

# From the Diocese



## What do we Seek?

On the weekend of January 4, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The word Epiphany means 'manifestation.' Together, with the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan river and the wedding feast of Cana, the great feast of Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus to the world as the king of all nations.

In the Scriptures, we read that the magi, in search for the newborn king, were guided by a star. They asked King Herod of Jerusalem, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." They were led six miles further to go to Bethlehem.

I have always wondered about the star. Why didn't the people in Jerusalem notice the star? Were they too busy to notice? Were their hearts focused on

other things that seemed important but really aren't? Josef Pieper, a wonderful Catholic philosopher, made an interesting statement, "Man's ability to see is in decline because he sees too much." Pieper seems to be saying that our eyes see so much that we often don't see what's really important—the person in front of us, the poor who need our help, the beautiful creation that God has given us, and even the desire to seek Jesus. Pieper added, "The greatest menace to our capacity for contemplation is the incessant fabrication of tawdry empty stimuli which kill the receptivity of the soul."

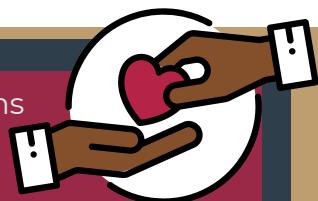
Scripture tells us that the magi "were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage."

+ Gerald L. Veneczel

## NEIGHBORS NEAR & NEIGHBORS FAR:

### Church in Latin America

Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean lack access to church programs and ministries because of a rising secular culture, rugged rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers. Your generosity enables our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ.



**To Give:** Anytime during the month of January, place an envelope in your Parish Collection labeled "Church in Latin America", or add it to the memo line of a check



## Upcoming Events

### 1/1

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; Chancery Closed**

### 1/1-5

**SEEK26, FOCUS Conference**  
Denver, CO

### 1/19

**MLK Jr. Day; Chancery Closed**

### 1/21-25

**National March for Life**  
Washington, D.C.

### 1/25

**St. Mary's School Carnival**  
Ellis, 10a.m.

### Holy Family School Chili Feed

Hays, 11a.m.

### 1/25-31

**Catholic Schools Week**

### 1/27

**Red Mass**  
Mater Dei Parish, Topeka

### 1/28

**Ignite March for Life Rally**  
10:30a.m. Topeka; 9a.m. Mass

*Together, let us be disciples of Jesus on mission!*

# THE EPIPHANY

This year, the Catholic Church will celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord on January 4<sup>th</sup>

The Epiphany is a **Solemnity**, which is the highest celebration in the church! This means that Epiphany is more important than other things, like Feast Days and Memorials.

During Mass on a Solemnity, we pray the Gloria and the Creed.

**Epiphany** means “manifestation”, it is when we celebrate God “manifesting” Himself (or, “becoming present”) in our world!

He manifests Himself through the arrival of the three Magi, and we also celebrate Jesus’ baptism and first miracle on Epiphany too.



## CASPAR

ETHIOPIAN  
SCHOLAR

## MYRRH

myrrh is one of the spices people used for healing wounds and when someone died. Jesus was born to die to show us God’s mercy



## MELCHIOR

PERSIAN  
SCHOLAR

## GOLD

this gift helped honor Jesus as a king. Jesus was born to be the Lord of lords and King of kings!



## BALTHASAR

ARABIAN  
SCHOLAR

## FRANKINCENSE

this is the main ingredient for incense used in the Temple. Jesus was born to be a priest