

Covenant Life

- Our next gathering will be a week from today on January 12th when we have a special time of **Eucharistic Adoration** to pray in 2025. We will not have Children or Youth ministries as they will remain with us for Adoration. The next normal format prayer meeting will be on the 4th Sunday of January (26) at 3pm.
- GodsDelight.org has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please enter your 2025 Promise [here](#), donate online [here](#), or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

While most of the world celebrates the second Sunday of Christmas, in the United States, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. In the [Gospel](#) narrative we hear about the pilgrims from the East, the magi, who followed a star seeking the newborn king of the Jews.

We know very little about these magi as tradition has added many speculative details regarding how many there were, exactly where they were from, and what were their names...but the fact of the matter is that all we really have is what was recorded in Mathew's Gospel.

I have always been blessed by contemplating the events surrounding *The Presentation in the Temple* and how Simeon and the prophetess Anna came to be witnesses. In a similar way let us consider how it was that these magi came to be present at Jesus' birth. Were they the only ones called to be present or were they the only ones who responded?

If I were writing the story of who would be the first witnesses of the birth of Jesus, the list would contain extended family members, religious leaders, and others who shared the family's faith. But, as is often the case, God has a plan that is beyond our conjuring. Today we read that men from the East, who studied the stars, were curious enough to notice a new star. Apparently, the event was made more confusing as they noticed the star moving.

What spoke to me the loudest was their response. They did not write a book, start a school, or just tell stories to amaze their friends, no, they left everything to see where the star would take them. They were learned enough to know that this event was connected to Jewish history.

As fate would have it, these Gentile star gazers were being given the opportunity to encounter the Savior of the world! Nothing material would have happened had they not had the courage to leave home, family, work, everything to follow that star.

Their courage to respond prompted thoughts of similar events in the Gospels such as when Jesus instructed Peter to lower his nets on the other side of the boat. Peter was given a choice to respond to what God was about.

God is constantly present to us. God is constantly reaching out to us, revealing His plan, and exhorting us to collaborate with what He is about. Will we respond? Will we follow the signs?

It is interesting that in these examples God uses everyday aspects of these folk's day and livelihood to reveal Himself and His plan. I am confident that this is the case with us today as well. God is using everyday aspects in our lives to call us and reveal His plan, His divine will to us. Will we notice? Will we respond?

In my own personal efforts to be more in tune with what God is about and be present to Him, I have noticed more often the "God moments", the "anointed" words of response, words to prompt some action, unexplainable coincidences that can be ignored as just random life events, OR, we can see them as God truly being present to us, loving us in special everyday small ways. Do we recognize these God moments and ask Him how we are to respond?

Let us pray today for ourselves and for our loved ones, that we will be attentive, ever listening for God's revelation and then that we will abandon our plans and respond immediately to what God is about.

Let us pray, "God my precious loving Father, I am grateful for the ways that You constantly reveal Yourself to me. I pray that I may be more attentive to You. Help me to quiet my spirit so that I can recognize You. Protect me from all that might distract me from You. Give me Your Holy Spirit to help me discern what is from You. I also ask for the grace to drop whatever I am doing and race after You. I want to be active in Your kingdom, cooperating with Your perfect and divine will. Show me today and every day how I can best respond. I love You! Amen."

God Bless,

David