

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



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January 5, 2014

Solemnity of 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 Reflection:

The story of Epiphany can remind us that we often look for the purpose and meaning of life in all the wrong places. Why did the magi stop in Jerusalem instead of following the stars the extra nine miles to Bethlehem? Did they believe the star to be wrong for surely the new born king would be born in Jerusalem the center of civilized life and not some backward town like Bethlehem.

## Spiritual Questions:

1. Have you had any assumptions about how God would act that turned out to be wrong?
2. Why did the magi stop in Jerusalem?
3. What gifts would you give to the Lord today?
4. Have you ever been tricked by a person to do something wrong like Herod almost tricked the magi? How did you handle the situation?
5. Are you changed in your encounter with the Lord at Mass?