

Dear Padre,

I'm in the OCIA program. My wife and I were married civilly. She goes to a non-denominational church but is not baptized. Someone said we would have to get our marriage "convalidated." Why? And what does that mean?

Convalidation is a legal term, but it can also be understood as good pastoral practice and even more as a wise spiritual choice. Basically, from a legal point of reference, your marriage took place outside of the canonical structure of the Church. It needs to be "regularized" and "documented" for you to move forward. Because your wife is not baptized, it cannot be a sacramental marriage, which requires baptism, but it can be made valid and recorded in official Church documentation. Such documentation is helpful, particularly if you have children and intend to raise them as Catholic. Also, if your wife ever decides to become a baptized Catholic, your marriage would automatically become a sacramental marriage when she is baptized. Nothing more is required of you. All in all, it is a good decision and a positive step in your spiritual journey. ●



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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

God speaks to us.... [T]he first attitude to cultivate is listening, so that the divine Word may penetrate our minds and our hearts; at the same time, we are required to speak with God, not to communicate to him what he already knows, but to reveal ourselves to ourselves. Hence the need for prayer, in which we are called to live and to cultivate friendship with the Lord.

GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME, JANUARY 14,
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

July 27
Weekday
Jer 13:1-11
Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday

July 28
Weekday
Jer 14:17-22
Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday

July 29
Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
Jer 15:10, 16-21
Jn 11:19-27 or
Lk 10:38-42

Thursday

July 30
Weekday
Jer 18:1-6
Mt 13:47-53

Friday

July 31
St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Jer 26:1-9
Mt 13:54-58

Saturday

August 1
St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Jer 26:11-16, 24
Mt 14:1-12

Sunday

August 2
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:1-3
Rom 8:35, 37-39
Mt 14:13-21

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

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What Image of the Kingdom Will You Serve Up?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Jesus' favorite thing to talk about was a mystery he called the kingdom of God, referred to in the Gospel of Matthew as the kingdom of heaven. He was not the first to speak of it. The prophets before him spoke often of God's dream for the world. They wanted all to know what it would look like when God reigns here on earth as God already reigns in the heavens. But Jesus added to that teaching by offering vivid new images of what God's reign is like. Matthew 13 is filled with such snapshots. The kingdom of heaven will be like a mustard seed, a pearl, a measure of leaven, a hidden treasure. It will be like a sower casting out seed, a wheat harvest, a net that catches many fish.

At the end of this litany, however, Jesus offers an image of what he expects of those who have received his teaching about the Kingdom. They are to be like "the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52). It sounds as if Jesus' disciples are to act like hosts of a banquet, setting the table with stories from across time to feed their guests with whatever words and images would best help them grasp the mystery of this kingdom. They are to continue Jesus' work of developing new ways to illumine a mystery that is in the end too great for words. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What image of God's kingdom would you offer people of the twenty-first century?



[Solomon said to the Lord,] "Give your servant, therefore, a listening heart to judge your people and to distinguish between good and evil."

1 KINGS 3:9

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the Sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples' cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the Sower, we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the “weeds” prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of July 20, 2026					
Mon.	July	20	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	July	21	7:00 AM	SJ	Rain
Wed.	July	22	5:30 PM	SA	Maternal Grandparents of MA Neal †
Thurs.	July	23	5:30 PM	SB	All Souls †
Fri.	July	24	7:00 AM	SJ	Jim Hickey
Sun.	July	26	8:00 AM	SJ	Bill Karn
Sun.	July	26	9:30 AM	SA	People of the Parish †
Sun.	July	26	11:00 AM	SB	Edna & Lynn Griffith†
		Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Pelster July 20 th			
		Mr. & Mrs. Kent DeLosh July 24 th			
		Mr. & MRs. Cody Sierks July 25 th			



Deanna McDonald July 19th
Jett Bunner July 19th
Lindsey Phelps July 20th
Michael Pearson July 21st
Owen Stallbaumer July 23rd
Charles Opela July 24th
Nancy Harris July 25th
William Miller July 26th
Tate Schacher July 26th

Ministry Schedule

Date: July 26	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	Sunday 8:00 AM	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
Hospitality	Rex & Kriste W.	Sue D. & Pam L.	Dan & Jo T.
Lector	Jenny J.	Pam L.	Molly P.
Server	Gregory W. & Tate B.		Amelia P. & Katie P.
EMHC	Jon & Molly W.	Sue D. & Pam L.	Dylan P. & Ronda P.
	Music: Kristy O.		Communion to shut ins Mike P.

St. John's
Our Gifts to God & Church
July 12, 2026
Total Collection: **\$1518.75**

Women Who Worship
All women are invited to the next meeting Monday August 3rd at 6:30 PM. Please bring a food or beverage to share.

There will not be a Saturday evening mass on August 1st due to the Rodeo in Stapleton. Mass will be Sunday August 2nd 8 AM.

Attention all Students
Bring your backpacks to mass August 9th for a back-to-school blessing.

St. Agnes
Our Gifts to God & Church
July 12, 2026,
Total Collection: **\$702.00**

Thrift Store
Open July 24th 9AM to 4PM

For all parishes:

The church is going away from Blackboard as our communication system due to the high cost. Our contract ends 9/18. We will be using Parish Soft Messenger in the future. I am getting everyone's names and numbers converted to it. You still have the option to get phone call, text or email but you can only get the message one way. Once I get it all ready, I will send some practice messages. When you get a message, it will show messenger at the start of the message. Please don't mark it as spam. Just keeping you informing.

St. Boniface
Our Gifts to God & Church
July 12, 2026
Total Collection: **\$3736.00**

Garden Produce
If you have extra, please bring it the church. There will be a box for them.

CCW Meeting:
July 27 at 6:30 PM
Please plan to attend.

CCD Teachers mark your calendar. Our organizational meeting will be Aug 12th.


Wren Elizabeth Bunner who will be baptized Sunday. She is the daughter of Jesse & Lauren Bunner.

Saint John Cassian (360-433)
Feast Day July 23
“We are characterized by whether we respond zealously or lackadaisically to the kindly dispensations of God.”