

Epiphany

The Journey of the Wise Men



Word of the Week

Matthew 2: 1-12

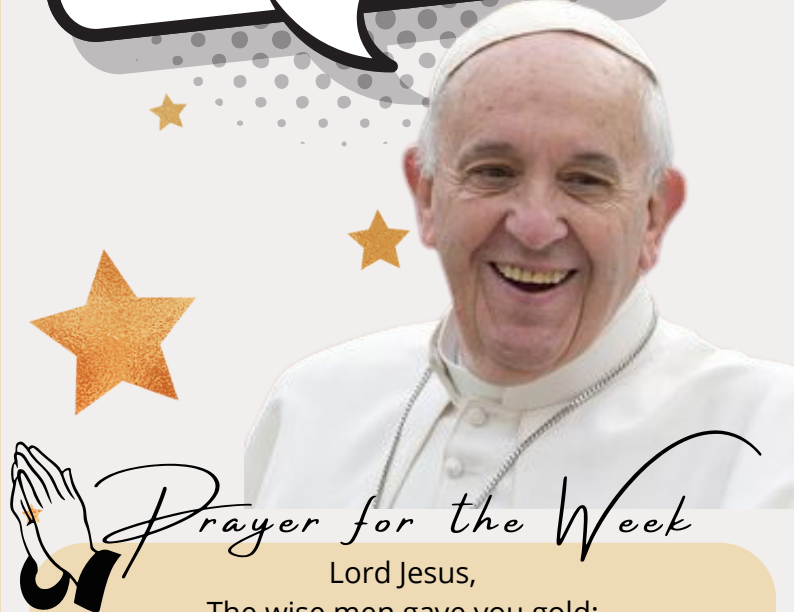
After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

"Like the Magi, let us lift up our eyes, listen to the desire lodged in our hearts, and follow the star that God makes shine above us. As restless seekers, let us remain open to God's surprises. Let us dream, let us seek and let us adore."

POPE FRANCIS



Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus,

The wise men gave you gold;
they knew you were a king.
The wise men gave you incense;
they knew you were God.
The wise men gave you myrrh;
they knew you would die.
We give you ourselves.
We know you love us.

The wise men followed the light of a star to find you in Bethlehem. Help us to follow your light so that we can live as children of God.

Amen.

Epiphany

(e-piph-a-ny)

(n) A moment of sudden revelation; a poignant, sudden, profound understanding.



Think about the Magi. The Bible doesn't tell us how long their journey took, but it does seem it was significant. And they would have had to leave some things behind to follow that star.

Take a Moment

- What are your goals right now? What are you journeying toward?
- Does your journey toward your goals also lead you on a journey towards Jesus? Why or why not? If not, what can you do to make those paths align?
- What are some roadblocks or barriers which prevent you from getting closer to Jesus?
- What are some distractions which might cause you to get lost?
- What will help you stay on the right path?

They gave up their time, their treasure, and really themselves to make this journey. They kept their eyes on that star and followed it. They put their best effort into it, believing that would be enough.



The Epiphany Reflection
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We Three Kings.
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 YouTube

Astronomers' theory of the Star of Bethlehem
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Mass readings for the Feast of the Epiphany and reflection.
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WISE MEN
STILL SEEK
HIM.



But they were willing to make the journey, because they knew they would encounter someone special, even though they might not have known exactly how that would play out. It seems almost certain that they encountered problems and delays, but they didn't quit. They could have tried to take shortcuts and gotten lost, but they stayed on the right path. Herod could have been a roadblock, but they got around him.



The story is out! Jesus Christ, Light of the World has been born to dispel the darkness that covers its people. God's glory appears in human form. Life on earth will never be the same again!

Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen