

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, January 7, 2018

The Epiphany of the Lord

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on one or more of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

DO YOU SEE IT?

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
"Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite."

Those words from the Christmas carol, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" fit this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12) for the Epiphany of the Lord.

With only a slight adjustment, we can imagine those lyrics being sung by the Magi as they followed the star they had seen at its rising. "Do you see what we see, a star, a star dancing in the night with a tail as big as a kite, with a tail as big as a kite?"

For the Magi that star announced the arrival of "the newborn king of the Jews," the king they set out to find so they could pay him homage and honor him with their gifts.

But if the Magi had asked the people they met along the way if they had noticed the star, those travelers from the east would have gotten a negative response.

If others had seen the star, they certainly would have questioned the passing Magi about its meaning. They might have even joined them in their pilgrimage to see the one whose birth the heavens proclaimed.

Even when the Magi arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage," there was no mention of Herod, chief priests, scribes, and people of Jerusalem looking up and seeing this same wondrous star.

But that star was still there, at least to the eyes of the Magi. For we are told, "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."

The Magi were blessed with the vision to see what others could not see. They saw the star and were led to Jesus.

Like those Magi, our eyes have been opened to see what others cannot see.

By the star of faith, we see Jesus in his Church. We see him reach out to us through the Sacraments. We hear his voice as the Gospel is proclaimed. We feel his embrace in the kindness and compassion of our fellow Christians. We see him come to us in consecrated Bread and

Wine and in the poor and needy who reach out to us. We see him as the one who gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

Today we give thanks that God has blessed us with the vision to see what others cannot. We can answer the question of the Magi, "YES, we see what you see. We see the Lord!"

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