



Friends of Jesus and Mary

The Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2018

Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 72 (71); Ephesians 3:2-3^a,5-6; Mathew 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 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.

Reflection

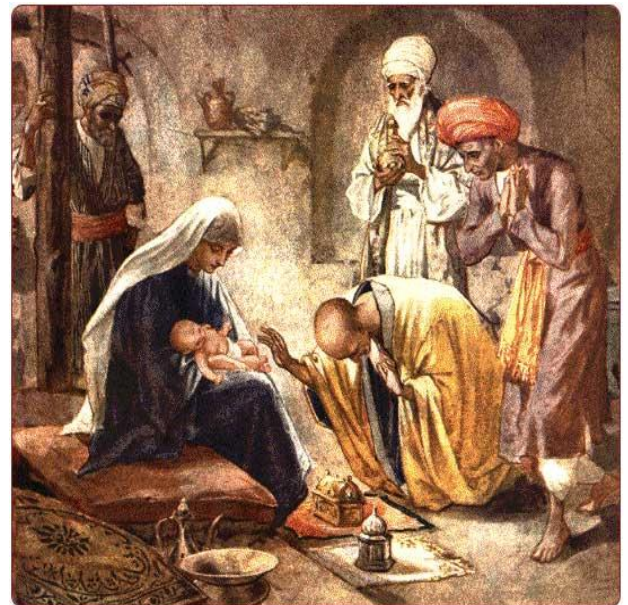
God has revealed himself to all nations, without excluding anyone. The magi started their journey to follow the Will of God, offering their best, recognizing the awesome gift of God's presence amongst us. Talk about the significance of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The magi followed the star. How can we be a star that leads others to Jesus?

Activities

Cut out and decorate stars. Have the children write on them how they plan to be a star leading others to Jesus. Share.

Prayer

Lord, you came to show us that everyone, no matter what nationality, is a son(daughter) of God. Help us to be like stars that guide others to you and that they see in us the smile of your love. Please help us to always seek you, Jesus! Amen.





What does Epiphany mean? It's a Greek word that means manifestation or revelation.

What do we celebrate? God's manifestation to the whole world. God revealed himself not only to the shepherds or the Jewish people. The magi started their journey from distant lands following a star, which they interpreted as God's presence. This means that the Son of God should be recognized by all men, in all places, always.

What gifts did the magi give? The magi knelt and adored baby Jesus. Melchior gave gold which is offered only to kings, showing Jesus is a king. Gaspar gave incense which is offered only to God, showing Jesus is God. Balthasar gave myrrh which was used in burials, recognizing that Jesus is also a man and prefiguring His suffering and death.

Why do we call them magi? The Greek word (magoi) means wise men. Originally, the word referred to Persian priests who interpreted signs, particularly in astronomy. They had access to Jewish scripture that foretold the coming of a messiah, preceded by a star. (Numbers 24:17)

Where do the magi's names originate? The names originated from a painting in San Apolinar Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy. (6th century)