

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
**January 8, 2023**

**Gospel: (Matthew 2:1-12)**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem in 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. ...Herod sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child...” 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 followed the light and found the Savior of the world. The magi searched, encountered, worshiped him and offered gifts. The magi demonstrated how Christianity must always show “faith in action.” Believing always plays itself out in living. The pattern of our lives is that of the magi: seek, encounter, homage, self-giving. An important lesson here for living is that authentic homage (worship) naturally leads to living in the Light. Worship, then, is more than what happens in church on Sunday. It is the light of our own selves that shines throughout our weekdays, witnessing to our own encounters with the Light. Our very lives must proclaim our faith. (Living Liturgy, p.36)

**Vincentian Meditation:**

“This is my prayer to you, O Lord! Give to me your special favor. Pour out your truth and mercy on me in an abundance that will enable me to put your love into practice, filling me with true affection for you, for my neighbor, and also for myself.” -St. Vincent de Paul- (McKenna, Praying with Vincent, p.113)

**Discussion: (*Share your thoughts after a moment of silence*)**

**How does the “light of our own selves” shine throughout our weekdays?**

**Closing Prayer:**

O God, as you guided the Magi by the light of a star,  
-**may Jesus be our light.**  
O God, you have created a marvelous variety of peoples,  
-**may we be open to all cultures, races, and nations.**  
O God, your love surrounds us,  
-**may we faithfully offer Christ the gold of living faith,  
the incense of our worship,  
and the myrrh of compassion.**                      Amen

