

Calendar

Monday

JANUARY 7

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 3:22–4:6

Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

Tuesday

JANUARY 8

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:7–10

Mk 6:34–44

Wednesday

JANUARY 9

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:11–18

Mk 6:45–52

Thursday

JANUARY 10

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:19–5:4

Lk 4:14–22a

Friday

JANUARY 11

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:5–13

Lk 5:12–16

Saturday

JANUARY 12

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:14–21

Jn 3:22–30

Sunday

JANUARY 13

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

Dear Padre,

I'm having an argument with a fundamentalist friend who insists the Epiphany happened exactly as it says in the Bible. I keep saying there's no way it could have. Who is right?

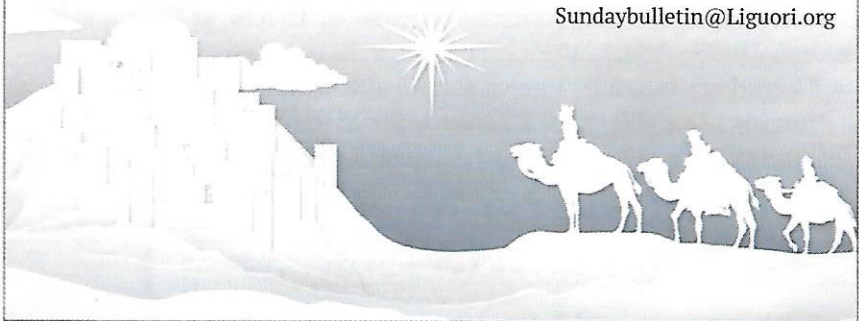
Catholics believe that each book of the Bible needs to be appreciated according to the principles of its own literary genre. We don't look to the Gospels for modern critical history or unbiased biographical/reportorial fact-telling.

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's saving sense in which, yes, the Epiphany happened exactly as it says in Matthew 2:1–12. And there's a more literal sense in which, no, the Epiphany probably didn't 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 of the World, 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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A Word From Pope Francis

How many stars there are in the sky! And yet the Magi followed a new and different star, which for them shone all the more brightly.... They listened to a voice deep within, which led them to follow that light. It was the voice of the Holy Spirit, who works in all people.

—Homily, Epiphany of the Lord, January 6, 2016



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