



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?*

## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

**St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak**

**Pastor:** Rev. RanJan Cletus

**Mailing address:** 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

**Email:** cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

**Masses: Cyclone:** Saturday 5:30PM & Sunday 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tues., Thurs & Friday: 7AM

**Marak:** Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

### The Sacraments:

**Baptism:** On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

**Confessions:** Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

**Marriage:** Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

### **JANUARY 5, 2025 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

An “epiphany” is an appearance. In today’s readings, with their rising stars, splendorous lights, and mysteries revealed, the face of the child born on Christmas day appears.

Herod, in today’s Gospel, asks the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah is to be born. The answer Matthew puts on their lips says much more, combining two strands of Old Testament promise—one revealing the Messiah to be from the line of David (see [2 Samuel 2:5](#)), the other predicting “a ruler of Israel” who will “shepherd his flock” and whose “greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth” (see [Micah 5:1-3](#)).

Those promises of Israel’s king ruling the nations resound also in today’s Psalm. The psalm celebrates David’s son, Solomon. His kingdom, we sing, will stretch “to the ends of the earth,” and the world’s kings will pay him homage. That’s the scene too in today’s First Reading, as nations stream from the East, bearing “gold and frankincense” for Israel’s king.

The Magi’s pilgrimage in today’s Gospel marks the fulfillment of God’s promises. The Magi, probably Persian astrologers, are following the star that Balaam predicted would rise along with the ruler’s staff over the house of Jacob (see [Numbers 24:17](#)).

Laden with gold and spices, their journey evokes those made to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba and the “kings of the earth” (see [1 Kings 10:2, 25](#); [2 Chronicles 9:24](#)). Interestingly, the only other places where frankincense and myrrh are mentioned together are in songs about Solomon (see [Song of Songs 3:6; 4:6, 14](#)).

One greater than Solomon is here (see [Luke 11:31](#)). He has come to reveal that all peoples are “coheirs” of the royal family of Israel, as today’s Epistle teaches.

His manifestation forces us to choose: will we follow the signs that lead to Him as the wise Magi did? Or will we be like those priests and scribes who let God’s words of promise become dead letters on an ancient page?



12-24 Christmas Offering: \$2,524.00      12-29: Sunday Offering: \$2,810.00  
12-29: Holy Family Special Collection: \$440.00      12-29: Children’s Offering: \$2.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Anna Givens (512-809-9889) marakchurch@yahoo.com  
CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info by Wednesday before the weekend!

**MINISTRIES FOR JANUARY 12, 2025**

**Rosary:** Volunteer Needed

**Lector:** KJZT Juniors

**Ushers:** KJZT Juniors

**Money Counters:** Jeannine Dohnalik and Trish Littlejohn

**Eucharistic Minister:** Misty Green

**Offertory:** KJZT Juniors

**Servers:** Brady, Hampton, Julianna

**SANCTUARY LIGHT: December 30, 2024—January 5, 2025:**

\*Parishioners of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church by St. Anne's Altar Society

†Alfred Vansa by Terry and Diane Evans

**SANCTUARY LIGHT: January 6-12, 2025:**

†August and Mary Hubnik by Arvell and Liz Jungmann

†Jerry Wade by Margie Wade



**Prayer Chain...** Please pray for Anton Vrazel, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Kay and Ed Moraw, Ethel Marak, Thomas Motyka as well as those in need in the Book of Prayers. Prayers are powerful as we pray daily for those in need. To be added to the prayer chain:

Please contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—[Slavik@farm-market.net](mailto:Slavik@farm-market.net)

**MARAK MASSES—January 5th to 12th, 2025**

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—1/5	10:15am	†Clement Tomek by Knights of Columbus Council No. 10186 (Marak/Cyclone) †Stanley Hubnik by Arvell and Liz Jungmann †Claire Worley by Robert and Debbie Vansa
1/8—Wednesday	5:30 pm	†Steve Vansa by Bobby and Margaret Paholek †Clement Tomek by Leon and Sandra Rector †Stanley Hubnik by Arvell and Liz Jungmann
1/12—Sunday	10:15am	†Clement Tomek by Knights of Columbus Council No. 10186 (Marak/Cyclone) †Laddie Dohnalik by Mike and Janice Marek †Jennifer Pelzel by Rebecca Barton

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

- **SECOND COLLECTION:** Today's second collection is for the Building Fund.
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you to all of the youth and their parents as well as the helpers that participated in the Christmas Eve Mass. You are such a Blessing to our Parish.
- **ST. ANNE'S ALTAR SOCIETY:** Please meet at 9:00 AM on Monday, January 6th in the Church to take down and pack up the Christmas decorations.
- **BENEFIT DANCE:** KJT Society #12 of Frenstat –Saturday, January 11, 2025—Frenstat Recreation Center featuring the Red Ravens from 7 to 10:30 PM. Tickets are \$12 per person. Kitchen opens at 5:30 PM—proceeds benefit the Diocese of Austin Clergy Retirement Fund.
- **MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES:** If you will celebrate 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65 (increments of 5) years of marriage during 2025 and would like to be recognized at Mass with a commemorative certificate, please contact the Church Secretary to schedule a date.

# Dear Padre,

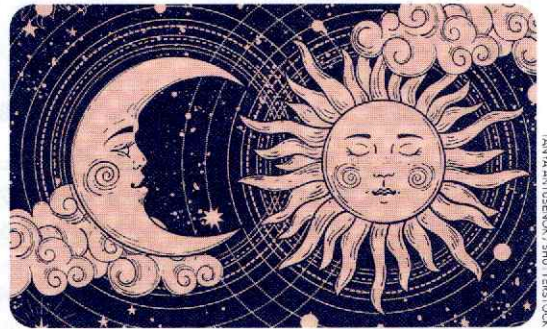
I'm into horoscopes. A friend told me that astrology is nonsense and against the Catholic faith. What do you say?

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.



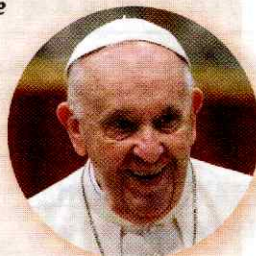
TAYNA ALTIERNOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

**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