

JANUARY 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Very Rev. Rob Adams, STL

Deacon: Dcn. Joe Jacobs

Administrative Assistant: Becky Griffith

Custodian: Lisa Scalf

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Adoration: Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

BAPTISM - 2 WEEKS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.

MARRIAGE PREP - 6 MONTHS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, 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." - Mt 2:1-2



From the Pastor's Desk....

Sunday Offertory

12-24-2023.....\$
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
Surplus/Deficit.....\$1,659
 YTD Offertory.....\$71,500
 Budget.....\$67,500
Surplus/Deficit.....\$4,000

Offering will be updated in next bulletin.



Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 928

Hi everyone!

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. I know we often associate this feast with the wise men, but did you know that the Church focuses on three events? Besides the visit of the magi, the Church also recalls the wedding at Cana and Jesus's baptism! What do all of these have in common? All of them are epiphanies or manifestations of who Jesus is! At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus and at Epiphany, we celebrate God revealing His Son to us.

Today is a good day to ask God to show you the hidden things that you can't see. It is a good day to pray that other people will be able to see and believe as well.

Fr. Rob

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, January 6	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Covie Joseph Schmidt
Sunday, January 7	10:30 am Mass 1:00 pm	For the People For the People
Monday, January 8	No Mass	
Tuesday, January 9	NoMass	
Wednesday, January 10	Noon Mass	Angela Weindenbenner
Thursday, January 11	No Mass	
Friday, January 12	Noon Mass	Poor Souls
Saturday, January 13	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Purity Thomas
Sunday, January 14	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

LECTOR ROTATION - Below are the name and dates of the lector rotation.

01/07 - Steve Misczenski
01/14 -Sidney Cline

“If you cannot make your assigned date, feel free to contact a fill in for yourself or contact Sidney Cline at 606-424-8118”.

ROSARY - We will be meeting at **noon** the first Saturday of each month to say the Rosary.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION -
ENCOURAGE DEEPER
UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, “This place is boring. I want to go somewhere.” So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, “Where am I truly at home?”

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, “They were overjoyed at seeing the star.” This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you’re a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, “Follow me! I will take you home!” Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer

group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home. — Father John Muir ©LPi

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR
ORDINARY MOMENTS**

Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you’re on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: “God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace.”

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God’s and Herod’s. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn’t entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn’t say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I’ll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod’s charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it’s enough to remember this: God’s plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let’s have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Terry A. Williams, Becky Griffith’s brother in law (lung cancer)

Jimmie Goss

Tim Deskins

Christine Misczenski, Steve Misczenski’s mother

Melba Schmidt, Kenny Schmidt’s mother

Ryan Altman, Helen Altman’s grandson

Steve Misczenski, Sr. (cancer)

Erica Hunt, Lisa Scalf’s friend (kidney failure)

Deacon Dirck Curry

Frank Shortridge, Becky Griffith’s brother (ALS)

John Flichman, stroke

Chona Curry

Terry Williams

Wanda Baker

Jeffrey Scalf, Lisa’s son

Sandy Lowe, cancer

Ron Saros

Kenny Blackburn

Helen Altman

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

VOTIVE CANDLES:

Suggested donation: Large votives \$3.00 and small votives \$0.50



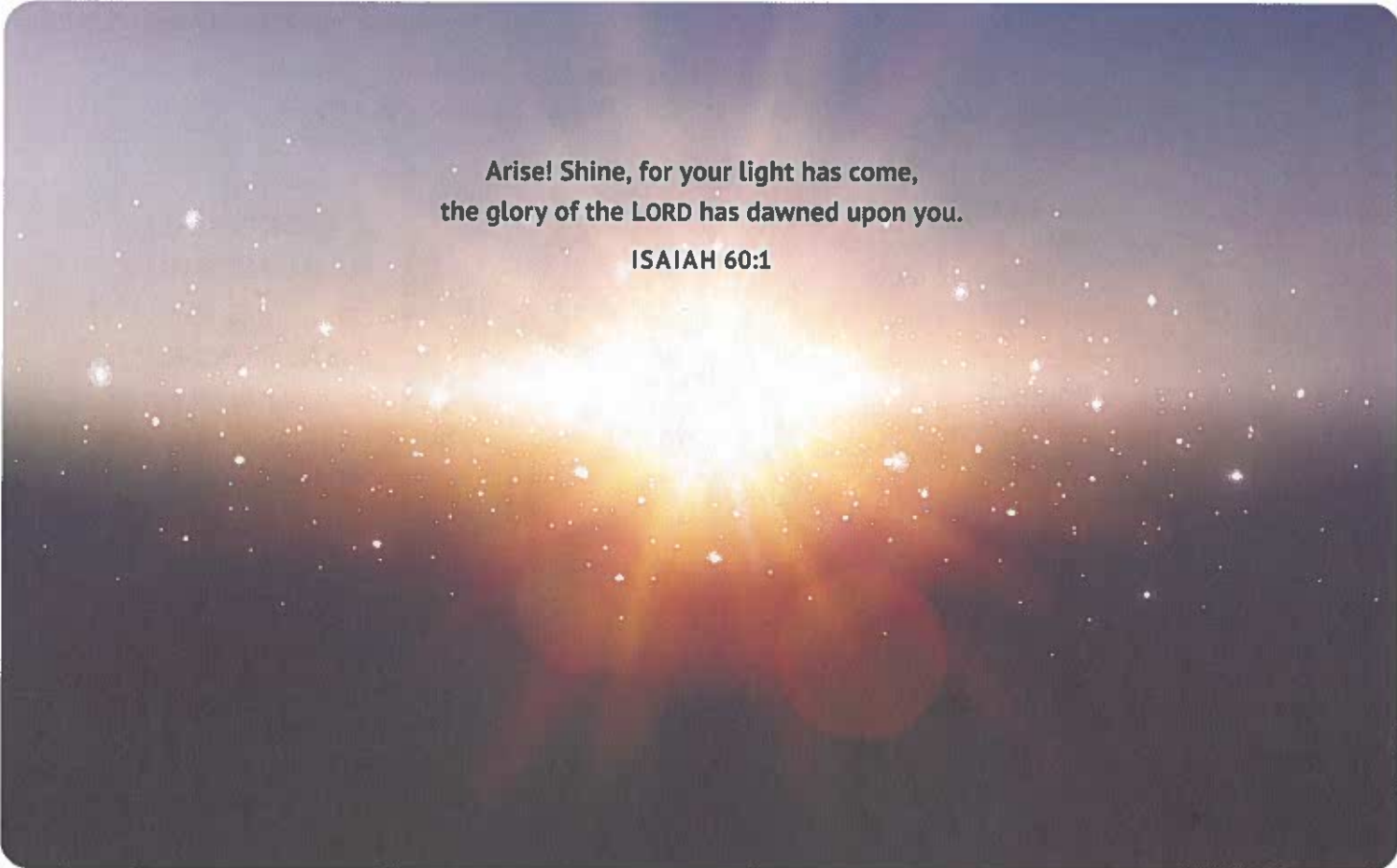
The Seekers

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. ●

A large, vertical rectangular image with a dark blue and purple background, featuring a bright, glowing starburst or nebula in the center, surrounded by smaller stars and light trails.

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?

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. ●



HRAMKONA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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**

VATICAN MEDIA