

Advent Devotional - Day 14

2025

December 14th

Scripture: Matthew 2:12 Verse: *"And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route."*



Reflection:

The Magi changed course when God warned them, putting the child's safety above their own plans. Their obedience shows that faithfulness can mean changing direction, choosing prudence over parade, and doing the quiet, protective work that keeps life and dignity intact.

For leaders and neighbors, that example calls for devotion paired with discernment. Love without thought can harm; courage without care can expose the vulnerable. We should listen first to those affected, run simple safeguards, and make decisions that minimize risk even as we act boldly.

Mt. Hope's calling is twofold: to bear witness with courage and to steward that witness responsibly. That means building partnerships, training volunteers in safe practices, and shaping programs so our good intentions actually protect and sustain people rather than putting them at greater risk.

Prayer:

God of wise mercy, give us ears to hear your warnings and hearts to choose protection over pride; guide our hands to act boldly but cautiously so the vulnerable are kept safe and honored. Help Mt. Hope pair courage with clear judgment, so our love never harms but always preserves dignity. Amen.

Today's Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Form or join a Safety Team: A small team for reviewing outreach plans for risks and provide basic training in trauma-aware care, and clear reporting procedures for concerns.



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