

St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN

The First Fifteen

At JP II, we begin our parish meetings with some faith sharing focused on one of the upcoming Sunday's readings. To begin, one person in the group proclaims the reading provided below. Then everyone is invited to reflect and share on the readings. The questions provided are a guide to stimulate your discussion. You can use these or anything that strikes you about the Word of God. Conclude your prayer with the "Glory Be".

The Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

January 7, 2024

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.

Thoughts to Ponder:

1. Consider the significance of the gifts brought by the Magi. If you were to bring a gift to Jesus, symbolic of your talents and devotion, what would it be?
2. The Magi returned to their home by another route. Have you ever redirected your path to Jesus? Share.
3. What is your favorite movie about the birth of Jesus? Why?

End with the Glory Be...

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.