



On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother.  
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

MATTHEW 2:11

## A Trip Called Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**O**ne way to pray with sacred Scripture is to ask, “How is this biblical story my story?” So then, how is the story of the *Magi* our story?

Like those journeyers from the East, we may sense there is more to our lives than what is now. Some inner angst can send us on a life search without really knowing where it will take us or even what we are really seeking. Yet through it all we are led by an inner star that lures us on. Some might call it a spiritual journey.

Like the *Magi* who stopped in Jerusalem and asked if anyone knew something about what they were seeking, we begin asking around. Some people we ask aren't sure what we are asking, like Herod. Others seem able to offer suggestions, but for our purposes it is not an answer but only points the way.

Then one day we happen to stumble on what we've been looking for all along. Some people call it a religious experience. To describe it to someone else, we might be at a loss for words. Yet it touches us so deeply that it seems to change our lives. We begin to let go of what we once thought was so important—the gold, frankincense, and myrrh of our lives. And like the Wise Men, we journey on with our lives, except by a different route, sensing that the path we had thus far traveled was no longer a safe journey home. ●

### Reflect

***Is anything of the Magi story also your story?  
If so, reflect on yours.***

# Dear Padre,

***I've been asked to be a godparent. I'm honored but also a little hesitant. What does a godparent have to do?***

Congratulations. It is an honor to be a godparent. Hesitancy is appropriate, too, as it is also a responsibility. The Church takes baptism very seriously. As a godparent/sponsor, you represent the larger Catholic community into which the child is being received. Church law requires several qualifications for being a godparent/sponsor. As a Catholic, you should have been baptized, confirmed, and received the Eucharist. You must be a practicing Catholic and at least sixteen years old (though some dioceses may have other age requirements). You should understand the meaning of baptism and the responsibilities that you will undertake on behalf of the Church.

Parishes often include godparents in the baptismal preparation programs they offer to parents. This baptismal instruction might challenge you to examine your life. The power of your good example cannot be emphasized enough. A child may not understand the behavior of adults, but the child sees their actions. You cannot tell a child to pray if you yourself don't pray.

Don't be scared off by all this. You are being invited to participate in the most important day of this child's life and to continue being involved as the child lives and grows. Don't let it be just a day of pictures and a party. If you let it, this day may change your life, too. ●



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**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
January 9	January 10	January 11	January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15
<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38	Heb 2:5-12 Mk 1:21-28	Heb 2:14-18 Mk 1:29-39	Heb 3:7-14 Mk 1:40-45	Heb 4:1-5, 11 Mk 2:1-12	Heb 4:12-16 Mk 2:13-17	Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

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## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***How many foreigners, including persons of other religions, give us an example of values that we sometimes forget or set aside! Those living beside us, who may be scorned and sidelined because they are foreigners, can instead teach us how to walk on the path that the Lord wishes.***

**HOMILY, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, OCTOBER 9, 2016**