



## Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

**T**oday's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking

for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

### Reflect

*Are my eyes open to the small signs of God's work in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?*



A shoot shall sprout from  
the stump of Jesse, and  
from his roots a bud shall  
blossom.

ISAIAH 11:1



SCAN TO  
LEARN ABOUT  
AUTHOR ANN  
M. GARRIDO

## ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

411 N. Missouri St., West Memphis, AR 72301

### Mass Times

- **Saturday Vigil:** 5:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** 10:30 a.m.

**Pastor:** Fr. Gilbert Tairo, CSSp

### Church Office

410 Pine St., West Memphis, AR

Phone: 870-733-1212

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 899, West Memphis,  
AR 72303

Email: [westmemphiscatholic@gmail.com](mailto:westmemphiscatholic@gmail.com)

### Office Hours:

**Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.**

**Secretary:** Gladys Hampton

## St. Michael's Catholic School

Email: [smcswm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smcswm@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [stmichaelwm.com](http://stmichaelwm.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/wmsmcs/](http://facebook.com/wmsmcs/)

**Principal:** Michael Beauregard, Ed.D.

**Grades:** PreK3 & PreK4, K, 1st, 2nd, 4th

405 N. Missouri St., West Memphis, AR 72301

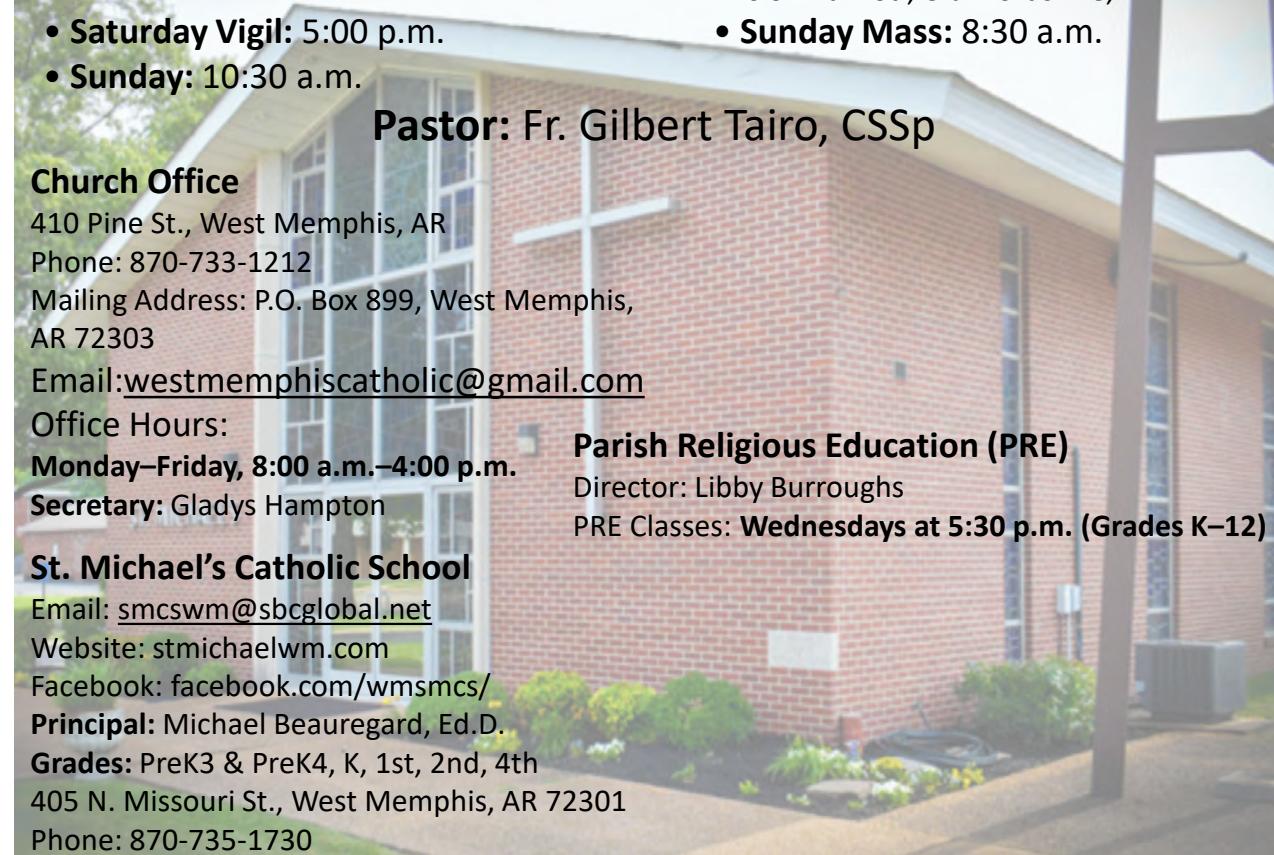
Phone: 870-735-1730

## SACRED HEART– Crawfordsville, AR

Mission Church

216 S. Main St., Crawfordsville, AR

- **Sunday Mass:** 8:30 a.m.



## Parish Religious Education (PRE)

Director: Libby Burroughs

PRE Classes: **Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. (Grades K–12)**

## Financial Council Members

Joanne Smith

Ken Thomas

Shelley Pugh

Ginger Wilkinson

Phillip Wray

Donna McAlister

Kevin Meyers

## Parish Council Members

Mary Jane Flowers (President)

Ross Hensley (Vice President)

Margaret Henson (Secretary)

Andy Horton

Bill Buckley

Beth Aureli

Joanne Smith

Carol Burdison

Jo Zachary

Lisa Schafer

Tony Bell

Claude Hunt

# Eucharistic Adoration

## St. Michael

Every Tuesday—11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday—before the Vigil Mass  
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Sacred Heart, Crawfordsville,**  
Friday—11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



## MASS SCHEDULE

### DEC 8 ●

MONDAY / 8:00AM  
& 5:30 PM

IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION

Holy Day of Obligation

St Michael

### DEC 12

FRIDAY / 8:00 AM  
6:00PM

OUR LADY DE  
GUADALUPE

8:00am – St Michael

6:00pm – Sacred Heart



### DEC 24

WEDNESDAY / 5:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Mass

St Michael

7:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Sacred Heart

10:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

"Midnight Mass"

St Michael

### DEC 25 ●

THURSDAY / 10:30AM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Day of Obligation

St Michael

### DEC 31

WEDNESDAY / 7:00PM &  
10:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

7:00 pm- Sacred Heart

10:00 pm- St Michael

### JAN 1 ●

THURSDAY / 10:30AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Holy Day of Obligation

St Michael

# WE HAVE NEW GAMES!!



Bingo is played in the school cafeteria on Tuesdays at 7pm. Doors open at 6pm.

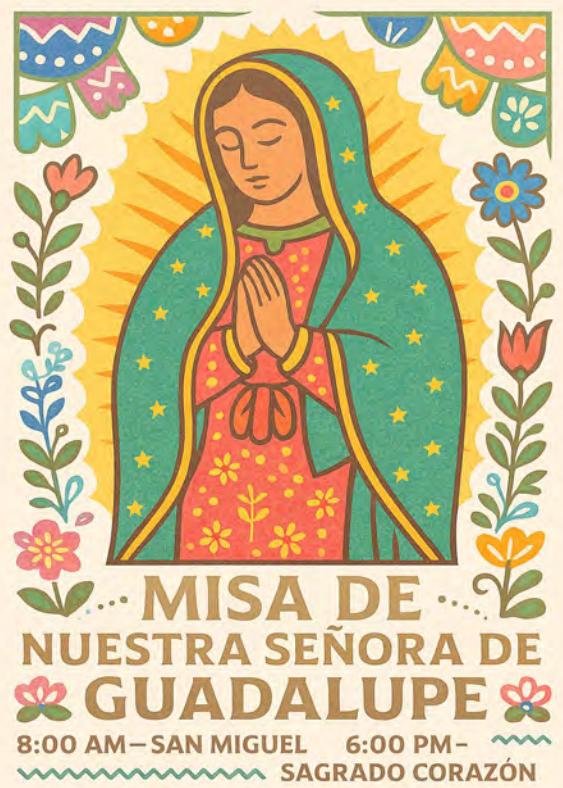
We now have two Jackpots for \$1,000 currently at 47  
& 53 numbers called  
Raffle is up to \$ 1,550



Scan for the latest  
Bingo Information



**OUR LADY OF  
GUADALUPE MASS**  
8:00 AM – ST. MICHAEL  
6:00 PM – SACRED HEART





Donations for  
**POINSETTIAS AND  
CHRISTMAS TREES  
ARE APPRECIATED**

Envelopes are available in  
the vestibule if you would  
like to contribute.



**Thank you for  
your donations to  
the Good Neighbor  
Center.**

Your generosity was very much  
appreciated.

S	T	N	J	L	C	H	X	C	R
L	Z	N	O	E	P	S	H	C	J
E	I	V	E	E	S	R	K	Y	A
G	E	C	S	V	I	U	I	V	U
N	R	O	C	S	D	H	S	K	C
A	J	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N
M	N	M	P	R	A	Y	E	R	S
Q	A	A	G	A	X	D	O	D	T
S	A	G	Y	R	A	M	O	N	A
S	F	S	B	Q	E	E	C	G	R



ADVENT  
ANGELS  
CHRISTMAS  
GOD  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
LOVE  
MARY  
NAZARETH  
PRAYER  
STAR



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass in honor of the Immaculate  
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 8**  
8:00 AM  
& 5:30 PM



The Advent / Lenten altar cloths  
were donated by

**Ginger & Dan  
Wilkinson**

*In loving memory of Ginger's parents,  
Virginia and Bill Forman*



## INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN

DÍA DE PRECEPTO

Misa en honor de la Inmaculada  
Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María

**LUNES, 8 DE DICIEMBRE**  
8:00 AM  
Y 5:30 PM

## Advent Confessions



**Thursday, December 11**  
St. Michael Catholic Church  
6:00 pm

**Friday, December 12**  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

There will be four priests available  
for confessions, including one  
Spanish-speaking priest.

All families are encouraged to attend.



# CHRISTMAS POTLUCK



Sacred Heart & St. Michael Churches

**Sunday, December 14**

**Following the 10:30 AM Mass  
at St. Michael**

**The Parish will provide ham and turkey.**

**Families are asked to bring a dish according to your last name:**

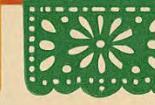


A-H	Dessert
I-S	Side (vegetables, cornbread dressing, etc.)
T-Z	Appetizer or Salad

**We will also celebrate Father Gilbert's  
birthday (December 15)**

**Cake & a birthday card will be provided**

**ALL ARE WELCOME — PLEASE PLAN TO COME!**



## CONVIVIO DE NAVIDAD

**Sagrado Corazón y San Miguel**



**Domingo, 14 de diciembre**

**Después de la Misa de 10:30 AM en San Miguel**



A-H	Postre
I-S	Plato (verduras, aderezo de maíz, etc.)
T-Z	Entrante o Ensalada

**Santa Claus y la Sra. Claus  
estarán a allí  
Tómense fotos familiares  
festivas**

**También celebraremos  
el cumpleaños del  
Padre Gilbért  
(15 de diciembre)**



**TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS — POR FAVOR PLANEE ASUSTIR!**

# SPAGHETTI SUPPER THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

St. Michael Catholic School



# Spaghetti Supper through the years ...



**"That's Italian!"**

This year's annual St. Michael's School Spaghetti Supper and Carnival, beginning from 5 to 9 p.m. Oct. 25, promises an evening of genuine food and fun with an Italian theme. Advertising their school's fundraising event are, from left, Joseph Thompson, Michael Baloni, Brian Baloni and Samantha Pianini. Tickets are available from any student or at the school.

Photo by Leigh Ann Kennedy



## Annual Supper To Be Served On Wednesday

The annual Italian spaghetti supper, sponsored by the Infant

ANNUAL EVENT — Mrs. Phil Turner (left) and Mrs. W. H. Dillahunt are serving as co-chairmen of the spaghetti supper which will be served on Feb. 22 by members of the Infant of Prague Guild of St. Michael's Catholic Church. Posters are being placed around to serve as reminders of the annual event and money-making project of the guild.



PREPARATIONS — Mrs. Louis F. Atelli (left) and Mrs. Roy Clegg are busy preparing for the spaghetti supper which will be served tomorrow evening

from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at St. Michael's school cafeteria. The supper is sponsored annually by the Infant of Prague Guild of St. Michael's Catholic Church.



A beloved tradition at St. Michael's, our annual Spaghetti Supper has brought together families, friends, parishioners, and our school community for generations.

From the early days of hand-cranked pasta and giant simmering pots...

To colorful carnivals, outdoor dining under the lights, dedicated kitchen crews, and the joyful faces of volunteers and children—

every year tells a story of faith, fellowship, and Italian-style fun.



These cherished photos capture the heart of our community. Together, they built a tradition that continues to bless our parish and school today. Hard-working cooks, smiling volunteers, parish families gathered in love ...and memories that continue to bless our parish and school.





Thank you to everyone—past and present—who has helped make the Spaghetti Supper a cherished part of St. Michael's history—past, present, and future.  
A Tradition of Faith, Food & Fellowship

# School Happenings...





## CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING

**Sunday, December 21**  
**After the 10:30 a.m. Mass**

We will be decorating the church for Christmas and we need everyone's help—men, women, and children are all welcome!

*Thank you for sharing your time and talent!*

## DECORACIÓN N NAVIDÑA DE LA IGLESIA

**Domingo, 21 de diciembre**  
**Después de la misa de 10:30 a.m.**



**Vamos a decorar la iglesia  
para la Navidad y  
necesitamos la ayuda de  
todos los feligreses —  
hombres, mujeres  
y niños.**

**¡Tu colaboración es muy importante  
y será muy apreciada!**

## CONFESIONES DE ADVIENTO

*Preparación para la Navidad*



**JUEVES, 11 DE DICIEMBRE**

San Miguel 6:00 pm

**VIERNES, 12 DE DICIEMBRE**

Sagrado Corazón 12:00-1:00 pm

💡 Habrá 4 sacerdotes disponibles

💡 Uno de ellos habla español

💡 Se invita a todas las familias a asistir.



## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

*December 13th-14th.*

Paper ballots will be passed around. You will have a few minutes to mark your votes.

Only select 4 individuals.

*Thanks to those who agreed to be on the ballot.*



	<b>December 13, 2025</b>	<b>December 14, 2025</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Suzy McAuley	Carlyle Telesford
<b>Linens</b>		Lisa Schafer
<b>Communion</b>	Shelley Pugh	Melissa Morphis
	Margie McCain	Jessica Galtelli
	Sandy Goldsby Williford	Katie Reese



## Parish Organizations

- ❖ Infant of Prague Guild: meetings are held quarterly in the school cafeteria. Watch here for announcements.
- ❖ Knights of Columbus business meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays at 7:00 P.M.
- ❖ Men's Bible Study on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. at Tony Bell's House. Please call Ken Thomas for more information, 901-674-1497.
- ❖ Finance Council meeting Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.
- ❖ Parish Council meeting Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm.
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Sacred Heart Brunch December 7th, after Mass
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday St. Michael Brunch December 14th, after Mass - PC



# LITURGY SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday	December	6	9:00 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	MSGR Bernard Malone† Adoration Allen Creel†
Sunday	December	7	8:30 am 10:30 am	Fr. Chrispine Jumanne† Dolores Gochet†
Monday	December	8	8:00 am & 5:30 pm	Immaculate Conception
Tuesday	December	9	6:00 pm	Wilhelmi Stambuli†
Wednesday	December	10	8:00 am 5:30 pm	Gloria Britton† Felix & Rose Balmaz†
Thursday	December	11	8:00 am	Dorothy Barnes†
Friday	December	12	8:00 am	David & Ann James†
Saturday	December	13	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Adoration Eugene Klug† (Anniv)
Sunday	December	14	8:30 am 10:30 am	Sr Christopher† Gloria Britton†

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carla Sanderson, Kathleen Alparo, Baby Arabella, Pat Hooper, Ward Roberts, Melanie Beyer, Fairley Vega, Olivia Vega, Richard Gunter, Steve Marasco, Illuminata Wilhelmi, Nancy Ellis Hays, Cathy Stockbridge, Theresa Black, Mary Ann Tyrone, Donald Turlich, Vickey Stanford, John Baioni, Carol Burdison, Mary Margaret Riley, Will Hutcherson, Mandi Tacker, Matthew Bain, Edna Alpuente, Joan McCarty, Jane Rice, Neil Sponer, Peggy Mengarelli, Tracey Tyrone Cox, Grace Pulliam, Alaina Goldsby, Nancy Jackson, Janet Long, Danny Foster, Jim Pugh, Jose Cantu, Balthasar Arellano, Joe Alvarez, Jay Guiltner, Scott Goldsmith, Ruben Saldivar, Joanna Kim, Mayson Hall, Walter Smith, Freddy Crabtree, Richard Batkey, Leroy England, Gloria Anderson, Cindy Dabbs, Juan Perez, Jr., Lillie Clark, Eric Densford, Joan White, Tina Imboden, Kay Loney, Johnny McMullin, Victims of War and Violence in our country and throughout the world, especially in the Ukraine. All persons serving in our Military, The Seminarians of the Diocese of Little Rock, and the Religious Men and Women of Arkansas.

## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION:

November 30, 2025 St. Michael \$2,970.00

Sacred Heart \$969.00

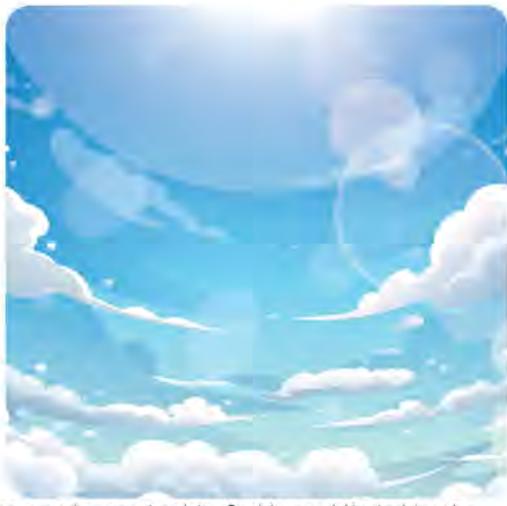
# Dear Padre,

## *Do non-Catholics go to heaven?*

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●



PASCAL HUOT / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14
<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	<i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Gn 3:9–15, 20	Is 40:1–11	Is 40:25–31	Is 41:13–20	Zec 2:14–17	Sir 48:1–4, 9–11	Is 35:1–6a, 10
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12	Mt 18:12–14	Mt 11:28–30	Mt 11:11–15	or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab	Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	Jas 5:7–10
Lk 1:26–38					Mt 17:9a, 10–13	Mt 11:2–11

### **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](https://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



NICOLAS NUNEZ LC / CATOLICA

### **A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV**

*With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.*

**HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025**