

Dear Padre,

Why do our bishops not marry? Scripture plainly says that they must be the husband of one wife and have faithful children.

This is an excellent question and brings us face to face with an important truth: for Catholics, the sacred Scripture is not the singular source of our practice and discipline. We also look, with equal authority, to the living Tradition of the Church. The magisterium is entrusted with the authentic interpretation of both Scripture and Tradition.

With this theological and historical context as a necessary background to your question, the answer to your query is this: the lived Tradition of the Church does not support a married clergy, including bishops. Although the Scripture allows for it, and provides some general guidelines, the lived Tradition of the Church does not. The Roman Catholic Church has a celibate clergy and will continue to have a celibate clergy unless and until the magisterium, in union with the pope, determines otherwise. There have been some discussions about changing this discipline, but now there is not much momentum that would suggest any imminent change.

In the wider Orthodox Catholic Church, in union with Rome, there is a provision for a married clergy, but, even in these traditions, there is no exception made for married bishops. Bishops are and will continue to be celibate regardless of what Scripture may allow. ●

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Anthony, Abbot	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 1:1-8	1 Sm 1:9-20	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20	1 Sm 4:1-11	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a	Is 49:3, 5-6
Mk 1:14-20	Mk 1:21-28	Mk 1:29-39	Mk 1:40-45	Mk 2:1-12	Mk 2:13-17	1 Cor 1:1-3
						Jn 1:29-34

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the family, faith is handed on together with life, generation after generation. It is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 1, 2025



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

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Jesus, Servant Leader

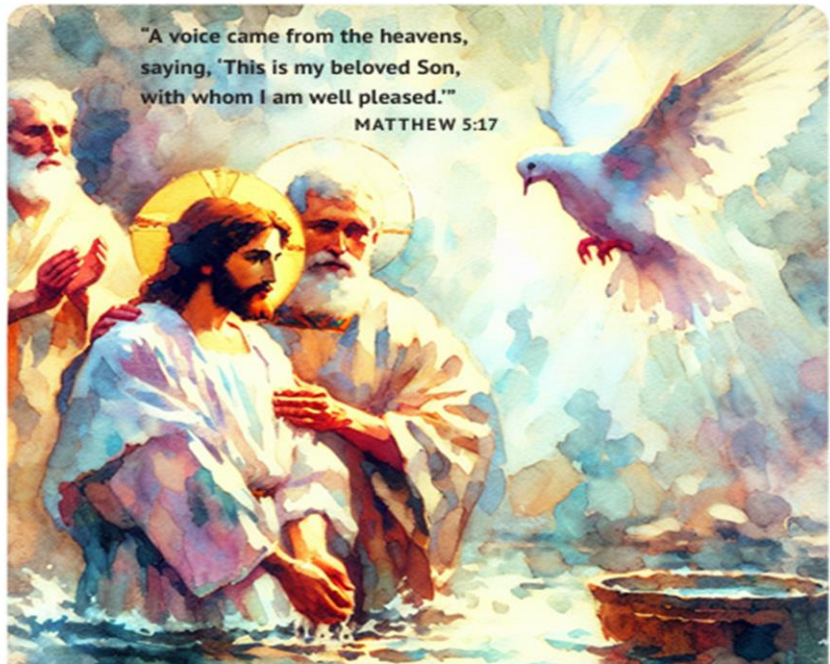
MIGUEL DULICK

John, miracle son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, cousin of Jesus and known as "the Baptist," offers a "baptism of repentance." Then Jesus shows up. The eternal Son of God a penitent? John is shocked and resists, saying it is Jesus who should baptize him. But Jesus insists, "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15).

At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus is humbling himself, much as he did toward the end, when he washed the feet of his disciples. Then it was Peter who would resist what seemed inappropriate by the stand of this world. Jesus is giving us an example, the way of the servant leader, as described in today's beautiful passage from Isaiah. Jesus is the servant leader, the Father's Son, over whom the Holy Spirit danced like a dove and the Father, with his booming voice from the heavens, said of him, "This is my beloved Son!" (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus allowing himself to be baptized may seem like a contradiction, but given all that follows, we know he was offering his followers a consistent model of what he expects from those who choose to be his disciples. As St.

Paul would later write to the Church in Philippi: "Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped" (Philippians 2:5-6). ●



Reflect
This week, I'll think about my baptism when I was called to serve as Jesus serves.



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Baptism of the Lord (A) January 11 , 2026

The baptism of Jesus is attested to in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The account that appears in Matthew is the only one to include the dialogue between Jesus and John, however. Another difference in Matthew’s presentation of this event is the announcement made by the voice from heaven, which says, “This is my beloved son . . .” In Mark and Luke, this voice addresses itself to Jesus: “You are my beloved son . . .”

The baptisms that John performs prefigure Christian Baptism. John baptizes for repentance from sin. In accepting this baptism, Jesus unites himself with all sinners even though he is sinless. In Matthew’s Gospel, John the Baptist distinguishes his practice of baptism from the Baptism that the Messiah brings: “I am baptizing you with water . . . He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire” (Matthew 3:11).

The baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of Christ, another epiphany. Christ’s baptism inaugurates his mission. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. In a way, today’s feast is the high point of the Christmas season. Before Jesus’ birth, angels announced to Mary and to Joseph who Jesus would be. At his birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the Messiah. At his baptism, Jesus accepts that he is God’s son and inaugurates that mission.

Mass Schedule & Intentions
For the week of Jan 12, 2025

Mon.	Jan.	12	No Mass		
Tues.	Jan.	13	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Jan.	14	5:30 PM	SA	No Mass
Thurs.	Jan.	15	5:30 PM	SB	No Mass
Fri.	Jan.	16	8:30 AM	SJ	No Mass
Sun.	Jan..	18	8:00 AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	Jan..	18	9:30 AM	SA	Joe & Mary Leech †
Sun.	Jan.	28	11:00 AM	SB	Oliver Pandorf



Cecelia Sierks Jan 12th
Kaman Dailey Jan 13th
Rokker Sierks Jan 13th
Katie Weinman Jan14th
Oliver Pandorf Jan 14th
Barbara Foran Jan 18th



Mr. & Mrs. Steve Frey Jan 13th

This past November Bishop Hanefeldt elevated the CSC Newman House to the St. Pier Giorgio Frassati Newman House. This is something generations of Newman students have built up to. It is an exciting time for Nebraska’s only western Newman Center. St. Frassati took the motto, “Verso l’Alto,” meaning “To the Heights.” How fitting a patronal motto for a school whose mascot is the Eagles. As we soar to new heights in educational and athletic excellence, may the prayers of St. Frassati elevate the souls of our youth to the liberating heights of a life in Christ. Thank you to all who have so generously supported the St. Pier Giorgio Frassati Newman House. We are blessed by your prayers and sacrifices.
Pax, Fr. Matthew Nash, Chaplain (Micah 4:2)

Ministry Schedule

Date: Jan 18	St John’s	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	Sunday 8:00 AM	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
Hospitality	Youth	Sue D. & Pam L.	Bartley & Kaylee B.
Lector	Youth	Pam L.	Rod B.
Server	Youth		Wyatt B. & Quinton B.
EMHC	Youth	Sue D. & Pam L.	Diane P. & Hannah P.
	Music: Youth		Communion to shut ins Kristen B

St. Agnes

Our Gifts to God & Church
January 4, 2026
Total Collection: \$709.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal the
GOAL is MET!!!

Thrift Store
Open Jan 23 9AM to 4PM

CCD Wed Jan 7th
Elementary 3:40 PM
High School 7:30 PM Meal Kiyoshi

Coffee and Rolls
Jan 18th

St. Boniface

Our Gifts to God & Church
January 4, 2026
Total Collection: \$2265.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal \$6600 of \$7452 with
15 of 17 Donors

CCD Wed. Jan 7th
PreK to 2nd 4-5 PM
Supper 6:10
Class 6:30 to 7:30 PM

CCW Meeting Monday
Jan 12th at 6 PM.

St. John’s

Our Gifts to God & Church
January 4, 2026
Total Collection: \$6465.50

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal \$3550 of \$5179
with 10 of 15 Donors

CCD Wed, Jan 7th
PreK to 5th 3:40 PM
6th -12th Supper 6:30 Dailey
Class Begins 7:00 PM

Jan 18th Living Rosary
at 7:45 AM
Youth Mass 8 AM
Coffee and Rolls to follow

Join the Nebraska Bishops on Saturday, January 31st, 2026, for the annual Bishops’ Pro-Life Mass at St. Mary’s Catholic Church (downtown Lincoln) at 9:00 AM, sponsored by the Nebraska Catholic Conference, offering an opportunity for pro-life advocates to unite in prayer and receive the Eucharist before the Walk. Archbishop Michael McGovern of the Archdiocese of Omaha will be the celebrant and homilist. Following the Mass, the annual Nebraska Walk for Life, sponsored by Nebraska Right to Life, will start at 10:00 AM. Please meet near the steps north of the Nebraska State Capitol. Together. Let us stand in prayer and action for the sanctity of life.

The Word Among Us

As you finish your word Among Us each month Aleta from St Agnes would like them. You can send them with the Sunday collection, and I will see that they get to St Agnes.