

Herod Was Correct

King Herod, the most powerful man in the region, was greatly troubled to hear about the birth of a king. Why would a reigning king fear a little child? Perhaps because he believed if word spread that a future messiah had been born, the Jews would be harder to control. They were easier to dominate when they were without hope, without a leader.

Herod was correct. Wise men from the East looking for the King of the Jews fulfilled prophecies that foretold all nations would come to Israel looking for a messianic leader.

Herod was also troubled because, if indeed this newborn was a king, he had a pretender and a competitor right under his royal nose. King Herod was correct again.

Although Jesus did not pretend to overthrow the Romans, he did come with authority and would upend the existing order. Jesus would preach to the heart and demand that no one sit on that throne except God his Father.

Pseudo Domenico presents the arrival of the Magi as a procession of vassals showing homage to their king. Kneeling, bowing, and standing erect with gifts in hand, authorities from far away are showing reverence to the newborn royalty who sits on Mother Mary's lap. His royal hall is the hillside, his scepter a baby finger, his royal family is Joseph and Mary.

These Gentile kings were the first to do what all of creation and all of history have been doing since then—bending their knee to the King of the Universe. Herod was right to worry.

— Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: Adoration of the Kings, 1450s
Artist: Pseudo Domenico di Michelino
Location: Vatican Museums



For Reflection

Jesus' reign comes to give security to those who love him. Does his authority and care give me security? Do I seek earthly securities aside from the treasures he offers me: his will, protection, and grace?

*When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him.*

Matthew 2:3

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. Darrell Kostih

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

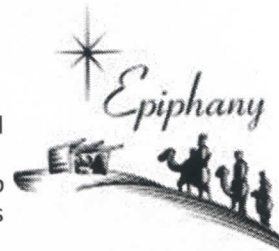
Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

JANUARY 6, 2019 SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

" Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come." Isiah 60

An "epiphany" is an appearance. In today's readings, with their rising stars, splendorous lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears. Herod, in today's Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see 2 Samuel 2:5), the other predicting "a ruler of Israel" who will "shepherd his flock" and whose "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth" (see Micah 5:1-3). Those promises of Israel's king ruling the nations resound also in today's Psalm. The psalm celebrates David's son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch "to the ends of the earth," and the world's kings will pay Him homage. That's the scene too in today's First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing "gold and frankincense" for Israel's king. The Magi's pilgrimage in today's Gospel marks the fulfillment of God's promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler's staff over the house of Jacob (see Numbers 24:17). Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the "kings of the earth" (see 1 Kings 10:2, 25; 2 Chronicles 9:24). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see Song of Songs 3:6; 4:6, 14). One greater than Solomon is here (see Luke 11:31). He has come to reveal that all peoples are "co-heirs" of the royal family of Israel, as today's Epistle teaches. His manifestation forces us to choose: will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God's words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?



12/30 Stewardship: Regular Offering: \$1,247.00

12/23 Children's Offering: \$10.00

12/30 Holy Family: \$420.00

1/1 Solemnity of Mary: \$400.00

1/1 First Offering: \$199.00

1/1 Holy Family: \$21.50

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Patsy Gaines (254-482-) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (2505704-869-2511)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

Ministries for January 13

Rosary: Raymond Tomek

Eucharistic Minister: Kelly Laurence

Offertory: REP

Lector: Brad Vaculin

Ushers: REP

Altar Servers:



Sanctuary Light : January 7th - 13th — John David Thompson by Merlene Slavik

Prayer Chain...Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and the following: Albina Vrazel, Julius Dubcak, JoLeen Cayhill, and Ethel Marak. Prayers are powerful and with God nothing shall be impossible.

Contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net to be put on the prayer chain.

MARAK MASSES—January 6—13, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today— 1/6	10:15am	+ Larry Green by Carol & Georgia Stermer
1/9—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Mary Ann Plachy by Richard and Betty Brenek
1/13—Sunday	10:15am	In Honor of Laddie & Emily Dohnalik 60th Wedding Ann.

CYCLONE MASSES— January 6—13, 2019

Date	Time	Intentions
Today — 1/6	8:15am	+ Dolores Motl by Raymond & Gayle Schmiedekamp
1/8— Tuesday	7:00am	+ Lucille Bruggman by Bradley & Rebecca Marek
1/10— Thursday	7:00am	+ Alton Moraw by Bernadette & Darwin Bruggman
1/11—Friday	7:00am	+ Robert Dach by Fritz & Betty Hodde
1/12— Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Pauline Wilde by Bea Brenek & Daniel Wilde
1/13— Sunday	8:15am	+ Patricia Eixman by Barbara Eixman & Family

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **TODAY:** Second collection for Building and Maintenance Fund
- **JANUARY 6 & 13:** Cemetery Board Nomination ballots will be passed out on these two Sundays. Please place ballots in the ballot box at the church entrance. Raymond Jochec and Carl Hubnik will be going off the board and cannot be re-elected.
- **JANUARY 13:** End of the Year tax donation reports will be passed out stating the amount of Sunday Offerings, Holy Days, Special Collections and Building Fund for the year of 2018. If you donate or have donated to the building fund, a separate letter of the updated cumulative amount that has been donated from the start of the collections will be included.
- **JANUARY 14:** Parish Social and Pot Luck—Marak Parish Hall—6-9pm.
- **January 15:** KC Meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Hall—7:30pm.
- **ALTAR SOCIETY:** Membership is open to all women of the parish—dues are \$5.00—Reminder to pay cleaning dues of \$20.00. Memorial Vigil candles for your loved ones are available to schedule for one week for \$5.00. If you have any questions, please contact Merlene Slavik. Make checks payable to St. Anne's Altar Society.

Calendar

Monday

JANUARY 7

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 3:22-4:6

Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday

JANUARY 8

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:7-10

Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday

JANUARY 9

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:11-18

Mk 6:45-52

Thursday

JANUARY 10

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:19-5:4

Lk 4:14-22a

Friday

JANUARY 11

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:5-13

Lk 5:12-16

Saturday

JANUARY 12

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:14-21

Jn 3:22-30

Sunday

JANUARY 13

Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Acts 10:34-38 or

Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Dear Padre,

I'm having an argument with a fundamentalist friend who insists the Epiphany happened exactly as it says in the Bible. I keep saying there's no way it could have. Who is right?

Catholics believe that 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's saving sense in which, yes, the Epiphany happened exactly as it says in Matthew 2:1-12. And there's a more literal sense in which, no, the Epiphany probably didn't 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 of the World, 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



CHRISTOS GEORGHIOU/SHUTTERSTOCK



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A Word From Pope Francis

How many stars there are in the sky! And yet the Magi followed a new and different star, which for them shone all the more brightly.... They listened to a voice deep within, which led them to follow that light. It was the voice of the Holy Spirit, who works in all people.

—Homily, Epiphany of the Lord, January 6, 2016



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