



The Seekers

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I live at a parish in downtown Milwaukee. From my window I watch the world pass by, everyone below in search of one thing or another. Students from the local university seek an education, business folk look for a sale, street people often look for a place to spend the night, teenagers hope to find love. Yet beneath all of those longings, in each one there is a deeper hunger that wonders what life is all about and the hope that they might find it. Hidden amidst it all, the real hunger is for God, a longing sewn into our being, sometimes recognized but too often not.

The story of the *Magi* is a story of seekers making their way from afar in hopes of finding the promised one, a newborn king. Perhaps they knew of this child's divine nature, more likely not, yet it was ultimately that same hunger that exists in all of us that drove them, a deep desire to know God.

Every serious religion seeks to experience God in life and tells the stories of those who have done so. There are Christian mystics like St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Ávila, Jewish mystics of the Kabbalah tradition, the Sufis of Islam, Native Americans who go on vision quests, the Hindus who practice yoga, as well as the Buddhists and Taoists and Confucians. Like the Magi, we all seek to find God. ●

Arise! Shine, for your light has come,
the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.

ISAIAH 60:1

Reflect

Does it make sense to you to say that your deepest hunger is for God?



Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Rav/Tort Group taking orders now
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Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, January 7th - K thru 4th Grade & Confirmation Class
Sunday, January 14th - 5th thru 8th Grades

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of January 8, 2024

Monday	1/8			† No Mass
Tuesday	1/9	9:00 am	STM	† Catherine Hunter
Wednesday	1/10	5:30 pm	HT	† Kathy Sondgeroth
Thursday	1/11	9:00 am	HT	† Bernard Schwamberger
Friday	1/12	9:00 am	STM	† Sy Pyska

Mass Intentions for the weekend of January 13-14, 2024

Saturday	1/13	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Alan Hahn
Sunday	1/14	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Dec. Mem. Harold Klein Family
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† Delores Nauman
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	† For the Parishioners

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)



CCD Classes resume Sunday, January 7th

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 2023 contribution letters may contact the church office.

Free Poinsettias

To those who have contributed to the Christmas Flower Fund, we'd like to wholeheartedly thank you for your generosity. Now that the Christmas season is over, if you would like to take some poinsettias home, please help yourself.

LATEST OFFERING'S

DEC 31ST WEEKEND

HT - \$2,177.00

SP - \$1,105.00

STM - \$ 899.00



CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE

SAT. JAN 13TH

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST PATRICK

IN THE CHAPEL

Dear Padre,

On what date was Jesus born? Was it December 25 or some time between December and April, when shepherds watched over their sheep?

Due to the complexity of history's various calendars and ways of calculating time, we cannot be sure of the date. Matthew and Luke, the two Gospels that detail the birth of Jesus, do not give a date.

Early Christians observed an annual feast to remember Jesus' death and resurrection, focusing on the paschal mystery rather than on his birth. As Christianity grew and spread, however, Christians wanted to celebrate more events from Jesus' life. The celebration on December 25 has more to do with an expression of faith in Jesus as Emmanuel, "God with us," than with establishing the exact date of his birth.

December 25 is listed as the date of Jesus' birth in a fourth-century calendar of martyrs, but how this date was chosen is unclear. Some scholars believe Christians in Rome chose December 25 to counteract the celebration of the pagan sun god Emesa. Another theory follows the influences of the seasons: early Christians believed John the Baptist was conceived on the autumnal equinox and born at the summer solstice. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus' conception took place six months after John's. That time line would place Jesus' birth at the winter solstice, December 25 on the Julian calendar. A third theory says Jesus' birth would have occurred on the same date as his death, which we believe to be in the spring at Passover. Regardless of the exact date, we celebrate Jesus as the true Son of God who came to enlighten us and, by his death and resurrection, to give us life. ●

Fr. John Schmidt, 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

January 8
Baptism of the Lord
Is 55:1-11
1 Jn 5:1-9
Mk 1:7-11

TUESDAY

January 9
Weekday
1 Sm 1:9-20
Mk 1:21-28

WEDNESDAY

January 10
Weekday
1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20
Mk 1:29-39

THURSDAY

January 11
Weekday
1 Sm 4:1-11
Mk 1:40-45

FRIDAY

January 12
Weekday
1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a
Mk 2:1-12

SATURDAY

January 13
Weekday
1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a
Mk 2:13-17

SUNDAY

January 14
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Jn 1:35-42



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Like a rising star (see Numbers 24:17), Jesus comes to enlighten all peoples and to brighten the nights of humanity. Today, with the Magi, let us lift our eyes to heaven and ask: "Where is the child who has been born?" (Matthew 2:2). Where can we find and encounter our Lord?

HOMILY, ROME,
JANUARY 6, 2023