

# FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR - January 2019.

## We Have Come to Worship Him

**Hymn: Father in my life I see..**

### **Introduction:**

Epiphany is the manifestation/revelation of Jesus as the King/Savior not only of the Jews, but also of all human beings. This feast reminds us that God loves all nations and cultures of the earth, and that He communicates with us in many, often unforeseen ways - through internal inspirations, through external events, through people, and through His Word. Many a times these factors are combined in an interplay that becomes clear only in remembrance. The challenge is for us to "decipher" God's message and respond to it with faith, perseverance, generosity and courage, just as the Magi did.

**Hymn: We three Kings of orient...**

Jesus is the Messiah or Saviour long expected by the people of Israel. But the wise men coming from the East represent all the peoples on the face of the earth. Jesus is here revealed not only as 'infant king of the Jews', but as Lord of the whole earth. The wise men fall to their knees in adoration, and offer him royal tribute. The Magi are champions of faith and perseverance. They are our models in following the star of God's inspiration and the guidance contained in His Word.

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:1-12 to be proclaimed from the Bible (SILENCE - 5 mins)

### **Reflection:**

When God told the magi to go home by another way, they DID it! And of course it was important that they did - the life of the Christ Child could have been endangered; so they obeyed God. It is always important for each of us to obey God. And it is one of the most important signs of real worship: if we really worship God, then we will leave our worship time, to go out and obey!

As we look at these characters from today's gospel reading, and the way that they responded to the birth of Jesus, which one do you resemble the most?

— Have you had merely an "intellectual" response like the Jewish leaders: you "know all the answers" but you are not really worshipping Jesus?

– In your heart of hearts, are you hypocritical in your response, because you act like you worship Jesus, but you really have some other motives?

– Or do you really worship Him? If you'd say that you are, are you showing the signs of it, by truly delighting in Him, by humbling yourself, by giving, and especially by your obedience?

**Hymn: The light of Christ has come into...**

**Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you!**

O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son.

He shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**R/- Lord, every nation on earth will adore you!**

For he shall rescue the poor man when he cries out,  
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;

The lives of the poor he shall save.

**R/- Lord, every nation on earth will adore you!**

**Silence:**

**Benediction follows :** Let us bow

**Concluding Prayer:**

Dear God, with longing and thanksgiving, knowing that you hold this world and all its children dear in your heart, we pray for the grace to receive your gifts, to lift up our eyes and look around, and to offer back those same gifts to you and your world, with love. May our behavior become like a star that leads others to you who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

**Hymn: Great Indeed Are Your Works O Lord**

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