



Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

MATTHEW 2:1B-2

In Search of God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We are always in search of something or other, it seems—an intangible something that tends to shift and change over the course of our lives, like the tumbling pieces of a kaleidoscope. Sometimes, it is love we seek. Other times, meaning. Or inner peace, freedom from anxiety or guilt. Or perhaps freedom from all that ties us down. And sometimes, it is God we seek. Like the Magi, we too are on a quest for the Holy One.

One afternoon, Tom, a high-school sophomore, stopped by. He asked if we could talk about God—or, more exactly, about what God was like. He had been in a study hall, waiting for the bell to ring, when the person behind him asked, "When you die, do you think you're going to see God?" Tom said he thought he would, but then the other student replied, "Well, you won't, because God doesn't have a body. There isn't something to see."

The bell rang, Tom said, and they never finished the conversation. Tom wondered whether God had a body or not, and, if not, then what was God like? Tom was searching for a God that made sense amidst galaxies and black holes and light years of time, but also a God who was personal and knowable and lovable. He wasn't sure how to put the two together. He had become one of the Magi on a journey to find God. ●

Reflect

Where are you on your journey to know and discover God?

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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The Epiphany of the Lord (C)

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of Jan 6, 2025

Mon.	Jan	06	7:00	AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Jan	07	7:00	AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Jan	08	5:30	PM	SA	No Mass
Thurs.	Jan	09	5:30	PM	SB	No Mass
Fri.	Jan	10	8:30	AM	SJ	No Mass
Sun.	Jan	12	8:00	AM	SJ	Travis & Torie Kester
Sun.	Jan	12	9:30	AM	SA	Cathy Weaver †
Sun.	Jan	12	11:00	AM	SB	People of the Parish



Breckn Doggett Jan 2nd
Kaedyn Weinman Jan 2nd
Kashton Ortiz Jan 3rd
Cade Owens Jan 5th

Ministry Schedule

Date: Jan 12	St. Agnes	St. Boniface	St. John's
<i>Time</i>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
<i>Hospitality</i>	Ann G.	Bartley & Kaylee B.	Ivan & Carrie S.
<i>Lector</i>	Ann G.	Dylan P.	Toby K.
<i>Server</i>		Erin F. Katie P.	Cotter J. & Wyatt D.
<i>EMHC</i>	Evan B. & Gary M.	John R. & Mike P.	Jason & Jenny J.
<i>Communion to shut ins or Music</i>		Mike P.	Music: Kelsey A.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Agnes</u></p> <p>Our Gifts to God & Church Dec 25 & 29, 2024</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$1053.50</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$2345 of \$4014 Donor Goal: 5 of 16</p> <p>Thrift Store Open Jan 17rd from 9AM to 4PM</p> <p>- CCD Class Jan 8th</p> <p><u>UPCOMING:</u> Coffee and Rolls January 12th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Boniface</u></p> <p>Our Gifts to God & Church Dec 25 & 29, 2024</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$5997.00</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$4570 of \$7306 Donor Goal: 13 of 19</p> <p>- CCD Class Jan. 8th</p> <p>OCIA: January 7th 6 PM Topic: The Paschal Mystery</p> <p><u>UPCOMING:</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. John's</u></p> <p>Our Gifts to God & Church Dec 25 & 29, 2024</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$12043.50</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$4650 of \$5001 Donor Goal: 9 of 17</p> <p>- CCD Class Jan 8th Supper : Zuniga's</p> <p><u>UPCOMING:</u> Coffee and Rolls January 19th</p>
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Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face marriage. Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples who can give you tips on improving communication skills, ways to build intimacy, and help in healing from past wounds, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. For more information about Retrouvaille www.helpourmarriage.com, or www.retrouvaille.org. A Retrouvaille Weekend will be held on Feb. 14-16 at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE. Registration Deadline is Jan. 31, 2025. To register call 1-800-470-2230

Blessed Tommaso Reggio

(c. 1818-1901)
Feast day January 9

“I want to become a saint, cost what it may, living my life in accordance with the two cornerstones of Christianity: prayer and self-discipline.”

Dear Padre,

I'm into horoscopes. A friend told me that astrology is nonsense and against the Catholic faith. What do you say?

Stargazing is as old as the human race. We know with certainty that ancient Chaldea was known for its stargazers. Many of the constellations' names originated during that time. Some scholars believe that the three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the newborn Savior were themselves Chaldean stargazers.

Astrologers believe that the zodiac signs under which we were born largely control our human destiny. The Christian objection to astrology is that it insults almighty God, who alone knows the future. God alone, in cooperation with the free will of humans, controls the future. To suppose that stars, planets, animals, or inanimate objects can, independent of God, direct or influence our lives opposes the first commandment: "I am the LORD your God.... You shall not have other gods beside me" (Exodus 20:2-3).

The Old Testament clearly spells out that it is vain to imagine "either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven" as "the governors of the world" (Wisdom 13:2).

Don't give credit to or blame the stars for what you do and who you are. See past them to the God who made them, and who made us, and who cares for all creation.



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

God made us: brimming with desire, directed, like the Magi, towards the stars.... We are what we desire. For it is our desires that...drive our lives forward, beyond the barriers of habit, beyond banal consumerism, beyond a drab and dreary faith, beyond the fear of becoming involved and serving others and the common good.

HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 6, 2022



CHR. PHOTO

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 3:22-4:6
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:7-10
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday

January 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11-18
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday

January 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19-5:4
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday

January 10
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5-13
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday

January 11
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14-21
Jn 3:22-30

Sunday

January 12
The 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