



Epiphany of the Lord
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Hamburg, Iowa January 3, 2021

Living in an age well before the internet or social media, the magi from the East relied upon a single star as a sign that a king had been born. The heavens revealed to these learned foreigners that a matter of great import had occurred in Judea. Today we celebrate the revelation of the birth of our Lord to the outside world, to us. The light over the little town of Bethlehem has revealed the light of the world to the ends of the earth.



Cycle B -- Reflections on the Readings

Solemnity of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6;
Matthew 2:1-12

Theme: **Becoming bearers of Christ to the world**

As an old man was walking down the beach, he noticed a young girl ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. He asked her why she was doing this. The little girl explained that a starfish stranded on the beach when the tide went out would die if left in the morning sun. 'But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish,' said the old man. 'How can your efforts make any difference?' The little girl looked down the stretch of beach at all the starfish and then stared at the one in her hand. As she pitched it back into the saltwater waves, she answered, 'It makes a difference to this one.' So, it is with every human being. Every person is infinitely precious in the eyes of God in their unique human dignity. Therefore, he sent his son Jesus as the savior of all humanity. This is what the feast of Epiphany celebrates.

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek meaning "appearing or to show".

The Epiphany of the Lord is about revelation: the manifestation of a God who cares in the person of the Son who became man and dwelt among us.

Matthew writes at a critical moment in the life of his community. Many Gentiles were entering the community, but many Jews were leaving it (see Matthew 21:42). To show that the admission of the Gentiles is part of God's plan, he tells the story of the astrologers. The pagan astrologers are the first to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews; the Jewish leadership rejects this King. The faith of the gentile astrologers is meant to challenge the Jewish defectors.

Continued.....

The Magi and what they stand for

The magi represent all those Gentiles who will enter the Christian Church while the Jews, who possess the Scriptures, reject Jesus. Believers are first and foremost recipients of the light who are challenged to penetrate darkness.

Today's readings understand community members as the bearers of gifts to others. To share one's gift is to overcome the darkness and usher in the light.

Determination of the magi

Tradition gives the names of the magi as *Gaspar, Balthazar, and Melchior*. It should be noted that opinions vary regarding the place of origin of the Magi. I won't go into detail about their origin.

They leave their homes, and they start searching. They are looking for something. What? They do not know. But they believe it is something great and wonderful. They leave with the hope to find it. Travelling in those days was not easy. They leave the security of their own land; they set out on the road to an unknown destination.

We see them keeping their eyes on the star – the sign. We hear them asking from people, from the king himself. Nothing stops them. They have set their hearts on finding what they are looking for.

Breathing the air of hatred and suspicion instead of Joy

The magi came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead, they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning King – a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Remember, Herod killed all the infants less than two years old.

Friends, we too know the true facts concerning Christ, his mission, and his present and future kingdom. Continued.....

Like the leaders of the Jews of his day, we could become absorbed in the affairs of this life and the quest for wealth, pleasure, and power that we will ignore him.

These three men we hear of in today's gospel represent us. We, like the magi are searching for some sign. A sign that will show us where we can find what we are looking for here on earth.

And what is this we are all looking for? We want a good life. We want to be in good health. To be on the right track, **what you are looking for should lead you to Christ.**

The three wise men did not find the star in a beautiful house of a king; they only stopped there to ask for information, not in the home of a rich and powerful person. They were led to a poor shelter where they found a child, the prince of this world who brings light into our lives.

Dear friends, we are still at the beginning of a new year, and like the Three Wise Men at the beginning of their journey, we do not know WHAT it will bring to us. But we know WHERE it will bring us to. If only we allow God to lead us, it will bring us to Himself, to the Savior who has come to us.

The wise men saw the star and understood its meaning, their journey was purposeful, and they were committed. Like the magi who followed the star and found Christ. May you also find the Lord when your pilgrimage is ended. Shalom!

**“Ask Him to take away your resistance
to change and replace it with the thrill
of possibility.”**

JANE TRUFANT HARVEY

Ask Him



Motivation for the week

Frog in a Milk Container

A frog was hopping around a farmyard when it decided to investigate the barn. Being somewhat careless, and maybe a little too curious, he ended up falling into a pail half-filled with fresh milk.

As he swam about attempting to reach the top of the pail, he found that the sides of the pail were too high and steep to reach.

He tried to stretch his back legs to push off the bottom of the pail but found it too deep. But this frog was determined not to give up, and he continued to struggle.

He kicked and squirmed and kicked and squirmed, until at last, all his churning about in the milk had turned the milk into a big hunk of butter. The butter was now solid enough for him to climb onto and get out of the pail!

Lesson: “**Never Give Up!**”

Just like this frog, sometimes we feel overcome and hopeless, but even when things seem impossible; God is there for us, working in mysterious ways! God loves you unconditionally and will give you the strength to overcome ANY obstacle if you just have faith and trust in Him.

Sometimes life can really get you down, but after this touching story you'll know you just 'Can't Quit'!

Campaign Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God,
Divine Architect and Cornerstone of our Salvation,
in thanksgiving for the blessings of our past; present; and future,
we pray that we may be made wise stewards of all you bestow upon us.
As we build upon our rich Catholic History as family, church, and
community,
we remember our call to build Your Kingdom in all that we do.
Help us provide a future that emulates what our savior Christ Jesus has
taught.
Open our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit.
May your favor rest upon us and prosper the work of our hands.
May the Holy and Triune God be our Pillar of strength,
our inspiration and our guide in the years ahead!
Through Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Readings for the week January 3, 2021

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-3

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES
JOSH SIMMONS
JACOB ANDERSON
DERRICK HUBARD
STEVEN ANDERSON
COLBY MCGINLEY



1-2— Mary Burkhiser
1-9-- Quentin Laumann
1-10---Tanya Hayes
1-15—Mike Moody
1-17--Jason Foster
1-18—JoElla Travis
1-20—Noah Goodman
1-23—Annie Wakefield
1-26—Mark Gude
1-26—Angie Sheldon
1-26—Kate Roberts



1-3 Harold & Anne
Hendrickson

1-4 Bob & Judy Clark



Greg Andersen
Grady Secht
Reese Kemp
LeRoy Herscheid
Noah Howe
Mary Lou Miller
Dottie Dankof
Isacc Durr
Todd Quick
Verona Mitchell
Joel Loggins
Kenneth Russell
Bill Long
Henry Johnson
Lawrence DuBois
Pat Sheldon
Joe Kirk
Tim Konecny
Esther McCowan
Shawn Collins
Drake Travis
Martha Gude
Bill & Gloria Green
Larry Dalton
Glen Whitehead
Zayne Osborn
Cathy Mason
Anna Weber
Alan Briggs
Chuck Mitchell
Dee Ann Crews
Deb Haughton
Robert Haughton
Maurie Maher

Your Contributions

Dec. 25, 2020

Tithes—\$640.00

Plate—\$21.00

Dec. 27, 2020

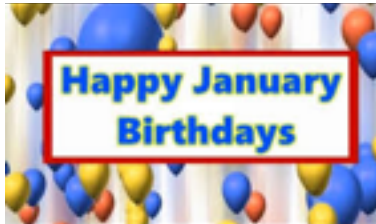
Tithes—\$2785.00

Plate--\$24.00

Thank You!!

2021	January 3 Epiphany of the Lord 8:30	January 10 Baptism of the Lord 8:30	January 17 2nd Sunday of Ordinary time 8:30	January 24 3rd Sunday of Ordinary time 8:30	January 31 4th Sunday of Ordinary time 8:30
Lector	Linda Dewhirst	Kathleen Lorimor	Teresa Jamison	Joe Travis	Dave Dowling
Mass Setup	Rosie	Rosie	Rosie	Joe travis	Rosie
Cantor	Beth Phillips	Cara Goodman	Beth Phillips Anna Zavadil	Kate Roberts Cora Hirner	Beth Phillips
Accompanist	Nancy Pitts	Donna Whelan	Nicole Zavadil Emily Welch Cale Phillips	Nancy Pitts	Donna Whelan
Wash Linens	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper
PASTOR		PASTORAL ASSISTANT		BOOKKEEPER	
Fr. Raphael Assamah 712-246-1718 Shen(office) 712-246-8876 (c) e-mail max.assamah@yahoo.com		Cheryl Phillips 712.382.2668 (h) 712-350-0169 (c) cherylphil@gmail.com		Anne Hendrickson Bookkeeper 712.382.2432 (h) 712.350.0368 (c)	
E - MAIL STMARYS_HAMBURG@GMAIL.COM HTTPS://WWW.PARISHESONLINE.COM/FIND/ST-MARY-CHURCH-51640					

Journey Song books—These books will be in the pews in the near future. If you have not purchased one yet in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please do so. Your name and that of the person will be embossed in the hymn book. Please send your request and \$25 to St. Mary's and we will develop a label to be placed inside of the book. The books will remain in the church for everyones use. These are a hard copy book with 3-year cycle readings.



Christmas
Plate 21.00
Envelopes 640.00

Sunday Dec 27
Plate 24.00
Tithes 2785.00
FYI
Bldg Acct
Additions \$3834.00
Total in that acct. 101,256.25

