



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?

Saint Benedict Catholic Church

336-272-0303

Website: stbenedictgreensboro.net

Email: Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm on Wednesday and Friday

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.

Rev. James Duong, Pastor

Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator

Weekend Mass

Sat. Miraculous Medal

Novena at 4:45pm

Mass at 5:00pm

Sun. Mass at 8am & 11am

Chaplet of Divine

Mercy after 11am

Mass

Confessions

Weekdays before 12:15

Mass

Saturday 4 - 4:30pm

Weekday Mass

Rosary at 11:45am

Mass Monday - Friday

12:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

after Mass

NO MASS on Thursday

Bulletin requests must be in

the Parish Office by noon

Wednesday, ten (10) days in

advance of the weekend of

publication.

PARISH REGISTRATION: Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS: If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

FAITH FORMATION: All classes from pre-K to high school are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

RCIA: Please call the parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5, 2025

For the times we are afraid to welcome life:

May the Lord lift our hearts with confidence in His loving care and provide for every need.

MASS SCHEDULE

INTENTIONS

1/4	Saturday	5:00pm	+	George & Robin VanPelt
1/5	Sunday	8:00am	+	Don & Bea Clark
		11:00am		For the Parishioners
1/6	Monday	12:15pm	+	Patricia Schwartz
1/7	Tuesday	12:15pm		Room at the Inn
1/8	Wednesday	12:15pm		Kelly & Lily McGrath - birthdays
1/9	Thursday	NO MASS		
1/10	Friday	12:15pm	+	Carolyn Gorla
1/11	Saturday	5:00pm		For the Parishioners
1/12	Sunday	8:00am	+	George & Josephine Masini
		11:00am		The McGrath Family

Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers

Kharll Skycer Villarin
Sgt. W.R. Williams III
Maj. Russel Henderson
Sgt. Bryanna Spade
Sgt. Kyle Spade
April Ducote
Aaron Gaither
Phillip Kiniery
Christopher Simmons
Kris Guffey
Jennifer Kmiecinski

Sick and Shut-In

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers and at Mass: Carol Camp, Lynn Clay, Richard Collings, Virgil Dotson, Martha Eakes, Tracy Edwards, Bonnie McIntyre, Barbara Parsons, George Pickett, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel, Luke & Heather Robinson, Manny & Laura Rodrigues, Kim Snyder, Vivian Speetjens, Marvin Tomlin Jr., Teresa Thu Tran, Frank Williams, Beth Wilson, Brian Wilson, Deborah Wilson, Jean Wilson

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory

\$ 2,444.00

THANK YOU!

MINISTER SCHEDULE: JANUARY 11 and 12

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 pm	John Foley	Gloria Foley	Emily, Gloria	Tom Garcia
8 am	Linda McLendon	Geoff Stephany	Raul, Mary, Jose	
11 am	Myra Vazquez	Bill McCutcheon	Ava	Choir

REFLECTION



Jesus, whom God called "my beloved Son," is also the "servant" of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. We who are baptized in Christ must follow His example and use our time and resources in service to God and neighbor.

LEAVE A LEGACY

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can satisfy all or part of the required minimum distribution for those who are 73 or older. The money distributed as a QCD lowers taxable income, which may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions. Your QCD gift can be unrestricted or designated to the fund or ministry at St. Benedict's most meaningful to you.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Who can I ask for help in my search for the Lord? How can I overcome doubt or disappointment when I experience them?



PARISH NEWS



ST. BENEDICT'S WELCOMES ITS NEWEST PAISHIONERS:

Kelley Wheaton, Aldair Torres-Navarro, Natalie Torres, Renee Bony-West, Priscilla Torres and sons, Abel and Adrian.
Please make them feel at home when you meet them.

DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA) 2024 IS ENDED:

We have reached our goal (\$28,753) for the DSA 2024. *Thank you* to all our parishioners for your generosity in caring for our parish and the diocesan church! Among the people helped by our contributions to the DSA are the elderly/poor, our youth, families in need and our brothers and sisters participating in various multi-cultural activities.

ENSURING YEAR-END STATEMENTS ARE RECEIVED - Communication today is very important to build up our community of faith. Recently several letters and Christmas cards were returned. We ask you to update your information - address, email and phone - by calling the office at 336-272-0303 or emailing us at stbenedictgreensboro@charlottediocese.org. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

INFORMATION FOR YOUR 2024 TAX RETURN: St. Benedict's will mail out individual giving statements to all registered parishioners and regular visitors who have contributed over \$250.00. These statements will serve as the documentation required by the IRS. If you find any mistakes in your statement, please let us know at 336-272-0303. For stock gifts and DSA, the diocese will provide those documentations. Please contact the Diocese of Charlotte at 704-370-3320 if needed.

MAINTENANCE FUND This weekend, January 4 and 5, we will have a second collection for our maintenance fund. Thank you for your generous support.

WORLD RELIEF UPDATE – During 2024, St. Benedict volunteers completed 29 home set-ups and 3 warehouse days! This is truly an amazing accomplishment and commitment! St. Benedict's is recognized and greatly appreciated by World Relief. Anyone who would like to join our volunteers or would like more information, please contact parishioner Steve Finger at (864-247-8815) or mitfinger@aol.com. Additionally, as of December 22, parishioners have donated enough items to set up about 9 homes (10 bedrooms, 9 kitchens and 8 bathrooms) with more items. still uncounted. What a wonderfully generous parish! Thank you for your passion and help in making it happen



This week we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Marcus Michel (1/4), James Watterson (1/6)



ORDINARY TIME 2025: The season of CHRISTMAS ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord next Sunday, January 12. Ordinary time begins on Monday, January 13 and continues through Tuesday, March 4, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. Ordinary Time, the celebration of Sunday, is the identifying mark of the Christian community which comes together, remembering that on this first day of the week, the Lord of Life was raised up and creation came at last to completion. Sunday as a day of play and worship is a sacrament of redeemed time. How we live Sunday proclaims to the world what we believe about redeemed time now and forever.

THE TRADITIONAL WAY FOR BLESSING HOMES ON THE EPIPHANY DAY

All make the Sign of the Cross.

"Peace be to this house and: to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord."

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be ... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3.14)

Then using chalk, write on the outside of your house, above or next to an entrance:

*** 20 + Christus + Mansionem + Benedicat + 25

(These words mean, "May Christ bless this house")

OR *** 20 + Caspar + Melchior + Balthazar + 25

(the names of the Magi)

"Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."



Faith Formation

*Sunday School 2025 for those age 3 through high school
is from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the parish hall.*



Faith formation resumes on January 5, 2025.



January 5, 2025

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Deeply fatigued from their perilous journey, the three wise men must have been filled with doubt and hope in equal measure, wondering if the star would truly lead them to the promised King. “Is this really worth it?” they may have questioned. “Will we *ever* meet this child?” And then, in a single gaze, Christ broke into the world of humanity. In this perfect encounter with the Son of God, the wise men “prostrated themselves” and “opened their treasures” before him - in all his glory and all his innocence. We, on our earthly pilgrimage, may relate to feeling exhausted, full of both hope and heartache, as we wait and wonder where we will meet Jesus. Today, remember, he is here, among us. Waiting for our presence, waiting for our heart. Like today’s Scripture from Isaiah, the Magi must have experienced their hearts *throbbing* and *overflowing* with wonder and awe at the sight of their long-awaited King.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

“Your light has come!” What thrilling words these must have been, proclaimed to a world that had been shrouded in darkness, eagerly - *desperately* - waiting for their God to save them. And not only has their light come; with it came a promise that this light would guide all nations. Yet this invitation to light, to *freedom*, also comes with a great responsibility. This light that came into the world isn’t just for us to follow; it is also for us to reflect to others. In today’s world, this may not involve leading flocks of sheep or strumming a 10-stringed lyre, but it does call us to live as radiant witnesses of Christ’s love, always singing his praise! Perhaps this means living joyfully despite our suffering. Maybe it looks like practicing generosity, when we feel like we have little left to give or remaining hopeful in a bleak situation. We are called to praise at all times, but it takes different forms in the different seasons of our life. Whatever season we find ourselves in, let us, like the Magi, seek the King, trusting in his promise and following his light.

REFLECT

Consider areas in your life where the Child Jesus is waiting to break in. Where does he long to heal you, comfort you, and bring you peace? Like the wise men, we are on a pilgrimage filled with hope - and at times, fear and restlessness. On this great feast, let us offer Jesus our treasure - our hearts - and, in return, he will give us the greatest gift of all: himself.

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.



TANVA ANTUSNECK / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redeptorists / 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