

Epiphany vs. Christmas

Every year when this comes around, I find myself asking the question, "what is it that we celebrate on Epiphany again?" Unsure, priests around the world, myself included, find ourselves grasping for a homily based on the three gifts or the imagery of the star or something like that.

Historically, the celebration of the epiphany actually seems to predate the celebration of Christmas. Already in the early third century, there is an attestation to the celebration of the Epiphany (which in Greek means manifestation or revelation) of the Lord. It seems that celebrating the birth of Christ on December 25 did not become wide practice until the fourth Century in the West.

Basically, on both Christmas and Epiphany, we celebrate the same mystery: God's revelation of himself in the flesh. However, I think we can make this distinction: whereas Christmas reveals the savior to our eyes, it is the Epiphany which reveals his salvation to our hearts and minds.

Every Christmas we are reminded God loves us and has sent his Son for us, but every Epiphany, we have to choose again to see his power in our lives.

As we begin a new year, following a difficult year, may this be our Epiphany prayer: that like the Magi, we might follow the star and witness God's love for us every day, returning to him gifts of praise, love, and adoration.

Fr. Zak

PS. Speaking of the Epiphany, this week, I invite you to join us for a special edition of our Latin Mass. On Wednesday, January 6, at 7pm, there will be a sung Latin Mass for the traditional feast of the Epiphany. Expect music (chant and organ) and incense. All are welcome to join!



**MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021**  
12:10pm NO MASS

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021**  
12:10pm †Jerry Vap/George & Sheila Rahme

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021**  
8:20am †Bob Luis/Mike & Pat Morris  
**School Masses are NOT open to the public due to COVID-19**  
6:00pm NO MASS  
7:00pm †John Wohletz/Joe & Carolyn Dempewolf (EF Mass)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021**  
9:30am People of the Parish (Newkirk)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021**  
7:00am †Fr. Michalicka/Fr. Zak  
12:10pm Special Intentions/Joe & Alma Reinert

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021**  
9:00am In Thanksgiving/Michel Gray  
5:00pm †Oley Bullard/Linda Bullard

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021-BAPTISM OF THE LORD**  
8:00am †Marcia Engle/Glenda Richardson  
9:30am Pro Populo (Newkirk)  
11:00am †Don Lawson/Sue Lawson  
1:00pm Spanish Mass/ Pro Populo  
7:00pm People of the Parish

**Unless specified- ALL Masses will be in the CHURCH**

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

**Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults  
Archdiocese of OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City through its programs, organizations and events, has numerous daily contacts with many minors and vulnerable adults. It is, therefore, important that all Archdiocesan Personnel, clergy, seminarians, religious, employees and volunteers, protect the rights of children and vulnerable adults and be alert to the possibility for child abuse and abuse of vulnerable adults. Under Oklahoma State law, all individuals **MUST** report an incident or suspicion of sexual abuse of a minor (person under 18 years of age) to the civil authorities immediately. The Oklahoma Department of Human Services has established a statewide abuse hotline for reporting: **1-800-522-3511**. This number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you have reason to believe a child is in immediate danger of harm call **911**. For the safety of children and vulnerable adults and the healing of victims, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City provides an Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults Pastoral Response Hotline for reporting the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults (in the past or presently) by a member of the clergy or other church personnel: **1-405-720-9878**. The Archdiocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, a licensed professional counselor, will respond to calls to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Response Hotline. A report to the Archdiocese does not relieve the individual of the duty to report child abuse to civil authorities as required by Oklahoma State Law. **In Oklahoma, failure to report child abuse is a misdemeanor punishable by law.**

**THIS WEEK AHEAD**

## January 4-10, 2021

<b>Monday</b>		School Christmas Break NO LADDER OF ASCENT
<b>Tuesday</b>	11:30am 7:00pm	BIBLE TIMELINE, McGurk Room RCIA, McGurk Room
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30pm 7:00pm	YOUTH GROUP, Gym MASS, Church
<b>Thursday</b>		
<b>Friday</b>	9:00am	STAFF MEETING, Church
<b>Saturday</b>	3:30pm	CONFESSION, Church
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30am 6:00pm	CONFIRMATION CLASS, Byrnes Room CONFESSION, Church



**JH/SH Faith Formation** will be this Wednesday from 6:30-8PM. All participants must wear a mask and socially distance. If Ponca City schools choose not to meet in person, we will reevaluate our program schedule. **Updates will be sent via Flocknote so be on the lookout for those.**

Confirmation class is next Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30AM in the Byrnes room. Make sure to wear a mask! If you are unable to attend because of quarantine, you must let Lisa know ahead of time so other arrangements can be made.

**Prayer against Coronavirus**

Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine Physician, we ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus COVID-19 and all serious illness. For all that have died from it, have mercy; for those that are ill now, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them success; for those afraid, grant peace. May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may your turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to your infinite mercy. Amen.

-Pedro de la Cruz



*Happy New Year!*  
**We will resume our  
Wednesday Zoom check-ins  
on January 13th @ 7:00 PM.**

On Wednesday, January 5th families are invited to join Fr. Zak in an Epiphany Mass offered in the Extraordinary Form (Latin). Mass begins at 7:00 PM in the church

**Your help is needed:**

I would like to update you of a service that has been formed in our parish some years back. This service effects the homebound. In years past they have been very active in helping make our parish what it is today. Now, they are no longer able to go to Mass or participate in any activities of our Church and enjoy the friendship of their Church family. Some shut-ins are blessed with family and relatives near. For some, work has taken their loved ones away from Ponca City. Others still, have no relatives. There is a big need and a duty to let these dear people know they are not forgotten. I realize how very busy our lives have become with our own families, work, ushering children to their different activities, and also, we're already volunteering in so many different ways.

For the past year, meals have been provided weekly to several shut-ins. Yes, there are Meals on Wheels, which provide good nourishing meals, but due to COVID-19 this service has been suspended. What these people need most is our sitting down and chatting awhile while they eat. They so love the meals, but they have let us know it's the company they enjoy the most.

Thank you for your consideration,  
**Ramona Lantz, 580-334-9246**



**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH:** Pope Francis has declared the coming year through December 8, 2021 as the *Year of St. Joseph*. Plenary indulgences are available for several different devotions to St. Joseph. More information can be found here:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>  
**OR**  
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vaticancity/news/2020-12/apostolic-penitentiary-plenary-indulgence-year-st-joseph.htm>

Weekly Income Report December 20, 2020	
Weekly Collection:	\$10,051.80
Faith Direct:	\$ 4,844.07
December 25, 2020	
Christmas Collection:	\$ 4,071.00
December 27, 2020	
Weekly Collection:	\$18,010.00
Lump Sum:	\$9,000.00