

Dear Padre,

How is Twelfth Night related to Christmas?

Twelfth Night is another name for the Epiphany, which traditionally occurred on January 6, the twelfth day after Christmas. Since the 1980s, United States Catholics have celebrated the Epiphany on the first Sunday after January 1, which is why we're celebrating it today instead of Thursday.

Liturgical celebrations are distinguished as solemnities, feasts, and memorials according to their importance. The two greatest solemnities, Easter and Christmas, continue for an octave (eight days). Since the octave of Christmas runs from December 25 through January 1 (the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God), it's not affected by the transfer of the Epiphany celebration.

Christmas is the great gift-giving day in the United States. In other cultures—for example, the Latino community—the anticipation and excitement of gift-giving is saved for Epiphany, the day the Magi brought their gifts to Jesus.

We often complain about how frenzied Christmas is—how much shopping, wrapping, and baking there is to do. But Christmas should be a time of worship and acknowledging the gift God gave us by sending his Son.

Epiphany, on the other hand, is made for celebration, gift-giving, going all out. Perhaps someday we can return to the traditions of Epiphany and restore Christmas as a day of rejoicing and worship.

The Redemptorists
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A woman holds a figurine of the Christ Child during Mass on the feast of the Epiphany.

ONS/DAVID MENCIOU/REUTERS

Calendar

Monday
JANUARY 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 3:22–4:6
Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

Tuesday
JANUARY 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious
1 Jn 4:7–10
Mk 6:34–44

Wednesday
JANUARY 5
St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 4:11–18
Mk 6:45–52

Thursday
JANUARY 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19–5:4
Lk 4:14–22a

Friday
JANUARY 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5–13
Lk 5:12–16

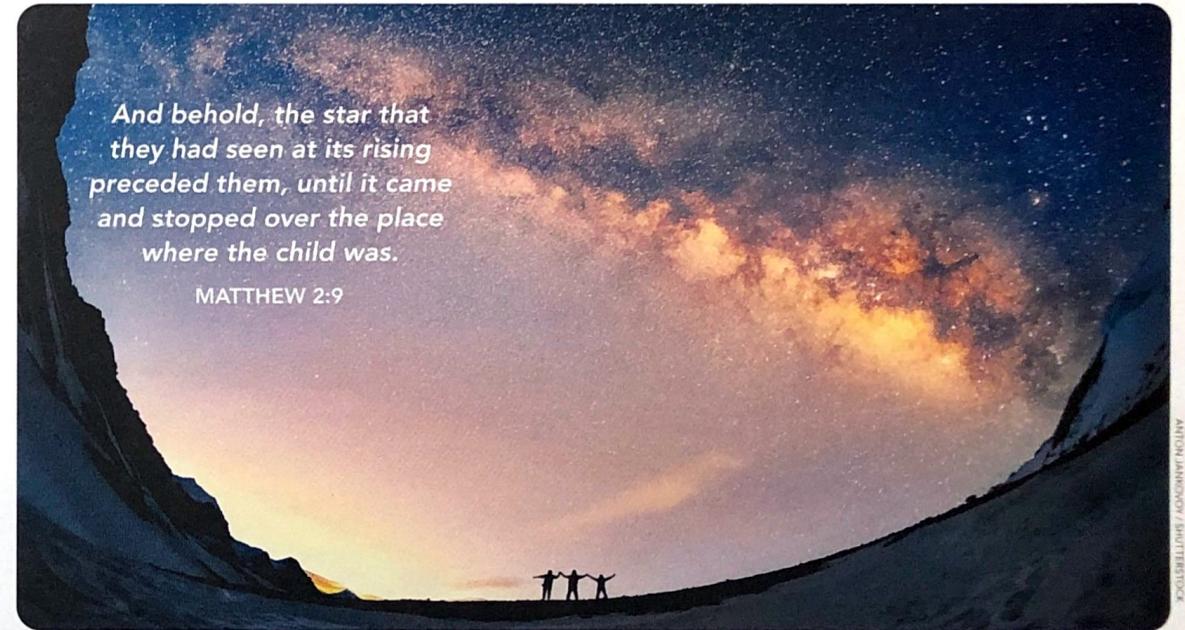
Saturday
JANUARY 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 3:22–30

Sunday
JANUARY 9
The Baptism of the Lord
Is 42:1–4, 6–7
or Is 40:1–5, 9–11
Acts 10:34–38
or Ti 2:11–14; 3:4–7
Lk 3:15–16, 21–22

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 2, 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord (C)
Is 60:1–6
Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6
Mt 2:1–12



And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

MATTHEW 2:9

Your Light has Come!

Many traditional religions have in some way ascribed divinity to light—either they claim that light emanates from a god or that light itself is divine. This is probably because light is a primal necessity, essential for life. We find such thinking in today's readings.

"Your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1) says today's Old Testament reading. This is Isaiah's glorious message for the people of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed; the people scattered; the future looked bleak. This message must have filled the people with hope. Not only does light bring them hope, but the light actually streams from their God. It is the Lord who shines, bestowing his radiance upon them. This light is filled with promise.

The story of the Magi is not meant primarily for children who delight in moving figurines of the three kings a bit closer to the stable every day. This is an adult story about inner darkness and enlightenment. The strangers, ignorant of ancient Israel's traditions, were able to read the signs of the times. Because of their openness, they found the Light of the World. The learned men of Jerusalem were well-schooled in the ancient promises, for they knew where to send the strangers. However, they felt threatened by these signs. They closed their minds and hearts to any omens that might imperil their positions of privilege. They had a chance to benefit from this new light, but they turned their backs on it.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * What is your attitude toward new ways of understanding your faith?
- * Pray that all people will be open to read the signs of the times.



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

[The Lord] is our light: a light that does not dazzle but accompanies and bestows a unique joy. This light is for everyone, and it calls each one of us....At the beginning of each day we can welcome this invitation: arise, shine, and follow today—among the many shooting stars in the world—the bright star of Jesus!

ANGELUS ON EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017



Rectory & Parish Office
 600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860
 Mailing Address: PO Box 983
 Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com
 Website: saintanthonylakin.org

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Jan. 3	8:00 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Tuesday, Jan. 4	8:00 a.m.	Harold Smith
Thursday, Jan. 6	8:00 a.m.	For Rain
Friday, Jan. 7	8:00 a.m.	Marlyn Morrison
Saturday, Jan. 8	4: 00 p.m.	Waechter Family
Sunday, Jan. 9	9:00 a.m.	Ruth Gorges

Sunday - 1/2/2022 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Servers: Cade Berning, Joce Berning, Luke Woodrow-
Reader: Alvin Bergkam
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

1/8/2022- Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bam-
 berger

Reader: Karen Burden

1/9/2022 - Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kirbe Koons, Taybree Lohman-Fuller, Joleigh
 Lohman-Fuller

Reader: Julie Kaps

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (color:
 Green)**

1/15/2022 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Maggie Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan
 Gannett

Reader: Tom Bachman

1/16/2022 –Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: K of C

Reader: K of C

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

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SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 2, 2022



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You and your Family !

This Sunday we celebrate the Epiphany --- that incredible story of magi from the east attempting to find the newborn king of the Jews to pay homage to Him and give Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. My friends, God has poured down many blessings upon us. So what gifts can and should we give him back? --- there, of course, is only one way to give to God what God has given to us. And that is by paying these things forward to each person in need of a little kindness, a little mercy, a little understanding, a little generosity, a little love. By sharing with others all the good things God has given us and done for us, we are giving back to God what was his all along. Love of others is love of God. They are not separate things. It's not a stretch to say that, at its core, the spiritual life is nothing more than gifting to others what has been gifted to us. And so, let's spend a lifetime opening our treasures and laying them at the feet of every person who needs to experience God and experience his great love and mercy and generosity. And that, my friends, is every single one of us. May the magi be an example of what and who we are called to be every single day. In other words --- let's start giving God his stuff back! Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for December 26, 2021: Envelopes: \$5905; Loose: \$669; Online Giving: \$257.72; Total \$ 6831.72; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +5070.55.

Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

PARISH POST CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR DINNER Wednesday January 5, 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Each family is to bring a salad or vegetable or a side dish or dessert if it is possible. Thank you.

K of C Meeting will be Wednesday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. Parish Hall.

CHRISTMAS DECCORATION We will be taking down Christmas decorations on Epiphany of the Lord Sunday, right after Holy Mass. Your help would be appreciated. If you would like to take the flower(s) home that you had in memory or in honor of You're welcome to do so after that Sunday Mass. Thank you.

VOCATION VIEW "Opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts." Are you beginning to see your life as a gift to be given to the Lord as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother?

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (Opening Prayer for the Epiphany of the Lord) O God, who on this day revealed your only begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS Thank to all who generously contributed to the Christmas Flower this year. Thanks to All and God Bless! **In MENORY/IN HONOR OF**



Rice Family & Cahoy Family—Req. by Stan and Nan Rice

Waechter Family & Sullivan Family req. by Janey Sullivan

Linda Noe Req. by Dale & Lisa Gannett

Chuck Sullivan; Kathi Sullivan; & Sondra Adams Req. by Phyllis Sullivan

Geubelle & Lane Families Req.by Steve & Marge

Edwards Family & Yardley Family Req. by Delores & Tim Edwards

Joshua Skipton; Jesse & Carol Skipton; & Alfonso Sandoval Req. by Michael Skipton

Rooney & Darnell Family Req. by Bill & Janet Rooney

Conine & Koons loved ones Req. by John Koons Family

Michelle & David Bergkamp; Elizabeth Hueghes; Charles & Mary Margaret Schrufer; Heath Villitua; &

Wilfred & Anna Bergkamp Req. by Alvin & Suellen Bergkamp

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 2:1-12)

The magi In the fifth century BC the Greek historian Herodotus wrote that the magi, originally from Medes, exercised a priestly role. They also prophesied and interpreted dreams. In truth, we don't know for sure who they were. Our uncertainty about the identity of the magi enhances the wonder and drama of their visit.

The star Matthew presents the magi as being able to interpret celestial events. At the time of Jesus, many people believed that the appearance of a star, a comet, or a planet was a sign. In this case, the star signified that a future king had been born. Some biblical scholars also see a connection to the pagan prophet Balaam. He prophesied that the one who would defeat the enemies of Israel would be like a star advancing from Jacob (Numbers 24:17).

Kings As current king of the Jews, Herod is shaken by the news that a potential usurper has been born. The negative reaction of all Jerusalem (v.3) points ahead to the ultimate rejection of Jesus, as does Herod's attempt to kill the child (v.16f). The magi, meanwhile, offer gifts to the child as was customary when visiting a monarch. These gifts recall the prophecy from the first reading. Because Matthew lists three specific gifts, Christians later assumed that there were three magi.

Homage When entering the presence of a ruler, it was customary to prostrate oneself or bow down (v.11). The magi's obeisance foreshadows the worship of Jesus as Son of God (14:33, 28:17). The magi's homage also points ahead to Jesus' command to his followers to make disciples of all nations (28:19). The magi represent the Gentiles who will be receptive to the story of Jesus. (www.oursundayreadings)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (Isaiah 60:1-6)

The dark past The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem by 585 BC and decimated the population. The Persians came to power about fifty years later. They permitted the Jews to rebuild their lives in Jerusalem, but few Jews had returned by the time this prophecy was spoken.

The glorious future In this passage the prophet personifies Jerusalem. He tells the city to rise up from the ashes of devastation (v.1). God's glory descends upon her alone (v.2). Her children, the descendants of Jews displaced by the Babylonians, are coming home (v.4). Gentiles, who haven't known the ways of the LORD (v.2a), are now drawn to Jerusalem by God's light. They bring wealth with which they will rebuild the city and temple (vv.5b-6, also 10f). The frankincense is for use in the temple, which indicates that everyone who once worshiped other gods will worship the LORD alone.

Everyone everywhere In the larger passage from which this reading was chosen, we hear of people coming to Jerusalem from every direction. They even cross the sea. Gentiles from all over the world will worship the LORD and honor his chosen people. (www.oursundayreadings)

Question: A friend insisted that I should bury a statue of Saint Joseph upside down in my yard to assist the sale of the property. He said it really works. When I balked at this [as] superstitious, he took offense. I have similar troubles with some of the prayer cards and novena promises that go about. Am I being too strict? — Patricia Barry

Answer: The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines superstition in the following manner: “To attribute the efficacy of prayers or of sacramental signs to their mere external performance, apart from the interior dispositions that they demand” (2111).

The practices you describe do have troublesome aspects. This becomes the case especially when the prayer or practice starts to have lots of moving parts. For example, it becomes not enough to pray, asking Saint Joseph’s help, but one must bury a statue of him in the front yard, facing the proper direction, and upside down as well. This not only seems impious (since burying a statue is not really a proper use of it), but also seems to have no connection to selling a house. One might ask, why not just ask Saint Joseph to pray for a quick sale?

At least things like candles and the wearing of medals are external reminders to us and others of our prayer and devotion. But even these could become superstitious if one thinks that the mere performance of an external act will accomplish the goal. Further, if one frets over the fact that they forgot to wear a medal one day, or could not light a candle of a certain desired color, or place it in a particular spot in church, he or she is straying into magical thinking and superstition.

Some will argue that burying a statue is just a harmless and pious custom. Perhaps. Reasonable people will often differ on where to draw the line between legitimate prayer practices and superstitious ones. This is because one cannot always see the internal disposition of the one who prays. But when prayers and practices start to have a lot of specific requirements or guarantees — for example, “never known to fail” — the risk and likelihood of superstition is increased. If a certain prayer said a certain number of times is “never known to fail,” does this not amount to a claim that we can force God to say yes to us? But this is a sin against faith, since we must trust God to give the best answer. Sometimes “no” is the best answer.

Superstition is a common human problem rooted in fear. Often anxious or desperate people fall into this sort of thinking. But the only real solution is to develop a quiet trust in God, who knows what we need before we ask. Novenas, medals, candles, and statues can be consoling reminders that God and others love us, but they cannot alone substitute for faith.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The sanctity of home

"Home is where the heart is" is an ancient proverb. Many folks find their deepest level of satisfaction and fulfillment in family life. But home is also where the *hearth* is: the place to which we come in from the cold to restore ourselves, where we put up our feet, sigh, and relax. Our homes are sacred to us; why not commend them to God? On Epiphany, we're invited to gather with our loved ones to bless the door, walls, and table of our dwelling. Compose your own blessing together or visit the USCCB's [Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany](#) for the rite of home blessing. (Prepare the Word)

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR

La santidad del hogar

"El hogar está donde está el corazón" es un antiguo proverbio. Muchas personas encuentran su nivel más profundo de satisfacción y realización en la vida familiar. Pero el hogar es también el lugar donde se encuentra la chimenea: el lugar al que llegamos desde el frío para reponernos, donde descansamos, suspiramos y nos relajamos. Nuestros hogares son sagrados para nosotros; ¿por qué no encomendarlos a Dios? En la Epifanía, estamos invitados a reunirnos con nuestros seres queridos para bendecir la puerta, las paredes y la mesa de nuestra vivienda. Escriban juntos su propia bendición o visiten [Bendición de la Casa en la Epifanía](#) para ver el ritual de la bendición.