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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 right to an education:* Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Mass Intentions For This Week:

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday Jan 4 7:30 p.m. Russell For Fr Paul req by Florence & Walter

Sunday Jan 5 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. and YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**

For all parishioners req by Father Paul

11:00 a.m. Rossburn For Brother Gordon Lysyshyn req by Rose & family

Monday Jan 6 Health of family & friends req by Jean Goba

Tuesday Jan 7 For Fr Paul's Birthday (Dec 5) req by Rose & family

Wed Jan 8 + Suffering Souls in Purgatory req by Rose & family

Thurs Jan 9 10:30 a.m. Rossburn Adoration

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

Friday Jan 10 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration

9:00 a.m. For Fr Paul req by Florence & Walter

10:15 a.m. Rossburn personal care home mass and music

Baptism of the Lord

Saturday Jan 11 7:30 p.m. Russell For a friend req by Irene Deschamps

Sunday Jan 12 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. and YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**

+ For all parishioners req by Father Paul

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

****First communion** classes will begin again at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 12th after 9 a.m. mass. Thank you!

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.



On December 30th, 2024 the Holy Father, Pope Francis, named the Most Reverend Murray Chatlain, currently the Archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas, as the eighth Archbishop of Winnipeg. We welcome Archbishop Chatlain as Archbishop-elect of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

The Dec 29th, 2024 deposit for the children's collections for St. Joseph's was \$452. For all of 2024, the total was \$1,896.00. Thank you to the children for their generosity!

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!

Today's Gospel teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring him their hearts. The adoration of the Magi fulfills the oracle of Isaiah (first reading), prophesying that the nations of the world would travel to the Holy City following a brilliant light and would bring gold and incense to contribute to the worship of God. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 72) includes a verse about kings coming from foreign lands to pay homage to a just king in Israel. Paul's letter to the Church of Ephesus (today's second reading), expresses God's secret plan in clear terms: *"the Gentiles are...co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel."* Today's Gospel reminds us that if God permitted the Magi – foreigners and pagans – to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King of Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that will keep God from bringing us to Jesus. There were three groups of people who reacted to the Epiphany of Christ's birth. The first group, headed by King Herod the Great, tried to eliminate the Child, the second group, priests and scribes, ignored him, and the **third group**, represented by the shepherds and the Magi, came to adore him.



Life Messages: (1) Let us make sure that we belong to the **third group**: a) by worshiping Jesus at Mass with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility, and the frankincense of our adoration; b) by giving a new direction to our lives. As the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, we need to choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits and selfish behavior; c) by becoming stars leading others to Jesus as the star led the Magi to Jesus — removing the darkness of the evil around us and radiating Jesus' love through selfless service, unconditional forgiveness, and compassionate care. (2) On this feast of the Epiphany, let us, like the Magi, offer Jesus our grateful use of his gifts to us: (a) His gift of friendship with God in the form of wholehearted love and devotion; (b) His gift of friendship with others by leading them to Jesus through our exemplary lives of Christian charity in action; (c) His gift of reconciliation with God by making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently, by asking daily for His pardon and forgiveness for our sins and by giving unconditional forgiveness to those who wound us; and (d) His gift of peace by seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, leading a Sacramental life, and meditation daily on the Word of God.

Angel at work? The British express train raced through the night, its powerful headlight piercing the darkness. Queen Victoria was a passenger on the train. Suddenly the engineer saw a startling sight. Revealed in the beam of the engine's light was a strange figure in a black cloak standing in the middle of the tracks and waving its arms. The engineer grabbed for the brake and brought the train to a grinding halt. He and his fellow trainmen clambered down to see what had stopped them. But they could find no trace of the strange figure. On a hunch the engineer walked a few yards further up the tracks. Suddenly he stopped and stared into the fog in horror. A bridge had been washed out in the middle and ahead of them it had toppled into a swollen stream. If the engineer had not heeded the ghostly figure, his train would have plummeted down into the stream. While the bridge and tracks were being repaired, the crew made a more intensive search for the strange flagman. But not until they got to London did they solve the mystery. At the base of the engine's headlight the engineer discovered a huge dead moth. He looked at it a moment, then on impulse wet its wings and pasted it to the glass of the lamp. Climbing back in to his cab, he switched on the light and saw the "flagman" in the beam. In the fog, it appeared to be a phantom figure, waving its arms, she said, "I'm sure it was no accident. It was God's way of protecting us."— No, the figure the engineer saw in the headlight's beam was not an angel...and yet God, quite possibly through the ministry of His unseen angels, had placed the moth on the headlight lens exactly when and where it was needed. Today's Gospel tells us how God sent a star to lead the magi to his Son Jesus. (*Billy Graham from Unto the Hills; quoted by Fr. Botelho*).



Dear Padre,

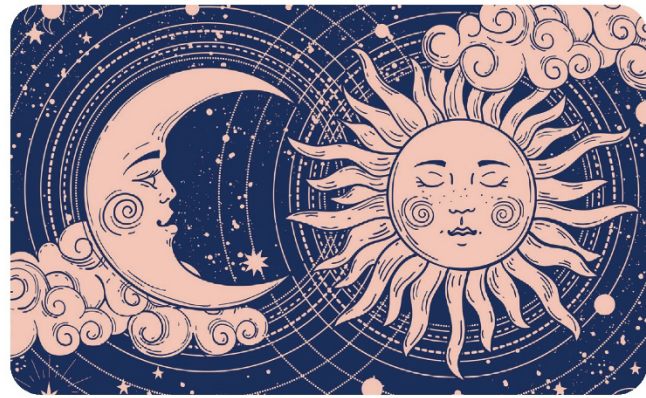
I'm into horoscopes. A friend told me that astrology is nonsense and against the Catholic faith. What do you say?

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. ●



TANYA ANTUSENOK / 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.



CNS PHOTO

HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 6, 2022

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 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

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 5, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord (C)

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



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

We 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?