



Embracing a Spirituality of Listening

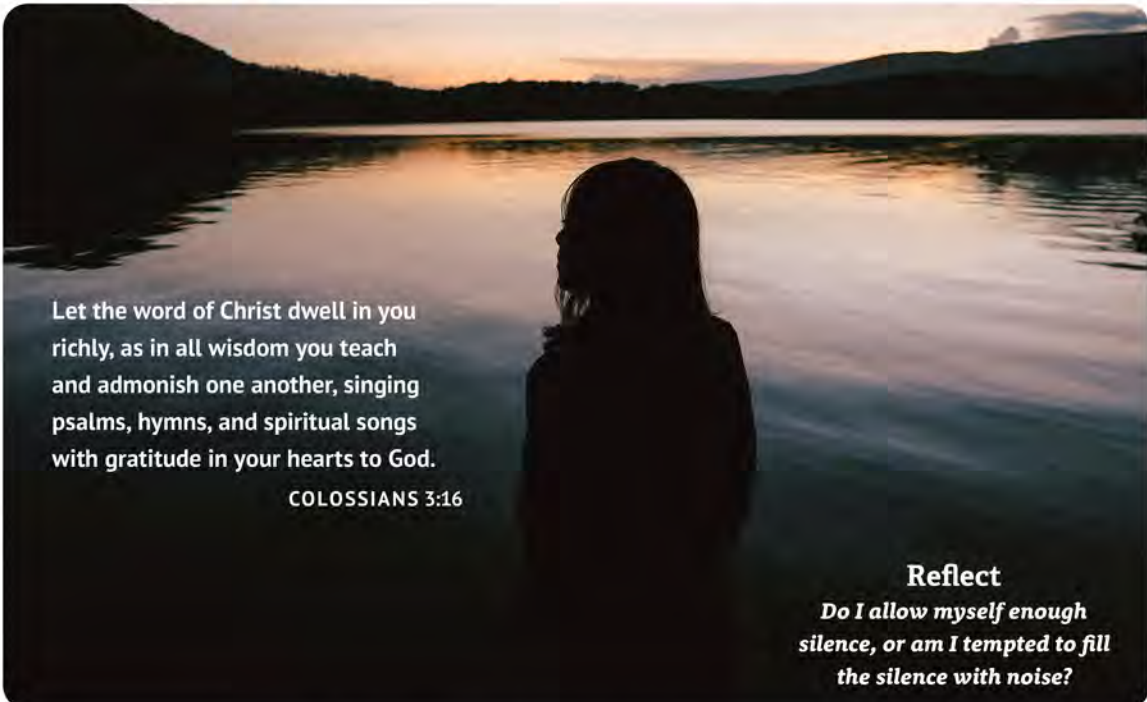
ANN M. GARRIDO

The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and regroup yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
ANN M.
GARRIDO



Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly, as in all wisdom you teach
and admonish one another, singing
psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Reflect

*Do I allow myself enough
silence, or am I tempted to fill
the silence with noise?*

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

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Secretary: Gladys Hampton

St. Michael's Catholic School

Email: smcswm@sbcglobal.net

Website: stmichaelwm.com

Facebook: 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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

ST MICHAEL

TUESDAY: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

SATURDAY: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

SACRED HEART

FRIDAY: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*"COME ADORE THE LORD TRULY PRESENT IN THE
MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT"*



MASS SCHEDULE

DEC 31

7:00PM &
WEDNESDAY 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

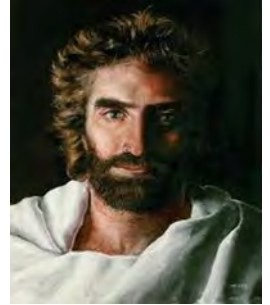


Cursillo

An Encounter with Christ

A method to find, form, and sustain lay leadership for Christ and His Church. Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) is a movement of the Church that promotes Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living. It provides an opportunity to deepen your Catholic faith and to experience the love of God within a supportive and prayerful community.

The Cursillo method offers those who have the potential to influence others a personal encounter with Christ and the tools to strengthen, support, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by evangelizing their daily environments.



Cursillo Weekends

Men's Weekend: January 29 – February 1, 2026

Women's Weekend: February 26 – March 1, 2026

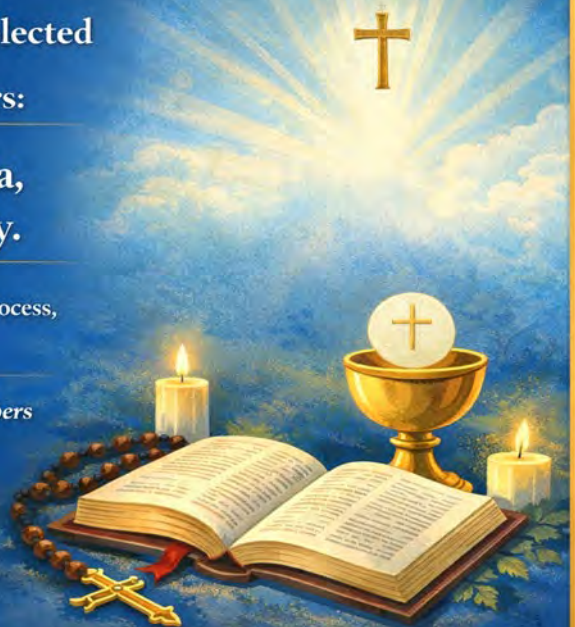
Call the church office for more information or to register

Congratulations to our newly elected
Parish Council members:

**Patsy Fletcher, Ricardo Ledezma,
Tim Marconi, and Lauren Wray.**

Thank you to all who participated in the nomination process,
especially those who agreed to serve.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to *outgoing members*
Bill Buckley, Carol Burdison, Ross Hensley,
and Andy Horton *for their faithful service to the parish.*



**SACRED HEART CELEBRATES OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
AND
FR. GILBERT'S BIRTHDAY**

**SACRED HEART CELEBRA A NUESTRA SEÑORA DE
GUADALUPE Y EL CUMPLEAÑOS DEL PADRE GILBERT**



Have You Prayed the Rosary Today?

Take a few quiet moments to reflect, give thanks, and draw closer to God through the prayers of the Blessed Mother.

"Pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world."

— Our Lady of Fatima



Mass Intentions

Mass intentions may be offered for the repose of the soul of a deceased loved one, for healing, a special occasion or a special intention for yourself, a family member or friend.

Please fill out an envelope located in the vestibule or contact the parish office for available dates.

A \$10 stipend is customary for each Mass.



Baptism

Parents desiring Baptism for their children must be registered parishioners of St Michael or Sacred Heart for at least 2 years prior to the Baptism date.

Baptism dates will be finalized only after consultation with the Pastor.

Attendance of a Baptismal preparation class is required.

Please call the church office to schedule an appointment.



Marriage Preparation

Those considering marriage need to notify the parish priest of their intention to marry at least six months prior to their intended wedding date.

Wedding dates will be finalized only after consultation with the priest.

Attendance of an approved marriage preparation program is required.



SPAGHETTI SAUCE



FOR SALE
\$20 A QUART
PROCEEDS GO TO
ST. MICHAEL'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

 **Knights of Columbus**
— 52nd Annual —
OYSTER SUPPER

February 4, 2026
4:30 PM — 8:00 PM

VFW Post 5225
406 S. Avalon
West Memphis, AR



\$50 Per Ticket

Tickets available at the church and school offices.
For more information, contact Tony Bell.

Cursillo

Un Encuentro con Cristo

Un método para encontrar, formar y sostener el liderazgo laico para Cristo y su Iglesia. El Cursillo (pronunciado Cur-si-yo) es un movimiento de la Iglesia que promueve los ideales católicos, la comunión y el crecimiento espiritual en la vida diaria. Brinda la oportunidad de profundizar la fe católica y experimentar el amor de Dios en una comunidad de apoyo y oración.



El método del Cursillo ofrece a quienes tienen el potencial de influir en otros un encuentro personal con Cristo y las herramientas para fortalecer, apoyar y difundir el Evangelio de Jesucristo evangelizando su entorno cotidiano.

Fines de semana del Cursillo

Fin de semana de hombres: 29 de Enero - 1 de Febrero de 2026

Fin de semana de mujeres: 26 de Febrero - 1 de Marzo de 2026

Llame a la oficina de la iglesia para obtener más información o para inscribirse.

PLEASE NOTE:
THE CHURCH
OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED

DECEMBER 24-26
AND DECEMBER
31-JANUARY 2

WE WISH EVERYONE A
BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Little Rock
invites you to the annual Mass for Life



MASS FOR LIFE

JANUARY 18, 2026

PRAY FOR LEGAL PROTECTION FOR EVERY UNBORN CHILD
PRAY TO END ABORTION

CATHEDRAL OF ST. ANDREW
617 S. LOUISIANA STREET, LITTLE ROCK

- 11:20 -11:50 a.m. ADORATION & ROSARY FOR LIFE
- 12:05 p.m. MASS WITH BISHOP TAYLOR
- AFTER MASS FREE TACOS!
Grab-and-go to make it easy to attend March for Life!
- 2 p.m. MARCH FOR LIFE sponsored by Arkansas Right to Life
(along Capitol Avenue to the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol)

**Questions? Contact the Respect Life Office
at 501-664-0340, ext. 326.**



**NO PRE &
OCIA CLASSES**

**DECEMBER 17-
JANUARY 7**

Classes will resume on
January 14



Thank you for
your donations to
the Good Neighbor
Center.

Your generosity was very much
appreciated.

WE HAVE NEW GAMES!!



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

Scan for the latest Bingo Information

We now have two Jackpots for \$1,000 currently at 48 & 55 numbers called Raffle is up to \$ 1,550



The Catholic Diocese of Little Rock is committed to protecting children and young people. If you are aware of abuse or have been abused by Clerics, Church volunteers, or Church workers, please contact the State of Arkansas Hotline for Crimes against Children at 1-800-482-5964 and the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs, Dcn. Matthew A. Glover, (501) 664-0340 ext. 361. For pastoral assistance please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Little Rock: Laura Gottsponer at (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.



La Diócesis Católica de Little Rock está comprometida a proteger a los niños y jóvenes. Si usted está enterado de algún abuso o ha sido abusado por Clérigos, voluntarios, funcionarios de la Iglesia, por favor comuníquese a la Línea de Ayuda del Estado de Arkansas para Crímenes contra Niños al (800) 482-5964 y con el Canciller para Asuntos Canónicos, Diác. Matthew A. Glover (501) 664-0340, ext. 361. Para asistencia pastoral, por favor comuníquese con la Coordinadora de Asistencia para Víctimas de la Diócesis de Little Rock Laura Gottsponer (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diócesis de Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.



	January 3, 2026	January 4, 2026
Lector	Grace Reece	Mary Lou Hall
Linens	Mary McDougal	
Communion	James Alpeunte	Clay Aureli
	Bonnie Waller	Sarah Horton
	Lisa Schafer	Libby Burroughs



Parish Organizations

- ❖ **Infant of Prague Guild:** meetings are held quarterly in the school cafeteria. Watch here for announcements.
- ❖ **Knights of Columbus** business meeting 1st Sundays at 7:00 P.M.
- ❖ **Finance Council** meeting Thursday, Jan. 15th at 5:00 pm.
- ❖ **Parish Council** meeting Thursday, Jan. 15th at 6:15 pm.
- ❖ **1st Sunday Sacred Heart Brunch** January 4th, after Mass
- ❖ **2nd Sunday St. Michael Brunch** January 11th, after Mass - Guild



LITURGY SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday	December	27	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Adoration Bess Jenkins†
Sunday	December	28	8:30 am 10:30 am	Christy Marconi† Frances McGinnis†
Monday	December	29	NO MASS	
Tuesday	December	30	6:00 pm	Dorothy Barnes†
Wednesday	January	31	10:00 pm	James Rushing†
Thursday	January	1	10:30 am	Fr Maury Smith†
Friday	January	2	8:00 am	Mike & Michael Burroughs †
Saturday	January	3	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Adoration Anita Miller†
Sunday	January	4	8:30 am 10:30 am	Kathlenn Loney Isabel Lngay†



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:

December 21, 2025 St. Michael \$3,298.00

Sacred Heart \$1,765.00

Dear Padre,

A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.

Yes, your friend should most certainly receive a Catholic funeral and burial. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2283).

A person who is suffering with a mental illness or disorder, certainly a prerequisite for suicide, may not have the necessary mental freedom to choose something that is understood as grave or mortal. In other words, he or she does not have the necessary requirements for full and free consent of the will.

Not that long ago, suicide was often misunderstood. Thankfully, today we understand the havoc and suffering of mental illness, and that a person can be a victim, even if it might look like he or she is not. The great suffering of those who take their own lives must not be dismissed or discarded. The family members and friends of a person who suffers suicide should also not be judged but should only receive compassion and understanding. They, too, are victims, in the fullest sense of the word and in the truest understanding of what it means to be a fragile human being. ●

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



AMY STOUT / CATHOLICA

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



ANTONELLA ULLAURI / CATHOLICA

Young people of our time, like those of every age, are a volcano of life, energy, sentiments, and ideas. It can be seen from the wonderful things they are able to do, in so

many fields. However, they also need help in order for this great wealth to grow in harmony and to overcome what...can still hinder their healthy development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 15, 2025

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

December 29

Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:3-11

Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday

December 30

Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:12-17

Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday

December 31

Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:18-21

Jn 1:1-18

Thursday

January 1

Solemnity of Mary,

the Holy Mother

of God

Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Friday

January 2

Sts. Basil the

Great and Gregory

Nazianzen,

Bishops and Doctors

of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28

Jn 1:19-28

Saturday

January 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6

Jn 1:29-34

Sunday

January 4

The Epiphany

of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12