

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 month 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



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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



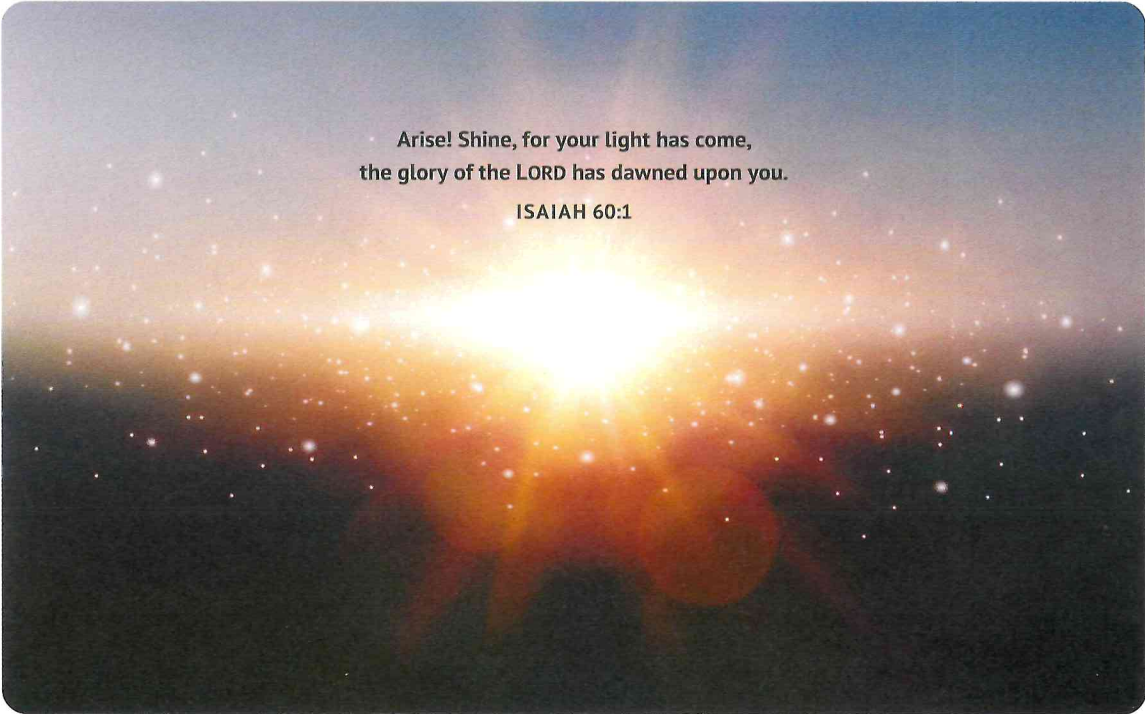
The Seekers

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

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. ●



Reflect

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

Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024 – The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Thursday

Weekly Thursday Mass – 10:30 a.m., Adoration at 9:00 a.m.

Website: www.stjudeparishgobles.com Office: (269) 628-2219

Pastor: Fr. Alan Jorgensen Office: (269) 657-4459

Parochial Vicar: Fr. John Tran
Email: tuyen4peace@gmail.com

Pastoral Administrator: Deacon Jim Bauer Office: (269) 628-2219
P.O. Box 102, 13809 M-40 Cell: (269) 655-6510
Gobles, MI 49055
Email: deaconjimbauer@gmail.com

For pastoral emergencies, contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.

St. Jude Parish Office Hours:

Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Office Email: st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant-Bookkeeper: Lauren Gilbert (269) 628-2219
Choir Director: Laura Woods (269) 628-4866
Religious Ed Coordinator: Jennifer Price (269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator: Jennifer Rossell (269) 744-2582

Mass Intention for today: Jan. 7, 2024: LaVerne Childers by Claire Miller

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

READER: Carolyn Noack
ALTAR SERVERS: Alexa, Daisy, Alanah, Lydia
Mass intention for Thurs., Jan. 11, 2024: Lawrence Jorgensen by Family Friends
Mass intention for Sun., Jan. 14, 2024: William Schmidt by Frank & Diane Hanchak

Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
Dec. 31, 2023:	\$ 1600.00	\$ 2918.50	\$ 1318.50	84
Year to Date:	\$ 49,000.00	\$ 51,506.81	\$ 2506.81	2970

Epiphany of Our Lord, the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Today, we celebrated the Epiphany of the Lord – the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to the whole world. Isaiah had prophesized that nations would walk by God’s light, gathering under his radiance. He spoke of caravans from Midian, Ephah, and Sheba coming to praise God, bringing gold and frankincense.

We are the new Jerusalem of which Isaiah speaks – our light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines upon us, manifested in the infant Jesus. There is great joy in these words: Our Redeemer has come. The long-awaited Messiah is revealed to us, bringing salvation and peace.

But there is a challenge in Isaiah's words and the revelation of Jesus Christ. If nations shall walk by your light, as Isaiah says, we must be lit up. We must be strikingly different from the darkness [that] covers the earth. Our very lives should offer a contrast to the norms of our culture.

As members of the Church, we are called to bear light into the darkness of all the earth. To bring light to the widow across the street who is lonely. To bring light to our child’s teacher who is bearing the weight of personal struggles on top of the work of education. To bring light to our brother who is struggling in his marriage. Whatever the darkness that is around us, we are called to rise up in splendor!

But how can we answer such a call when we might be struggling with darkness on our own?

The Lord tells us: Your light has come; the glory of the Lord shines upon you. Jesus has come to give us all the love we need, all the wisdom called for, and all the virtue necessary to be a light to others.

Jesus, our light, is speaking to us not just in this liturgy but in every liturgy that is celebrated, daily mass as well as our Sunday liturgies—the giving of himself to us at each Eucharistic feast. Like the moon, we are called to reflect the light poured out on us so lavishly. Let us offer our treasures to this King of light today and prepare our hearts to receive all the gifts he pours out on us in this Blessed Sacrament.

Sunday, January 7, 2024, is Epiphany. A part of church history is the custom of blessing homes at the New Year. A family would hold a short service of prayer to ask God's blessing on their dwelling and on all who live, work with, and visit them.

**Take chalk and mark above the entrance or on the doorstep of your front door as follows:
20 + C M B + 24**

While doing the marking, someone says:

"The magi of old, known as Caspar (mark the C),
... Melchior (mark the M),
... and Balthasar (mark the B)
... followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us two thousand (mark the 20)
... and twenty-four years ago (mark the 24)
... May Christ bless our home (mark the + after the 20)
... and remain with us throughout this coming year (mark the + before the 24). "

Prayer of Blessing

Holy God, you revealed your beloved Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Make it a place of welcome and peace to all who enter. Fill us with the light of Christ, so that our concern for others will reflect your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FROM OUR DRE:

Classes resume today, Sun., 1/7/23.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Steve Klein, Garry Adams, Joan Rumery, David Vana, Phil Boyer, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny and Mary Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, David Vana, Vicki Clark, Paul & Encarna DeRyke, and all those on our Prayer Chain

SENIORS TOGETHER LUNCHEON – Thurs., Jan. 18, 12:30 p.m. at Casa Tequila in Mattawan. Please RSVP via Flocknote or call the St. John Bosco Parish Office at 269-668-3312.

A NEW WAY TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE – [Here at St. Jude, you can sign up to have a loved one remembered by having the Sanctuary Candle lit for one week in their name \(which will be announced in the bulletin\). Donations are \\$10.00. If you are interested, please call the office at 269-628-2219.](#)

THE HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN JANUARY 4, 2024. If you know someone in need of emergency heating assistance, please contact 269-381-9800 or homeheating@ccdok.org. We have many volunteers throughout the diocese to assist neighbors in need. If you are interested in donating to the assistance fund, please visit <https://ccdok.org/donate-today/>. Thank you!

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Relationships come with a price tag. We must be willing to entrust ourselves to another, to let go of our autonomy and die to our independence. It is in dying to our independence that we find interdependence with others.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Follow Michigan Knights of Columbus on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MichiganKofC) for up-to-date news on statewide Faith in Action events and activities. "Like" and "Share" with your friends, family, and prospective members today!

FROM THE DIOCESE

EUCCHARISTIC MARRIAGE WORKSHOP COMING IN FEBRUARY. The diocesan Parish Life and Lay Leadership will offer a "Building Eucharistic Marriages" with Greg Schutte, Friday, February 9th, 2024, from 6 p.m. - 9:30 pm through Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. The event will be held at the Crowley Center, 542 Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. REGISTER online: <https://diokzoo.org/eucharisticmarriage> by January 31st, 2023. Early Registration price: \$50 per couple (includes materials and special meal on Saturday). Contact: Socorro Truchan at struchan@diokzoo.org or by phone at 269-349-8714 ext. 1112.

AQUINAS COLLEGES AND THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO offer three opportunities for post-traditional learners to access a 50% tuition reduction in any course of study. Learn more at diokzoo.org/bulletin-announcements.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE (CBAR) has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit ReportBishopAbuse.org or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.

CAREGIVER CONNECTIONS – Are you a caregiver for someone with disabilities? Do you sometimes feel alone or overwhelmed? We invite you to join us for our virtual gathering to build relationships, share experiences, and create a supportive community. We gather via ZOOM on the first Sunday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Sessions are usually about an hour in length. Register online: www.ccdok.org/connections-registrations or call Lisa Irwin at (269) 381-9800, ext. 227 or email: lisairwin@ccdok.org. Future dates: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2, 2024.