



Belonging to Two Families

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Adolescence can bring family life into an upheaval for both parents and adolescents alike. At its heart, adolescence is an urge for independence, a silent instinct to be part of the larger world. It is a calling sewn by God's Spirit into the very fabric of being human. At its best, family life can be the staging ground for that movement outward.

Hannah recognized this when she believed that her young son Samuel was chosen for a specific role in life. It moved her to bring Samuel to the temple to be raised there in growing service to the community. Ultimately Samuel became a charismatic leader of the Hebrew people who would anoint both Saul and David as king. That same calling seemed to take time

to unfold in the awareness of Joseph and Mary who wondered why Jesus stayed behind in the temple. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" asked Jesus of them (Luke 2:49). All of us are meant to live more than a life of satisfaction for ourselves or even the fulfillment of our parents' dreams.

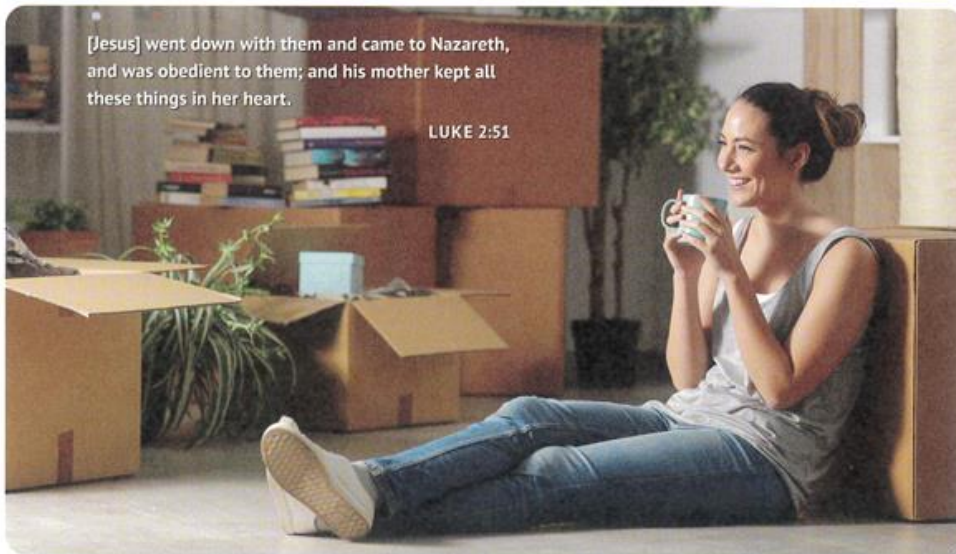
We may find ourselves asking a young person what they want to be when they grow up. A more valuable question might be what they think God wants them to be. While the Spirit of God does not usually ask us to be something contrary to our inclinations, the call of service to the needs of the human family is an added piece to the puzzle of what someone's life might look like. ●

Reflect

How has the call to serve God and God's people shown itself in your life?

[Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

LUKE 2:51



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

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (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 Dec 30, 2024

Mon.	Dec	30	7:00	AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Dec	31	5:00	PM	SB	Mark Pandorf †
Wed.	Jan	01	9:00	AM	SJ	Molly E. Walz
Thurs.	Jan	02	5:30	PM	SB	No Mass
Fri.	Jan	03	8:30	AM	SJ	No Mass
Sun.	Jan	05	8:00	AM	SJ	Margaret Opela †
Sun.	Jan	05	9:30	AM	SA	People of the Parish
Sun.	Jan	05	11:00	AM	SB	Fr Jack Schlaf †

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Isabelle Stallbaumer Dec 31st
Breckn Doggett Jan 2nd
Kaedyn Weiman Jan 2nd

Ministry Schedule

Date: Jan 5	St. Agnes	St. Boniface	St. John's
Time	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Conrad & Aleta P.	Chancy & Roni B.	Steve & Cindy F.
Lector	Aleta A.	Traci K.	Tara B.
Server		Quinton B. & Dylan P.	Kelsey A. & Tate B.
EMHC	Conrad & Aleta P.	Emily P. & Diane P.	Jon & Molly W.
<i>Communion to shut ins or Music</i>		David P.	Music: Jenny & Cayson

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Agnes</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church Dec 22, 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$287.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dinner Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal = \$2345 of \$4014 Donor Goal: 5 of 16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thrift Store Open Jan 3rd from 9AM to 4PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- CCD Class No Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>UPCOMING:</u></p> <p>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (New Year Masses) (Holy Day of Obligation)</p> <p>St. Agnes please plan to attend one of the other masses.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Boniface</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church Dec 22, 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$1360.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dinner Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal = \$4570 of \$7306 Donor Goal: 13 of 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- CCD Class NO Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OCIA: January 7th 6 PM Topic: The Paschal Mystery</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>UPCOMING:</u></p> <p>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (New Year Masses) (Holy Day of Obligation) Tuesday, December 31st 5:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. John's</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church Dec 22, 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$179.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dinner Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal = \$4650 of \$5001 Donor Goal: 9 of 17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-- CCD Class NO Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>UPCOMING:</u></p> <p>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (New Year Masses) (Holy Day of Obligation) Wednesday, January 1, 2025 at 9:00 AM</p>
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Saint Basil the Great (329-379 A.D.)
Doctor of the Church, Feast Day
January 2

“O sinner, be not discouraged, but have recourse to Mary in all your necessities. Call her to your assistance, for such is the divine Will that she should help in every kind of necessity.”



Dear Padre,

If Jesus was a Jew, why are we Catholic and not Jewish?

Jesus was a first-century Jew, as were his first disciples. They continued their Jewish practices after Jesus' resurrection, but they believed and proclaimed that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of Judaism. Such claims inevitably led to clashes with Jewish authorities, as when St. Stephen, the first martyr, was charged with blasphemy and stoned to death in Jerusalem in the year 36 (Acts 6–7).

Nevertheless, Jesus' followers initially saw themselves as reformers of Judaism—not founders of a new religion. The Acts of the Apostles traces the first thirty years of this community of believers, from Jesus' ascension in Jerusalem to Paul's imprisonment in Rome. It details the beginnings of their separation from Judaism, as when the Jewish disciples wanted to impose certain practices of Mosaic Law on the Gentile disciples—circumcision, for example (Acts 15:11). Acts and the epistles also chronicle the expansion outside of Jerusalem to the Mediterranean region, where, for example, in Antioch, the disciples of Jesus were called Christians for the first time (Acts 11:26). The first written reference to "Catholic Church" is from St. Ignatius of Antioch around the year 107. Catholic means "universal." "The Church is catholic: she proclaims the fullness of the faith.... She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 868). ●



ST. ARTS: PIERGIACOMO BRASCONI / CONTRASTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 30	December 31	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4	January 5
<i>Octave of Christmas</i>	<i>Octave of Christmas</i>	<i>Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>	<i>Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</i>	<i>Christmas Weekday</i>	<i>St. Elizabeth, Ann Seton, Religious</i>	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>
1 Jn 2:12–17	1 Jn 2:18–21	Nm 6:22–27	Gal 4:4–7	1 Jn 2:29–3:6	1 Jn 3:7–10	Is 60:1–6
Lk 2:36–40	Jn 1:1–18	Lk 2:16–21	Lk 1:19–28	Jn 1:29–34	Jn 1:35–42	Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6 Mt 2:1–12



ALDO JULIA AMARAL / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Every day, families have to learn to listen and understand one another, to walk together, to face conflicts and difficulties.... And this too helps...talk within the family, talk at table, dialogue between parents and children, dialogue among siblings. It helps us experience our family roots that come from our grandparents. Dialogue with the grandparents!

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 26, 2021