

January 8, 2012 Epiphany of the Lord

Call to prayer: O Lord, our God, a star led the Magi to your Son. May the sound of your Word and the light of your Spirit lead us today to worship before him in Spirit and in truth, bringing to him the gift of our lives, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew: Matt. 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The gospel of the Lord.

Focus: Today we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the whole world. He came for everyone. God's love is universal and ours should be the same.

Questions for reflection and sharing:

1. What words or phrases stand out for you in this reading?
2. If you were commissioned to be a modern day Magi, what gift could you or would you bring to Jesus?
3. Who or what event was the star that led you to a better understanding of Jesus?

Concluding prayer: All generous God, we come to you asking for your help as we attempt share our gifts with others. We pray that everyone in our parish will be open to sharing your gifts with others. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.