

MAGI FROM THE EAST ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM, SAYING,
 "WHERE IS THE NEWBORN KING OF THE JEWS?
 WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING
 AND HAVE COME TO DO HIM HOMAGE."

MATTHEW 2:1-2



In Matthew's Gospel today we see two extremely different perspectives, two different reasons for searching for Jesus. In some ways, this resembles the polarization of our nation in today's time. What one group sees as good for the nation, those with opposing views think will wreck the country. The Magi were astrologers who saw a vision in the sky and were trying to find a way to follow it and discover the new king of the Jews. Herod heard about this king, and his reaction was dark and negative. He saw the birth of such a king as a threat to his power as the Roman leader of the country and wanted the Magi to pass on to him what they knew about this Christ child. Similarly, on a more personal level, we can either feel threatened or excited by changes that may come, depending on our perspective.

GIVING HOMAGE

In our minds, it is easy to mix up bits and pieces from Luke's account of the shepherds coming to see Jesus in the stable and the story of the magi. Clearly, it has

taken the magi time to get here, and the reading speaks of them coming to the house where the star led them. Nevertheless, they "prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures . . ."

How do we do this? Do we continue looking for Jesus, even if it takes a while and he is not where we expect to see him? Are we paying attention to the signs showing us the way? What gifts do we have with which to pay him homage? After seeing him, the Magi were warned in a dream not to go back the way they came. But if we have seen the Christ child, how can we go back to where we were? We must continue to respond to God's call to move forward and grow in our lives. We must seek the right and just path and turn away from the "Herods" and inherent evils in our life.

Today's Readings: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
PERMANENT DEACON:

MASS TIMES:

Sat., 5:00PM & Sun., 9:00AM
 Tues. - Fri. 9:00AM

CONFESSIONS:

Tues. & Wed., 9:00 - 10:00AM

Wednesday: 30 - 38
 5:00 PM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday: 45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six (6) months prior to the anticipated date 903-769-3235

Holy Spirit

Catholic Church

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Fr. Mike Snider

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Welcome Visitors!

We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home." Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!

The Epiphany of the Lord

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Charlie Parker. Hope Smithson. Mike Cromley. Ron Szczepanski. Karla Haney. Molly Dunn. Richard Schuetz. Regina Davies. Tammy Johnson. Carolyn Simmons. Elayne Hayes. Dianne & Gary Laudt. Gayle McCloskey. Shay Mikalonis. Dwight Nunley. Wanda & George Duke. Fleming Family. Doris & Jo Hoffman. Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Jacob Stephens. Frankie Durst. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Ester Coronel. Ed & Diane Stanley. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Judy Fazzio. Marsha & Marty Blahitka. Carolyn Edwards. Joshua & Chase Larsson. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda & Mike Stephens. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

New active recruit, Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike & Wanda Stephens). 2LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Senior Airman, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Colonel John Anthony Fontana. U.S. Army (Son of John & Mary Fontana). Ensign Gary Buchanan; 2ndLt. Blake Gaughan (Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (Son of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & brother of Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading: The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel: Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 1/02 Carlos Gallardo+ (Carmen & Family)

Sun 1/03 Parishioners

Tue 1/05 Doctors & Nurses

Wed 1/06 First Responders

Thurs 1/07 Health Care Workers

Fri. 1/08 Parishioners

Sat. 1/09 Megan & Carol Dougal+ (Laudt Family)

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts through Oct. 31, 2020:

Expenditures (excluding parking lot repairs) \$ 3,712

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,415

Attendance 12/26 Sat. 25 & 12/27 Sun. 22 12/24 44 12/25 35

January Pope's Intention:

Human fraternity. May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

THE HOLY STAR

O Father, may that holy star
Grow every year more bright
And send its glorious beams afar
To fill the world with light.
—William Cullen Bryant

GENTLENESS

Feelings are everywhere—be gentle.
—J. Masai

PROMISE FULFILLED

Isaiah reminds the people of God that the land shall be restored to their possession, they shall rejoice to see their people return from the bondage of exile, and they shall be a light to the nations. In other words, through the people of Israel, the Savior shall come to all people who seek God with a sincere heart. This brings joy and the radiance of God's glory to all the world and to all people everywhere. Through the fidelity of the people of God, and through God's fidelity to them, all people shall become God's children and rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Dispensation: The entire diocese of Tyler remains dispensed from the Sunday and holy day Mass obligation until further notice.

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An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**2021 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE
ONE PER FAMILY**

Cenacle of Life: Cenacle of Life devotion each **Wed. from 3:30—4:30pm.** Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. **Questions call Vicki 817-637-9382**

2021 Collection Envelopes

Available in the hallway between the church and parish hall. They are in alphabetical order. If you do not see your name please leave your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet by the envelopes. If you do not want to use the envelopes, and have your tithing sent from your bank, please notify me. Questions, please call Bridget Rich@ 903-769-3235, leave a detailed message.

While the hospitals have enough capacity at this moment, they do not have enough critical care staff to manage the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases that are coming in.

Bishop Strickland is requesting that you offer your prayers for physicians, nurses, and health care workers during this time—for their protection and for the needs of our hospitals.

Reminder: Bishop Strickland has instructed all persons to wear facial masks during liturgies in the Diocese of Tyler.

Temporary Weekend Mass held in parish hall: Sat., Jan. 2nd at 5:00pm and Sun., Jan. 3rd at 9:00am.

Protocols for weekend Masses:

1. **Limitations on Attendance:** Limited seating maximum 81 seats are available. In order for the households to maintain at least 6-foot separation.
2. **Wear a mask that covers mouth & nose.**
3. **No socializing** in the parish hall. Avoid touching door handles, restrooms closed. **Enter & exist** double glass doors into the parish hall to the left of the overhang.
4. **Chairs** set-up 6-foot separation. Please **DO NOT MOVE CHAIRS.**

January Second Collections

Jan. 2nd & 3rd: Building & Maintenance Fund

Jan. 23rd & 24th: Church in Latin America

Don't forget Sat., Jan 2nd is the First Saturday of the month. Mass begins at 9:00am, followed with the Patriotic Rosary. Please join us!

Each day, it seems as though we are experiencing an increasing number of coronavirus cases and continued high numbers of hospitalizations, both locally and throughout the country. We implore you to take these simple steps to help stop the spread of the virus:

- **Wear a mask, wash your hands and use hand sanitizer often**
- **Practice social distancing**
- **Stay home if you are sick**
- **Notify Fr. Mike (903) 490-3883 and the church office (903) 769-3235 if you test positive for COVID**

Working together we keep our community safe. *Rev. Mike Snider*

CONFESSION Tues. Jan. 5th & Wed. Jan 6th 9:30—10:30AM. DUE TO THE COLD WEATHER FR. MIKE WILL HOLD CONFESSIONS IN HIS OFFICE BY THE WATER FOUNTAINS. PLEASE CALL HIM AT 903-490-3883 TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT. WHEN YOU ARRIVE AND HIS OFFICE DOOR IS CLOSED PLEASE HAVE A SEAT IN CHURCH UNTIL HE IS READY FOR YOU. If you have an emergency and need Fr. Mike call him on his cell # 903-490-3883.

Weekday Mass Times held in church: Tues. — Fri. at 9:00am.

Protocols for weekday Masses:

1. **Wearing a mask that covers mouth & nose.**
2. **No socializing** in the Narthex. Avoid touching door handles, restrooms closed. **Enter & exit** same set of double glass doors into the church through the overhang.
3. **In church alternating every other pew.** Households must maintain at least 6-foot separation.
4. **Limited seating maximum 31.** In order for the households to maintain at least 6 feet separation.

**Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 30 December 2020 Edition
(Submission date: 24 December 2020) Submitted by Randy Munoz**

So, what is Epiphany and how is it observed in various parts of the world? From excerpts of an article (<https://www.catholic.org/news/hf/faith/story.php?id=66407>), we can learn a few things.

... According to Dictionary.com, the word "epiphany" means "an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity." ... Christ revealed himself in the form of a newborn babe to the Three Wise Men, who traveled from their countries to pay tribute to the Son of God. (It is also a reference to Christ's baptism by John the Baptist. The six Sundays following Epiphany are known as the time of manifestation.) Matthew's Gospel describes three Wise Men, **Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar**, who were told of Christ's birth and set off, following the Star of Bethlehem, to meet the baby Jesus. Each king brought with him, gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to represent Jesus' elevated position, divine birth and mortality respectively. Historically, Christmas was celebrated each day from Christmas Eve to the Epiphany, with January 6th (12 Days from Christmas) being as large a celebration as December 25. ... Epiphany is celebrated January 6th and is a day dedicated to the birth of Christ ... (and) the three Kings who came to visit Him. ... the **Catholic Church observes Epiphany as a single day – January 6th ... and American Catholics celebrate the Epiphany feast (on) the Sunday closest to January 6** ... Other, Christian churches celebrate a season of Epiphany from January 6th to Ash Wednesday.

... People around the globe take part in celebrations specific to their region. ... In Venice, children believe "La Befana," an imaginary "old woman" in Italian folklore – she was invited by the Three Kings (for her outstanding hospitality) to see the Messiah, but declined, citing she was too busy to leave her home but later regretted her decision and, after collecting as many gifts as she could, set out to reunite with the trio; never finding them, she gave all her gifts to children along the way, in hopes that one might be the Messiah – brings gifts to them on the Epiphany Day. ... In Spanish-speaking countries, Epiphany is called Dia de los Reyes ... "Three Kings' Day" [sic, actual translation – Day of the Kings] ... In Spain, children believe their Christmas presents are delivered by the Three Wise Men on January 6th; Pamplona, celebrates with a parade of horse-back-mounted Wise Men. ... An old Catholic tradition is the Star Singers, ... groups of people who dress as Wise Men, carry a wooden star, and go door-to-door to sing & collect donations for the poor. In Germany, the Star Singers (Sternsinger) come to your door and offer a blessing for your home. If you accept, they write 20 + C + M + B + (the last 2 digits of the year) in chalk above your doorway. The numbers (signify) the year; and the letters represent the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedictat* meaning "God bless this house" – the first letters of Casper; Melchior, and Balthasar are C M B. In Bulgaria it is traditional for an Eastern Orthodox priest to throw a cross in a river. ... whoever recovers the cross will be healthy the rest of the year, as will any who join in a dance within the river's frigid waters. Mexico makes King's bread, called Rosca de Reyes, which ... is circular and decorated with figs, cherries, or dried/candied fruits. In Spain, the King's bread (has) a Jesus figurine and a bean, baked into it. Whoever discovers the figurine is crowned king or queen of the celebration, while the person who (finds) the bean must pay for the following year's Epiphany party. ... The kings represent Europe, Arabia and Africa. Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was served at Epiphany to honor Christ (the Lamb of God), and the Kings' visit. In some European countries, children leave their shoes outdoors, to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the three kings' horses. In Prague, a Three Kings swim in the Vltava River commemorates Epiphany Day. In New York, El Museo del Barrio has celebrated and promoted Three Kings' Day annual parades, for over thirty years. So, enjoy Epiphany by honoring Christ's birth and the presence of the Three Wise Men.