

Dear Padre,

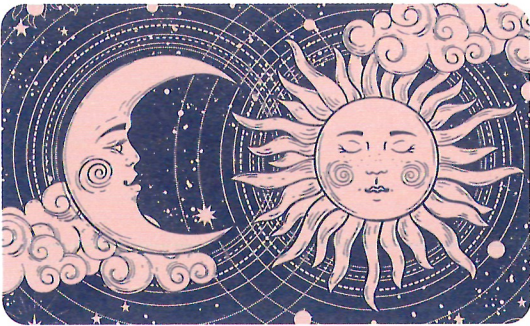
I’m into horoscopes. A friend told me that astrology is nonsense and against the Catholic faith. What do you say?

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.



TANIA ANTUSENCK / 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 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?

January 5, 2025 – Epiphany of the Lord

ST. JUDE PARISH

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**For Pastoral Emergencies, Contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone
and/or St. Augustine Cathedral at 269-345-5147 and follow the prompts.**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Weds. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Sacristan:	Tammy Bauer	(269) 655-6672
Administrative Asst.-Bookkeeper:	Lauren Gilbert	(269) 286-4898
Religious Ed Coordinator:	Jennifer Price	(269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator:	Jennifer Rossell	(269) 744-2582
Choir Director:	Laura Woods	(269) 628-4886

WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR: *Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass* **CELEBRANT:**

Sunday	Jan. 5, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thursday	Jan. 9, 2025	6:30 p.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Jan. 12, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thursday	Jan. 16, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Jan. 5, 2025	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Thurs.	Jan. 9, 2025	Mary Laughlin	By: Bill & Vi Taylor
Sunday	Jan. 12, 2025	Casey Ziemba	By: St. Jude Parish
Thursday	Jan. 16, 2025	William Schmidt	By: Frank & Diane Hanchak

TODAY: SUNDAY, 1-5-2025 NEXT SUNDAY: SUNDAY, 1-12-2025

Reader	CCD Students	Reader	Ellen Brown
EO Ministers	L. Wahmhoff & J. Price	EO Ministers	K. Boyer & D. Hanchak
Servers	Bella, Sadie, Daisy, Emma	Servers	Alexa, Elise, Lydia, Noah

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Christmas	Dec. 25, 2024	Target	\$ 2,400	Offered	\$ 1,346.00	\$ 1,054.00
Sunday	Dec 29, 2024	Target	\$ 2,400	Offered	\$ 1,666.35	\$ 733.65
Year to Date		Target	\$ 51,000		\$ 52,099.85	\$ 1,064.85
Attendance		183	Year To Date Attendance			3275

Our Joy Calls Us to Share The Light In The Darkness

These winter days, light is in short supply. The days are at their shortest, and the weather is at its coldest. But in these long, dark nights, we can see the stars when it is clear. However bright they might be, they are a beautiful sight – a vibrant, twinkling, stark contrast to the night sky. Throughout history, the stars and the heavens have offered a tapestry of shapes and forms for stories and myths and provided maps for navigation and guidance. One star in particular takes center stage in today’s Gospel.

Matthew tells us that the Magi are overjoyed to see this star. They believe it will lead them to the newborn king of the Jews. The Gospel does not tell us how they determined that this star was the light that would lead them to Him or the extent to which they understood Him to bring salvation to the world, but we see how steadfast their faith was in its purpose. They journeyed far and brought gifts with them to pay homage to this Child.

Saint Augustine calls the Magi “the first fruits of the Gentiles. The shepherds were Israelites, the Magi Gentiles; the first was near, the latter far off; yet both converged on the cornerstone” (Sermon 202). Even as people from far away and not of the covenant, the Magi knew this star was about much more than the light it provided in the night sky. This was the star that illuminated the One who would finally cast out the darkness that seeped into the world; the One who would bring hope, justice, and mercy to those in great suffering; the One who entered into humanity to reveal God the Father so that we might find His kingdom. It is no wonder that the Magi are overjoyed at seeing this star!

This intuitive grasp of reality, recognizing the essential truth of the newborn King's birth, was an epiphany unlike any other in human history. The Church honors this with today’s celebration. This Epiphany, with a capital “E,” was the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It announced God’s salvation for all people. The Magi have been awakened to a new reality, and in encountering the Christ Child, they are moved to pay Him honor and homage.

As we near the end of this Christmas season, we can follow the example of the Magi and take great joy in what has been revealed to us. We have celebrated again the beauty of Christmas – that God the Father sent His Son to be with us and bring light to cast out the darkness of the world. Our salvation calls us to go out and share the Good News. The joy of the Christmas season cannot be contained in this season but sends us out to share that light with others.

Soon, we will give thanks for God’s revelation and saving love by breaking bread. May this Eucharistic thanksgiving strengthen our joy and allow it to be a light for others.

FROM THE DRE:

**CCD class resumes today after mass.
Great job to all the students who helped with Mass today.**

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Brian Laughlin, Lillian A. Wheeler, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Pete & Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, David Vana, Sonny Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Brett Middleton, and those on our prayer chain.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY - Jell-O, pudding, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene supplies. If someone is 60 years of age and over, and their monthly income is \$1580 a month for one person, they can apply to receive CSFP/Senior Commodities each month. If you have any questions, feel free to call 269-501-0224.

SENIORS TOGETHER – Join us for the rescheduled “Christmas” lunch on Thurs., Jan. 16, 11:30 a.m., at the St. John Bosco Parish Center. A nice lunch buffet will be catered from Chinn Chinn. Cost is \$15/person. Please RSVP and submit your payment as soon as possible.

DID YOU KNOW? The Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament that provides spiritual and physical healing through the grace of God. It is intended for anyone who is seriously ill, facing surgery, or is elderly or frail. The Anointing of the Sick provides comfort, peace, courage, and forgiveness of sins. It can also lead to physical healing, if it is God' will.

A SPECIAL 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.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: As Deacon Jim stated, our building project is on hold until after the 1st of the year. We will still take any donations that anyone wants to give, as any project we want to do will take additional funds. Look for future meetings after January 1st in the bulletin and Flocknote messages.

FROM THE DIOCESE

WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR? A Holy Year of the forgiveness of sin, conversion and joyful celebration. The word “jubilee” comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*, which refers to the ram's horn used to announce a jubilee in the Old Testament.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER MAINTENANCE - PART-TIME. The Diocese of Kalamazoo is seeking an experienced maintenance person. Under the direction of the Vicar General/Operations Manager this position is responsible for maintaining the Diocesan Pastoral Center and the Bishop's house. This position will also provide backup assistance with maintenance projects when needed at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. For more detailed info., go to the Diocese of Kalamazoo website and type in Job Postings in the search field. Interested candidates should send cover letter and resume to Tammi Wachterhauser, HR Director, twachterhauser@diokzoo.org.

CEMETERY COORDINATOR - PART-TIME. The Diocese of Kalamazoo is seeking a part-time Cemetery Coordinator to oversee the operations of Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery and Catholic Riverside cemetery. Operations consist of communicating with and providing direction to third-party service providers for burials, foundations, and grounds; coordinating with monument providers for headstone placements; responding to inquiries; maintaining cemetery records; and ensuring overall flow of cemetery operations. This position reports to the Operations Manager. For more detailed info., go to the Diocese of Kalamazoo website and type in Job Postings in the search field. Interested candidates should send cover letter and resume to Tammi Wachterhauser, HR Director, twachterhauser@diokzoo.org.

Anyone aware of child sexual abuse should report the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency and make a report to the Michigan Department of Attorney General at 844-324-3374.