

Dear Padre,

My grandkids' parents don't want them to be baptized. Can I do it myself secretly so as not to cause problems?

Your concern is understandable, but secret baptisms are prohibited in the Catholic Church. The decision to baptize a child is determined by his or her parents. To secretly usurp their decision may cause problems of its own. For an infant to be baptized, "The parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent," and "There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion" (*Code of Canon Law*, 868 §1). An exception is permitted when the child's life is in immediate danger: "An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death, even against the will of the parents" (CCL 868 §2). Here, the Church's pastoral concern is for the child to receive the immediate graces from the sacrament; the question of raising the child in the faith becomes moot in a life-or-death situation.

"Since the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit.... Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1282). Continue to pray that your family may see baptism as a sign of God's love, which offers true freedom for humanity. ●



Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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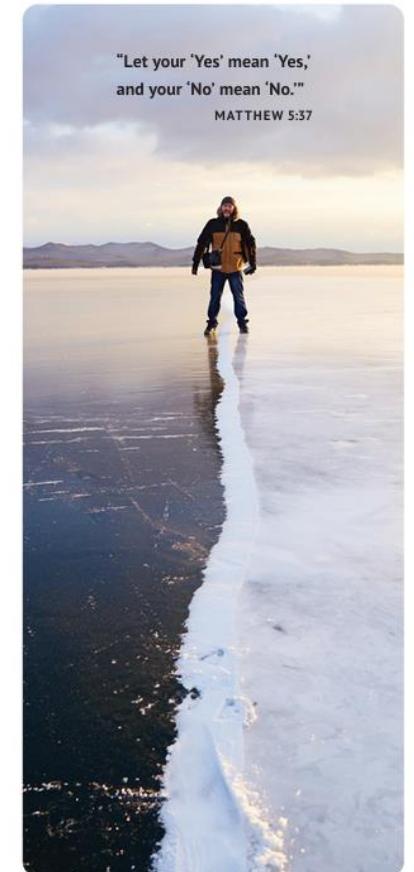
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Some Walk Away FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR "Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No'" (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them. That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, "And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be" (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away. Do you want to say more than a simple "Yes" or "No"? Do you want to say, "Yes, but... I can't do it now." Or "I can't forgive this particular person." Or "I can't welcome this particular stranger." Or "I can't love him or her or them." Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? What teachings of Jesus are too hard to consider?



"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,'
and your 'No' mean 'No.'"

MATTHEW 5:37

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of

mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning "social" media, we risk being ever more alone.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

Monday

February 16
Weekday
Jas 1:1-11
Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

February 17
Weekday
Jas 1:12-18
Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

February 18
Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12-18
2 Cor 5:20-6:2
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

February 19
Thursday after
Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15-20
Lk 9:22-25

Friday

February 20
Friday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1-9a
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

February 21
Saturday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b-14
Lk 5:27-32

Sunday

February 22
First Sunday
of Lent
Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Rom 5:12-19 or
5:12, 17-19
Mt 4:1-11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) February 15, 2026

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three-part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbor.

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead, it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

**Mass Schedule & Intentions
For the week of Feb 16, 2025**

Mon.	Feb.	16	No Mass		
Tues.	Feb.	17	7:00 AM	SJ	Marie Lemmer †
Wed.	Feb.	18	5:30 PM	SA	Cathy Weaver †
Wed.	Feb.	18	6:00 PM	SJ	People of the Parish
Wed.	Feb.	18	6:30 PM	SB	Oakley Brogan
Thurs.	Feb.	19	4:00 PM	SB	Mary Jane Pandorf † Nursing Home
Fri.	Feb.	20	8:30 AM	SJ	Cecelia Allison †
Sun.	Feb.	22	8:00 AM	SJ	Brosius Family
Sun.	Feb.	22	9:30 AM	SA	People of the Parish
Sun.	Feb.	22	11:00 AM	SB	Louise Hoesel †

February 18th is Ash Wednesday. It is the first day of Lent, when we prepare ourselves to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection.



Rex Hanna Feb 17th
Todd Walz Feb 19th
Kaysen Welch Feb 19th

**Saint Margaret of Cortona
(1247-1297)
Feast Day February 22**

In times of desolation, God conceals Himself from us so that we can discover for ourselves what we are without Him."

Ministry Schedule

Date: Feb 22	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	<u>Sunday 8 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Todd & Lyndi W.	Ned & Jenny P.	Chancy & Roni B.
Lector	Tara B.	John B.	Dylan P.
Server	Cotter J. & Gregory W.		Emmett P. & Quinton B.
EMHC	Jason & Jenny J.	Aleta & Conrad P.	Seth & Tristan P.
	Music: Toby K.		<i>Communion to shut ins</i> Verla B.

St. John's
Our Gifts to God & Church
February 8, 2026
Total Collection: \$2027.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal \$4150 of \$5179
with 11 of 15 Donors

No CCD Mass 6 PM
Station of the Cross Friday 2-20
Soup Supper 6PM Stations 6:30
Feb 18th After Ash Wed Mass the Jr High and High School will be Host a pancake breakfast

St. Agnes
Our Gifts to God & Church
February 8, 2026
Total Collection: \$331.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal the
GOAL is MET!!!

Thrift Store
Open Feb 13 9AM to 4PM
CCD Wed Feb 18
Elementary 3:40 PM
High School 7:30 PM I
Coffee and Rolls 2-15 after mass

St. Boniface
Our Gifts to God & Church
February 8, 2026
Total Collection: \$1335.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal \$6800 of \$7452
with 15 of 17 Donors

CCD Wed. Feb 18th
PreK to 2nd 4-5 PM
Supper 6:10
Class 6:30 to 7:30 PM
Parish Potluck Feb 15th after mass. Hosted by Stewardship Group 2

**Quote for Today
Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen (1895-1979)**

"The person who thinks only of himself says only prayers of petition; the one who thinks of his neighbor says prayers of intercession; whoever thinks only of loving and serving God says prayers of abandonment to God's will, and this is the prayer of the saints."

**Ash Wednesday Masses
February 18th**

St John 6:00 PM
St Agnes 5:00 PM
St Boniface 6:30 PM