<u>June 1st Readings</u> <u>GENESIS 1:1-2:25</u> <u>MATTHEW 1:1-2:12</u> <u>PSALM 1:1-1:6</u> PROVERBS 1:1-1:6

GENESIS 1:1-2:25 - Two questions that have puzzled many throughout the ages have to do with the origin of the universe and of man himself, e.g. When was the earth formed, and Where did man come from?

So-called scholars have sought to satisfy such curiosity by alleging that the universe is the result of a giant explosion in space at some unknown date in the distant past, although they cannot explain the origin of matter or the energy that caused it to explode.

Their answer to man's existence is "chance", that he is the result of millions of years of the evolutionary process, by which a single-celled being evolved into the millions of species we see today, and of which man is the crowning jewel. Such a theory robs man of both his dignity and his worth.

The correct answer is found in the first words of the first book of the Bible: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen.1:1), then "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them" (1:27).

No wonder the Psalmist exclaimed, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).

June 2nd Readings GENESIS 3:1-4:26 MATTHEW 2:13-3:6 PSALM 2:1-2:12 PROVERBS 1:7-1:9

MATTHEW 2:13-3:6 - The book of Genesis describes for us the majesty and glory of God's creation. But it also reveals how Satan, through deception, spoiled the earth and brought the man God had made into the bondage of sin. The man with whom God had once walked in the Garden was driven from His presence (Gen.3).

However, the Creator promised a day of redemption, when "the offspring of woman would bruise the head of the serpent" (Gen. 3:15). The drawing near of that day was signaled when the offspring of the woman was born in the city of David, Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the King (Matt. 2). Angels in the heavens sang to celebrate His coming, shepherds left their flocks in the field at night to see the Christ-child, and wise men traveled from afar to honor the new-born King with lavish gifts.

Herod, angered by the birth of a babe he perceived to be a threat to his own reign, set out to kill all male children of recent birth, so Joseph, Mary and the child fled for safety.

Today you and I are responding to Jesus in one way or the other! Which?

June 3rd Readings GENESIS 5:1-7:24 MATTHEW 3:7-4:11 PSALM 3:1-8 PROVERBS 1:10-19

PROVERBS 1:10-19 - Solomon, the author of Proverbs and the wisest man who ever lived, wrote by Inspiration of the trials and tests we humans, particularly the young, encounter every day. Perhaps never has one been introduced to such wealth and luxury at such an early age as he. While Solomon loved the Lord, he was nevertheless very familiar with the evils of his age and the power that the quest for pleasure and love of wealth can exercise over one's life. It can enslave the will, callous the conscience and leave its victim drowning in a sea of despair and destruction.

Thus, the voice of God through the Wise Man, calls out to all who will listen, "My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent ... do not walk in the way with them, Keep your feet from their path ... They lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives" (1:10,15,18). Foolish are those who yield to the flesh and its rewards. But blessed are the wise who seek their fulfillment by walking in the path of Righteousness.