



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

**W**e 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. Thomas More**

302 Chestnut Street

Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-663-6201

Email: thomasmore32@gmail.com

**Adoration Room at STM**

Open Daily from 9 am - 6 pm

**Holy Trinity Catholic Church**

212 S Main Street

PO Box 159

Cherry IL 61317

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com



**Church Office Info**

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

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

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

**Emergency Number: 779-248-2164**

**Confession Info**

Confessions: Saturday morning, alternating between STM & HT 10:30 am-11:15

**Upcoming/Ongoing Church Events**

Fundraiser: STM Rav/Tort | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone number/order) | \$9.00/bag

**CCD Classes**

Sunday, January 5th- No Class

**NOTICE; CCD Classes will resume Jan. 12th**

Sunday, January 12th - K-7th children's Mass

Class @ the hall for K-5th



**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of January 6, 2024**

Monday	1/6			† No Mass
Tuesday	1/7	9:00 am	STM	† Special Intention
Wednesday	1/8	5:30 pm	HT	† Michael Bickett
Thursday	1/9	9:00 am	HT	† John & Phyllis Hanck
Friday	1/10	9:00 am	STM	† Dato & Marian Olivero

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of January 11- 12, 2025**

Saturday	1/11	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	1/12	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Russell McKee

# THE MAGI - Who Were They?

The Three Wise Men, also known as the Magi or the Three Kings, are figures mentioned in the Bible in the Gospel of Matthew. They are said to have visited the newborn Jesus in Bethlehem, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Bible does not specify the number of Wise Men; the idea of three Wise Men likely comes from the fact that three gifts are mentioned.

The Gospel of Matthew describes the Wise Men as following a star that led them to the location of Jesus' birth. The Bible doesn't provide detailed information about their identities, except that they were "Magi from the East." Tradition and folklore have added various details about them, such as their names (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar), their countries of origin, and their roles as representatives of different races or ages.

**Caspar:** Often depicted as a young man and sometimes as representing the continent of Europe.

**Melchior:** Traditionally portrayed as an older man, sometimes with a white beard, and representing Asia.

**Balthazar:** Frequently depicted as a middle-aged man of African descent, symbolizing Africa.

The visit of the Wise Men is an important part of the Nativity story, and their gifts are often interpreted symbolically. Gold is associated with kingship, frankincense with divinity or worship, and myrrh with the future death of Jesus. The account of the Wise Men is celebrated in Christian tradition as the feast of Epiphany on January 6th, marking the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles.

*(Excerpted from christiananity.com)*

## Church Announcements

### 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.

### Contribution Letter Requests

Please be reminded parishioners who would like to receive 2024 contribution letters to contact the church office.

### Regarding SP 2025 Envelopes

Again, SP parishioners, please let the church office know if you would like your 2025 contribution envelopes.

**Rav Group Please Note:** In inclement weather, please watch for Flocknote text messages on your cell phone for cancellations.

### Latest Offering's:

Dec. 29th weekend  
HT - \$1210  
\$ 654 Christmas  
STM - \$ 878  
\$1759 Christmas  
SP- \$839  
\$433 Christmas



### Confessions

confessions will be  
Sat. Jan 11TH  
10:30 - 11:15 am at  
Holy Trinity  
In the church  
confessional

# 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.



DAVID ARTISNIK / SHUTTERSTOCK

**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



CNS PHOTO

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://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