

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
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



ADORATION OF THE MAGI BY BARTOLOMÉ ESTEBAN MURILLO/WIKIPEDIA

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

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

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.

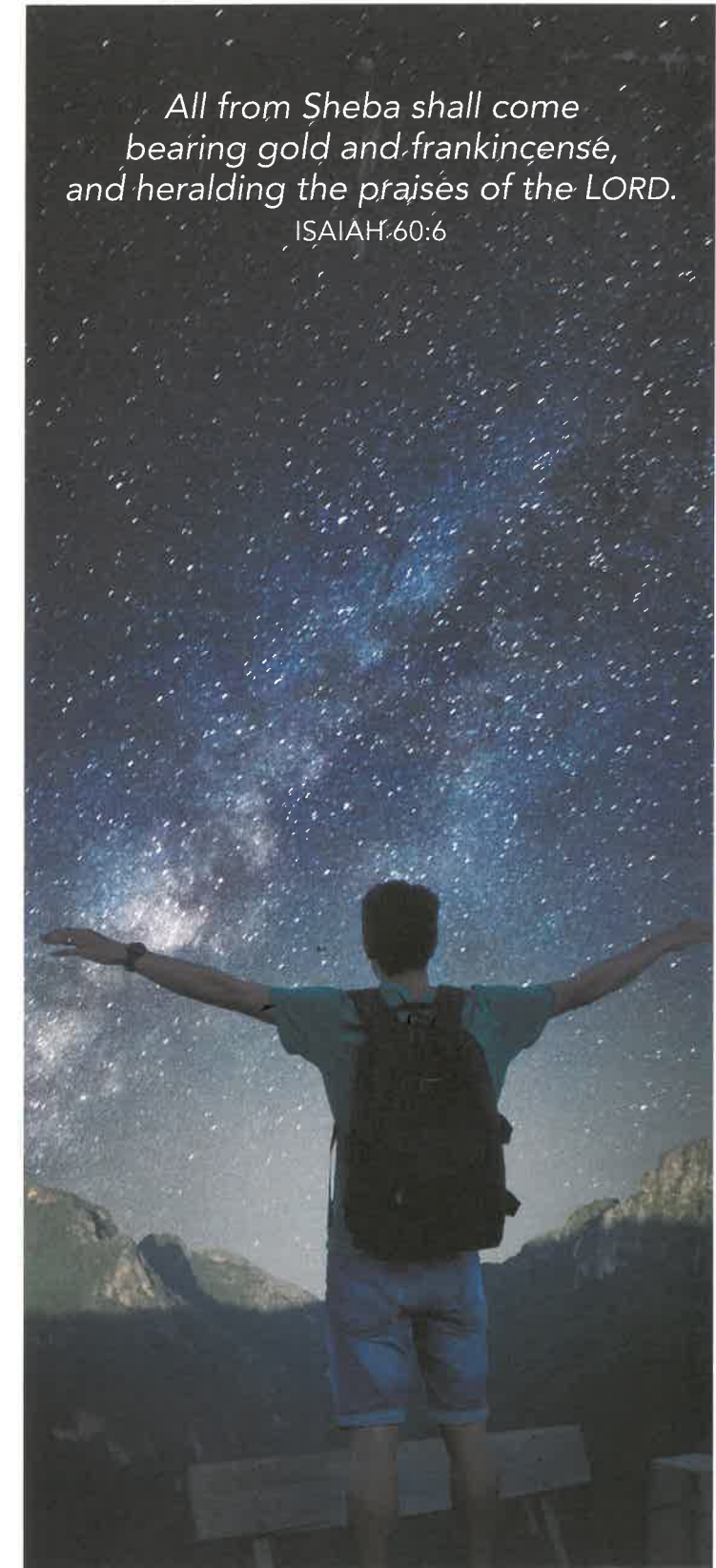
The people of Jesus' time were not ignorant of these prophecies. They knew what they meant and to whom they referred. Consequently, when the stargazers who saw the light inquired about it, those to whom they inquired knew where to send them. So what was the problem? Why were those men in Jerusalem not 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

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Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Saint Terence Mission

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Office Hours: 8AM—4PM (M-F)

Website: www.stjohnmany.org

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Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Francis Kamau, FMH
Deacon: Michael Sullivan
Parish Secretary: Sheila Royal
Office Assistant: Shirley Rivers
DRE: Jean Rains
Groundskeeper: Michael Beasley
Housekeeper: Pam Little
Music Director: Justin Linccum

Prayer List: Vivian Halleck, Timothy D. Rivers, Bessie Mowad, Vicki Martin, Eddie Richard, Janice Murphy, Randy Richter, Jiles Bowling, Tom Hambleton, Ace Bowling, Bennett King, Wanda J Rivers, Norma Bergeron, Clifford Shuff, Roy & Pam Beasley, Ezra Thibodeaux, Bill & Mary Hurd, Donald Behan, Joanna Presseau, Lisa Brown, Bobby Bowen, Piper Rae Pate, Cameron Johnson, Jake & Mary Ann Rivers, Allen Nichols, James Edwards, Addie Procell, Richard DeKeyser, Trisha Adams, Carla Kowarch, Sue Ferguson, John Wayne Behan, Timbo Sepulvado, Don Speaks, Marti Vienne & Lexie King

Please note: The names on the prayer list will go through a cycle. As the names are moved to the top, they will be removed as new names are added. Please contact the office to add or remove a name.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns night and day near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. You may arrange to have the Sanctuary Candle at St. John's or St. Terence burn in memory of a loved one for a week of your choice by contacting the church office. The candle will be booked on a first-come, first-serve basis. Donations of any amount are accepted.



The Sanctuary Candle
Week of January 3rd–January 9th

St John + Bob Preston
St Terence *Special Intention*

Church Donations

Contributions may be placed in the basket in the back of the church, or mailed to the office. Online giving may be accessed by going to <http://www.stjohnmany.org/donations>

This Week in our Parish

Weekend Masses at St John:

Sat, 4:00 PM Anticipated Mass

Sun, 11:00 AM

Sunday Mass at St Terence: 8:00 AM

Monthly Spanish Mass at St John 5:00 PM

Weekday Masses at St. John:

Tues, 5PM

Wed–Friday, 8AM

Saturday January 2

3:00-3:45 PM Reconciliation at St. John

3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Sunday January 3

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Wednesday, January 6

8:30AM-6:00PM St John: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

5:30 PM CCD

5:30 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction

Anointing of the Sick /Ministry to the Sick

Please call the church office if someone is in a hospital, nursing home, shut-in, and would like to be visited or receive the sacraments.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the office in advance to register for seminar.

Funerals

Arrangements may be made by calling the church office

Parish calendar online:

<http://www.stjohnmany.org/calendar>

MASS INTENTIONS

Thursday December 31st

- 4:00PM 1. Living & Deceased Members of the Thomas & Claudia Ezernack Family
2. Timothy Rivers (SI)
3. + Bobbie Ezernack
4. Ione and Chester Durr (SI)

Friday January 1st

- 8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
2. Norma Bergeron (SI)
11:00AM 1. Bobbie & Billy Ezernack
2. +Ben Partida
3. +Charles Ezernack
4. Timothy Rivers (SI)

Saturday January 2nd

- 4:00PM 1. +Livye Lewis
2. +Fr. Kenneth Williams
4. Timothy Rivers (SI)

Sunday January 3rd

- 8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
2. +Christy Wriborg
11:00AM 1. +Ben Partida
2. + Steven Rodrigues
3. + Peter, Maria Hoa & Maria Loan Nguyen
4. + Ethan Hunter
5. + Buck Rabon
6. +Fr Kenneth Williams

Tuesday January 5th

- 5:00PM 1. + Fr Kenneth Williams

Wednesday January 6th

- 8:00AM 1. + Kaylee McLain
2. +Dello Couvillion

Thursday January 7th

- 8:00AM 1. +Marilyn Osborn
2. +Mary Nell Jordan

Friday January 8th

- 8:00AM 1. Living & Deceased Members of the Blake, Byrd, Pedersen & Wimer Families

Thank You

Special thanks to everyone who made donations for the Christmas Poinsettias. We appreciate your generosity, especially during these difficult times.

Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes for 2021 are located in the back of the church. If you would like to pick yours up from the office, please contact Sheila. If you are currently not receiving contribution envelopes and would like to, please contact us. If you would like a statement for income tax purposes, please use the church envelopes. There is no charge for these.

Schedule

CCD and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament resume this week.

Monthly Spanish Mass

The monthly Spanish Mass will be held this Sunday, **January 3rd at 5PM.** There will be a covered dish supper afterwards.

Parish Ministries and Organizations

*There are ministries and organizations by which our parish is enriched – some of which require occasional participation, and others which entail regular service. One does not become a parishioner simply by attending Sunday Mass. Your involvement in one or more of these ministries and organizations will not only enrich your life, but it will also vitalize the communion of faith we enjoy at St. John the Baptist and St Terence Catholic Churches. As this new year begins, please prayerfully consider taking a more active part in your church parish. **We need you!***

Ladies Altar Society

The Altar Society help maintain the sanctuary, linens, vestments, candles, flowers and decorations.

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent De Paul Society's purpose is to provide direct aid to those who suffer, and to help individuals reduce and even eliminate the causes of their suffering. Please consider joining!

Eucharistic Ministers

This group of commissioned and trained ministers distributes Communion at Mass and brings the Holy Eucharist to the home-bound. Eucharistic Ministers serve as an integral part of the communion of faith which defines the Body of Christ. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please leave your name at the church office.

Altar Server Practice

There will be altar server practice next **Saturday, January 9th**, at **IOAM** in the church. This practice is for all new and existing altar servers. If you have any questions, please contact Marion Koss.

Bulletin Announcement Deadline

The deadline for bulletin announcements is **Wednesdays at noon.** You may email or call the church office with your submission.

Catholic Calendars Available

The 2021 Catholic Calendars are located in the back of the church. If you are able to, we are asking for a \$2.00 donation to help defray the printing cost.

New Bible Study Class Begins in February



Our new Bible Study class is slated to begin in February.

Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John is your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. If

you want to know what it means to really follow Christ, and if you would like to have a deeper relationship with Him, then we invite you to join us for *Follow Me*.

Participants in the class will receive a workbook and will meet monthly to view an engaging video presentation followed by group discussion and fellowship. The eight 30-minute videos, presented by Dr. Edward Sri, will guide you through the Gospel of John. Dr. Sri will explain how Christ's encounters with His disciples, the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and others, are examples of how He lovingly and persistently calls each of us to a more intimate and life-changing relationship with Him.

Because of the pandemic, you will have the option to attend the studies in person or virtually via Zoom. There will be two sessions: 9AM and 7PM. The day of the week is yet to be determined. Those who choose to attend via Zoom will watch the video at their convenience. (There will be a training session.)

The cost to register for this Bible Study is \$19.95. This includes the workbook, online workbook and online access for one year to the eight 35-minute videos.

For more information, contact Pat Gandy or Clairiste Byles.