

Youth Study Aid

This study aid is to be picked up after Mass on January 1st 2012, to reflect upon for the following week of January 8th, 2012.

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.

Ephesians 3:2-3, 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.

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.

After you have read the readings please look at the summary and then the questions listed below. If you have questions please feel free to send an e-mail to yss@resurrection-catholic.org

In the first reading from the book of Isaiah, we start out after the Israelites have returned to Jerusalem from exile. They are now no longer living in the darkness of exile. Isaiah wants them to know that God is the source of their light and that God's glory has been revealed. The second part of Isaiah is about how the gentiles followed that light and came to Jerusalem to find the source of the light. Isaiah also points out that it is not one class of people coming but kings and entire nations and they too will start proclaiming the glory of God. Do you see the Church as a source of light? Do you have area of darkness in your life?

In the second reading from the Letter to Ephesians, Paul is addressing the Ephesians on where they are, in the proclamation of the gospel. Paul tells them that the glory of Jesus was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. Paul continues by saying that this revelation was not made known to other generations. With this revelation the gentiles are coheirs with the Jewish people in the promise made by Jesus. Why do you think that this revelation was made at a specific time? Do you think that God reveals a little bit at a time? Why do you think God does this?

In the Gospel reading from Matthew we hear of how Christ's birth was made known when the magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" We then read how Herod and the people of Jerusalem were greatly troubled about this "new king of the Jews." Instead of being happy that the prophecy from the Old Testament was fulfilled in their time they are worried about what having a new king of Jews meant. We read that a star lead the magi to the place where the child Jesus was. Isaiah tells of a great light which is the Lord; the magi follow a star to find Jesus, the new light and salvation of the entire world. How far would you travel to find the messiah? What do you think troubled Herod and Jerusalem so greatly? Was Herod afraid of a "new king," or is there much more to his great concern? Is it possible that Herod and those in Jerusalem who lived in darkness were afraid of what this new "light of the world" would bring to them?

Now read the Gospel again.

Matthew 2:1-12

What image or phrase stands out to you as you read the Gospel?

Then read the gospel again.

What does the Gospel say to you about how you should live your daily life?

Reminder...Reminder...Reminder...Reminder

The **next** Youth Scripture Study is Sunday night, January 8th from 7:00-8:00 PM in Room E.

There is also a Youth Scripture Study scheduled for Sunday night, January 22nd from 7:00 – 8:00 PM in Room E.

Youth in grades 4 through 12 are encouraged and welcome to attend!!