



*Serving the Spiritual Needs of Grieving Parents
Whose Children of Any Age Have Died by Any Cause,
No Matter How Long Ago*

**Your Emmaus Ministry
Remote Retreat Guide**

January 9, 2021

9:30am ET

(or a convenient time for you)

We Three Kings

They returned to their home country by another route.

*According to Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, Of course they did...
No one comes to Christ and goes back the same way he came.*



Preparation:

Ahead of time, we recommend you find a quiet place in your home where you can immerse yourself in this retreat. Have your child's Emmaus Memorial Candle (or other candle) available along with a lighter or matches.

Take several deep breaths to cleanse your thoughts and open yourself to wherever the Holy Spirit is calling you today several minutes before the retreat is scheduled to begin.

At 9:30am ET open your email and join other fellow Emmaus Parent Companions in getting away from the rest of the world, at least for a time, to focus on God and on your precious child.

CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER (Light your candle)

We begin... In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen

Lord, you are the Light of the World. *Help us feel your presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the gift of our children. *Help us feel their presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the hope of eternal life. *Help us confirm that hope in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us love. *Help us to know that, as much as we love our children, you love them even more.*

We ask you this through Christ, Our Lord
Amen.

OPENING SONG: [We Three Kings](#) by Marian Messenger
Guide us by thy perfect light.

PRAYER OF THOSE MAKING A RETREAT

Loving Spirit of Wisdom,
Guide my thoughts and my memories.

In the light of your love,
May I see what is important for me to remember,
What is important for me to hold to my heart,
And what I need to simply let go of in peace.

I trust you to be my guide,
Even when the path seems unclear to me.

We pray this in the name of Your Son, the Healer,
Our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

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.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION: [***We Can't Go Back to the Way Things Were***](#) by Bishop Robert Barron.
When we encounter Christ, we can't go back to the way things were because we will be radically transformed.



Take a moment to pause... breathe... Reflect on what you have received from the Reflection.

PRAYER

Loving Father,

The story is out! Jesus Christ, Light of the World, has been born to dispel the darkness that covers its people.

God's glory appears in human form. Life on earth will never be the same again!

The star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Savior was born.

Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door.

May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us.

That we might be the means through which others can encounter your son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

CLOSING HYMN: [***Star of Wonder***](#) by Phil Wickham
Heaven's glory here before me. Born to bring the dead to life.

CLOSING BLESSING

Let us end our time of retreat...united with Brother John Maganzini, OFM and the Franciscan Friars at Saint Anthony Shrine in Boston, MA, by blessing one another.

Bow your head, raise your right hand as, together, we pray,

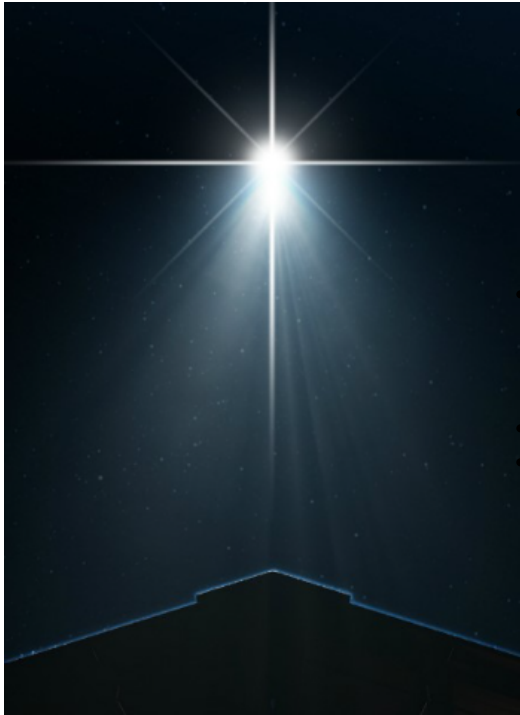
God has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.
May we experience his kindness and blessings,
and be strong in faith, in hope, and in love. (Amen)

Because we are followers of Christ,
who appeared on this day as a light shining in darkness,
may he make us a light to all our sisters and brothers. (Amen)

The wise men followed the star,
And found Christ who is light from light.
May we too find the Lord
when our pilgrimage is ended. (Amen)

We pray this as we bless each other in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

[**A Manifestation to the World**](#) from My Catholic Life
Are you listening? Are you responding?

[**Adoration of the Magi:**](#)
Art Talk by Fr. John Gabage
Why are the Magi depicted with a flag and soldiers?

[**What is Epiphany?**](#) by Concordia Publishing
May the light of our Savior shine through to a world living in darkness.



You will receive a new Emmaus Remote Retreat
email next Friday.

Please join your fellow
Emmaus Parent Companions
again next Saturday at 9:30am ET

Until then, may God bless you and keep you.
Sending many warm, virtual hugs

For past Remote Retreats, see [here](#).



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