**FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 6-7th, 2024**

The Epiphany of the Lord

**Gospel reading**

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 Messiah 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.

**Intercession**

That, in giving to our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, each of us may shine brightly to our neighbors seeking Christ.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

*“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?”* the wise men asked in today’s Gospel. *“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage”* (Matthew 2:2). Drawn by a strange star, in wonder they sought the reason for its rising.

St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, *“Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.”* Every time our unbelieving brothers and sisters seek happiness in a hundred other ways, their hearts ask the same question: *“Where is God? I see a sign in these things he created, and my restless heart is not satisfied in them alone.”*

How brightly do the stars in our lives point out the way to Jesus? Help our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, so that together, we can become the light that points to Jesus’ profound availability in our tabernacle. Our brothers and sisters in our community of faith, workplaces, neighborhoods, and schools are restlessly seeking him.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

The star of Bethlehem pointed the way for the magi to find Jesus. Through your support of our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, you, too, can help point the way to Jesus and help our community shine so brightly that anyone can clearly find Jesus here in God’s house.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: A painting of the star of Bethlehem hovering over the stable.

Text: *“They were overjoyed at seeing the star.”* – Matthew 2:10

Subtext: The Epiphany of the Lord

Copy: Help us shine brightly above the world by supporting our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, so all may see a clear pathway to Jesus in our Church.