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✠ **TODAY'S READINGS** ✠
Breaking Bread Book
Pages 58-59

Daily Mass Readings—Jan 3-9*	
Sunday	Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday	1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday	1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday	1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday	1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday	1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
*Daily Readings (and link to full biblical text) also available on Holy Cross Website: www.holycross-wagoner.org	

January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord

God, by the leading of a star Thou didst manifest
Thine
only begotten Son to the Gentiles on this day;
mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith,
may be brought to contemplate the beauty of
Thy majesty.

Through the same Jesus Christ Thy Son. Amen!

Parish Council Meeting
Tues., Jan. 19 @ 5:30 p.m.
Contact a Parish Council member, if you have a suggestion/concern to be addressed by the council.

Online Contributions/Donations
For Parish Support/Diocesan Ministries

A reminder that you can donate anytime online to any parish or Diocesan effort.

Go to <https://dioceseoftulsa.org> and choose the Stewardship tab. There is an option for "Support a Specific Diocesan Ministry" and also one to "Donate to Support a Specific Parish" to process your online donation.

Collections from Dec. 24-27	
Christmas Collections 24/25	\$1,367.00
Capital Improvements	100.00
Weekend Collections 26/27	1,900.00
Capital Improvements	200.00
TOTAL	\$3,567.00
Collection for Retired Priests	355.00

A Reflection for the Feast of the Epiphany

Father Paul Keller, C.M.F. reflects on the readings for
January 3, 2021

To whom do we give our allegiance? Who receives our homage? Before whom do we bend our knee?

The magi, wise and influential advisors in the Persian royal court, reading the signs in the stars, come to Bethlehem to find the newborn king of the Jews (Matt. 2:1-12). The king they will find is very different than the current king of the Jews. King Herod is a tyrant. The historical record confirms that he was as cruel and violent as Scripture tells us he was. As is true of every cruel dictator (or schoolyard bully), his is a fragile ego. When he is in the midst of one of his fear-based tantrums there is no telling what kind of suffering he will inflict upon his people. When Herod is troubled, so is all Jerusalem. No one is safe from the violence that Herod might unleash when his power is threatened.

This small child who was born in a barn and spent his first night sleeping in a feeding trough represents a very different kind of king. In this child a radiant and glorious light will shine for all people (Isa. 60:1-6). As the psalm for this day's liturgy tells us, this king will "govern [the] people with justice" (Ps. 72:2). As a ruler, this king "rescues the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help. He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor" (Ps. 72:12-13). This is the kind of ruler we should want. It is certainly the kind of ruler that we need. Jesus—the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, and the Prince of Peace—is the only one worthy of our ultimate allegiance. The magi, these foreigners, may not have fully understood who or what they would encounter, but they did come to understand that it was before the infant Jesus that they should bend their knees; to him they should offer their gifts. To King Herod they turned their backs, disobeying him as "they departed for their country by another way" (Matt. 2:12). That is the way to deal with cruel and violent rulers and the cruelty and hatred within us; we must find another way. In times that are plagued by political conflict and animosity, amidst the fear and confusion of a pandemic that has cost so many their lives and others their livelihoods, we may be tempted to bend our knees and give allegiance to someone or something other than God. We might be tempted to surrender our wills and offer our loyalty to someone who promises to protect us from an unknown and threatening future. We might want to embrace some political ideology in the hopes that it will cure every ill. That never has and never will turn out well.

Only God—the Father as we have come to know him in the Son through the power of the Holy Spirit—is worthy of our worship, our allegiance, our homage. There are no modern day political leaders worthy of our ultimate allegiance or unflinching loyalty. However, as people of faith we know that there are criteria that we should use to evaluate our (imperfect) leaders: Do they seek to give relief to the poor? Do they show compassion to the afflicted? Do they have pity on the suffering and the lowly? We must also evaluate our own lives in this regard. Who receives our homage? Before whom do we bend our knees?



Christ has appeared among us.
Come, let us adore Him.
The precious gifts which the Magi brought to the Lord this day are threefold, and they are signs of divine mysteries.
By Gold the power of the King is signified,
By Frankincense His great priesthood,
By Myrrh the burial of the Lord.
The Magi worshipped the Author of our salvation in the crib, and of their treasures they brought to Him gifts of mystic nature.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Weekend Mass Readers	
Jan. 2	Kay Rodriguez
Jan. 3	Mark Sorell
Jan. 9	Dorene McMahan
Jan. 10	Paul Stuart

Happy Birthday!

Jessica Soto	1/2	Max Herndon	1/10
Parker Sullivan	1/4	Fr. Leo	1/13
Seth Yoder	1/5	Richard Steinheil	1/13
James Harris	1/7	Pat Sanco	1/14
Joshua Yoder	1/8		



Holy Cross Mission Statement/Prayer

Almighty God, the mission of Holy Cross Parish is to bring the love of Jesus Christ to our community and the world. As your disciples, help us to touch the hearts of everyone in a way that enhances human spirituality and will bring all people into the fullness of your Kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen!

Youth Religious Education Classes are held each Sunday morning following 8:30 a.m. Mass.

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 pm

Sunday — 8:30 am

Tuesday & Friday — 5:00 pm

Wednesday & Thursday — 8:30 am

First Sat. of Each Month — 8:30 am

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Friday following 5:00 pm Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 to 4:50 pm
Sunday 8:00 to 8:20 am
 or by appointment/request

To Request Mass Intentions

1) Fill out info. on intention envelope provided in vestibule, 2) Place donation inside, 3) Give to Theresa or place in the offertory basket, 4) Take a card to send to the recipient.

FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

Patty Chandler, parishioner
 Jerry Hickman, brother of Mike Hickman
 Jean Podeyn, sister of Jackie Spieker
 Paula Moore, parishioner



WE PRAY TO THE LORD

	<i>Altar Linens</i>	<i>Altar Flowers</i>
<i>Jan</i>	Mary Feichtinger	Christmas Poinsettias
<i>Feb</i>	Karol Watson	Karol Watson Lent (no flowers)

Ministers for Mass

Contact Mary Feichtinger by phone or text @ 303-519-0605, if you are able to serve.

Stay Connected — Stay Informed
 with your Catholic Faith & your Holy Cross Family

Daily Readings, Daily Prayer of the Day, Bulletins, Catholic & Holy Cross News/Events

www.holycross-wagoner.org & Holy Cross Catholic Church - Wagoner OK (FB)

Weddings—Please contact the pastor at least 6 months prior to your anticipated date

Baptisms—Please contact the Pastor for Preparation

Bulletin Deadline

TUESDAY 8pm

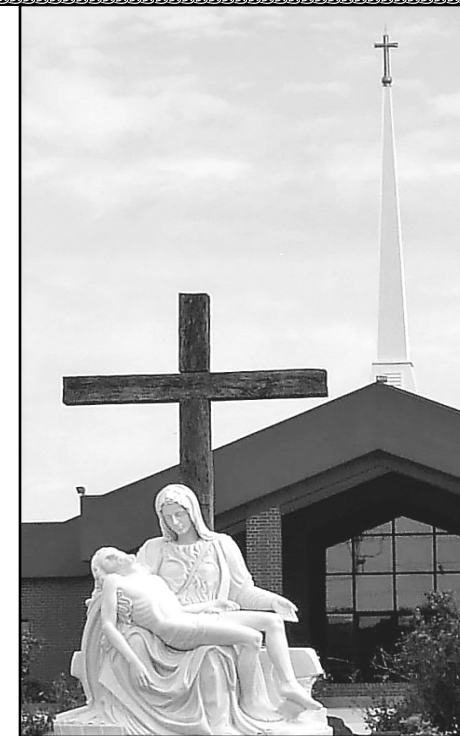
To place information in the bulletin, contact Karol Watson, karol_watson@yahoo.com or 918-640-5819

Holy Cross Catholic Church



*Holiness - Disciples - Community
 Wagoner, Oklahoma*

*January 3, 2021
 The Epiphany of the Lord*



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