

Evangelization Etiquette:

A How-to Guide to Confidently Share the Good News

Week Three: **If They Only Have Ears to Hear:**

Before we ever speak a word, we pray — asking God to prepare the soil and to give us the right words. Then we plant, and we trust him with the harvest.

In the marketing world, they tell us that a consumer has to see an item seven times before they will consider buying it. We can take a lesson from that while evangelizing. Like planting seeds, we don't know what kind of soil our seeds will land on. (Matthew 13: 1-23)

We never know what another person has experienced. And so, we offer our story. We offer the gift of presence. We listen. We pray for or with them. If we stay in contact with God as we evangelize, he will lead us. Ultimately though, the decision is theirs. We can only do our part.

Stay tuned next week for another evangelization etiquette tip. For the greater glory of God, **Jean Lovell**

Blessings from your St. Mary's Evangelization & Outreach team:

When I was young, each autumn I waited anxiously for the Sears & Roebuck Christmas catalog to arrive in the mailbox. Three to six hundred glossy pages — the famous "Wish Book" — held almost everything a child could dream of. My friends and I would sprawl on the floor, pencils in hand, circling items that seemed like the perfect gift. And yet, for all the hours I spent paging through that book, I can hardly remember most of the presents I unwrapped. What I do remember are flashes of joy: all of us opening presents at the same time, my parents' faces as they watched us, and the quiet, unhurried moments we shared during those holidays.

Now that I'm older, my idea of gifts has changed. I no longer flip through glossy catalogs or think first about what I want to get. Instead, I think about what I want to give — not just things wrapped in paper and bows, but gifts that can't be bought: my time, my attention, my love. I am learning the importance of truly seeing others. I yearn to listen to my loved ones deeply — not just to respond, but to understand. To pay attention to what is on their hearts and meet them there.

There are so many ways to give. Offering a smile, opening a door for someone, sending a card. Being part of a support group or prayer group or joining in with a community effort to serve those in need. Giving can be as simple as showing up — truly being present for someone else — or as intentional as committing your time and energy to walk with them through a difficult season. However small it may seem; every act of generosity becomes a seed that can grow into something larger in God's hands.

In these later years, I am grateful for the chance to slow down and nurture relationships in a way I didn't always manage when life was busy with work, school, and schedules. And in the company of Jesus, I've discovered that these gifts don't just bless the receiver — they return, multiplied. Often bringing them and me closer to Jesus and the Eucharist! Jesus said it this way: *"Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back"* **(Luke 6:38)**.

When I give my time, my attention, my love, I find that I am the one who ends up receiving more than I could have imagined, bringing others closer to God and the Church. Does that sound a bit like Evangelization? Can giving them a gift from our heart result in them returning the gift to us and moving them closer to the Mass and to God?

Jean Lovell and Duane Wolter.

St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Conference annual Mass of Celebration, commemorating the founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th at noon. All parishioners and representatives of the Fathers of Mercy are invited to join in the celebration. Please bring a donation of non-perishable food to be brought forward with the bread and wine.

Rest is Peace: Please keep Amelia Mae King and the family in your prayers. Harry King passed away on September 1, and he was laid to rest on Friday September 4th.



Be sure to mark your calendars for the Fall Taster's Luncheon on October 21! It's never too early to invite all your friends and coworkers

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 5-6, 2026

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

Bienvenido a los Visitantes y Huéspedes!

Pastor/Párroco Fr. Tom Buckman

tom.buckman@pastoral.org

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Diocese of Owensboro www.owensborodiocese.org



The deadline for Calendar submissions for the September Calendar Bulletin is 8/25/2026		
Saturday, September 5	5:00 PM	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time- For the Soul of Crystal Becker
Sunday, September 6	8:30 AM	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time- Intentions: For the Soul of Delbert Roder
Domingo 6 Septiembre	6:00 PM	23 rd Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario- por los fieles de la parroquia
Monday, September 7	8:00 AM	Labor Day Intentions: For the Soul of Inge Cohen
Tuesday, September 8	Noon	Intentions: For the Souls of Elizabeth Garst & Sr Danielle Garst
Wednesday, September 9	6:00 PM	Intentions: For the Soul of Donna Rossi
Thursday, September 10	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Harry King
Eucharistic Adoration 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM		
Friday, September 11	6:00 PM	Intentions: For the Souls of the victims of 9/11/2001
Saturday, September 12	5:00 PM	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time- For the Souls of Harold & Florence Tegge
Sunday, September 13	8:30 AM	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time- Intentions: For the People
Domingo 13 Septiembre	6:00 PM	24 th Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario- Por el alma de David Orlando Molino
If you have Mass intentions, please contact Fr. Tom or Erin in the office.		
Mass Ministers: Please try to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass. When/if you are unable to fulfill your scheduled Mass Ministry, please find a replacement Thank You, Fr. Tom		
Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement (270) 586-7425 or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1). The Diocese of Owensboro seeks to help all who have been sexually abused and especially those abused by a person working for the Church, paid or unpaid, either past or present. To report such abuse, please call the diocesan Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (270-852-8380). The revised sexual abuse policy, which explains fully the diocese's efforts to address sexual abuse in the Church, can be found in the back of the church on the parish bulletin board and on the diocesan web site (https://owensborodiocese.org/safe).		
If you are sick, or know someone who is ill, we want to include them in our prayers. Please contact Erin in the parish office on 270-586-4515 or by email so our parish can pray for you and your caregivers. Please Remember in Your Prayers the Following Parishioners, Family and Friends: David Kelly, The Cozzy Family, Cindy & John Janicek, Harry & Mae King, Sandra Bracy, Richard Hearn, Judy Cates, Helen, Ed, and Ben Berry, Tom, Margaret, Roger, and Sherrie Berry, Gail Hall, DeWayne, Susie, Kassidie, Katie, and Kennedie Kirkham, Mary, and Bill Sloan Please keep our deceased family and friends in your daily prayers: Harry King, Regina Cozzy, Lewis Garst, Calvin Oshefsky, Patrick Collins, Gracie Scott, Carol Sue Durbin, Charles Andrew Yanov, Jason W. Bracy, Mary Barnes, Conner Sheahan, Marie Watson, Debbie Head, Crystal Becker, Andrew & Michael Garrett, Angela Berry Maynard, Sarah Drake, Basil Trouten Sr., Hilda Trouten, Dorthy O'Bryan, Joseph Hagan, Susie Wyatt, Miriam Harbin, Roger Farley, Dr A.V. Wilwayco, Frank & Marie Farmer, Keith Obriskie, Gail Briley, Helen Garst, Lois Oshefsky, John Herrmann, Sharon Henderson, Sr Marettta Murphy IHM, Dr John Kelly, Ellie Mirgaux, Mike Glodoski, Rhonda Barrow and Rose Vogt.		

The Parish Mission will be held on October 26-28 presented by the Fathers of Mercy. Please save the date.
To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ of St Mary

Happy Fall season from your Acts 2:42 St Mary’s small group team who are meeting each month. We are so grateful to the Lord for making our small groups an important part of our parish community and spiritual life! We pray you are moved by the Holy Spirit to attend one of our monthly small group meetings. The meetings scheduled for September are:



- Thursday, September 10th at 1:30 PM in the large classroom
- Monday, September 14th at 6:30PM in the Parish Center

Come and enjoy the beauty and warmth found within our brothers and sisters in Christ. Join us and share the joy of fellowship over prayers, readings, discussions and refreshments. See you there and may God Bless you! Questions? Call or text Duane Wolter at 954-591-1400

The Dominican Sisters of Nashville will return on September 19 for Family Retreat on Prayer, 9 am- 1:30. More info to follow. Please mark your calendar!

Enter into Eternal Rest: Lewis Garst passed away at home on August 30th. The funeral Mass will be held on Friday, September 11th at St Mary. Visitation will be at the church from 9:00 AM until Noon with the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 11AM. Please keep Julie and Wayne Grant and all the Family in your prayers.

As of 09/01/26						
Budget Needs 2025-26	Weekly	\$	4,038	Budget YTD Needs	\$	36,750
Received last week		\$	2,802	Received YTD	\$	36,028
Difference		\$	(-1236)		\$	(-722)
On Going Projects	Last Week	\$	60	YTD	\$	484
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 AM Mass 6:00 PM Misa	7 8:00 AM Mass <i>Labor Day</i>	8 SVDP 10:30-2 Noon Mass	9 6:00 PM Mass No Religious Ed	10 8:00 AM Mass <i>1:00 PM Acts 2:42</i> 6:00 PM OCIA	11 8:00 AM Mass 5:00 PM Evangelization	12 10:00 AM Baptism Prep Class 3:30 PM Confessions 5:00 PM Mass
Mass Attendance— 08/22 5:00 PM- 59 08/23 8:30 AM-156 08/23 6:00 PM-110						
Please pray for our military: Jack Jeffers, Army, Ft Carson, Colorado Springs, CO.; Eric Rafferty, Air Force, England; Korbin Bray, US Navy, Japan; Capt. Ryan Berry, USMC California; Jonathan Thompson, Navy, Jacksonville, FL; Ariel Molina Jr, Marines, Pensacola, FL. Please call the office to add a name						
Prayer For Our Men and Women in Military Service: O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity, and devotion to the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded in justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen						

Please keep the Cozzy family in your prayers. Regina Cozzy entered into Eternal Rest. Funeral Mass will be postponed until October 24th at 11AM with visitation from 9-10AM here at St Mary.

Office Hours at St Mary: Erin is in the office on Tuesday 9AM-4 PM (Fr Tom leaves about 3:00) and Thursday from 9-4PM Fr Tom’s office hours are by appointment. Please call the office or the rectory to make an appointment.
Parish Council: Chair- Ninoska Everett, Vice Chair- Julius Foncha, Secretary- Tibor Laky, Jose Angel Noguez, Robin Clark, and Haley Danehy
Building and Grounds Committee: Fr Tom Buckman, Mark Pais (Chair) David Duncan, Kenneth Bracy, Allan Cravalho, Casmiro Moratin, and Thom Boyne, and Josue Cabrera
Administration & Finance Committee Meets 3 rd Thursday @ 5:00 PM Chairman- Duane Wolter, John Janicek, Darrell Fenley, and Andrew Tamm
Ladies Guild: President–Sheila Jeffers, Secretary- Terri Tyler, Treasurer- MaryAnn Forney
Religious Education Committee: DRE- Robin Clark, Maria Molina, Hannah Clark, Fabiola Humphrey, Miracle Stafford and Ninoska Everett.
Music Director- Joshua Wagner stmaryccmusic@gmail.com Cantors: Valerie McGowen, and Margaret Wolter
Worship/Liturgy Committee: Fr. Tom Buckman, Margaret Wolter (Chair), Joshua Wagner, and Maggie Tamm.
Evangelization and Outreach Ministry: Fr. Tom Buckman, Duane Wolter (Chair), Eli Gantt, Colleen Rafferty, Jean Lovell and Robert Loza
Librarian- Kathleen Kaapcke
Archivist- Sheila Harrington, Marian Becker, and Andrew Tamm

Dear Padre,
I had not been to confession for decades until recently, and I’ve probably committed mortal sins I can’t remember. I want God’s forgiveness, but I’m unsure how to get it at this time.



You ask if God has forgiven you for sins that you may have committed in the past but that you don’t remember now. You say you have been to confession recently.

A mortal sin has three criteria: it is seriously wrong; the person knows it is seriously wrong; and the person is free to commit the sin or not. In the case you are describing, you don’t even remember what the mortal sin might have been, or even if there was one. So, no, you don’t have to confess something you don’t remember. Also, you have already gone to confession recently, and you sound truly repentant for your past sins. You do not indicate that you were deliberately trying to hide any sins from the priest. So, you have already been forgiven, not only for the sins you remembered but also for those you don’t remember. That is why usually we will say something like “for these sins and for those I may have forgotten” when we go to confession.

The bottom line is that confession is for you to experience God’s mercy. It is not to test how good your memory is. Be at peace. God loves you and particularly wants you to experience the peace that comes from his forgiveness. ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

The Church is at the same time an earthly community and the mystical body of Christ, a visible assembly and a spiritual mystery, a reality present in history and a people journeying toward heaven (Lumen Gentium, 8; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 771). The human and divine



dimensions integrate harmoniously, without one overshadowing the other.... [The Church] is a reality that is both human and divine.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 4, 2026

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