



## THEME: FOLLOW THE STAR

### GOSPEL: 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.

## CHILDRENS LITURGY LESSON PLAN JANUARY 5, 2020

## ENTERING AND WELCOMING

- \*Make the children to stand in a circle and hold their hands together.
- \*Bring to their mind that Jesus is standing in middle of the circle. Wish Him. Prompt them to close eyes for talking to Jesus in prayer.
- \*Say a prayer in children's own words or do '**Our father**' and '**Hail Mary**' together
- \* **The Sorry Prayer: (Optional)**  
Ask the Children to reflect on the past week and reflect on whether they would like to say sorry for anything they have done or said to someone, that must have hurt Lord Jesus.  
(After each prayer, respond: Lord have mercy.)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### WELCOMING THE GOSPEL: ALLELUIA

### A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

#### ST. MATTHEW 2:1-12

Response: Glory to you, O Lord

#### READ THE GOSPEL (given in the side)

The gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

## **ACTIVITY:**

### **FOLLOW THE STAR**

**A pathway is made using Stars and that lead to Jesus (can be a baby doll or simple picture of Jesus)**

**Many other shapes are also laid on the floor along with the star, but make sure that only the star-shapes forms the path. Children are given the instructions to follow the star and find the real treasure.**

**or**

### **FIND THE STAR**

**Many shape cut outs are laid on the floor (square, rectangle, circle, star etc). Letters of JESUS is written on each of the star shape. The children are asked to collect the stars from among all other shapes and join together to complete and form the name JESUS.**

## **GOSPEL REFLECTIONS**

Last week, in the Gospel we heard how the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was protected by the Lord from the traps set by King Herod who was trying to destroy baby Jesus. The Lord send His angel to warn Joseph, the Father of Baby Jesus regarding Herod's evil plans and Joseph trusted the Lord and His plans and obeyed accordingly as the lord spoke through the angel in his dreams and led the Holy Family to safety.

**Prompt children to speak about Stars and kings. Talk about the real king Jesus.**

In today's gospel, come across three important people who were on their journey to seek, find and to pay homage to the Savior whom they know is to be born, according to the scriptures that they were directed on .

Three kings/wisemen who were very well aware of scriptures and Prophetic writings- was seeking the time of Savior's birth. Following the Star of east, they reached Bethlehem of Judea as directed by the scriptures. At this point of time they began to use their own human thoughts and expected that the king might be born in a palace. This human thought made them to leave the direction of the star and turn to the palace of Herod, the king of Judea. Herod, discovering from the wisemen, about the birth of the new king, was in fear. He called his chief priests to find out the reality. The chief priests of the king too referred to the scriptures that predicted the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the little town of Judea. Shattered, king Herod began to devise secret plans to wipe off this new king. With this cheeky intention, he asked the wisemen to go and search diligently for the child. When they have found him, bring back a word, that he too may go and do him homage."

The wisemen set out and again came back to the star that they had seen at its rising. It guided 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.

On seeing Jesus, the savior, realizing the fulfillment of the scriptures that led them all the way beyond their human perceptions, they adored and offered and worshiped Jesus by, prostrating themselves and paid him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ( Significance of the gifts: Gold(Precious metal), – Royalty/Kingship of Jesus ,Frankincense(Perfume or incense)

– Jesus Priesthood , Myrrh (Anointing oil) – Death of Jesus for salvation  
.These were the standard gifts offered to honour a King

Then again, the direction from the lord guided them warning them not to go back the way of Herod. Having realized from the past experience, that the scripture is the truth their human thoughts, they decided to follow lords inspirations and avoided the dangerous way- the trap of Herod and went the way as guided by Lord who warned them in a dream not to return to Herod and they departed for their country by another way.'

Through this Gospel, lord asks us to be aware of scriptural directions given by our lord each moment in our life, to humble like the wisemen before the lords words. He asks us to trust them as the star that is guiding us to the real light Jesus and not to cling on to the human thoughts. Let us Be aware and alert of scriptural directions, which help us to know the exact time to set out and prepare for Jesus second coming; to adore and offer ourselves to Jesus with all our treasures, being aware always of the traps set by Herods' to snatch our Jesus away. We may fall, but once we realize the trap through lords revelations, as the wise men, let us never return back to the old ways but through the new way , guided by the same star let us reach the real light-Jesus who is the Way the Truth and the Life.

## **VERSES TO REMEMBER (WRITTEN ON THE WHITE BOARD):**

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***“We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage.” (Psalms  
128:1)***

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## **INTERCESSION PRAYERS:**

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If children have any personal prayer intentions, we pray for them.

And in response we pray: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

## **FINAL PRAYER:**

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Dear lord, thank you for giving us Jesus, the light of our life. Help us to follow Jesus by living in the light given to us through your living Word-Jesus and prepare ourselves for coming of Jesus ,by adoring him and offering Him ourselves as pure and precious treasure. Your words are the lamp to our feet and light to our path. Give us grace for the word to made flesh in us and spread this light to this world. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

**Children re-join the Holy Mass.**