



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

OF LAWRENCE COUNTY

Know Christ, Love Christ, Serve Christ and Invite others to Christ
through Word, Sacrament and Sacrifice!

Gospel Reflections

EPIPHANY

Gospel for Sunday, January 3, 2020 - **Matthew 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.

Reflection¹:

St. Gregory the Great spoke of the three gifts of the magi as symbols of the gifts we need for our journey of faith. Gold is wisdom; incense, prayer; and myrrh, self-denial.

Questions for Reflection – for gifts that we can offer our King:

1. *Gold*: Can we pray this week for the wisdom to see where God is at work in our lives – to see our circumstances from His point of view?
2. *Frankincense*: How will we commit to being faithful in our prayer this week?
3. *Myrrh*: What might we "give up" that we might be freer "to give" this week? (For example, a little less screen time and more conversation with those who may be lonely or neglected.)

¹ Quoted in *From Waiting in Joyful Hope, Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas 2020-2021*, Michelle Francl-Donnay, Liturgical Press.