



St. Benedict Catholic Church

Sunday January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord

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

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MISSION CHURCH:
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
 Kealakekua

WEEKEND MASSES
St. Benedict Hall, Honaunau
Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES
St. Benedict, Honaunau
7:00 a.m. Tues., Thurs. & Friday
St. John the Baptist
Kealakekua
7:00 a.m. Wednesday

PASTOR
 Rev. Siegfred Dostos

DEACON
 Craig Camello

BUSINESS MANAGER
 Susan Keen

OFFICE STAFF
 Penny Burgess

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 Edwina Fujimoto

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT
 Edwina Fujimoto

MUSIC DIRECTOR
 Ariel Hadap

FOOD PANTRY
 Francisco and Debra Javar

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?

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. **Isaiah 60:1-6**

Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. **Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13**

Second Reading: ...Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus in the gospel. **Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6**

Gospel: ...magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" **Mt 2:1-12**

OFFICE HOURS: Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The office is closed on holidays and weekends.

BULLETIN: Articles and photos (with caption) for the bulletin must be *emailed* to st.benedict@rcchawaii.org Submission deadline: **TUESDAY at 5:00pm.**

WEBSITE: thepaintedchurchhawaii.org

HOSPITALITY



ALOHA AND WELCOME HOME

In compliance with Bishop Silva’s directives, our Masses are being held at St. Benedict Hall Chapel. Social distancing and masks are required. Due to limited space it would be best to arrive early. No one has been turned away yet, however more are attending each week. Thank you for your understanding.

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION - NEW -

Bishop Larry Silva has issued the following directive, “I am extending the [Sunday Mass] dispensation through Tuesday, February 16, 2021, the day before Ash Wednesday ... I would urge all our parishioners who can safely do so to return to worship at Sunday Mass.”

SACRAMENTS

Funerals may now take place again in St. Benedict Hall Chapel according to the same guidelines as weekend Masses, i.e. following all health and safety precautions. Funerals at this time may not include visitation times, only the Vigil for the Deceased, a Funeral Mass and Committal may be held.

Baptisms may take place according to the same guidelines as weekend Masses. They will be done in such a way that the same water is not poured on more than one person or stored in the font after use.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

At this time Father Sieg is available for Confessions by appointment, observing all proper precautions. Call the office 328-2227.

Eucharist to Homebound and Hospitalized

Call the office to arrange for a visit from a priest or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

In the Sacraments we discover the strength to think and act according to the Gospel.

- Pope Francis -

LIVE STREAMING ONLINE MASSES

Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace—Oahu
Sunday: 10am (Bishop Silva) Mon—Sat: 12pm
<https://www.facebook.com/HonoluluCathedralBasilica/live>
St. Michael 9am English and 11am Spanish:
www.facebook.com/onecatholicohana/live or
YouTube channel: bit.ly/stmichaelkonayoutube

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH IN THE NEW YEAR

Lord, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

TRADITIONAL GAELIC BLESSING PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of His hand.

A Christmas Message

This Advent Season I have prayed that each of you would find time to reflect on your own faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Whatever it is that we desire, whether we realize it or not, our *ultimate* desire is, and must be, Jesus Himself. For this reason, we are filled with joy and consolation at Christmas to know that all that we have hoped is fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child. In the midst of current challenges and concerns, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His Son. With the angels in Bethlehem, we rejoice and sing: “Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!” We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our love of God and neighbor.



May Jesus, bless you, your families and loved ones at this joyful time of hope and grace. May Mary, Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved St. Benedict Parish, always.

Fr. Sieg



PRAYER

A PRAYER FOR OUR BLESSED MOTHER'S INTERCESSION

O Heavenly Father, through Your Most Holy Mother, hear our prayers in preparation for the coming year. We pray for the Catholic Church and Her children. Soften the hearts of sinners so that they may return to Your friendship; grant peace to our country and peace throughout the world; bless our friends and families.

Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us!

THOUGHTS FROM SCRIPTURE...

"So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."
2 Corinthians 5:17

"Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."
Romans 12:2



A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Dear Jesus our Lord,
We ask you to have mercy on all who are sick. Give them your strength and your love, and help them to carry their cross with great

faith in you. May their sufferings be one with yours. Help them to overcome the power of evil, and lead others to our Father in heaven. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer, for you are Lord forever and ever. Amen.

FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH, KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Linda Laskow, Caroline Smith, Liam Jones (age two), Hilda Sebastian, Stephen Texeira, Dorothy Kelepolo, Rudy Crusat, Elizabeth Awa, Ruby Ann Kaho'onei, Johnny Koene, Tony Dias, Robin Crusat, Charles Tripoli, Danny Burgess Jr., Helen Doria, Linda Adkins, DeeDee Tripoli, Guy Miranda, Venancio Mendoza, Keiki San Filippo, Michael Suber, Eddie Navas, Dottie Combs.

*Call the office to add your loved one or yourself to the list of those needing prayer.



PRAYER

*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 mo-
ment receive You sacra-
mentally, 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.

*Thank God ...
for the gift of Jesus
in the Eucharist!*

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



*Nourish your soul
with Bible reading.
It will prepare a
spiritual feast for
you.*

-St. Augustine-



Feast of the Epiphany Treasure Hunt

1. The account of the Magi’s visit to the infant Jesus only appears in my Gospel.
2. According to the Biblical account, how many Magi came to Bethlehem to honor Jesus’ birth?
3. We Magi were not magicians, we were thought to be _____.
4. Shakespeare’s play, _____. Refers to *The Feast of the Epiphany* which marks the end of the Christmas Season.
5. I wrote the lyrics for the Epiphany carol, “*We Three Kings of Orient Are.*”

Happy New Year! “Treasure Hunts” begin again. Write your answers to these Epiphany clues on a piece of paper and bring them to Mass. Or email your answers to the church. [Please include your name.]



**SAINT OF THE WEEK
SAINT JOHN NEUMANN
1811—1860
Feast Day January 5**

A native of Bohemia, John entered the seminary and was nearing ordination when he departed for the United States. He joined the Redemptorists and served as a priest in New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania. In 1852 he was named the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. He founded more than 50 churches and greatly expanded Catholic education. John had a fondness for immigrants and knew six languages. His pastoral zeal was evident up to his last moments of life. He collapsed and died of a stroke in the street at age 48. The incorrupt remains of St. John Neumann, the first American Bishop to be canonized, are enclosed in the glass altar of the National Shrine of St. John Neumann, located in the Parish of St. Peter the Apostle, Philadelphia.



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
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SERVICE

PRAYER FOR THE POOR

God of Justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of the poor. Open our ears to hear you in the cries of the exploited. Open our mouths to defend you in the public squares as well as in private deeds. Remind us that what we do to the least ones, we do to you. Amen.

ST. BENEDICT FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is open from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Next open for distribution on **January 8, 2021**. Mahalo to those who keep this ministry going during these difficult times.