

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 7-8, 2023

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Gospel reading

Matthew 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 Messiah 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.

Intercession

That, as the light of Christ's star drew the Gentile kings, we may attract unbelievers by the light of our generosity in the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.

Copy for bulletin announcement

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” (Matthew 2:2) Like the wise men in the Gospel today, we seek the king. We are looking for a guiding star to bring us safely across the wildernesses of our lives. Our local parish is one of the places where this star rests.

Quietly it shines above, calling us to seek the king here. When our journey is beset with troubles, like the wise men’s journey was with Herod’s plots, we can rest with the king here. He sleeps peacefully in the manger of our tabernacle, radiating peace to all people of goodwill who have the wisdom to find him there.

There is no more reliable place to find him than there. Join us in preserving the refuge of the wise through our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. Through his Church, God asks you to be like Saint Joseph. Just as the angel Gabriel asked Joseph to provide a safe home for baby Jesus, so too does God ask us to support the place where his son lives vulnerably in the quiet Eucharistic bread. Work together with us, alongside Saint Joseph the Worker, to give from the gifts God gave you. Let it not be said that the star shone above a sad stable in our town. Let it be wondered that our parish is instead a “stable” filled with light! Join our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. Let’s ensure this place remains fit to welcome kings of the earth and heaven.

Copy for pulpit announcement

Our gifts to Jesus can inspire those who have yet to become Christian. Join our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* so that our parish’s light shines brightly... bright enough to attract those seeking the king they desire.

Social media post/content

Photo: Child holding flowers

Header: God Treasures Even the Most Minor Acts of Love

Sub-header: Feast of the Epiphany 2023

Copy: Very few of us are Israelite by blood. However, we are all part of the family by the blood of Christ, who drew all things to himself.

Join us in creating ways for gentiles like us to know Christ by supporting our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. God treasures even the most minor acts of love. Sometimes, the small light of a star is enough to attract kings!