



Lectio DIVINA

***Lectio Divina* for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the splendor of your majesty, O Lord,
we pray,
shed its light upon our hearts,
that we may pass through the shadows of
this world
and reach the brightness of our eternal
home.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

(Collect for the Vigil Mass)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

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 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.

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection:

How does this passage connect with the experience of your daily life?

Go and search diligently for the child. Where do I look for God? What distracts me or draws me away from my search?

When you have found him, bring me word. How do I share my encounter with Christ with those I meet?

How often do I invite others to share their encounter with me?

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts. What gifts do I have that I can offer to God and his Church? How can I be more generous in sharing my gifts with the Church and with those in need?

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

After all have had a chance to make their prayer, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer:

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

(Isaiah 60:2-3)