



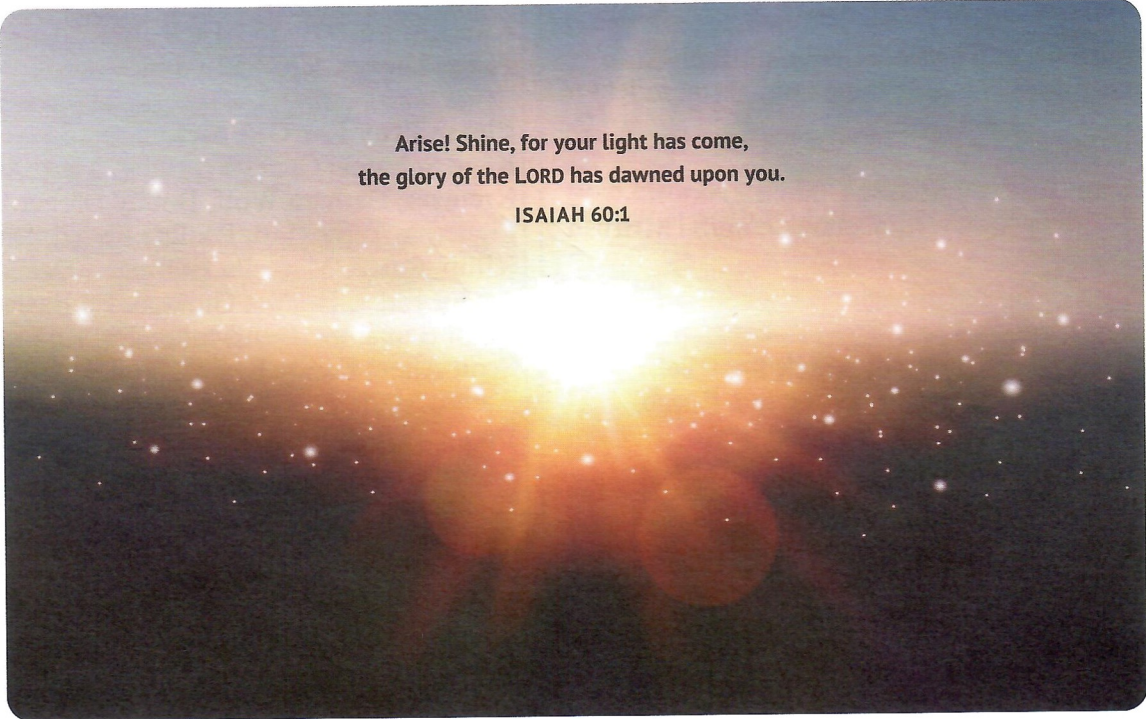
## The Seekers

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. ●



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?***

**St. Mary's & St. John's  
Brush CO & Stoneham CO**

**Pastor:** Rev. Marek Ciesla, S. Chr.  
**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Maurice Okeke

**Masses:**

Brush: Sat. - 5:00 PM, Sun. - 10:00 AM  
Thurs. - 5:30 PM, Fri. - 8:00 AM  
Stoneham: Sun. - 12:00 PM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Brush: Sat. - 3:00 PM  
1/2 hr. before weekday Masses  
or by appointment  
Stoneham: Sun. - 1:00 PM

**Adoration & Benediction:** 1st Friday of the  
month immediately after Mass (till 9:00 a.m.)

**Anointing of the Sick:** - call the Office

**Office:** Thursday & Friday  
Leave a message **970-842-2216**

**Website:** [www.stmarybrush.org](http://www.stmarybrush.org)

**Sign up for Flocknote**

[www.flocknote.com/stmarybrush](http://www.flocknote.com/stmarybrush)

or text **Brush** to **84576**

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/STMBrush](http://www.facebook.com/STMBrush)

**Donate Online:** Visit [www.stmarybrush.org](http://www.stmarybrush.org)

Click "Donate" and select your church.

**Thank you for your ongoing support!**

**Visit [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) & watch for free!**

Sign Up & Select "I belong to a Parish"

Enter 80723 / select St. Mary's

Enter your e-mail - and you are in!

**Mass Intentions**

**Sat. Jan. 6 Vigil**  
5:00 p.m. Graces/Elizabeth Jarrell-PD  
**Sun Jan. 7 Mass/Epiphany of the Lord**  
10:00 a.m. †Maria Carmen Garcilazo-EP  
12:00 p.m. Spiker Family Intentions

**Thurs Jan 11 Mass**  
5:30 p.m. †Angelina Springer - JW  
**Fri. Jan. 12 Mass**  
8:00 a.m. Graces for Martina

**Sat. Jan. 13 Vigil**  
5:00 p.m. †Robert Guzman Sr.  
**Sun Jan. 14 Mass/2nd Sunday Ord. Time**  
10:00 a.m. †Sandra Garcia Madigan  
12:00 p.m. Graces for Jenny Spiker

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**Our Sick:** Joseph Wilson, Tom Flores, Rosa Maria Santos, Gia Marquez, Jan Yokum, Kane Schrock, Deja Adam, Bernice Padilla, Rosemary Garcia, Sean Gleason, Marj Blatt, Ben Mettlen, Arabella Macias, Brianna Hill, Gina Mortenson, Margaret Mann, Paula Meier, Sheryl Garvik, Izaac Morales, Kayla Albrant, Stan Prather, Christy Chapman, Ron Uhrig, Anthony Steven Villarreal, Shelby Daughenbaugh, Caiden Lee, Frank Laso, Fritz & Irene Ramirez, Rodney Hergenreter, Stella, Amanda Weisensee, Norma Wolfe, Daniel Hoffman, Alvin Vigil, Jessica Penner, Eloy Padilla, Nadine Odell, Jennifer Romero, Pennie Haller, Armando Saucedo, Jeffery Pieper, Carmona Family, Delbert Meier, Leo Millburg, Haisley Blackwelder

**For the Soul:** Crisanta Gonzalez





NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Exposition / Adoration / Benediction

**St. Mary's: January 6th/7th**

First Sunday of the month

Saturday **4:30 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.**

Sunday **9:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.**

**St. John's: January 14th**

Second Sunday of the month

**11:30 a.m. - 11:57 a.m.**

**Adult Study in the Church**

**Tuesday, Jan. 9th / 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**Fr. John Riccardo's The Rescue Project**

**REQUEST FOR MASS INTENTIONS**

There is no charge for Mass; however,  
a customary offering of \$10 is appreciated.

**Intention Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Living \_\_\_\_\_ Deceased

Requested by:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date wanted: \_\_\_\_\_

Which church? ☐ St. Mary ☐ St. John

Privately by Father? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Epiphany House Blessing**  
**Sunday, January 7**

Following our Catholic Tradition,  
we invite you to do the **Epiphany House  
Blessing.**

By blessing our homes we thank God for  
giving us a place to live in. We invite God to  
stay in our homes. We dedicate our homes  
to God. We pray for God's blessings for our  
families.

Please take home a piece of chalk blessed  
at our Masses, and get the family together in  
the house.

Follow the instructions provided with the  
chalk.

After prayers are done by the head of the  
family, write above the home's entrance:

**C + M + B + 2024**

The letters C, M, B have two meanings.  
They are the initials of the traditional names  
of the three magi:

Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

They also abbreviate the Latin words:

**Christus mansionem benedicat**  
**"May Christ bless the house."**

**"+" represents the cross**  
**and 2024 the year**



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

**Food Drive - Help feed families**

Consider canned goods & items for  
the Brush Food pantry.

Monetary donations welcomed.

*Drop off at St. Mary's*

***Thank you for your support!***

• Email: [pastor@stmarybrush.org](mailto:pastor@stmarybrush.org) • Office hours: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM (Thursday & Friday, Brush)

# 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. ●



HRAMIKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. John Schmidt, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## 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 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

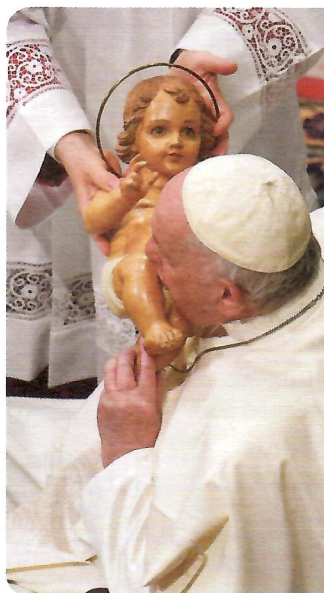
Second Sunday in

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



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