Dear Padre,

My friend is deeply involved in her faith, but I struggle with our friendship because I don't like how she treats her pets. I don't understand how someone who values religion so highly can show so little care for animals. What should I do?



HEB BAHOSHA / PEXELS

Franciscan Friar Kevin Mackin writes, "The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye to eye are two creatures of love" ("Why We Bless Animals," *Catholic Update*). Because of this strong bond between humans and sentient creatures, it's especially difficult to witness their mistreatment, either through neglect (such as failing to provide sufficient food, water, shelter, or veterinary care) or direct physical abuse (a violation of anti-cruelty laws and a criminal offense in all fifty states). Studies show that owning pets offers us companionship and emotional support; in turn, these qualities can foster in us greater empathy and compassion toward others. Yet, while pets may greatly benefit our health and well-being, owning them comes with a serious obligation and moral responsibility. Vulnerable pets depend on humans for adequate care and protection. At times, some pet owners can be overwhelmed by their responsibility to provide proper care; others may even be unaware that they are treating their pets inappropriately. Out of concern for both your friend and her pets, consider a non-critical, non-confrontational approach to discuss your observations and to offer assistance. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world, asking that nations renounce weapons and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy. Disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference, so we may become instruments of reconciliation. Help us understand that true security does not come from control fueled by fear, but from trust, justice, and solidarity among peoples.

"PRAY WITH THE POPE" VIDEO MESSAGE, MARCH 2026

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MARCO IACOBUCCI EPP - SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday
October 5
Weekday
Gal 1:6–12
Lk 10:25–37

Tuesday
October 6
Weekday
Gal 1:13–24
Lk 10:38–42

Wednesday
October 7
Our Lady of the Rosary
Gal 2:1–2, 7–14
Lk 11:1–4

Thursday
October 8
Weekday
Gal 3:1–5
Lk 11:5–13

Friday
October 9
Weekday
Gal 3:7–14
Lk 11:15–26

Saturday
October 10
Weekday
Gal 3:22–29
Lk 11:27–28

Sunday
October 11
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 25:6–10a
Phil 4:12–14, 19–20
Mt 22:1–14 or 22:1–10

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

Oct 4, 2026

The Gradual Road to Ruin

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

A wise old sage once observed, "When it starts out stupid, it just gets more stupid." The parable in today's gospel illustrates this wisdom.

The son has been sent. The jig is up. The owner is not going to give up the vineyard. The tenants gambled and lost. It's time for them to accept the inevitable and pay the rent. But common sense and wisdom do not prevail. *Kill the son,* they think, *and all that he would have inherited will be ours!*

How do you get from "don't pay the rent" to "kill the son"? It is not a straight or smooth path. There are a lot of twists and turns between point A and point B. But it happens. It sneaks in. It demands little compromises and small dishonesties along the way as it becomes easier and easier for you to choose what is destructive. Then, you find you have lost it all—your very self. And the corruption you've embraced convinces you that you're making wise choices. You must be completely cleansed of the seduction that has enabled you to make these choices. You need to start again. ●

Reflect

Am I aware of a sin that has become easy to commit?

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*



Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) October 4, 2026

Today's Gospel follows directly after last Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus was questioned by Jewish religious leaders about the source of his teaching authority. After refusing to answer their questions, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons and then criticizes the priests and elders for their lack of belief in John the Baptist.

In today's Gospel, Jesus once again speaks to the priests and elders with a parable. In this parable, the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants and sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest that the tenants owe to him. Several times the servants are sent to collect payment, and each time they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the landowner sends his son to collect his rent. The tenants, believing that they will inherit the vineyard if the landowner dies without an heir, plot together and kill the landowner's son.

After telling the parable, Jesus questions the chief priests and elders about what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants. They all agree that the landowner will kill the wicked tenants and give the land to new tenants who will pay the rent.

Today's Gospel has a parallel in Mark 12:1-12. There are some notable differences, however. In Matthew's version, the religious leaders condemn themselves; in Mark's Gospel, Jesus answers his own question. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous. Matthew's Gospel was written about 70 years after Jesus' death and reflects the conflicts and tensions found in the Christian community for whom Matthew was writing. Many biblical scholars believe that the tension between Matthew's community and their Jewish neighbors can also be heard in today's reading.

This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways—through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers?

Mass Schedule & Intentions
For the week of Oct. 5, 2026

Mon.	**Oct.**	**05**	**7:00 AM**	**SJ**	**Leo C. Walz**
Tues.	**Oct.**	**06**	**7:00 AM**	**SJ**	**No Mass**
Wed.	**Oct..**	**07**	**5:30 PM**	**SA**	**Neal Grandchildren**
Thurs.	**Oct.**	**08**	**5:30 PM**	**SB**	**Raymond Pandorf †**
Fri.	**Oct.**	**09**	**8:30 AM**	**SJ**	**John Opela**
Sun.	**Oct..**	**11**	**8:00 AM**	**SJ**	**People of the Parish**
Sun.	**Oct..**	**11**	**9:30 AM**	**SA**	**LV Conner †**
Sun.	**Oct..**	**11**	**11:00 AM**	**SB**	**Mary Saletti †**

Blessed Angela Truszkowska (1825-1899)
Feast Day October 10

"Help all without discrimination, friend and foe alike. Everyone is our neighbor."



James Amos Oct 7th
Avalynn Ortiz Oct 8th
Jadyn Weber Oct 9th
Wilda Foran Oct 11th
Kaylee Brogan Oct 11th
Catherine Phelps Oct 11th



Mr. & Mrs. Seth Pearson Oct 5th
Mr. & Mrs. Nolan Weber Oct 5th

Ministry Schedule

Date Oct 3-4	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	Sunday 8:00 AM	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 11 AM
Hospitality	Cole & Lacy K.	Aleta & Conrad P.	Seth & Tristan P.
Lector	Molly W.	Donnell DeLosh	Caden P. & Rod B.
Server	Rokker S. & Leo W.		Olivia F. & Ruby K.
EMHC	Steve & Cindy F.	Charles F. & Gary M.	David P. & Rhonda P.
	Music: Kristy O.		***Communion to shut ins*** David P.

St. John's
Our Gifts to God & Church
Sept 27, 2026
Total Collection: $**1629.25**

CCD Oct 7th
Pre -5th Grade 3:45 to 5:15 PM
6-8th Grade 6:30 to 8:00 PM
Meal: Dailey

"Holy Hour for Vocations"

Make your calendar Oct 21st at 5:30 PM join us for snacks and visit with the Bishop. Then plan to come to adoration at 6:30 for an increase in vocations.

Parish Council Meetings

St John's Sunday Oct 4th
@ 6:00 PM
St Agnes Wed. Oct 7th
@ 6:00 PM
St Boniface Thurs. Oct 8th
@ 6:00 PM

St. Agnes
Our Gifts to God & Church
Sept 27, 2026
Total Collection: **$166.00**

CCD Oct 7th
Grade School 3:45 PM to 5 PM
High School 6:30 PM to 8 PM

Thrift Store
Open Oct. 16th 9AM to 4PM

Quotes for Today Oct 7th

Blessed Fulton Sheen
(1895-1979)
from his Meditations on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary

"There are two kinds of souls in the world; those who hide from God and those from whom God hides. But when God hides, He hides in order that He might be sought the more, as if to draw out a deeper love."

St. Boniface
Our Gifts to God & Church
Sept 27, 2026
Total Collection: **$1357.00**

***CCD**
Pre to 3rd Wed. 10/7 -4 to 6 PM
4th to 12th Wed, Oct 7th
6:30 to 7:30 PM

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What's your take on artificial intelligence? The Nebraska Catholic Conference invites you to an engaging panel discussion: "Bishop & Brews: Human Dignity, AI, & The Common Good" on Thursday, October 22nd at 7:00 PM at The Chocolate Bar in Grand Island (116 W 3rd Street). Discover the intersection of Catholic teaching, AI, and human dignity in a digital age. Featured panelists include Bishop Joseph G. Hanefeldt, State Senator Tanya Storer, Dr. Jordan Engle, and Tom Venzor. Enjoy a brew and join the conversation about one of the most critical topics of our time. Admission is free - no RSVP