

# Bulletin for the Catholic Parishes of Oklee, Grygla, and Goodridge

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## 9 Things You Need to Know About Epiphany

The magi followed the star and found Baby Jesus. What are we to make of this mysterious event? On Jan. 6 (or in the United States, the first Sunday after Jan. 1) the Church celebrates the feast of “Epiphany.” This feast commemorates the mysterious visit of the magi to the Baby Jesus. Who were the magi? What led them to visit Jesus? And what lessons should we — and shouldn’t we! — learn from this incident? Here are nine things you should know...

1. What does the word “Epiphany” mean? “Epiphany” means “manifestation.” It comes from Greek roots that mean “to show, to display” (phainein) and “on, to” (epi-). An epiphany is thus a time when something is shown, displayed, or manifested to an audience.
2. What is the feast of the Epiphany about? According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. the great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi’s coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that “the full number of the nations” now takes its “place in the family of the patriarchs”, and acquires Israelitica dignitas (is made “worthy of the heritage of Israel”) [CCC 528].

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

NOTE: If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual misconduct on the part of a priest, deacon, or individual representing the Diocese of Crookston, its parishes, or its schools, your first call should be to law enforcement. Red Lake County Sheriff at 218-253-2996, Pennington County Sheriff at 218-681-6161, Marshall County Sheriff at 218-745-5411. In addition, the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is available at 218-281-7895 (24-hour confidential number).

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Oklee	Sunday	01/07/24	8:00 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	01/07/24	10:00 a.m.	Tim & Paulette Kassa
Grygla	Sunday	01/07/24	11:45 a.m.	Cooper Tietz
Oklee	Monday	01/08/24	8:00 a.m.	Karen Hammers
Goodridge	Tuesday	01/09/24	5:00 p.m.	†Jim Mutnansky Family
Oklee	Wednesday	01/10/24	8:00 a.m.	Richard Rolfson
Oklee	Thursday	01/11/24	8:00 a.m.	Rick Dulka
Oklee	Sunday	01/14/24	8:00 a.m.	†Buzz Marvin
Goodridge	Sunday	01/14/24	10:00 a.m.	Cubby & Jane Storlie
Grygla	Sunday	01/14/24	11:45 a.m.	For the People

## CLERGY COLUMN

### Happy Lord's Day!

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. As Christians, of course, we believe that the Person of Jesus is powerful - He is the second Person of the Holy Trinity who has conquered sin and death by his own death and resurrection. All who claim allegiance to him share in this victory. We also believe, though, that his name is powerful. St. Paul says to the Philippians, *"God greatly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Philippians 2:9-11). We can call upon the name of Jesus in all kinds of situations: in times of temptation and suffering, for assistance; in times of joy and gladness, to give thanks; in times of praying for others, for the grace of conversion and healing; and in times of sadness and grief, for comfort. We can also call on the name of Jesus when we're having a difficult time with forgiveness: **"In the name of Jesus, I forgive (name) for (what was done/said)."** Powerful.

This month always splits the seasons of Christmas and Ordinary Time. The Christmas season goes through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (this year on January 8th) and then Ordinary Time begins until Ash Wednesday. There are a couple of big Solemnities during the Christmas season, which we've already celebrated: the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother (1st) of God is usually a Holy Day of Obligation, but this year it wasn't because it landed on a Monday; and today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany, traditionally celebrated on the 6th but now moved to the Sunday following the 1st. These are great celebrations in Jesus' early life.

Later in the month we also have some excellent saints and other feast days. My personal favorite in January is the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on the 25th. This is one of the most monumental conversions in history. The moment is recorded in three different spots in the Bible, the first being in Acts chapter 9. After this conversion, Paul goes on to many years of being the great missionary Apostle of Jesus, making disciples, converting unbelievers, writing letters, founding churches...there isn't a more influential saint who has ever lived. You might not be aware of it, but your own life has surely been affected by St. Paul, even if just by the fact that your current pastor loves his letters. :)

The month also includes Saints Timothy and Titus (26th), two disciples who were converted by St. Paul and who were named bishops in early Christian communities. We also have another very early saint in St. Agnes (21st), who was a virgin and martyr in the early Church. Toward the end of January we have perhaps the most intelligent saint who has ever lived in St. Thomas Aquinas (28th). The Church has received so much doctrine from St. Thomas Aquinas who wrote and taught so much theology. Still, at the end of his life he was able to look back at all of his work and say, **"It's just straw"** compared to knowing Jesus and sharing eternity with him. Beautiful! There are still more saints to mention, but I've run out of room. May they all pray for us!

May the Lord give you his peace!  
Fr. Bryan

Pray for our parishioners who have been away from the sacraments.

Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all of us.





**Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls is inviting you to a Mercy Hour with Bishop Cozzens, Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 3:00 PM.** Mercy Hours are services of healing for marriages and families. - married, single, divorced, widowed – every person belongs to a family and has a place in this experience. Mercy Hours include exposition/adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a talk by Bishop Cozzens, prayers and intercessions, music and prayer stations all culminating in an intimate moment of a Eucharistic encounter offered for you as an individual, a couple or as a family. Saint Joseph's is located at 112 Edward St NE, Red Lake Falls, MN.

3. When is Epiphany celebrated? This varies from country to country. In some countries, Epiphany is a holy day of obligation (Canon Can. 1246 §1). Where that is the case, it is celebrated on Jan. 6. In the United States, Epiphany is not a holy day of obligation, and its celebration is transferred to the first Sunday after Jan. 1 (source).

4. Why is Epiphany connected with Jan. 6? Pope Benedict explains: It is hard to say how far back the beginnings of the Christmas feast go. It assumed its definitive form in the third century. At about the same time the feast of the Epiphany emerged in the East on January 6 and the feast of Christmas in the West on December 25. The two feasts had different emphases because of the different religious and cultural contexts in which they arose, but essentially their meaning was the same: the celebration of the birth of Christ as the dawning of the new light, the true sun, of history [The Spirit of the Liturgy , pp. 106-107]. Eventually, however, the emphasis on Jan. 6 shifted — particularly in the west (and in some parts of the east) — to reflect manifestations of Christ beside that which occurred at his birth (namely, those that occurred at the coming of the magi, at his baptism, and at the wedding feast of Cana)

5. Who were the Magi? Pope Benedict explains: In the relevant sources, the concept of Magi (mágoi) encompasses a wide range of meanings, from the wholly positive to the wholly negative. To the first of the four principal meanings, Magi are understood to be members of the Persian priestly caste. In Hellenistic culture they were regarded as “rulers of a distinctive religion,” but at the same time their religious ideas were thought to be “strongly influenced by philosophy,” so that the Greek philosophers have often been portrayed as their pupils (cf. Delling, “mágos,” p. 356). No doubt this view contains some not easily definable element of truth: after all, Aristotle himself spoke of the philosophical work of the Magi (cf. ibid., p. 357). The other meanings listed by Gerhard Delling are as follows: possessors and users of supernatural knowledge and ability, magicians, and finally deceivers and seducers. . . . For the Magi in Matthew 2, it is the first of the four meanings that applies, at least in a broad sense. Even if they were not exactly members of the Persian priesthood, they were nevertheless custodians of religious and philosophical knowledge that had developed in that area and continued to be cultivated there [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives].

6. Why did the magi come to see Jesus? They apparently had material of a prophetic nature (some have suggested that they got it from an eastern Jewish community, such as the one in Babylon) that allowed them to identify the birth of the new “king of the Jews” astronomically. They may have been especially motivated to come see this king of the Jews since there was an expectation at the time that a universal ruler would shortly come from Israel. Pope Benedict explains: We know from [the Roman historians] Tacitus and Suetonius that speculation was rife at the time that the ruler of the world would emerge from Judah — an expectation that [the Jewish historian] Flavius Josephus applied to [the Roman emperor] Vespasian, consequently finding his way into the latter's favor (cf. De Bello Judaico iii, 399–408) [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives].

7. Why did they go to Herod? Probably, because they assumed the newborn king would be a son of Herod — the current “king of the Jews.” Pope Benedict comments: It is quite natural that their search for the newborn king of the Jews should take them to Israel's royal city and to the king's palace. That, surely, is where the future king must have been born [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives]. This, of course, played into Herod's paranoia for his throne and led to the slaughter of the innocents.

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St Francis Xavier's	St Ann's	St Clement's
Sunday, January 7, 2024 Sacristan: Margaret Buer Lector:: Paul Cyr Counters: Anne & Dolores	Sunday, January 7, 2024 Lector:: Paula Counters: Deb & Maggie	Sunday, January 7, 2024 Lector:: Gary
Sunday, January 14, 2024 Sacristan: Mary Lynn Lector:: Jacob Counters: Margaret & Lora	Sunday, January 14, 2024 Lector:: Karyl Counters: Audrey & Marie	Sunday, January 14, 2024 Lector:: Robbie
Sunday, January 21, 2024 Sacristan: Emily Lector:: Mary Lynn Counters: Deb & Jo	Sunday, January 21, 2024 Lector:: Carol Counters: Deb & Maggie	Sunday, January 21, 2024 Lector:: Dawn
	Sunday, January 28, 2024 Lector:: Paula Counters: Marie & Audrey	Sunday, January 28, 2024 Lector:: Jim C.
		Sunday, February 4, 2024 Lector:: Laurie

8. What was the star? It is hard to know. Some question whether the star was a natural phenomenon at all, pointing out that it seems to lead the magi to Jerusalem, disappear, and then reappear and hover over the house in Bethlehem. But this isn't what Matthew says. He does not say that the star led them to Jerusalem. They merely report that they had seen the new king's star "in the east" (Matthew 2:2; that is, back in their homeland), which is why they came to Jerusalem. What he does say is: When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was [Matthew 2:9]. This does not necessarily mean that the star appeared to move in the sky in a way that stars don't ordinarily. Departing from Jerusalem at night, they may have noted on the short (6 mile) trip to Bethlehem that the star was in front of them in the sky — a coincidence arranged by divine providence. Then, when they got to the house, they noticed it was directly over the house — again, a coincidence arranged by divine providence but not necessarily an unusual motion for a star. Thus the question of whether it could have been a natural phenomenon remains. Pope Benedict remarks: Nevertheless, the question whether or not this was an astronomically identifiable and classifiable celestial apparition was not going to go away. It would be wrong to dismiss it a priori on account of the theological character of the story. With the emergence of modern astronomy, developed by believing Christians, the question of this star has been revisited [Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives Various proposals have been made, including for rare astronomical phenomena like the conjunction of certain planets in certain constellations, or supernovas. Which of these, if any, might have been the Bethlehem star depends on precisely when Jesus was born, which is too complex a discussion for this post.

9. Does this mean astrology is okay? No. As the Catechism explains: All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to "unveil" the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology . . . contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone [CCC 2116]. God may have arranged for certain signs to attend the birth of his Son, but this is the opposite of what astrology involves. Pope Benedict explains: The Fathers have emphasized a further aspect. Gregory Nazianzen says that at the very moment when the Magi adored Jesus, astrology came to an end, as the stars from then on traced the orbit determined by Christ (cf. Poem. Dogm. V 55–64; PG 37, 428–429). In the ancient world, the heavenly bodies were regarded as divine powers, determining men's fate. The planets bear the names of deities. According to the concept prevailing at the time, they somehow ruled over the world, and man had to try to appease these powers. Biblical monotheism soon brought about a clear demythologization: with marvelous sobriety, the creation account describes the sun and the moon—the great divinities of the pagan world —as lights that God placed in the sky alongside the entire firmament of stars (cf. Gen 1:16f.). On entering the Gentile world, the Christian faith had to grapple once again with the question of the astral divinities. Hence in the letters he wrote from prison to the Ephesians and the Colossians, Paul emphasizes that the risen Christ has conquered all the powers and forces in the heavens, and that he reigns over the entire universe.

[9 Things You Need to Know About Epiphany | National Catholic Register \(ncregister.com\)](https://www.ncregister.com/9-Things-You-Need-to-Know-About-Epiphany)

#### Recently Deceased Loved Ones

†Iona Berry  
†Kim Johs  
†Elias Abboud  
†Audrey Martell  
†Harold Cyr  
†Judie Hendrickson  
†Alden Morinville  
†Kathleen Erickson  
†Joseph Cullen  
†Laura Nadeau  
†Lucy Christianson  
†Vernon Rogalla  
†Donovan Stoneouse  
†Adelore Plante  
†Richard Perreault  
†Cecelia Christianson  
†Corlan Magnell Klein-  
schmidt  
†Judy Zavoral  
†Dean Lambert  
†Richard Bronken  
†Jerome Carriere  
†Gary Paquin  
†Gayle Radniecki Grossman  
†Delores Longtin  
†Lorraine Cote  
†Lorraine LaCoursiere  
†Tony Weber  
†Matt Genova  
†Elaine Radniecki  
†Richard Rolfson  
†Gary LaCoursiere

#### Pray For Those Who Are Sick

Delton Sebenaler  
Donnie Tougas  
Kenneth LaCoursiere  
Shirley Dessellier  
Michael Bachand  
Annette LaCoursiere  
Debra Olson  
Ambrose Beaudoin  
Steve Sebenaler  
Don LaCoursiere  
Cindy Determan  
Marie Adams  
Grace Rundell  
MaryAnn Lambert  
Bailey Herried Drotts  
George Pittman  
Bambi Lambert  
Doris Dessellier  
Danielle Swanson  
Mark Stromberg  
Sylvia Remick Morey  
Penny Kalar  
Jo Lambert  
Tony Radniecki  
Bob Radniecki  
Darren Tougas  
Rick Dulkan  
Richard Bourque  
Jude Syvertson  
Mary Radniecki  
Dave Zavoral  
Bernadette Lambert-  
Daymunde  
Josie Rodriguez  
Jake Martell  
Roy Rystad  
Dave Longtin, Shorty  
Bonnie Cote  
Joyce Tougas  
Brad Gunderson  
Brian Peterson  
Jim Carriere  
Antoinette Holtusen  
Roger Lambert  
Theresa Mutnansky  
Carolyn Pittman  
Shirley Cyr  
Cliff Melby  
Jack Miller  
Mike Dessellier  
Joel Schmitz  
Lacy Knott  
Jim Knott  
Julie Paquin  
Adam Cwikla  
Tyler Larson (deployed)  
Theresa Sorenson

## TITHING

### St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

Dec 31, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$2920.00
Christmas Collection	\$100.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$105.00</u>
Total	\$ 3125.00

### St. Ann's in Goodridge

Dec 31, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$480.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$15.00</u>
Total	\$495.00

### St. Clement's in Grygla

Dec 25, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$1750.00
Christmas	\$1050.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$877.22</u>
Total	\$3677.22

Dec 31, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$605.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$65.00</u>
Total	\$670.00