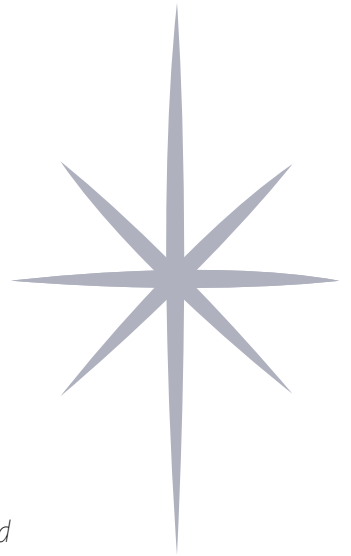


# Following the Star

ADVENT RETREAT 2021



## Week 4: Arrival

*"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 gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."*

- Matthew 2:11

### REFLECTION:

1) What do I have to offer?

*Little Drummer Boy*

2) The Meaning of Sacrifice

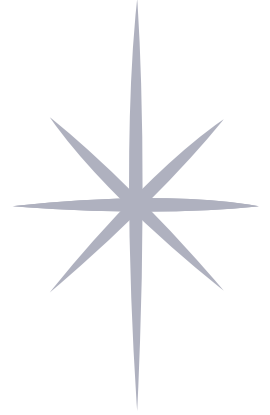
*"She, out of her poverty, put in everything" - Mark 12:44*

3) At the Manger

*Love gives us Motivation. Faith gives us Strength. Prayer gives us Confidence, and Hope gives us Courage.*

*For you do not  
desire sacrifice,  
or I would  
give it;  
a burnt  
offering you  
would not  
accept.  
My Sacrifice,  
Oh God,  
is a contrite  
spirit;  
A heart contrite  
and humbled,  
Oh God,  
you will not  
spurn.  
- Psalm  
51: 18-19*

# Week 4: Challenge



## TO DO:

- Decide your Gift
- Present your Gift (Christmas Mass)
- Commit to the Covenant

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

What does He want from me this Christmas?

- Take an honest inventory of your life in prayer, silence and reflection over the course of this week (not just on a single occasion). Consider several options and ask for light/guidance/peace about the one(s) He wishes you to offer. Start as soon as possible so as to give Him time and space to answer.

Fill in the blank:

*Lord, I love Thee more than .....*

Or

*Lord, I desire to love Thee more than .....*

## Prayer for Courage

**My Lord,**

*Multiply my love for Thee that it overcome all my reservations.*

*Increase my assurance. Deepen my prayer.*

*Give me firm faith, sure hope, and,*

*Oh my God, be Thou my strength.*

*"To love Him  
with all your  
heart,  
with all your  
understanding,  
with all your  
strength,  
and to love  
your neighbor  
as yourself  
is worth more  
than all  
burnt offerings  
and sacrifices.  
- Mark 12:33*

## RESOURCES:

- Check Website for Resources and Links

***"People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."***

***- 1 Samuel 16:7***