



# Breaking Open the Word

## - 2022 -

**January 2, 2022**

**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.

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**Spiritual Reflections:** In her book: *A Contemplative Reading of the Gospel Mathew: The Journey Toward Hope,* Scripture Scholar Elena Bosetti writes the following: *"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?' the Magi asked (2:2). And by asking where, they announce that he is born. The Good News comes from afar. A tragic paradox ensues. Instead of producing joy and feasting, the news of the birth of the King causes anguish and agitation in Jerusalem. Not only Herod but the entire city is disturbed. The account dramatically anticipates the story of the passion."*

### **Spiritual Questions:**

1. Why did the announcement of "the newborn king of the Jews" cause so much anguish and agitation in Jerusalem?
2. Why does the announcement of Jesus cause so much anguish and agitation in our world today?
3. What bothers people most about Jesus?
4. Who are the people in your life, who help you find Jesus in your life?
5. What are some other similarities between the coming of the magi and the passion?