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St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB St. Theresa's Parish Rossburn, MB

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 72): Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

St. Joseph The Worker News:

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick in hospitals, care homes, or in their homes & those who care for them. If you wish to receive the Sacraments of Anointing, Confession, or Holy Communion – please call the parish office & leave a message: 204-773-2924.

Praying with Pope Francis January: For the gift of diversity in the Church: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Mass Intentions For This Week:

Epiphany Of The Lord

Saturday Jan 6 7:30 p.m. Russell + Duncan Spurway from Funeral Mass offering

Sunday Jan 7 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. & YouTube after 10:15 am**
 For all parishioners by Father Paul

11:00 a.m. Rossburn + John Ryshtylo req. by Michael & Myrna & family

Monday Jan 8 For family req. by Jean Goba

Tuesday Jan 9 + Andrew Welechenko req by John Welechenko

Wed. Jan 10 + Frank Mangin req by Madeline & family

Thurs Jan 11 10:30 a.m. Rossburn Adoration
 11:00 a.m. Mass Fr Paul req by the McLaughlin's

Friday Jan 12 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration
 9:00 a.m. Mass Dana & Jordan Wedding Blessings req by Darin & Carlene
 10:15 a.m. Rossburn Personal Care /Home Music & Mass

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday Jan 13 7:30 p.m. Russell + Duncan Spurway Funeral Mass offering

Sunday Jan 14 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. & YouTube after 10:15 am**
 + John Selby req by Doug and Donalda Wishart

11:00 a.m. Rossburn Suffering Souls in Purgatory req by Rose & family



We are still looking for someone who would like to shovel snow for St. Joseph's the Worker Parish. This would be to clear sidewalks throughout the winter and is a paid position. Please call the office or Gary Petz for more information. Thank you.

The Dec 31, 2023 deposit for the children collection for St Joseph's was \$200. For all of 2023, the total was \$1555.00.

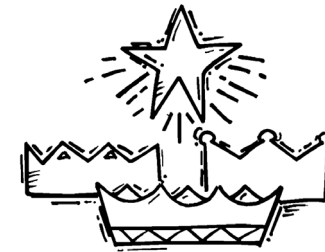
Helping Hands Soup Kitchen, Brandon is a non-profit serving communities for decades. They depend on volunteers to help serve daily lunch. St. Joseph The Worker Parish plans soon in the New Year to travel to Brandon, volunteering as a group to assist giving out food at their lunch buffet. For more information contact Deacon Darin Douglas, 204-532-2157.

Our sincere sympathies to Paul and Pat Orsak and family on the passing of Paul's mother Mary. Mary was a member of the CWL for many years. Her funeral service was held on January 5th, 2024 at our parish.

Our sincere sympathies also to the Vermette families on the passing of David. His funeral service was held in Binscarth on January 6th, 2024.

Epiphany of the Lord

"..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - Matthew 2:11 Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!



*We need to look for Jesus in unlikely places and persons. During the Christmas season we, like the Magi, must give our most precious gift, our life, to Jesus. We will learn to discover Him in the most unlikely places and in the most distasteful people – in those who live in suffering or in distress, in poverty, or in fear. The message of Christmas is that we can truly find Jesus if we look in the right places – in the streets, in the slums, in the asylums, in the orphanages, in the nursing homes – starting in our own homes, workplaces, and town. We need to look for

Him in people that we might otherwise ignore: the homeless, the sick, the addicts, the unpleasant people, the rebels, or the people of different culture and lifestyle from us. True Christmas is about celebrating the coming of God among the poor, the homeless, and the disadvantaged, with a message of hope and liberation for these sufferers in our world. It is about our responsibility to be part of that liberating process. It is about working to remove from our world the shameful blot of poverty, discrimination, and exploitation that is the lot of too many in our environment of prosperity. God challenges us to be like the shepherds who overcame their fear in order to seek out Jesus, or like the Wise Men who traveled a long distance to find Him. Then we will have the true experience of Christmas – the joy of the Savior.

*Kids Boots – Did you hear about the teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his boots? He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on. When the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked and sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on – this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off. He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them." She didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again. She said, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots."

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said, "Jesus knows you're here."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard "Jesus is watching you". Startled, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot. "Did you say that", he hissed at the parrot. "Yes", the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warm you that he's watching you." The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?" "Moses," replied the bird. "Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses?" "The kind of people who would name a Rottweiler Jesus".

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

VATICAN MEDIA

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

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



The Seekers

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

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?



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