



**Our Lady
Star of the Sea**
Roman Catholic Community
in the Diocese of Bridgeport

JANUARY 5, 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
THEY WERE OVERJOYED
AT SEEING THE
STAR.

— MATTHEW 2:10 —



*This week the Sanctuary Candle
burns
In Thanksgiving
For Prayers Answered*



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, January 4

4:30pm **Justin Vallejo** (req. by Galvin family)

SUNDAY, January 5

9:00am **Jose Pastilha** (req. by Elsa Neto)

11:00am **Irena & Frank Bajor** (req. by family)

MONDAY, January 6

8:00am **Emmy Sigtryggsson**

TUESDAY, January 7

8:00am **Marie BonTempo**

WEDNESDAY, January 8

8:00am **Eric Brennan** (req. by Amanda & Ryan Day)

THURSDAY, January 9

8:00am **Anne Meisterell**

FRIDAY, January 10

8:00am **Henry Kegelman IV** (req. by Sue & John McKeown)

SATURDAY, January 11

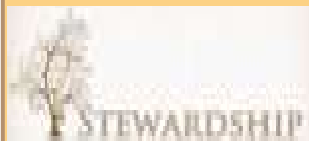
4:30pm **Rita Dwyer** (req. by Maureen Carson)

SUNDAY, January 12

9:00am **Mass of Thanksgiving to St Jude**

11:00am **Daniel Steidl** (req. by Deb & Jeff Harrington)

WEEKLY COLLECTION:



This Year
Sunday 12/21/24 \$ 6,432;
Advent Tree of Light \$ 2,226;
Christmas Flowers \$ 586;

Last Year
Sunday 12/24/23 \$ 5,693;
Advent Tree 2023 \$ 4,455;
Christmas Flowers \$ 559.

The 2nd Collection THIS weekend, is for the Retired Religious Fund.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.



Have you ever had an epiphany?

I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious

feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word epipháneia, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth.
An answer.

It should be the same for us.

- By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman (LPi)





What Was the Star?

Professor Larson programmed his software to show what the stars would have looked like in Babylon in the year 3 BC. He knew the star of Bethlehem couldn't be a shooting star, or a super nova, or even a comet. Those things would have been obvious to everyone, and yet, King Herod and his advisers were astonished by the Magi's news. King Herod even asked when the star had appeared - so it couldn't have been an obviously dramatic phenomenon. Instead, it must have been something extraordinary inside the ordinary - something that would be truly remarkable, but that only the expert Magi would have noticed. Did anything like that occur in the sky, in the year 3 BC?

Yes. That September, the Planet Jupiter, the brightest planet in the night sky, followed its normal retrograde motion back and forth, but this time that motion created an elliptical, crown-like pattern above the star known as Regulus. The Magi would have known Jupiter as the King Planet - the brightest and biggest planet. And the name "Regulus" also means "king". The King Planet giving the King Star a coronation - the first coincidence. At that time and place, this unusual conjuncture occurred inside the constellation known as Leo, or the Lion.

The Magi would have recognized the Lion as the Biblical symbol for the Israelite tribe of Judah. And the Old Testament prophecies predicted that the Messiah would be born of the tribe of Judah - the second coincidence. Also at that time, the constellation that rose in the east after Leo was Virgo - the Virgin. And right at the feet of the constellation, at that particular moment, was the new crescent moon, the "birthing" moon. Another Old Testament prophecy predicted that the Messiah would be born of a Virgin - coincidence number three. Together, these starry coincidences linked three concepts: King, Jewish, and Birth - the King of the Jews being born.

Nine months later, things got even more interesting.

In June of the year 2 BC, the Planet Jupiter, the King Planet, was no longer in conjunction with the King Star, Regulus. Instead, on the horizon of the western sky, Jupiter was having an even more spectacular rendezvous. Jupiter came so close to the Planet Venus that their light merged, becoming the brightest light in the night sky - the brightest the Magi would have ever seen. And the Magi, along with the rest of the pagan world, knew the planet Venus as the Mother Planet - the icing on the cake. If at that point the Magi had begun their journey, by the time they reached Jerusalem the orientation of the Jupiter-Venus conjunction would have changed.

Looking up from Jerusalem, the Magi would have seen it in the south - the exact direction of Bethlehem. Also at that time, Jupiter's retrograde motion made it appear - relative to the position of the other stars - to have stopped in its tracks, just as St Matthew says. Here is a historical and scientific hypothesis that not only doesn't contradict the Biblical evidence regarding the star of Bethlehem and the journey of the Magi, but actually sheds new light on it.

A PRAYERFUL
NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION
IDEA:

**PRAY A
NOVENA ONCE
A MONTH ALL
YEAR LONG.**

A PRAYERFUL
NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION
IDEA:

**SPEND AN
HOUR AT
ADORATION
EVERY WEEK.**

A PRAYERFUL
NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION
IDEA:

**COMMIT TO
SAYING THE
ROSARY
EVERY DAY.**