

# Epiphany

D Y O B F L F P S J  
 J L F J E K R O E E  
 A O O A O O A D D D  
 N F R G P Q N J I E  
 T S S H X M K L J G  
 I S E E Y F I Q U A  
 P T I R C G N O D M  
 C O R R E R C L E O  
 S H J N H G E K A H  
 O T T E N C N T I X  
 Z L A I S J S T L L  
 Y M K R I U E M Z Y  
 D E T A R T S O R P  
 I H M A G I L N K S  
 J E R U S A L E M W  
 M L X M Z B T W P E  
 A H C I W Q I B L J  
 K T H E R O D O R M  
 R E A S E B I R C S  
 D B N R O B K N F S

BETHLEHEM  
 BORN  
 CHRIST  
 DILIGENT-  
 LY  
 FRANKIN-  
 CENSE  
 GOLD

HEROD  
 HOMAGE  
 ISRAEL  
 JERUSALEM  
 JESUS  
 JEWS  
 JUDEA  
 KING

MAGI  
 MYRRH  
 NEWBORN  
 PROPHET  
 PROSTRATED  
 SCRIBES  
 SECRETLY  
 STAR

## Catechizing Corner!

The story tells us little of the mysterious Magi or their origin. However, because of Psalm 72, where kings from Tarshish and the Isles come bearing gifts, it is assumed that the Magi are those referred to in the psalm. This puts their place of origin in Persia. The only reason we have assumed there were three is due to the three gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh. In later Western tradition they were given the names Balthasar, Melchior and Caspar. They became symbols of the diversity of the church, of God's manifestation to the Gentile world, to all peoples.

Jesus is called the "King of the Jews" in order to name him the messiah. The star is a reference to a messianic prophecy in the Old Testament book of Numbers in which a star was identified with the messiah (Num 24:17). For Matthew, the Magi signify that Christ has always manifested his glory to people from distant lands. There is noticeable irony in the fact that it is the very scribes and Pharisees who supply the Magi with the scriptures that direct them to the place where their search will end.

In ancient times, people were often attracted to astral religions because of the cold predictability of the stars. The star merely served a purpose. The star was the instrument that would lead people to the One who would break the power of any force that would bind people to a predetermined fate. When people are in God's hands, their fate is secure in and through Jesus. Later the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh became symbols of Christ's kingship, his divinity, and his suffering.

Mary Birmingham, Word and Worship Workbook, Cycle C, Paulist Press, 1998



**Holy Family Catholic Church**  
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## Disciple's Reflection for the Question of the Week

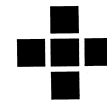
**Solemnity of the Epiphany**  
 1/5/2025

*A Call to Prayer*

*The Word of God*  
**Matthew 2:1-12**

*Faith Sharing*  
 Questions of the week

*Closing Prayer*



**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH**

*Holy Family is a welcoming Catholic Eucharistic community of disciples connecting faith with life and reaching out to those in need!*

## Call to Prayer

*Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Let us pause for a moment, and listen attentively to this week's passage.

## The Word of God Matthew 2:1-

### A Reading from the Gospel according to

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."

#### Gospel Glossary

**scribe** is a Jewish scholar, or learned man.  
**Myrrh** is a very precious fragrance that was used for important occasions.

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.



## Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:  
*Choose one*

The wise men were among the first to recognize the Christ, how can you help others recognize Christ's presence in the world?

Because of the profound epiphany, (manifestation of God), the wise men, returned home by a different route. How have you been challenged to move differently after becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ?

How can you show respect to people who are different from you?

How can you help someone find Jesus this week?

## Discipleship Prayer

Lord, You have called us to be your disciples, to live in faith, walking always in your footsteps. By your suffering, death, and resurrection, you have made us children of God. As you have loved us and asked us to love one another, help us to love and embrace everyone in our lives.

Fill us with love, compassion, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and tolerance, even when we face the pain of hatred, rejection, and failure.

Guide us to be good disciples. May we seek always the praise and glory of God and the good of all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Solemnity of the Epiphany**