

Young Adult Scripture Reflection

January 2, 2010

Epiphany

It is the feast of Epiphany, and the beginning of a New Year. There is much that most of us still seek in our lives at this point, much of which has yet to be found. The Magi search for the Lord and find him as a little child lying in a manger. We too are in search of finding the Lord in our lives. May we all experience many Epiphanies (manifestations) of the Lord in our lives during this New Year, even if only in small ways.

God bless and keep you all,
Fr. John Linden
Parochial Vicar

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 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.

Reflection:

The Magi travel across hundreds of miles, possibly from as far away as modern day Iran, to seek after the newborn king of the Jews. What perils did they have to overcome on such a journey? They crossed deserts, avoided thieves, possibly had to pacify (with toll payments) the local tribal leaders who may have found a Magi crossing to be threatening in their territories. Any number of hardships may have been their lot and yet they went on driven by the chance at meeting the newborn king.

They eventually made it to the land of the Jews and so naturally went to the place where kings lived, the royal palace in Jerusalem. But there they found not the king they sought. They would eventually find him, however, as a little babe lying in a feed trough in a cave in Bethlehem (or at most two years old, but for sure not living in a house of kingly distinction).

Our lives too can seem full of hardships while the faith to keep searching for Jesus in them can at times wane. We go to Mass, but we don't relate much to the older folks that surround us and we don't like the music and it just doesn't capture our interest anymore. It seems that Jesus can be such a small presence in our lives at times. But that's how the Magi found him – a small presence when they were looking for him in a palace.

Our faith does not need to be filled with one great mystical experience after another. True faith is always going to involve many a trek across long barren deserts that end with finding Jesus in such a small facet that he is hardly noticeable. And if we do find him in a place we never expected and in a less extravagant manner than we had wanted, the fact is, we've still found him.