

## **Homily (Feast of the Epiphany) – 1/8/2017**

*Who is more popular at Christmas? Would it be the shepherds or would it be the magi? The shepherds watching their sheep in the field, or the three magi following the star at night? The shepherds serenaded by angels or the magi advised by Herod?*

*If you took a poll of Christians at Christmas who do you think would be more popular? My guess is it would be the shepherds. There is something romantic about these guys. Their ignorance about a Savior's birth adds an innocence to their nativity role. Then too they are part of the most beloved story in the bible.*

*The magi on the other hand might not win the popularity contest. They show up as Christmas holidays are coming to an end and school vacations are ending. They are already involved with reality. Unlike the shepherds they already know about the birth of God in human flesh. They are on a human journey looking for God. So like most humans they get lost. They have to stop and ask for directions on where and how to find God. Then they are warned in a dream not to return to Herod.*

*Isn't the magi experience, similar to our experience? We too are on a faith journey in this world. So much of our journey like the magi is in the dark. Our the light of faith is not in the bright sunlight. Saint Paul puts it this way: "For now we see through a glass darkly."*

*Also we do not have a map. Oh we have some guidelines and laws. And we have some time tested truths and centuries old commandments. They can help map out our journey. But the map is not the experience of traveling on a journey. So maybe we make a wrong turn. Or we hit a dead end. We have to backtrack. Sometimes we have to stop and ask advice.*

*Yes, the shepherds might win the popularity contest. True their story is more romantic. But the more you think about it, aren't we more like the magi?  
Aren't we the magi?*