi represent all the peoples of the earth seeing that light in the distance—the distance of their situation, of their cultural differences—and heading toward it.
- Thanks to this episode we know that Christ's light reaches to all the nations, and leads us above and beyond our own cultures.
- All the nations of the earth can benefit from his light.

### 1. iGen

cf. Father (now Bishop) Robert Barron video on iGen

*Dr. Jean Twenge's books on iGen book that came out describing these kids born in 1995 and later (people who are 21 years old and younger) – they grew up with cell phones, had an Instagram page before they started high school, and do not remember a time before the internet.*

Not making fun of them, talking about how bad this generation is – just kind of the facts because iGen is the ideal place to look for trends that will shape our culture in the years to come, as its members are very young but still old enough to express their views and report on their experiences – kind of just to say that this is what the future looks like.

### 2. The *I* in the name stands for Internet (and Irreligious). Dr. Twenge says, without a doubt they are the least religious generation in history.

In 1991 90% of Young Adults (aged 18-24) identified themselves as affiliated with a religion - in 2016 only 66% did so.

Statistically:

- even kids from religious families – drop off from practice of the faith.
- they are less religious and less spiritual
  - many don't pray
  - 25% don't believe the Bible is the inspired word of God (think that it is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and more precepts recorded by men)
  - don't believe in afterlife (fade away into oblivion)
- other studies show that millennials have not been returning later to the faith (when they get married and have kids) and it is unlikely that iGen'ers will either

### 3. Why do they have no interest in religion?

A. They are interested in personal choice – huge premium on personal choice – they've grown up with this full range of choices, phones, tablets, channels, genders and they see religion as being **anti-choice**

- Religion involves proclamation of the truth to the exclusion of non-truth
- Religion involves believing in something bigger than yourself, following rules, and joining

B. "You can't be scientific and religious." They see religion as being **anti-science**

- "it was tenth grade. I started learning about evolution...I knew from church that I couldn't believe in both science and God, so that was it. I didn't believe in God anymore."
- "Religion is something of the past it seems like something that isn't modern."

C. Churches are perceived as being **anti-gay**

- Religion judgmental and hypocritical

Correlation between screen time and depression:

"They are on the forefront of the worst mental health crisis in decades, with rates of teen depression and suicide skyrocketing since 2011. Physically safer than ever, yet they are more mentally vulnerable."

#### Announcements:

- ❖ **Sunday (today)**—Young Adult series "The Fulfillment of All Desire" begins @ 6:30pm in Camerman Hall
- ❖ **Wednesday**—Confession @ 5pm; "The Fulfillment of All Desire" series @ 6pm in Camerman Hall; Youth Programs @ 6pm in Parish Center/JPII Youth Center/School
- ❖ **Thursday**—Youth/Young Adult Holy Hour @ 7pm in Church
- ❖ **Thursday (Jan 18)**—That Man is You begins @ 6am in Camerman Hall. See bulletin flyer.
- ❖ **Monday (Jan 22)**—Mass for Life/March for Life buses load OLSOS @ 7am, back ~3pm; sign up at [prolifebus@aol.com](mailto:prolifebus@aol.com); \$10/seat – pay on bus. Information in Vestibule. *Donations gratefully accepted to help defray cost of buses.* See bulletin flyer.