

QUESTION OF THE WEEK
with Sunday Scripture Readings
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2012
Breaking Open the Word

STEP ONE: Listen to the Word

For Faith Sharing—The Gospel [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Theme: The mystery of the incarnation—Jesus is a gift to all humanity.

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.

QUESTION 1: What touches your heart in this reading? What stirs your gratitude? What image do you take away from this reading?

STEP TWO: Look into Your Life

QUESTION 2: (for children): In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

QUESTION 3 (for youth): The star guided the Magi to Jesus. What are the people or events which have guided you in your relationship with Jesus?

QUESTION 4 (for adults): How in this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home or at work?

Reading I: [Isaiah 60: 1-6](#) 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.

Reading II: [Ephesians 2, 2-3,5-6](#)

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

[* The Question of the Week is from: http://your.harcourtreligion.com/lifelong_catechesis/adults_gow_24.jsp by Bill Huebsch and the Scripture readings are from *The New American Bible*.]

Special Mission Statement Question of the Week (for adults): How will I keep a daily awareness of the presence of Christ in me so that I may help others experience the living and loving presence of Christ through my daily prayer, actions, witness and service to others?

HNJ MISSION STATEMENT: We, the Catholic community at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, graced by the Holy Spirit, are called to invite all people to experience the living and loving presence of Christ by nurturing the spiritual growth of all our members through energetic celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, daily prayer, lifelong study of our faith, witness, service and hospitality.

WHY DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK?

It goes without saying that **the family is the first place where faith becomes real**. Here it is born, shared, lived, and loved. Therefore, we have provided this powerful resource to help you guide families—your own and those in your parish—with weekly exercises in faith. Use these resources. The Question of the Week is an opportunity to pause with your family, to reflect during your busy week and to allow the Word of God shared at Sunday Mass to enter more deeply into your souls. Are you sharing your faith with your loved ones regularly so that they may be graced and blessed?

Faith sharing **informs people in the faith** so that who they are and how they live are deeply influenced by what they know. So, the regular practice of discussing the Question of the Week in our homes helps ‘jump start’ us in lifelong learning, invites us to become more active in a learning community in our parish and encourages us to communicate our faith with our loved ones at home. **Sharing how God touches our daily lives** teaches our family and others in deep, profound and powerful ways.