

## Prayer Gathering for the Week of Epiphany

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Darkness, God of Light...  
you speak in the heart of every creature you have made.  
The stones, the earth and the sky all describe your glory.  
Give us a deep faith in the life of your Son, who walked our roads with us,  
and keep us open to the life of that Kingdom we cannot yet see with our eyes.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

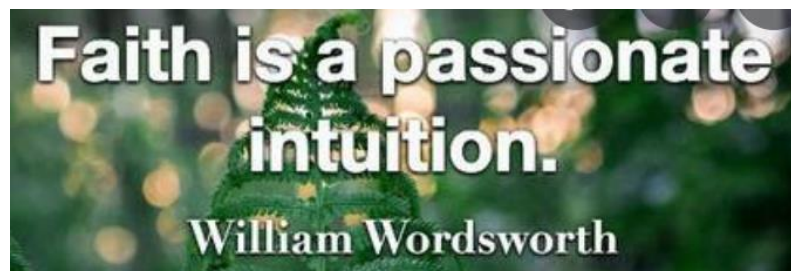
GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples;  
but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory.”*  
**Sometimes it is in the darkest moments that God’s light shines most brightly.  
When in your life do you remember this having been true?**

*“Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,  
they departed for their country by another way.”*  
**Many people experience God’s grace and guidance in their life like a gut instinct.  
It was gut instinct that told the Magi that Herod was not to be trusted.  
When has God’s guidance shown up in your life in this way?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*“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.’”*  
**The magi were from “the East,” outsiders from another culture and religion\* who were drawn by what felt to them like an authentic manifestation of God in a foreign religion. What lessons might we be meant to gain from the magi?**

(\* = Scholars have come to think the religion was probably Zoroastrianism)

LITANY

When we are not sure if we are on the right track...  
...**Help us to know beyond our knowing.**

When others call our trust in God foolish and naive...  
...**Help us to know beyond our knowing.**

When God shows up somewhere we didn't expect...  
...**Help us to know beyond our knowing.**

When the peace we feel defies our explanations...  
...**Help us to know beyond our knowing.**

When our gut gives us instructions that are hard to follow...  
...**Help us to know beyond our knowing.**

When what feels "right" is not easy...  
...**Help us to know beyond our knowing.**

When the most important thing in our life cannot be proven...  
...**Help us to know beyond our knowing.**

When what we cannot see means more to us than all we can...  
...**Help us to know beyond our knowing.**

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

## READING 1

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth,  
and thick clouds cover the peoples;  
but upon you the LORD shines,  
and over you appears his glory.

Nations shall walk by your light,  
and kings by your shining radiance.  
Raise your eyes and look about;  
they all gather and come to you:  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see,  
your heart shall throb and overflow,  
for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you,  
the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.

Caravans of camels shall fill you,  
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;  
all from Sheba shall come  
bearing gold and frankincense,  
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Matthew, chapter 2*