

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



ADORATION OF THE MAGI BY BARTOLOMEO ESTEBAN MURILLO/WIKIPEDIA

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

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

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.

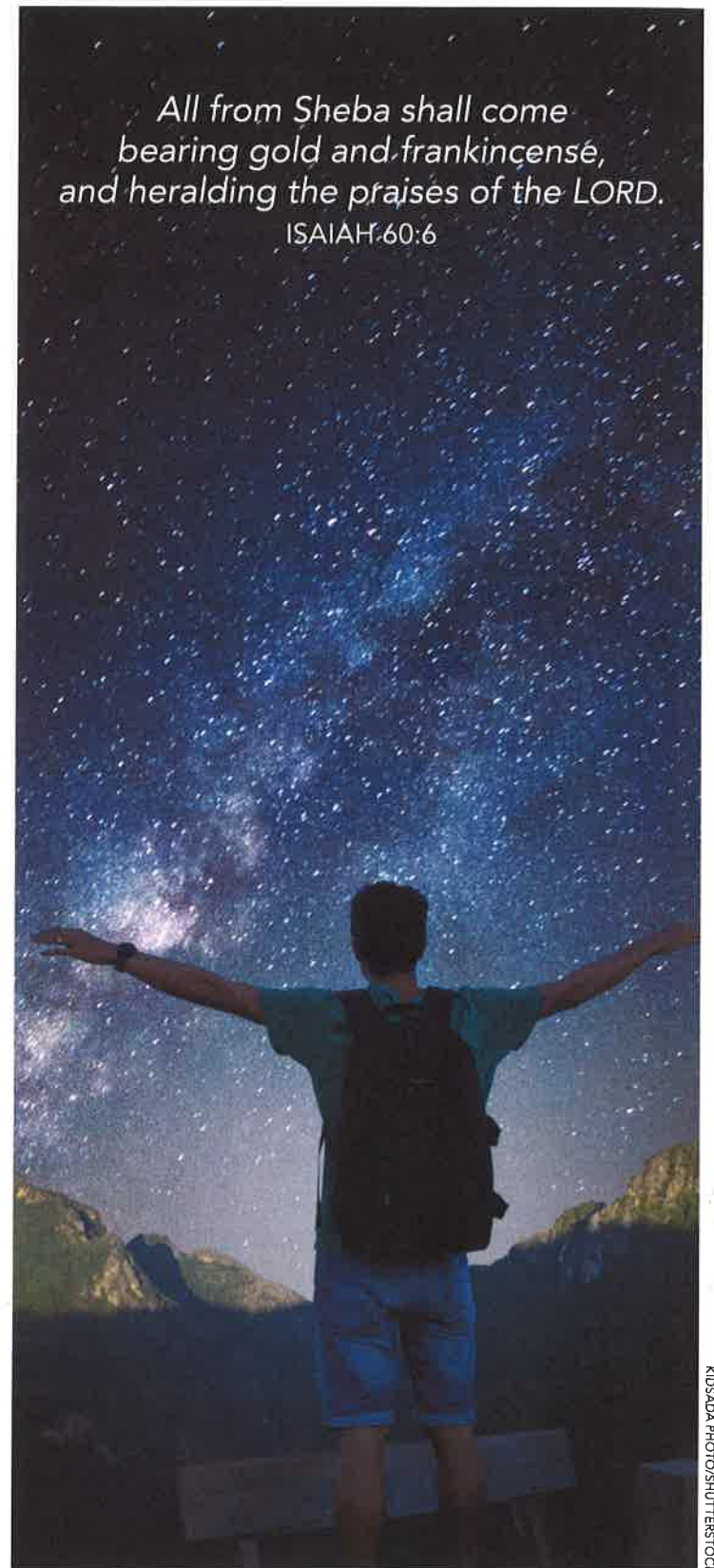
The people of Jesus' time were not ignorant of these prophecies. They knew what they meant and to whom they referred. Consequently, when the stargazers who saw the light inquired about it, those to whom they inquired knew where to send them. So what was the problem? Why were those men in Jerusalem not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

KISSADA PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smassh Catholics.org

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words, the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. — *Pius Parsch*

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated either on January 6 or, according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Yet, as the antiphon for the *Magnificat* at Second Vespers reminds us, three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honor Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles (*Ceremonial of Bishops*). It is customary to replace the images of the shepherds at the crib with the three Magi and their gifts. — *Ceremonies of the Liturgical Year*, Msgr. Peter J. Elliott, Ignatius Press.

The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Savior. (*Catholicculture.org*)

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. C. P. Varghese
Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
01/04	Monday	No Mass Today		
01/05	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Don Loxterkamp
01/06	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
01/07	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	Mary Alber
01/08	Friday	12.00 PM	Bayard	John & Eleanor DeFoe
01/09	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Veronica Reilly
01/10	Sunday	800 AM	Bayard	Intentions of Ernest & Lucy Vera
01/10	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Don Loxterkamp

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MASS TIME
Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Online Evening Prayer:
January 5, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$570.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$5.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 575.00
MASS STIPEND	
INSURANCES	\$200.00
CANDLES	\$27.31
CHRISTMAS	\$1350.00
TOTAL	\$2,152.31
BUILDING FUND	
HEAT/AC	
DONATIONS	\$3,300.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
BALANCE	(\$2,746.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME
Friday — 12:00 PM
Sunday — 8:00 AM

Online Evening Prayer:
January 5, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$175.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$125.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 300.00
MASS STIPEND	
CHRISTMAS	\$1,560.00
TOTAL	\$1,860.00
BUILDING FUND	
DONATIONS	\$2,915.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
BALANCE	(\$1,992.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME
Thursday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5:30 PM

Online Evening Prayer:
January 5, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$615.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$13.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 628.00
RETIRED RELIGIOUS	\$200.00
FLOWERS	\$45.00
CHRISTMAS	\$1,020.00
TOTAL	\$1,893.00
BUILDING FUND	
DONATIONS	\$3,086.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
BALANCE	(\$3,050.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

