

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

2530 Garner Rd, Ray City Ga 31645

Phone (229)455-5554

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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 2:1-2



Pastoral Team

Rev. Fr. Kevin O'Keefe
Pastor

Deacon Ray Brown

Deacon Steven Mancuso

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:00AM - 3:00PM

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES
Sunday 11:15am to 12:15pm

Sunday Masses

English: 8:15am - 10:00am
Spanish: 12:30PM

Daily Mass

Monday-Thursday 9:30AM
Confessions Sundays
9:15am - 9:45am

SEARCHING

In Matthew's Gospel today we see two extremely different perspectives, two different reasons for searching for Jesus. In some ways, this resembles the polarization of our nation in today's time. What one group sees as good for the nation, those with opposing views think will wreck the country. The Magi were astrologers who saw a vision in the sky and were trying to find a way to follow it and discover the new king of the Jews. Herod heard about this king, and his reaction was dark and negative. He saw the birth of such a king as a threat to his power as the Roman leader of the country and wanted the Magi to pass on to him what they knew about this Christ child. Similarly, on a more personal level, we can either feel threatened or excited by changes that may come, depending on our perspective.

GIVING HOMAGE

In our minds, it is easy to mix up bits and pieces from Luke's account of the shepherds coming to see Jesus in the stable and the story of the magi. Clearly, it has taken the magi time to get here, and the reading speaks of them coming to the house where the star led them. Nevertheless, they "prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures . . ."

How do we do this? Do we continue looking for Jesus, even if it takes a while and he is not where we expect to see him? Are we paying attention to the signs showing us the way? What gifts do we have with which to pay him homage? After seeing him, the Magi were warned in a dream not to go back the way they came. But if we have seen the Christ child, how can we go back to where we were? We must continue to respond to God's call to move forward and grow in our lives. We must seek the right and just path and turn away from the "Herods" and inherent evils in our life.

Nutshell: Seek God. Pay homage. Amen.

Today's Readings: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



WEDNESDAY
ADORATION
10AM TO 12PM

ATTENTION PARENTS

Children under 12 years must be
accompanied by an adult to use the
restroom
The safety of your child is very
important to us



FEAST OF FAITH
The Liturgy of Emmanuel

The assembly has gathered from near and far, on foot, by bus, by car, by subway, singly and by twos and threes: single people, couples, families. Now that movement is ritualized and made visible in the liturgy's entrance procession.

We are not alone on this journey; Christ is with us. The procession is led by the cross, with the image of Christ upon it. Candles, signs of a living presence, are carried around the cross. Candles also accompany the Book of the Gospels, another sign of Emmanuel, God-with-us. The priest presider is likewise a sign of Christ's presence in our assembly; he will act *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ, who presides at every Eucharist.

As the procession begins, we stand and sing together in our first act as a community. The joining of our voices begins to turn many into one. The songs we sing range from ancient chants to contemporary hymns, but they have the same purpose, to foster our unity and turn our thoughts to the mysteries we gather to celebrate. We may feel that we can't sing well, but "Christ always invites us to enter into song, to rise above our own preoccupations, and to give our entire selves to the hymn of his Paschal Sacrifice" (USCCB, *Sing to the Lord*, 14).

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Please continue to support our Parish, sending your donation by mail, drop at the Church office or Online. Thank you for your support.

St. Anthony of Padua Prayer Garden

Support us by ordering a memorial brick for our prayer garden. The cost is \$100 we do offer *payment plan*. To order a brick or if you have any question about our engraved bricks, please feel free to contact the Parish Office.

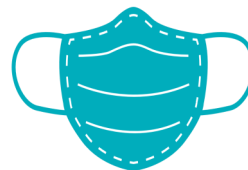


Adult Faith Formation Classes

Meet every Sunday at 11:15 in Church conference room. For more information please contact our office or Mrs. Lukens (229) 794-9140

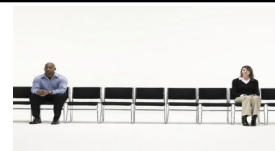


We recommend to wear a face mask



Mary Morrison
 Sheila Maxwell
 Christina Holland
 Gabriela Trejo
 Jacquelyn Knight
 Sofia Varn
 Mia Smith

Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament First Saturday 7:00PM to 10:00PM



Social distancing will be required, 6 feet separation between persons (except for family members from same household)

Please remember to leave room for the HOLY SPIRIT.

If you are sick please stay at home.

After Mass please do not congregate in the Church or outside.

Knights of Columbus
 Round table meeting
 Parish Hall
 Second Sunday of the month at 11:15AM

Rosary Ministry
 Our Rosary makers meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30am. For more information please contact Kathy Giddens at (229)482-2364

Let us pray for the health of:

Ray O' Keefe, Eva and Alfonso Angel, Tony Christiano, Nestor Beroch, Andrew Morrison, Bonnie Cornwell, Don Christiano, Manuel Arias, Fran LaRock, Melisa Green, Michael Kunai, Erika Lloyd, Jacqueline Knight, Anna Marie Gould, Nina Waters, Phylli Fletcher, Nilda Peana, Beatriz Agudelo, Patricia Hunter, Tripp Lasseter, Ruby Green, Lisa Salomon, Madalyn Touchton, Shawn Murphy, Debbie Hernandez, Angela Hood, José Hernández, Thomas Atnip, Jeronimo Vivero



For the Eternal rest of:

Dennis David, Mary Malehorn, Angi Christiano, Tom Turner, David Dennis, Lois Adkins, Frank Hunter, Guillermina Sanchez, Maria Gallegos, Kelle Jackson, Misty Lasseter, Stephanie Nelson, Kevin Ward, Juana Perez Edgardo Arias, Eugene Faborito, Giovanni Foschi, All faithful Departed



December 27, 2020 Collections

Regular Collection	\$
Building Fund	\$
Bishop Annual Appeal	\$