

KEEPING FAITH FIRST- FAMILY FUN

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

BETHLEHEM	HOMAGE	NEWBORN
CHILD	JERUSALEM	OVERJOYED
DREAM	JEWS	PROSTRATED
EAST	JUDEA	SCRIBES
FRANKIN- CENSE	KING	STAR
GOLD	MAGI	TREASURES
HEROD	MARY	
	MYRRH	

Catechizing Corner!

The way Matthew tells the story is "colored by the faith which enlightened the evangelist when he wrote his work; it expresses and clarifies the faith of the Church at the time; he intended it to be an aid to the faith of those Christians for whom he wrote. But faith is not simply a matter of acknowledging that Jesus is Messiah, Lord and Son of God. It involves obedience to him now. The Gospel is not only 'kerygma,' that is to say, proclamation of faith; it is also 'catechesis,' instruction on how to unify one's faith and life. This part of the message is especially stressed in Matthew."

"*After Jesus' birth. . .*" begins the narrative regarding the approaching Magi. Matthew puts this story in the context of the wider political arena. Herod was reputed to be compulsive and neurotic with regard to the possible political overthrow of his power. One cannot miss the subtlety of Herod's part in this drama. The scribes and Pharisees in Matthew's gospel quote Micah regarding the messiah's projected birthplace and are unaffected and unimpressed. Herod, on the other hand, takes the story of the "King of the Jews" quite literally and seriously. Those who knew better and *should have gotten it*, ignored it; and those who should have had no understanding or interest *did* get it, and as a result set out to do violence.

The mysterious Magi enter the scene. The story tells us little of 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.



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Disciple's Reflection

for the
 Question
 of the Week

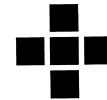
Epiphany of the Lord
 1/8/2023

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 of Jesus Christ 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 2:1-12

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

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.



Gospel Glossary

Magi are wise men who studied the stars

Homage is an act of honor and respect.

A **scribe** is a Jewish scholar, an expert in Jewish customs and writings.

Myrrh is a very expensive fragrance that was used for important occasions.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

Adults: Using the example of the Magi, how do you persevere in following the light of Christ in your life?

Teens: How can you keep walking with Jesus in the new year?

Children: If you were one of the Magi, what gift would you bring Jesus?

Families: How does Advent and the Christmas season change your relationship with God?

Closing 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.

Epiphany of the Lord