

Prayer Gathering for Week of Epiphany

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Maker of the Stars of Heaven,
Your brilliance against the dark of night guided the Magi to the feet of your Son.
As we make our journey through the dark,
unsure of where we are or how we'll find the way,
guide us with that same light... and fill our hearts with trust in you.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

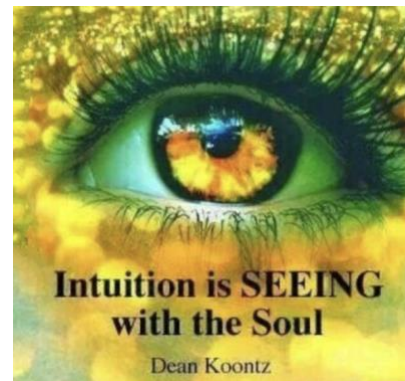
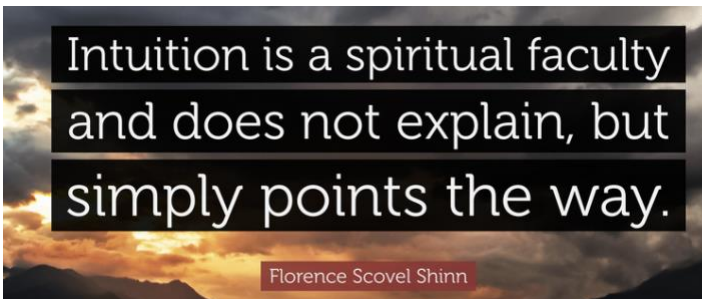
GOSPEL PASSAGE

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."*
**When have you been in a dark place and then felt the light break through?
What was your relationship with God like before, during and after the light broke through?**

*"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..."*
The gathering of distant people who were meant to come together makes the human heart "throb and overflow." What is the greatest reunion or experience of home-coming that you've ever had? What does the memory of that mean to you now?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way."
Have you ever had a good reason to do something but gotten a feeling or an intuition and decided not to? How common is it for you to "know" something without proof?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That we may listen to the promptings God gives us through our conscience; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That our leaders may learn from history, and remember that pride precedes falling; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who feel lost will keep the door to faith open; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the lonely may know the warmth of God's presence; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we will hear and respond to the call God makes to our generation to conserve our resources and safeguard our climate; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are sick; for those in chronic pain; for those coming close to the end of their life journey; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those we love who have died... and for all in the thick of grief... ...
we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the needs we now share with our Creator in the silence of our hearts...
we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Isaiah, chapter 60

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