

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*.

Monday

September 7

Weekday

1 Cor 5:1-8

Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday

September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mt 5:1-4a or

Rom 8:28-30

Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

or 1:18-23

Wednesday

September 9

St. Peter Claver, Priest

1 Cor 7:25-31

Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

September 10

Weekday

1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13

Lk 6:27-38

Friday

September 11

Weekday

1 Cor 9:16-19,

22b-27

Lk 6:39-42

Saturday

September 12

Weekday

1 Cor 10:14-22

Lk 6:43-49

Sunday

September 13

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30-28:7

Rom 14:7-9

Mt 18:21-35



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: abj Catholics@gmail.com

Parish Office 308-636-2421; Secretary, Kristie Walz Cell 308-636-8399

Website: www.abj Catholic.org - Facebook Page: St Agnes, St Boniface & St John the Evangelist

Sept 6,
2026

Like a Gentile or a Tax Collector

ANN M. GARRIDO

As someone who works in the field of conflict management, I like to think that all situations can be worked out if we go about it in a skilled manner. If we use the right words. Ask the right kinds of questions. It's embarrassing to admit that even the best "tools" in my "conflict belt" sometimes still effect little change. Today's gospel can be consoling in a strange way. It acknowledges that even when we use all the tools we have on hand to heal a relationship, it doesn't always work out. Sometimes, we may need to become strangers to one another, at least for a while—like a Jew to a Gentile or a tax collector.

Of course, when Jesus says "treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector," it is important to consider how Jesus treated Gentiles and tax collectors. He healed the centurion's servant. He ate in Zacchaeus' house. Jesus did not see Gentiles and tax collectors as enemies and did not treat them as such. Rather, Jesus understood Gentiles and tax collectors as those with whom he might start a relationship should the opportunity present itself. The past cannot be rewritten, but perhaps a different kind of future is still possible.

Is there a relationship in your life that feels beyond healing at this point and from which perhaps you need some distance? Is it still possible to treat the other person with the kindness Jesus showed toward Gentiles and tax collectors? ●

Reflect

Could I improve how I handle conflict with others?



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

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



The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione - Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved.



[Jesus said,]
"For where
two or three
are gathered
together in my
name, there
am I in the
midst of them."

MATTHEW 18:20

Today's Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word *church* in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

Mass Schedule & Intentions
For the week of September 7, 2026

Mon.	Sept..	07	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Sept.	08	7:00 AM	SJ	Wally Allison †
Wed.	Sept.	09	4:00 PM	SJ	CCD Students & Teachers
Wed.	Sept.	09	7:00 PM	SB	CCD Students & Teachers
Thurs.	Sept.	10	5:30 PM	SB	Conrad & Theresa Wildhagen†
Fri.	Sept.	11	8:30 AM	SJ	Cody & Charlie Sierks
Sun.	Sept.	13	8:00 AM	SJ	Leo & Charlene Walz †
Sun.	Sept.	13	9:30 AM	SA	Maurice Andre †
Sun.	Sept.	13	11:00 AM	SB	People of the Parish †



Mr. & Mrs. Even Beshaler Sept 8th
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Kimball Sept. 10th



Diane P. Sept 7th
Kim Beshaler Sept 9th
Tesa Pandorf Sept 9th
Caden Pandorf – Richardson
Sept 11th
Amelia Pandorf Sept 11th
Kaitlyn Kulp Sept 13th

Ministry Schedule

Date Sept 13	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Kaman & Klara D.	Julie B.	Dan & Jo T.
Lector	Jon W.	Katie W.	Tristan P.
Server	Gregory W. & Tate B.		Katie P. & Olivia D.
EMHC	Steve & Cindy F.	Charles F. & Gary M.	Lana P. & Diane P.
	Music: Toby K.		Communion to shut ins Verla B.

St. John's
Our Gifts to God & Church
August 30, 2026
Total Collection: **\$1888.50**

CCD will begin Sept 9th.
All classes will begin
following school with mass at
4 PM. All parents are invited
and encouraged to attend if
possible. Classes will end
after mass.

Quotes for Today

Saint John Chrysostom
(347-407)

Feast Day Sept 13th

“As water extinguishes
fire, so prayer
extinguishes the heat of
the passions.”

St. Agnes
Our Gifts to God & Church
August 30, 2026
Total Collection: **\$242.00**

Thrift Store
Open Sept 11th 9AM to 4PM

OCIA All Parishes
(Order of Christian Initiation
of Adults)
is the Catholic Church's
official process for adults to
prepare for and receive the
sacraments of initiation—
Baptism, Confirmation, and
the Eucharist—typically
culminating at the Easter
Vigil.
If you or someone you know
are interested in learning
more about the Catholic
Faith, please contact Fr.
Mike or the church office at
636-2421.

St. Boniface
Our Gifts to God & Church
August 30, 2026
Total Collection: **\$710.25**

***CCD**
Pre to 3rd Sunday Sept 13th
9-10:45AM
4th to 12th Grades Wed, Sept
9th class with mass at 7pm.
Bring can goods for Food
pantry Drive. No meal and 2nd
grade Parent Meeting 6:30 for
sacraments

Alpha

Are you curious about
Jesus? Please join us to
unpack the Christian faith!
Wednesdays, starting
September 16th, at the
Callaway library. 6:15-7:30.
Please contact Emily for
more information:
308-660-0984