

GOOD NEWS!

JANUARY 3, 2021 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
(B)

Is 60: 1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12

Today's Gospel answers this question quite definitively: No! Not everyone saw the guiding star in the sky. Not even those who, presumably, knew the prophecy found in the reading from Isaiah. That ancient prophet announced to the people of Jerusalem: "Your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1). In fact, he promised them they would be so embraced by that light, they themselves would shine brightly with its radiance. But when the time came, not everyone saw it. Or, having seen it, they did not recognize it.

The people of Jesus' time were not ignorant of these prophecies. They knew what they meant and to whom they referred. Consequently, when the stargazers who saw the light inquired about it, those to whom they inquired knew where to send them. So what was the problem? Why were those men in Jerusalem not excited about the star? Very simply, a new king meant a rival king, and those who had power weren't eager to relinquish it.

We know that not everyone in Israel rejected Jesus. Shepherds had already thrilled at this birth. Someone in Bethlehem had opened his home to this child and his parents. Now we add to them the stargazers from another country. It seems the invitation to come to him is extended to all: political and religious leaders, the unsophisticated and marginalized, the established homeowner, the foreigners in their midst. They are all asked: "Did you see what I saw? What do you think of him?"

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Dear Padre

A friend who is a fundamentalist insists Epiphany happened exactly as it says in the Bible. I say there's no way it could have. Who is right?

Catholics believe each book of the Bible needs to be appreciated according to the principles of its own literary genre. We don't look to the Gospels for modern critical history or unbiased biographical/reportorial fact-telling.

The four Gospels were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Each Gospel writer uses human skill to craft a true story, presenting the saving mystery of our Lord's life, death, and resurrection so that readers may come to know Christ, share his life, and be saved.

Every story in the Gospels is shaped to communicate saving truth, but not every story is told as a direct "just the facts, ma'am" report of sequential events. So there is a saving sense in which, yes, the Epiphany happened exactly as it says in Matthew 2:1-12. And there is a more literal sense in which, no, the Epiphany probably did not happen exactly as it's recounted.

What is most certain is the Gospel's saving message of the birth of our true king, the light to all nations, before whom we offer homage and who, when we encounter him, will change our lives and send us home in a new path.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR

Scripture Readings for the week of Jan. 4—10

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Jn 3:22-4:6	1 Jn 4:7-10	1 Jn 4:11-18	Jn 4:19-5:4	1 Jn 5:5-13	1 Jn 5:14-21	Is 55: 1-11
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25	Mk 6:34-44	Mk 6:45-52	Lk 4:14-22	Lk 5:12-16	Jn 3:22-30	1 Jn 5:1-9 Mk 1:7-11



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD — 3 JANUARY 2021

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year to everyone! May it be a year filled with grace and peace.

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany which is the manifestation of the Lord Jesus. It celebrates three moments in Jesus’ life: the Magi coming to worship Jesus, the Wedding Feast at Cana, and the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. All three moments were when people came to know Jesus as Savior and Messiah. How has Jesus been manifest in your life?

One of the Epiphany traditions I learned while living in Italy is interesting. The children of the family receive their gifts on Epiphany rather than Christmas. And instead of Santa Claus they are visited by a wicked witch called La Befana who has been forced to good deeds. Same with us, if you’ve been naughty you get coal instead of gifts. In Spain, the gift giving is also on Epiphany. It is the Three Magi that bring the children their gifts there. These different traditions highlight the importance of making manifest our faith in Christ. What are some of your family traditions around Christmas and Epiphany?

In some ways, I wish the Church in the United States had not transferred the feast of Epiphany to the nearest Sunday. There is something special about it being on January 6th – the 12th day of Christmas. I know some families that wait and open one present each day until Epiphany. Now that is a cool way to extend the Christmas season.

God bless,



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES

SEE ONLINE CALENDAR FOR FULL DETAILS

Sunday, January 3, Epiphany of the Lord
4:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Raphael
Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael
6:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Catherine
Herbert Vaughn
9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine
Vicki King
11:00 am Mass, St. Anne
Glenda Curran

Monday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
9:00 am Mass, St. Anne
Jeanette Bosco

Tuesday, January 5, St. John Neumann
9:00 am Mass, St. Anne
Healthcare Workers
9:30-10:30 am, Adoration & Confession at St. Anne

Wednesday, January 6, St. Andre Bessette
9:00 am Mass, St. Gabriel
Don Zielinski
9:30 am Rosary, St. Gabriel
5:00 pm Adoration & Confession at St. Catherine

Thursday, January 7, St. Raymond of Penafort
9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine
John Dumont
9:30-10:30 am Adoration St. Catherine

Friday, January 8,
NO MASS

Saturday, January 9,
3:30 pm Confession, St. Raphael

Sunday, January 10, Baptism of the Lord
4:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Raphael
Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael
6:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Catherine
Ruth Spurlock
9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine
Carol Beighey
11:00 am Mass, St. Anne
Fr. Robert Bissot

PARISH STEWARDSHIP



“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Pt 4:10).
Thanks you for all the sacrifices you make as we all labor in God’s vineyard to bring the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbors. 10% of everything received is donated to support charities near and far.

	St. Anne	St. Catherine	St. Gabriel	St. Raphael
Needed each week	\$2,144.23	\$2,593.95	\$555.10	\$740.38
Needed year-to-date	\$55,749.98	\$67,442.70	\$14,432.60	\$19,249.88
Actual year-to-date	\$52,610.68	\$59,948.28	\$12,539.70	\$18,839.22
December 27	\$	\$	\$	\$
Other Collections:	\$	\$	\$	\$

Pray for Our Priests & Religious

Sunday—Rev. Donald Geyman
Monday—Rev. Joseph Graff
Tuesday— Deceased Priests
Wednesday— Rev. John Greene
Thursday—Rev. Zeljko Guberovic
Friday—Rev. Michael Haney
Saturday—Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley

Stewardship Reflections

“..they fell down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh...” - MATTHEW 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi’s visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

Please remember to pray for those serving in the military: SR. Paige E. Jewett, Corporal Jacob Campbell US Marine Corps, Airforce Senior Airman Lindsey Moggie, Marine Private Tristan Gordy, Senior Airman Kyle Thum, Sgt. Christopher Dubay, Sgt. Tony Dubay, US Marine Corps Sgt. Michael D’Augustino, US Airforce Airman Cole Mitchell, Lance Corporal Steven J. Rizzotto, Major Michael Ruess, MM3 Benjamin Bumgardner, Specialist Ethan Siegert

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Type in the zip code 49766 (you must use 49766).
Select the Parishes of the Resurrection
Type in your Name and Email address.
Click the “sign up” button

You can also sign up for daily video reflections and readings for Advent. Go to www.formed.org/advent to sign up.

Our Sick: May God shower his love and care upon you, comfort you and encourage you, heal you in body, soul, and spirit and bring you to peace. May we grow in trust in God, accepting his will, putting everything into his hands: Mary Anderson, Mike Moggie, Florence Mishler, Michael Killewald, David Molitor, Kelly Kruttlin, Terry Rizzotto, Dustin Swider, Diane Bolda, Richard & Donna LaBonte, Chuck Gauthier, Carol Bandlow, Jerry Killewald, Rick Villabolos, Gen & Barb Spring, Jackie Schrade, Janice Kurt, Irene Shiemke, Ron Harmon, David Simanskey, Christen Buckler, Thelma Schultz, Walter Roman, David Fortier, Christopher Marciniak, Dick White, Sam Rizzotto, Al LaBrecque, Peter Bosca, Bernard Pintar, Nancy Hauss, Dan Kaczmarek, James Banner, Irene Sedoskey, Edwin Paulson, Anna Michel, Paul Forsythe, Gerald Dingledein, Thomas Walter, Greg Robinson, Mary Jane Fliehman, Joan Cleveland, Al Sharp, Gloria Kozak, Jim Rigato, George Killewald, Theda & Frank Waldecker, Rick Carstens

Prayer Tags: St. Catherine and St. Anne parishioners, take a random tag off the tree and pray for the parishioner on the back of the card. St. Raphael parishioners, look for your name on the front of the tag and pray for the parishioner on the back of the tag.