



Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M.
SANTA, CSSR

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?

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 pm

*„Come adore the Lord truly present
in the Most Blessed Sacrament.”*

MASS SCHEDULE



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

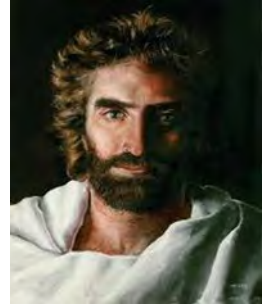
Cursillo

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

SPAGHETTI SAUCE



FOR SALE

\$20 A QUART

**PROCEEDS GO TO
ST. MICHAEL'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

JOIN US FOR THE CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

**THIS SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 14
FOLLOWING THE
10:30 AM MASS**



ST. MICHAEL

**ALL ARE WELCOME—COME
SHARE FOOD, FELLOWSHIP,
AND CHRISTMAS JOY**

*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.**

Donations for
poinsettias and
Christmas trees
are appreciated.

You may donate in memory
or in honor of a loved one.

Envelopes are available
in the vestibule



**A heartfelt thank
you to everyone
who donated to
the Angel Tree
for CASA**

Your generosity helped
bring hope and joy to
children in foster care
in Crittenden County.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

The church office will
close at **12:00 PM**
on **Monday, December 15**
and will be closed
all day Friday, December 19.

Thank you for
your understanding.

DECORACIÓN NAVIDEÑA 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!**



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!



DONATIONS FOR THE GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER

*Sharing Christmas blessings with
our neighbors in need*

A donation box will be placed in the vestibule for anyone who would like to donate canned goods.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruits
- Soups & stews
- Beans
- Beans
- Canned meats

Your kindness brings warmth and hope to local families this Christmas season.

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY!**



NO PRE & OCIA CLASSES

**DECEMBER 17–
JANUARY 7**

**Classes will resume on
January 14**





CLERGY WELFARE FUND

The collection at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be for the Clergy Welfare Fund. This fund provides retirement and health care benefits to retired and infirm priests around our diocese.

Our priests spend every day of their adult lives as humble and devoted servants, doing God's work and serving us until age or infirmity calls them to retirement. Your contributions to the Clergy Welfare Fund make our priests' retirement possible.

100% of donations for this special collection will remain within our diocese.

Please share with our priests the generosity that they continue to share with us.



FONDO DE BIENESTAR DEL CLERO

La colecta en todas las Misas de Nochebuena y del Día de Navidad será para el Fondo de Bienestar del Clero. Este fondo provee beneficios de jubilación y atención médica para los sacerdotes retirados y enfermos de nuestra diócesis.

Nuestros sacerdotes pasan todos los días de su vida adulta como siervos humildes y dedicados, haciendo la obra de Dios y sirviendonos hasta que la edad o la enfermedad los llama a la jubilación. Sus contribuciones al Fondo de Bienestar del Clero hacen posible la jubilación de nuestros sacerdotes.

El 100% de las donaciones de esta colecta especial permanecerá dentro de nuestra diócesis.

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.

School Happenings...



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 & 54 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.



	December 20, 2025	December 21, 2025
Lector	Margie McCain	Clay Aureli
Linens	Mary Ann Tyrone	
Communion	Ginger Creel	Andy Horton
	Ginger Wilkinson	Laura Saldivar
	Liz Posey	Tony Bell



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, Dec. 18th at 5:00 pm.
- ❖ Parish Council meeting Thursday, Dec. 18th 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	13	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Adoration Eugene Klug†
Sunday	December	14	8:30 am 10:30 am	Jesus Santiago Arellano † Gloria Britton†
Monday	December	15	NO MASS	
Tuesday	December	16	6:00 pm	EB McLemore†
Wednesday	December	17	8:00 am 5:30 pm	Bess Jenkins† Libby Burroughs
Thursday	December	18	8:00 am	Lucille Marconi†
Friday	December	19	8:00 am	Gloria Britton†
Saturday	December	20	4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Adoration Virginia & Bill Forman†
Sunday	December	21	8:30 am 10:30 am	Hilda Phillips Dolores Goche†



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 7, 2025 St. Michael \$10,305.00

Sacred Heart \$1,265.00

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke begins, "In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26–27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that "in the sixth month" refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, "Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months" (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, "And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren" (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a	Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 Mt 21:28–32	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Is 7:10–14 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–24



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025