

## Do You See What I See?

**T**oday'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



KIOSADA PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK

## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

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

**Pastor:** Rev. RanJan Cletus

**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 3, 2020—FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Today the child born on Christmas is revealed to be the long-awaited king of the Jews. As the priests and scribes interpret the prophecies in today's Gospel, He is the ruler expected from the line of King David, whose greatness is to reach to the ends of the earth (see Micah 5:1-3; 2 Samuel 5:2).

Jesus is found with His mother, as David's son, Solomon, was enthroned alongside his Queen Mother (see 1 Kings 2:19). And the magi come to pay Him tribute, as once kings and queens came to Solomon (see 1 Kings 10:2,25). His coming evokes promises that extend back to Israel's beginnings.

Centuries before, an evil king seeking to destroy Moses and the Israelites had summoned Balaam, who came from the East with two servants. But Balaam refused to curse Israel, and instead prophesied that a star and royal staff would arise out of Israel and be exalted above all the nations (see Numbers 22:21; 23:7; 24:7, 17).

This is the star the three magi follow. And like Balaam, they too refuse to be tangled in an evil king's scheme. Their pilgrimage is a sign—that the prophecies in today's First Reading and Psalm are being fulfilled. They come from afar, guided by God's light, bearing the wealth of nations, to praise Israel's God. We celebrate today our own entrance into the family of God, and the fulfillment of God's plan that all nations be united with Israel as co-heirs to His Fatherly blessings, as Paul reveals in today's Epistle.

We too must be guided by the root of David, the bright morning star (see Revelation 22:16), and the light of the world (see Isaiah 42:6; John 8:12). As the magi adored Him in the manger, let us renew our vow to serve Him, placing our gifts—our intentions and talents—on the altar in this Eucharist. We must offer to Him our very lives in thanksgiving. No lesser gift will suffice for this newborn King.



**12/24: Christmas Eve Offering: \$1,894.00**

**12/27: Children's Offering: \$2.00**

**12/27: Holy Family: \$150.00**

**12/25: Christmas Day Offering: \$260.00**

**12/27: Stewardship: Sunday Offering: \$2,325.00**

**Thank you for Your Generosity!**

**Bulletin Information:** **MARAK:** Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

**CYCLONE:** Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

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



**Ministries for January 10, 2021**

**Rosary:** Raymond Tomek

**Eucharistic Minister:** Jeannine Dohnalik

**Offertory:** REP

**Lector:** REP

**Ushers:** James Teague and Charles Teague

**Altar Servers:** Brady, Claire, Kate K.



**Vigil Sanctuary Light:** Dec. 28th– Jan. 3rd: John Dohnalik by James & Jeannine Dohnalik

**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 to all those who have been affected by the Covid-19 Virus and for the following: Edward Brenek, Jr., Marilyn June Gonzalez, Jordan Young, Doris Matocha, and Monsignor Victor Goertz. Prayers are powerful! To be added to the prayer chain: Please contact:

**Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—[Slavik@farm-market.net](mailto:Slavik@farm-market.net)**

**MARAK MASSES — January 3-10, 2021**

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today– 1/3	10:15am	+ Daniel Hromcik by Joyce Vaculin + John & Eleanor Motyka by Tom & Julie Motyka
1/6—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Joe Vansa by Terry & Barbara McNeill + Ann Morris by Deloris Obermiller
1/10—Sunday	10:15am	+ Mr. & Mrs. Willie Moraw & Robert Moraw by Kay Moraw + Albert Michalka by Arvell & Liz Jungmann

**CYCLONE MASSES —January 3-10, 2021**

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today – 1/3	8:15am	+ Scot Eixman by Monica Mikeska
1/5—Tuesday	7:00am	+ Robert Dach by Mallory & Barbara Miller
1/7—Thursday	7:00am	+ Michelle Crews by Bill & Carol Smetana
1/8—Friday	7:00am	+ Walter & Sylvester Streng Families by Walter & Kathleen Lutkenhaus
1/9—Saturday Vigil	5:30pm	+ Sharon Fletcher by Monica Mikeska
1/10—Sunday	8:15am	+ Royella Roessler by Nelda & Larry Fritz & Louise Thompson

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

- **TODAY:** Second Collection for Building and Maintenance Fund.
- **ALTAR SOCIETY:** 2021 Altar Society dues of \$5.00 are due in January. All ladies of the parish are encouraged to join. 2021 Vigil Candle Memorials for Loved ones are being scheduled now. Cost is \$5.00 for the week. Please contact Merlene Slavik for more information. Make checks payable to St. Ann's Altar Society.
- **CHURCH OFFERINGS:** If you would like to have a statement regarding the yearly offerings that you made for 2020, please call or text Patsy Gaines at 254-482-0570.
- **THANKS:** St. Anne's Altar Society thanks those who helped decorate the church sanctuary with the tree and Bethlehem Scene, donations for Memorial Poinsettias decorating the altars and including the music in preparation of this beautiful season of depicting our Lord's Birth..... A list of Memorials are in the church entry.

# 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?**

**C**atholics 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](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



ADORATION OF THE MAGI BY BARTOLOME ESTEYAN, MARI LOU WIERZBA

## 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



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