



**January 5 2020 // 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 Magi arrive honestly seeking the truth about Jesus' birth. While King Herod has no idea who this king is and where he is to be born, the Magi come bearing gifts for the newborn king. Herod sends his army with drawn swords to murder the upstart king. The magi bow down and adore him. Herod turns his back and thinks only of ways to protect his own power and authority.

**Spiritual Questions:**

1. How are you like Herod?
2. How are you like the magi?
3. What would you offer God today?
4. What has God warned you to stay away from?
5. Do you return home from Mass a different person?