

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.

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ADORATION OF THE MAGI BY BARTOLOME ESTEBAN MURILLO WIKIPEDIA

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship....For worship involves making an exodus from the greatest form of bondage: slavery to oneself. Worship means putting the Lord at the center, not ourselves.

EPIPHANY HOMILY, JANUARY 6, 2020

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

