

The Light of Christ

The word Epiphany means “an appearance or manifestation,” especially of a deity. Our celebrations of the Epiphany shows the Magi making their way to the newborn Jesus and his family. The child “showed himself forth” to them, like a candle shows forth in the dark. The Magi followed light from far away (Persia?), the star which led them through the darkness to the tiny yet powerful light of Christ. It is a sweet story. We rejoice.

But we do remember that darkness is at hand also, the bad kind, the smoldering human rubble found all over the world in so many countries. The Magi speak of it on their journey, as imagined by TS Eliot:

... Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches. ...

And there was deeper darkness to come. The Wise Men moved, weary, into Jerusalem, and then straight into the jaws of the power-hungry, luxury-loving King Herod. They asked a question to the Jerusalem citizens that shocked Herod greatly when it got back to him. “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage” (Gospel).
Ouch. The question revealed a stunning fact. There is to be a new king instead of Herod! Herod oiled his way to his chief priests and scribes. He ordered them to scour scripture for hints about this horror—uh, no, this holy birth. In response they announced in a dignified manner that the long-awaited Messiah, King of the Jews, will be born “in Bethlehem of Juda.”

But this is just what Herod and his offspring were: Kings of the Jews. He called the Magi to him, smiled, faked holy interest, then made his plans.
Make no mistake. At this point Herod knew clearly he was dealing with God’s own design for the world, foretold by the scriptures of the very people he was supposed to be leading. Herod made up his mind to commit an atrocity.

You know the story. The Magi had found and worshipped the tiny Christ. Herod, still in the dark, sent out troops to slaughter all boy babies of two years old or less in Bethlehem and surroundings, just to eliminate this so-called “King” (Mt 2:13-16). And, speaking of having “a hard time of it,” in Eliot’s words, Jesus’ parents had to cross the harsh desert into Egypt in order to save him.

This child was like a candle in the wind.
Why do the readings talk so much about dark night on this Epiphany, which is the very feast of the dayspring? It is a complicated question, but here is one answer.
Because God’s light only comes to us thoroughly mingled with the grubby reality of human life. Why else did he come as an infant? The Christ did not arrive to erase our troubles but to join us in them, to be a quiet light in our darkness, not a blinding replacement for the dark.

So we have to be like the Magi. We have to have our own puzzling, sleepless nights, and we have to search and search, and never ever rest until we see the light as God chose to reveal it.

John Foley, SJ

The Epiphany of the Lord January 3, 2021

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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Sacrament of Reconciliation & Sacrament of the Sick

You may call the office to schedule an appointment for confession. If there is no answer please leave your name and phone number and Father Jim will return your call. Please do not schedule an appointment if you are sick, please wait until you are well to protect yourself and the priest. Priest and penitent will be required to wear a mask and maintain a safe six foot distance during confession.

The Sacrament of the sick is available for those who are in need, terminal and to those who have an upcoming surgery. Please call the office if you or a loved one is in need of this sacrament.

.....
♦ Come in seeking; come in wondering; come in hurting. Come into this house
♦ of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Our
♦ faith Family opens its doors to you and in the name of Christ, bids you
♦ Welcome!
.....

The purpose of St. Stephen’s Indian Mission, the presence of the Roman Catholic Church among the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, is to grow into a strong community of believers, sharing our lives in the Holy Spirit, forming one welcoming People of God, who are committed to Jesus Christ, His gospel and mission.

Readings January 4th through January 10th:

Mon: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tue: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
 Wed: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
 Thur: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
 Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
 Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
 Sun: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mk 1:7-11

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$346

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Corinthians 9:7

THANK YOU to all who have continued to make financial contributions to St. Stephens Indian Mission through these most trying times! God Bless!

Christ is born!

Let us adore Him!

Mass Intentions this week

1/3:	Sunday	Shannon Leonard
	Sunday	For the people
1/6:	Wednesday 5pm	+Eloise Stewart
1/7:	Thursday 7:15am	+Father Anthony Short, SJ
1/10:	Sunday	+Joe Malek
	Sunday	For the people

As we continue to celebrate Mass at St. Stephens, we are limited to 10 people in attendance as we follow the Wind River Intertribal Council's resolution. If you would like to be added to the rotating list of parishioners for Mass please call the office or email the parish office. Please also email the parish office (melissa.brown@saintstephensmission.com) to make sure your contact information is on file with the Parish as this is our primary way to contact you when things change or if we have an event you might be interested in. Thank you!

Please remember that Bishop Steven's general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will remain in effect for the duration of Mass attendance restrictions. Mass is available for viewing on K2 Television at 9am and/or you may watch via livestream on St. Margaret's or Holy Rosary's FB pages.

Face masks are required at Mass. Please use hand sanitizer, refrain from exchanging handshakes during the Sign of Peace and maintain at least six feet apart from parishioners (except if you are in the same household) including processing to receive the Eucharist. If you are not feeling well and are scheduled to attend Mass please stay home and call the office so we can switch you with another parishioner until you feel well. Please keep our church family safe.

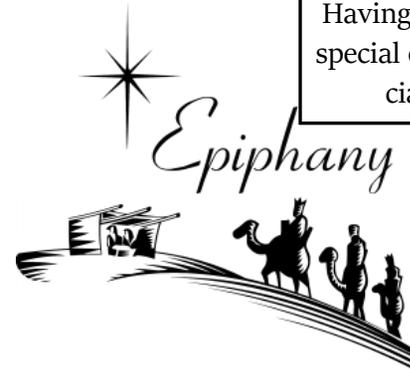
We appreciate your cooperation as we move forward, safely, together.

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Nina Karen Littleshield

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Having Mass offered for an anniversary, marriage, special occasion, or in memory of someone is a special gift. Cards are available at the office.



Thank You!

Thank you to all those who brought poinsettias for the church and thank you to the Karen and Howard Brown family for decorating the church!

Act of Solidarity

Thank you to Doug Bebout and all those who helped with the ringing of the church bell and sang at the drum on December 31st to remember all those lives lost from complications of COVID-19. It was a beautiful tribute with an overwhelming, positive response. Thanks again for those who planned and took part in this wonderful act of solidarity. God bless all who participated.

