



"We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage."

MATTHEW 2:2

Following Jesus Without a Star to Guide Us

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage" (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God's universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God's grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—"in the weeds," so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more "gray" than "black and white." There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God's grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God's will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions?

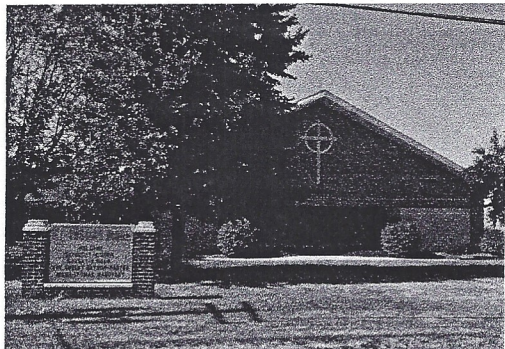
ST. BARBARA PARISH

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: StBarbaraParish2@outlook.com

Website: www.bureauatholic.org



St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

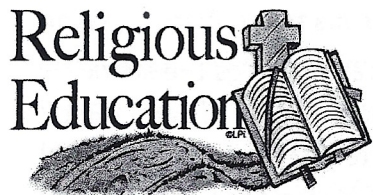
Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com



CCD Classes

Sunday, December 21st— January 4th NO CCD Classes/Christmas Break

Sunday, January 11th— K- 5th Grade

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of January 5, 2026

Monday	01/05			† No Mass
Tuesday	01/06	9:00 am	STM Site	† Virginia Lucas
Wednesday	01/07	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Alan Hahn
Thursday	01/08	9:00 am	HT Site	† John & Dena Bussa
Friday	01/09	9:00 am	STM Site	† Dorothy Orlandi & Betty

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of January 10 -11, 2026

Saturday	01/10	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	01/11	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† The Lavern Eiten Family

WHO WERE THE MAGI FROM THE EAST?

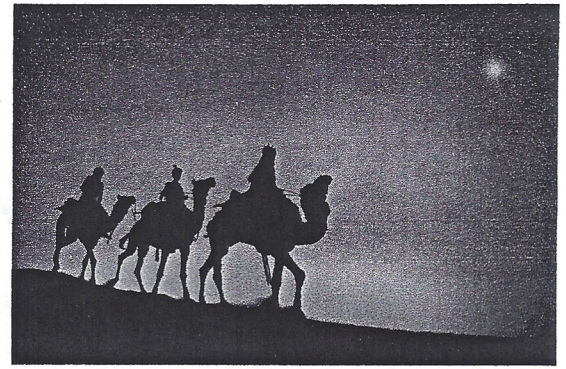
The Gospel of Matthew mentions the Magi who came from the East to worship the newborn Christ child (cf. Matthew 2:1-12). Exactly who the magi were though remains somewhat of a mystery.

Oftentimes, the English translations of the Bible use the word astrologers for magi. In Greek, the original language of the Gospel, the word magos (magoi, plural) has four meanings: (1) a member of the priestly class of ancient Persia, where astrology and astronomy were prominent in Biblical times; (2) one who had occult knowledge and power, and was adept at dream interpretation, astrology, fortune-telling, divination, and spiritual mediation; (3) a magician; or (4) a charlatan, who preyed upon people using the before mentioned practices. From these possible definitions and the description provided in the gospel, the magi were probably Persian priest-astrologers who could interpret the stars, particularly the significance of the star that proclaimed the birth of the Messiah.

St. Matthew recorded that the Magi brought three gifts, each also having a prophetic meaning: gold, the gift for a king; frankincense, the gift for a priest; and myrrh—a burial ointment, a gift for one who would die. St. Irenaeus (d. 202) in his “Adversus Haereses” offered the following interpretation for the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh respectively: King, God, and Suffering Redeemer as well as virtue, prayer, and suffering.

Even though some mystery remains to the identity of the magi, the Church respects their act of worship: The Council of Trent, when underscoring the reverence that must be given to the Holy Eucharist, decreed, “The faithful of Christ venerate this most holy sacrament with the worship of latria which is due to the true God.... For in this sacrament we believe that the same God is present whom the eternal Father brought into the world, saying of Him, ‘Let all God’s angels worship Him.’ It is the same God whom the Magi fell down and worshiped, and finally, the same God whom the apostles adored in Galilee as Scripture says” (Decree on the Most Holy Eucharist, 5).

(Excerpted from: catholicstraightanswers.com)



Church Announcements

Join The Peoria Teens Encounter Christ (TEC): TEC is a spiritual movement for teens and young adults. It begins with a retreat weekend filled with dynamic reflections, music, sacraments, adoration, small group dialogue, and prayer. Afterwards, the TEC community evolves into a network of support that both reinforces parish involvement and personal spiritual growth. Learn more and register online at Peoria.org

Girls Tec #381 JAN 17-19, 2026

Boys TEC #382 Feb 14-16, 2026

Polish Dinner at St. John Baptist de La Salle:

The event will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 3:00–8:00 p.m. in the Academy of St. Carlos Acutis Gym in LaSalle. Dinner includes: Potato & Cheese Pierogi served with Polish Sausage, Sauerkraut, and glazed carrots, a beverage and dessert.

\$15 for Adults, \$10 for Children 10 and under, Polka Music, bake sale and activities for the families. Tickets are available by calling 815-223-0641

From the Pastor’s Desk:

Fr. Thaddeus would like to thank all the people who have sent him Christmas cards and gifts of various kinds. May their kindness and generosity be repaid abundantly by the good Lord, and may they and all their loved ones be protected and blessed by God during the new year.

Latest Offering’s

December 28th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$2,233.00

Christmas Mass \$3,543.00

St. Barbara Fundraising

Last chance to get your Pick three tickets at \$20 per ticket; the drawing will be on

Friday Jan. 9, 2026 in the evening.

Next Confessions

NO Confession on

Sat. January 10th

Dear Padre,

I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, “Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...”) weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

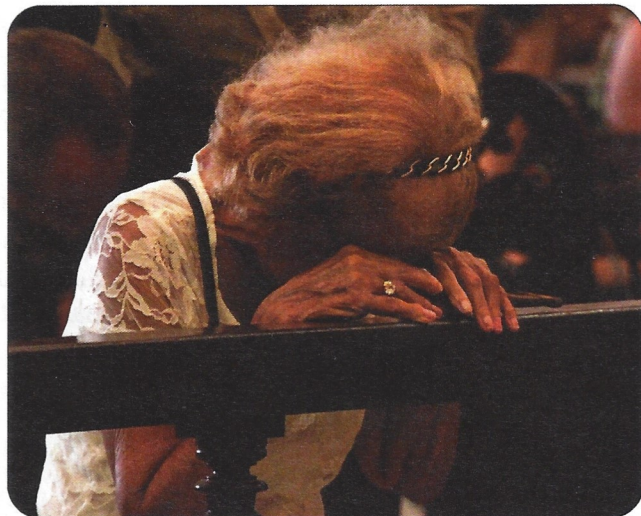
It's because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025



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 5
St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 3:22–4:6
Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11–18
Mk 6:45–52

Thursday

January 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19–5:4
Lk 4:14–22a

Friday

January 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5–13
Lk 5:12–16

Saturday

January 10
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 3:22–30

Sunday

January 11
The Baptism
of the Lord
Is 42:1–4, 6–7
Acts 10:34–38
Mt 3:13–17