



January 7, 2018 The Epiphany of the Lord Lectionary: 20 Gospel MT 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.

Spiritual Reflection:

"You must lose in order to gain, die in order to live, abandon everything in order to meet the Lord. The Magi risked both danger and ridicule; Francis Xavier left his parents and gave up all his possessions; Maria Goretti gave up her life." – Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. When we hear of journey's in the Bible, we must remember that journeys at this time where much more difficult and time consuming. You could not simply jump on an airplane or in a car and go.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What have you given up to find Christ?
2. What do you offer God each day?
3. Where is the most surprising place that you discovered God?
4. Where did you think you would find Jesus but didn't?
5. Are you ready for a long faith journey?