

**January / February 2006 Monthly Message from**  
**The Rev. Dr Anthony T. Padovano**  
**Pastor of the Inclusive Community**

**EPIPHANY TO TRANSFIGURATION**

The month of January begins with the Epiphany and the month of February ends with transfiguration. In early March, Lent arrives. Before the sadness of Lent, Epiphany and Transfiguration remind us of the glory and the joy of finding Christ.

Epiphany shows us God as a child. Christianity is the only religion that does this. A child delights the human heart as nothing else can. No one breaks through the seriousness of our maturity and adulthood as does a child. God as a child is a revelation of the playfulness and happiness of God. Christians sometimes lose their sense of humor in their discipleship. Epiphany tells us that God is a miracle of eternal childhood. Notice how adults become children in the presence of children, talking like children and being playful like children. God as a child reminds us that we are to be children before God and that it is children for whom the Kingdom of God exists.

Transfiguration is a relating to the disciples that the adult Christ is still a child at heart. All the innocence and light of childhood fills the transfigured Christ. Christ is in another world in the Transfiguration, a world where everything is simple and darkness is banished, a world of freedom and ecstasy. Christ is a child dancing in the light of transfigured glory, filling the disciples with awe and gratitude just to be there. The sight of any child, the sight of such a Christ, enchants us.

Before the sadness of Lent, we are reminded of the joy of God. When lent is over, the dance will begin again as the Risen Christ takes us to the mountaintop where light and peace encapture us in new life, new birth, eternal childhood.

Anthony