Dear Padre,



OSCAR NAVESQUINEL / UNSPLASH

Adam and Eve had two sons and maybe others not mentioned in the Bible. How were others born without having committed incest?

This is a perfectly valid question, and one that I think many people have probably asked themselves at one time or another. Unfortunately, it is the wrong question, because it does not reflect the true meaning of the story.

The story about Adam and Eve is not a literal story or, in other words, a story that would be reported by CNN or FOX News. It is a teaching story, intended to encourage belief in the creative power of God at work in his creation. It is not, nor has it ever been, a literal step-by-step tutorial of the early days of the human race.

The bible includes different literary forms: narrative or history, poetry and songs, parables, letters, genealogies, and more. Knowing what form is being used, the purpose of the passage, who is writing or talking, and the intended audience is the work of Scripture scholars. The story of creation is not intended to be literal; it is inspirational. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



FADHIL ABRAMANTRA / UNSPLASH

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

It is a great sign of hope—especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars—to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages, and cultures live together in faith: it is...a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 11, 2026

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday
September 21
St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13
Mt 9:9–13

Tuesday
September 22
Weekday
Prv 21:1–6, 10–13
Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday
September 23
St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Prv 30:5–9
Lk 9:1–6

Thursday
September 24
Weekday
Eccl 1:2–11
Lk 9:7–9

Friday
September 25
Weekday
Eccl 3:1–11
Lk 9:18–22

Saturday
September 26
Weekday
Eccl 11:9–12:8
Lk 9:43b–45

Sunday
September 27
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 18:25–28
Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5
Mt 21:28–32

St. Agnes •St. Boniface •St. John the Evangelist
Rev. Michael Pampara Pastor email: pamparasdb@gmail.com
Father Michael Cell 308-660-5730
P O Box 309, Stapleton, NE 69163, email: abjcatholics@gmail.com
Parish Office 308-636-2421; Secretary, Kristie Walz Cell 308-636-8399
Website: www.abjcatholic.org - Facebook Page: St Agnes, St Boniface & St John the Evangelist

Sept 13, 2026

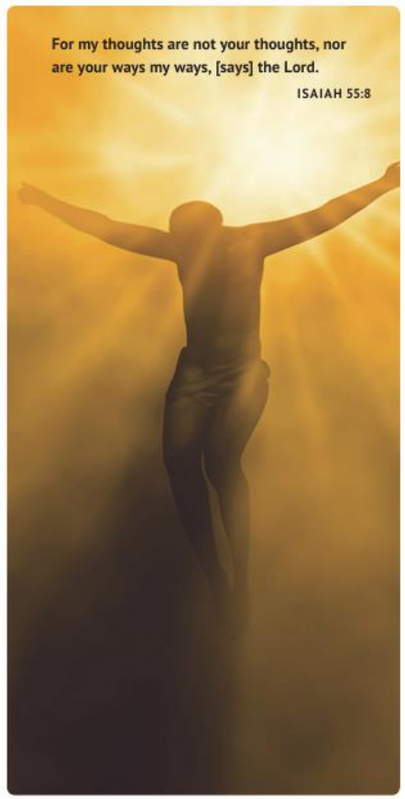
Next Up!

MIGUEL DULICK

I keep hearing preachers say this is their least favorite gospel, because it makes people so mad! All the workers in a vineyard get a full day's pay—which folks interpret as heaven—even the ones who came at the last hour of the afternoon. "You mean, I work hard my whole life, and some nobody from nowhere just waltzes into heaven ahead of me?" But wait a minute! You think you *deserve* your "pay"? None of us is anywhere or anything, even breathing, without God's grace. It's not a competition; it's our only hope! We should be dancing in the street to celebrate God's generosity. Matthew himself must have chuckled at this parable, since he was also a latecomer, having spent his life grinding his own brothers and sisters into poverty to feed the tax maw of the Roman Empire. Then, Jesus called him! I love the twist in the parable: the owner not only pays the last ones equally, but he pays them *first*!

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

If you don't like standing in line, you could be like Paul, who wants to just skip to the end: "I long to depart this life and be with Christ" (Philippians 1:23). As he says, "To me life is Christ, and death is gain" (Philippians 1:21). We should all be so eager. Just concentrate on the "fruitful labor" of service to others. Put everyone else ahead of you, and don't be afraid of some hard work. Any vineyard is a challenge, even when that vineyard is the Church. ●



Reflect

Do I feel more deserving than others or struggle with envy?

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) September 20, 2026

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leaves his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowners have made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

NEEDED Mass Intentions: Please consider having a mass for your loved ones living and deceased.

Mass Schedule & Intentions
For the week of September 21, 2026

Mon.	Sept.	21	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Sept.	22	7:00 AM	SJ	Steve Frey
Wed.	Sept.	23	5:30 PM	SA	Joanie Clayman †
Thurs.	Sept.	24	5:30 PM	SB	Philip Tierney †
Fri.	Sept.	25	7:00 AM	SJ	Torie Kester
Sat.	Sept.	26	10:30	SA	Funeral Barb Foran†
Sun.	Sept.	27	8:00 AM	SJ	Kerri Brosisus †
Sun.	Sept.	27	9:30 AM	SA	People of the Parish
Sun.	Sept.	27	11:00 AM	SB	Chris Phelps †

September 21 – Saint Matthew the Apostle Pray for us!

HAPPY Birthday

Lainey Pelster Sept 21st
Aleta Pelster Sept 22nd
James Main Sept 22nd
Marcus Pandorf Sept 22nd
Olivia Fitxgerald Sept 22nd
Cam Weinman Sept 24th
Kelsey Amos Sept 24th
Leo Walz Sept 24th
Judith Reiff Sept 25th
Conrad Pelster Sept 26th
Willam Karn Sept 27th
Gehrt Dickman Sept 27th
Lauren Bunner Sept 27th

Ministry Schedule

Date Sept 27	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	Sunday 8:00 AM	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
Hospitality	Jon & Molly W.	Patty Lamberty	Bartley & Kaylee B.
Lector	Toby K.	Evan Beshaler	Carla Kimball
Server	Wyatt D. & Garrett A.		Emmett P. & Wyatt B.
EMHC	Jim & Kristy O.	Evan B. & Gary M.	Mike P. & Hannah P.
	Music: Jenny J.		***Communion to shut ins*** Mike Pandorf

St. John's

Our Gifts to God & Church
Sept 13, 2026
Total Collection: **$757.50**

CCD Sept 23rd
Pre -5th Grade 3:45 to 5:15 PM
6-8th Grade 6:30 to 8:00 PM

NO Mass Oct 3rd Saturday at St Johns it will be held Oct 4th at 8 AM due to the Taco Feed in Callaway.

Congratulations to
Tate Schacher,
Nolan Schacher,
Hayes Schacher,
Dawson Schacher
(Sons of Tanner and Courtney Schacher who will be baptized into the Catholic Faith.

WWW (Women Who Worship) are meeting on Sept 29th at 6:30 PM in the church basement. Please attend.

St. Agnes

Our Gifts to God & Church
Sept 13, 2026
Total Collection: **$210.00**

CCD Sept 23rd
Grade School 3:45 PM to 5 PM
High School 6:30 PM to 8 PM

Thrift Store
Open Sept 24 & 25th 9AM to 4PM

Eternal Rest Grant unto her O'Lord.

We remember ***Barb Foran*** who recently passed away. May the hope of resurrection bring peace to her.

(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)
If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, please contact Fr. Mike.

St. Boniface

Our Gifts to God & Church
Sept 13, 2026
Total Collection: **$1926.00**

***CCD**
Pre to 3rd Wed. 9/23rd 4 to 6 PM
4th to 12th Wed, Sept 23rdh 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Mass on Sept 27th will include the blessin of the outdoor sign and there will be a potluck to follow.

Mass on Saturday Oct 3rd will be at 5:30 PM. No Sunday mass.



Please join us for Taco Sunday! October 4th from 11:00-1:00 at the Callaway Community Center. Free will offering.