

St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN

The First Fifteen

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling "The First Fifteen." We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week's weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

Sunday, January 7, 2017

Gospel Reading: Matthew 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 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 Judea, 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.

Questions to Ponder:

The word Epiphany commonly refers to an "awakening or a new way of seeing things." Jesus was to bring in a new revelation of God present in our world.

1. Can you remember a time in your life when you suddenly became aware of something that gave you new insight into your life?
2. The Magi were willing to leave their homes and seek this new born King. In your journey toward Jesus have you ever had to make drastic changes in your life to "follow His star"?
3. The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. What gifts do you bring to God and your church?

End with the "Glory Be" "Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen"