

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.

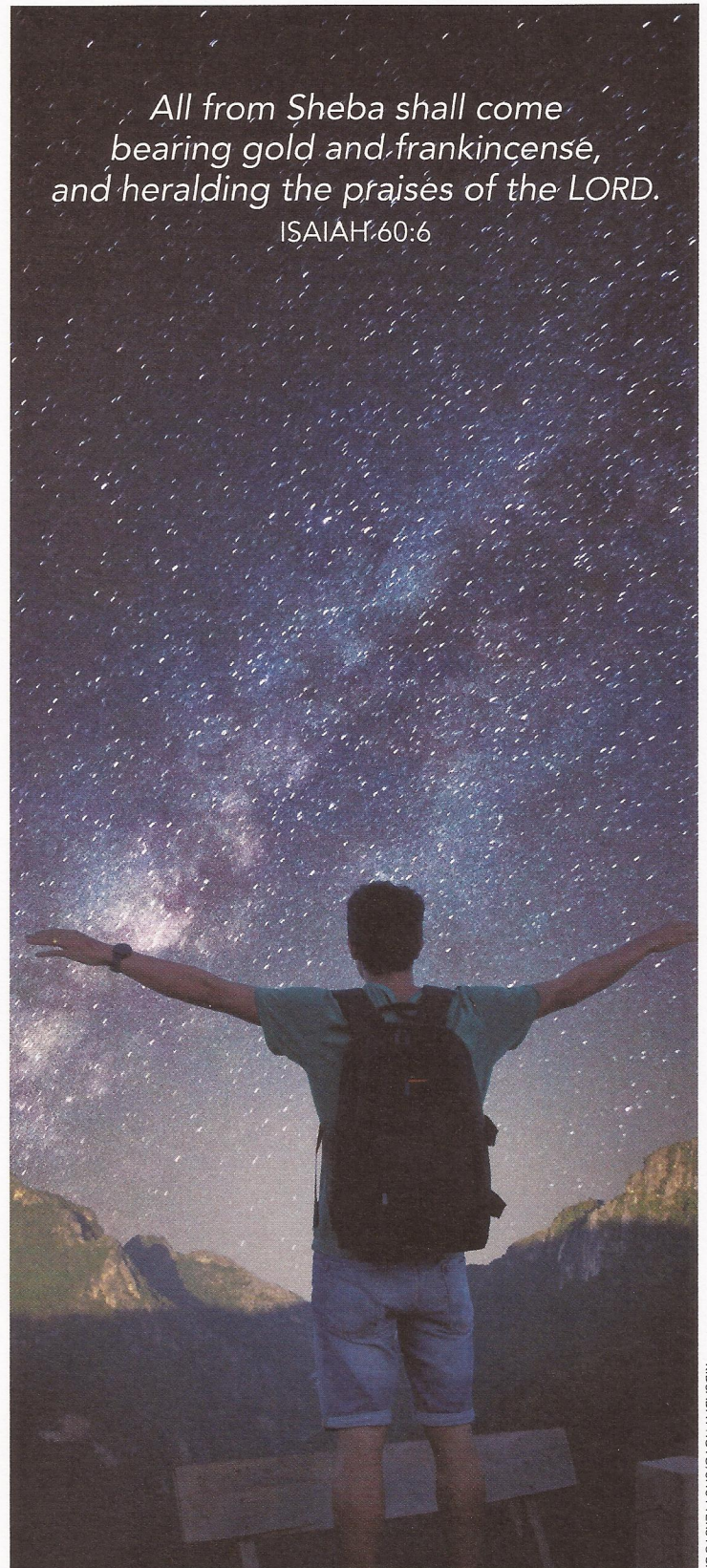
The people of Jesus' time were not ignorant of these prophecies. They knew what they meant and to whom they referred. Consequently, when the stargazers who saw the light inquired about it, those to whom they inquired knew where to send them. So what was the problem? Why were those men in Jerusalem not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

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

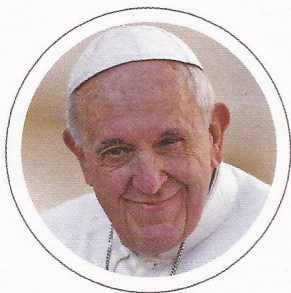


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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

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



Immaculate Conception Parish Family



160th YEAR OF SERVICE

307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361

Fr. Paul Hartley, Pastor | Deacon Wayne Korte | Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | 573.564.2375 Parish Office

imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mcicparish.org | Office Hours M-Th 9:00am-3pm **Bulletin Deadline: Wed. 9:00 AM**

Ms. Dana Schroeder, School Principal | Judy Cobb, School Secretary | immaculateconception@icschool-mc.org | 573.564.2679 - School Office

Society of St. Vincent DePaul - 573.835.3631

Parish Council Members: Beth Cobb- President; Dennis Benney-Vice-President; Secretary-Open, Laura Yelton, Vicki Parker, & Mary Pottebaum

JANUARY 3, 2021 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Mass Intentions	
Monday, January 4th	NO MASS
Tuesday, January 5th	5:30 Mass - Montgomery City +James Michaelis
Wednesday, January 6th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, January 7th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +Claire Benney
Friday, January 8th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +John Fiorini
Saturday, January 9th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City - Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 10th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg
	10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +Mark Davis



July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021			
Church/School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
November 2020	\$39,508.62	\$41,463.34	-\$1,954.72
Fiscal Year July - Nov. 2020-21	\$237,783.24	\$231,118.93	\$6,664.31
Needed Weekly - \$ 11,835.50			
December 6th - \$ 19,941.22			
December 13th - \$ 6,016.90			
December 20th - \$ 6,840.00			
December 27th - \$ 8,396.00			

Last Week's Envelopes: 54 of 179

With God all things are possible

(No Mass if there is a funeral or school has been cancelled.)

Parish Membership: Call the parish office to register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 to 4:10 PM Saturday or call for an appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism: Celebrated during Mass or at another arranged time. Call the parish office to set up an appointment to meet with Fr. Hartley.

Sacrament of Marriage: Call the office at least six months prior to the date you would like to get married to make arrangements and set a date.

To Become a Catholic: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall and sacramental initiation normally occurs at the Easter Vigil. Call for details.

Immaculate Conception Parish Mission

To proclaim the good news of the Gospel; to build community among the parishioners that we may journey in our faith together, giving witness to love and unity; to serve the needs of others in whatever form they may exist in our midst and to celebrate the realities of our faith together.

Who is an Active Parishioner?

- Registered in the parish
- Regularly participates in Mass and the sacraments
- Supports the parish financially
- Annually completes a stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure form and fulfills that commitment

Liturgical Ministers for January 9th & 10th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Lector	<u>No ministries will be assigned at this time.</u>	
Children's Liturgy		
Communion Ministers		
Ministers of Hospitality		
Servers		
Gift Bearers		
Money Counters		

Bishop McKnight's January prayer intention for our Local Church is:

For those seeking employment; that through the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker, they may find dignified work in supporting themselves and their family.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, January 4th	NO MASS
Tuesday, January 5th	5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City
Wednesday, January 6th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, January 7th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, January 8th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Saturday, January 9th	5:00 PM - Mass - Montgomery City
Sunday, January 10th	8:00 AM - Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM - Mass - Montgomery City

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, January 4th	7:00 PM - St. Vincent DePaul Mtg. 7:00 PM - RCIA
Tuesday, January 5th	
Wednesday, January 6th	6:00 PM - Home & School Meeting 7:30 PM - Knights of Columbus Mtg.
Thursday, January 7th	8:00 AM - Prayer Partner Mass 5:00 PM - Parish Council & Finance Committee Meeting
Friday, January 8th	
Saturday, January 9th	5:00 PM - Rite of Acceptance at Mass
Sunday, January 10th	9:30 AM - 3rd/4th Grade PSR Class 6:00 PM - 5th/6th Grade PSR Class 6:00 PM - Confirmation Class

Wedding Anniversary



Congratulations to the following couple(s) as they celebrate their special day!

*Greg & Kate Healy - 10 years of marriage on January 9th
Matt & Karen Milner - 27 years of marriage on January 9th*

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvement	\$ 585.00
Capital Campaign (Cornerstone)	\$ 0.00
Special Collections:	
Holydays	\$ 10.00
Christmas	\$ 1,165.00
Seminary	\$ 690.00

Administration & Finance Commission

Bard Arens has concluded his term on the Administration & Finance Commission. A special Thank you Brad for your dedication in serving our Parish Community.



NEW MASS SCHEDULE Effective January 1, 2021

Weekend Schedule

Saturdays: 5:00 PM in Montgomery City
Sundays: 8:00 AM in Jonesburg
10:00 AM in Montgomery City

Weekday Schedule

Monday – NO MASS
Tuesday – 5:30 PM in Montgomery City
Wednesday – 8:30 AM in Jonesburg
Thursday – 8:00 AM in Montgomery City
Friday – 8:00 AM in Montgomery City

Confession Schedule

Saturdays: 3:30 PM to 4:10 PM in Montgomery City
Sundays: 7:15 AM to 7:50 AM in Jonesburg



Seminary Formation and Priest Retirement Collection

Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$1,070.00 for Seminary Formation and Priest Retirement fund. Our assessment is \$1,853.00, so we fell short \$783.00. If you would like to contribute to this collection, there is still time!



Capital Campaign Information

The Capital Campaign Committee would like to share our current totals on expenses and income. We certainly appreciate your generosity in a crazy year like we have had.

Total in pledges and donations: \$200,000

Expenses to date:

Postage - \$155.00
Max Care (evaluation of mold/water damage to basement) -\$90.00
Tuck Pointing - \$26,500.00
Roof - \$39,000.00

Total expenses: \$65,755.00

We have been paid \$20,038.19 in an insurance claim on the roof and are waiting for the remaining \$4,716.55.

Our actual bank balance is now \$87,524.19. Of that balance, \$20,000.00 was donated specifically for work on the altars. So our working balance is **\$67,524.19**.

We hope to move forward on our other two outside projects as soon as weather allows in the spring. New concrete and a new church entrance are next on the list. Once we have completed the other two outside projects, that balance will be nearing 0. As we move forward with our campaign, we hope more of you will continue to consider contributions towards our Capital Campaign. We are proud of our progress but have a long way to go. Again, we appreciate your prayerful consideration.

Happy New Year to each of you.

Immaculate Conception School News



January 4th - School Resumes
January 6th - Home & School Meeting at 6:00 PM, KC Hall
January 8th - K-8th Christmas Celebrations

ECLC Happenings

Thank you to everyone who brought in gifts for the ECLC classroom. We really appreciate it! May you have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

IC Scrip Program



Whenever you purchase a gift card from the IC School Scrip Program, the school receives a percentage of the purchase price. The percentage will vary from one company to another but there is no extra charge to you. A \$25 card costs you \$25. Why not let some of your money that you would spend anyway go to a good cause? There are a few ways to obtain the cards. You may purchase physical cards at the school or after Masses on the first full weekend of the month. **You may also go online to www.ShopWithScrip.com to create an account to purchase e-cards, reload select cards, or place a large order for physical cards. If you have any questions, call Gina Smith, coordinator, 573-289-8635.**

Card Shower for Fr. Austin

Since our parish was not able to give Fr. Austin a proper "send off" to his new assignment, a card shower was suggested to thank him for his service to our parish and wish him well. If you would like to participate, you can drop your card off at the office, the basket in the back of church, or mail it to him at: St. Joseph Parish, 408 E. Kellett St., Martinsburg, MO 65264.

Catholic Stewardship Appeal

Update

2021 - \$12,000.00 Parish Goal



<u>Committed</u>	<u>\$ Received</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>	<u>Over(Under)</u>
\$8,765.00	\$5,230.00	43.58	(\$6,770.00)



**May you and your family be
blessed with a Healthy,
Happy New Year!**

Events Around the Community (See Flyers if available in the church vestibule.)

January 15-17, 2021 - ICS Home & School Crop (Scrapbooking/
Craft Event)
January 24, 2021 - Knight of Columbus Sausage Dinner



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BETTER
TOGETHER

A Message from Bishop McKnight

Let us continue to pray for all affected by the pandemic, especially those who have died, those who are ill and their loved ones, our health care professionals, our school teachers and administrators, and all "essential workers." Please join Catholics throughout our diocese in praying to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our patroness, for protection.

Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Protection from the Coronavirus

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you" took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

V. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

R. Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Please keep in your prayers the following people:

Residents of St. Andrews New Florence Nursing & Care Center, Hwy 19 & Picnic Road, New Florence, MO 63363 - Susan Ryan

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Please pray for: Nick Schneider, John Goodwin, Marlene Cunningham, Mackenzie Hagemeier, Julie Thielmeier, Don Benney, Susan Schipper, Valerie Readey Neudecker, Angela Witthaus Keller, Karen Clark, Gina Smith, Virginia Cochran, Jo Scott, Bobby Cochran, Mary Hertel, Joshua Cochran, Anita Jones, Jim Cochran, Jr., Jim Cochran, Sr., and Lynn Cunningham Duncan.



Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces. Corey Stulce, Tanner Cobb, Travis Thebeau, Jacob Merz, Daniel Lohmann, Jared Korman, Tom Kraust, Tim O'Fallon, Brandon Benney, Gary Frey, John Burce, Chris Burce, Jacob Jones, Matt Vedder, Michel James, Michael Adams, and John Martin.





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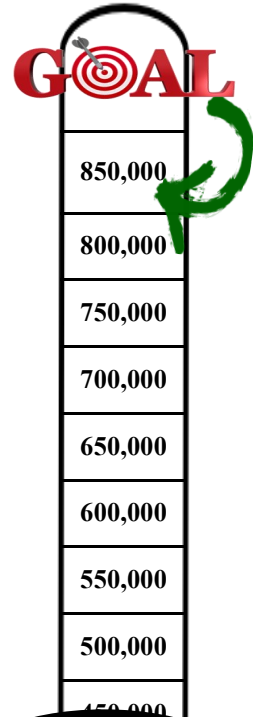
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