

Do You See What I See?

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

FOR *Reflection*

- * *How open are you to new thinking?*
- * *God's invitation is offered to all. Is there any group of people you might have marginalized?*

*All from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense,
and heralding the praises of the LORD.*
ISAIAH 60:6



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>Saint Boniface</i>
<i>January 2 / 3 The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass	5:00 pm ~ Mass
<i>Tuesday</i>	5:30 ~ Mass	
<i>Thursday</i>	5:30 ~ Mass	
<i>January 9 / 10 The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass	5:00 pm ~ Mass

	<i>OLPH Mass 9:00 am</i>		<i>ST. BONIFACE Mass 5:00 pm</i>	
Date	January 3	January 10	January 2	January 9
Lector	Matthew Davis	Joe McNaughton	Jerry Nowak	Lynn Begluitti

Mass Intentions	OLPH	St. Boniface
January 2 / 3	† Rose Lewis	† Lou Owens Zecchini
January 9 / 10	† Dave Bunce	† Frank Cuel

Our Gifts	OLPH	St. Boniface
December 26 /27	\$197.00	\$210.00

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jerry and Sharon Nowak



Reading I

Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the peoples;
but upon you the LORD shines,
and over you appears his glory.
Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance.
Raise your eyes and look about;
they all gather and come to you:
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see,
your heart shall throb and overflow,

for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you,
the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.
Caravans of camels shall fill you,
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;
all from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense,
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading II

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters:
You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace
that was given to me for your benefit,
namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation.
It was not made known to people in other generations
as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body,
and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Alleluia

Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mt 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.

Gospel Reflection

Today the child born on Christmas is revealed to be the long-awaited king of the Jews.

As the priests and scribes interpret the prophecies in today's Gospel, He is the ruler expected from the line of King David, whose greatness is to reach to the ends of the earth.

Jesus is found with His mother, as David's son, Solomon, was enthroned alongside his Queen Mother. The magi come to pay Him tribute, as once kings and queens came to Solomon. His coming evokes promises that extend back to Israel's beginnings.

Centuries before, an evil king seeking to destroy Moses and the Israelites had summoned Balaam, who came from the East with two servants. But Balaam refused to curse Israel, and instead prophesied that a star and royal staff would arise out of Israel and be exalted above all the nations.

This is the star the three magi follow. And like Balaam, they too refuse to be tangled in an evil king's scheme. Their pilgrimage is a sign—that the prophecies in today's First Reading and Psalm are being fulfilled. They come from afar, guided by God's light, bearing the wealth of nations, to praise Israel's God.

We celebrate today our own entrance into the family of God, and the fulfillment of God's plan that all nations be united with Israel as co-heirs to His Fatherly blessings, as Paul reveals in today's Epistle.

We too must be guided by the root of David, the bright morning star, and the light of the world.

As the magi adored Him in the manger, let us renew our vow to serve Him, placing our gifts—our intentions and talents—on the altar in this Eucharist. We must offer to Him our very lives in thanksgiving. No lesser gift will suffice for this newborn King.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Marian Colette, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Charles Pennington (Louann Lennon's father), Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Bonnie (Warfield) Bishop, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gary Hackler, Patricia Hernandez-Torres, Gail Willis, M & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brenda Brown, Brody Beavers and family, Shawn Lee Day, all those of our families who are affected by Covid-19, and the Donner family.

UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS

***Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors of the Church ~ Memorial***
January 2

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ~ Solemnity
January 3

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious ~ Memorial
January 4

Saint John Neumann, Bishop ~ Memorial
January 5

Saint André Bessette, Religious
January 6

Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
January 7

Our Lady of Perpetual Help & Saint Boniface
76 W. Sycamore Street, P. O. Box 330
Williamsburg, KY 40769
(606) 549-2156 / olph.boniface@gmail.com

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
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ADORATION OF THE MAGI BY BARTOLOME ESTEBAN MURILLO/OWENHERRA

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship...For worship involves making an exodus from the greatest form of bondage: slavery to oneself. Worship means putting the Lord at the center, not ourselves.

EPIPHANY HOMILY, JANUARY 6, 2020



Calendar

Monday
JANUARY 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious
1 Jn 3:22-4:6
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday
JANUARY 5
St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 4:7-10
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday
JANUARY 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11-18
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday
JANUARY 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19-5:4
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday
JANUARY 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5-13
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday
JANUARY 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14-21
Jn 3:22-30

Sunday
JANUARY 10
Baptism of the Lord
Is 55:1-11
1 Jn 5:1-9
Mk 1:7-11