



Are You Listening?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” (See Psalm 95.) Our psalm prayer invites us to respond to the Word of God. A positive response should be assumed as ordinary: very few among us would deliberately ignore God’s voice. The challenge is not in responding “yes” to the invitation of the Lord but rather in “hearing” his voice.

There are so many voices that daily compete for attention. We seem to be bombarded every waking moment with some kind of noise that demands attention and action. At one time, Neil Diamond might have been able to celebrate the “Beautiful Noise” of the city, but it is far more difficult for us today. Frankly, the noise around us is deafening, and most people long for true silence, a break in the pattern, a vacation from the frantic anxiety that seems to be present.

A wonderful Lenten practice—indeed, a spiritual practice that goes well beyond Lent—is to freely choose to disconnect from distraction. Resist the temptation to plug in the earbuds. Refrain from the distraction of social media content. Leave your cell phone in the living room, go sit in the backyard, and pay attention to nothing. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:11), the psalmist reminds us. Listen for God’s voice, hear his call, and respond to the invitation. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

The love of God has been
poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has
been given to us.

ROMANS 5:5

Reflect

Do I need more silence?
Do I find silence difficult?

**ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Hwy 62/412 & 49 Tekakwitha Dr.
Cherokee Village, Arkansas 72529

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office Diocese of Little Rock
257-2850 www.dofr.org
Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, 9:30 – 2:30 Closed Wednesdays
Mailing Address Arkansas Catholic Newspaper
P.O. Box 970 www.arkansasatholic.org
Cherokee Village, AR 72525
Rectory: (870) 257-4456 St. Michael's CASA #7215
St. Michael's Email: stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com
St. Michael's Website: <http://stmichaelscvatholicchurch.org>

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy Punganoor
Parish Secretary: Rhonda Bystry
Office Email: stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com
Bookkeeper: Rose Brandenburg
Email: stmichaelcv@yahoo.com

Holy Mass Schedule: May God Bless You

Holy Mass 9:00 a.m.: Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday & 1st Saturday
Evening Holy Mass 6:00 p.m.: Wednesday
Vigil Holy Mass 4:00 pm.: Saturday
Confession 3:00 p.m.: 3:45 p.m. Saturday, 1st Friday & 1st Saturday of the month after 9 a.m. Holy Mass or by Appointment.
30 minutes prior to every Holy Mass, we pray the Holy Rosary
For more information, please contact the Church Office.

Sacraments

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RISEN CHRIST !

The Sacrament of reconciliation is offered on First Friday and First Saturday after the 9 am Mass, Saturdays at 3 pm, and most any reasonable time by appointment. Your identity need not be known; your anonymity is respected.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is strongly encouraged by those seriously ill, the elderly, or those facing surgery. This sacrament of Our Lord's healing & comfort is usually available on the last weekend each month after every Mass, or by appointment.

The Sacrament of Marriage is a wonderful commitment to life and love, and the Church welcomes those who are called to this noble vocation. Christian marriage involves a couple's serious deliberation, prayer, and planning. The diocesan policy requires all engaged couples to contact the pastor at least 6 months before setting any wedding date.

The Sacrament of Baptism presupposes sufficient instruction according to the age of the candidate, and a desire to practice the faith. Expectant parents are encouraged to ask the Pastor for the Church's blessing for a safe and healthy delivery. Call the Church Office to schedule instruction and the service.

PARISH MINISTRIES

(Area code is 870 unless otherwise noted)

Adoration Chapel Coordinators
Rose Brandenburg (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) 847-5018
Anne Kootz (4 p.m. - 9 p.m.) 847-1985

Altar Society
Rose Brandenburg Financial Secretary 257-2850

B-I-N-G-O
Isabelle Wiest 994-2243

Columbarium Committee
Jim Wege (Kevin Templet, Kevin Langellier) 847-3396

Holy Family Cemetery
Bernie Brandenburg 994-2744

Knights of Columbus
Buddy Kootz (Grand Knight) 847-0264

Compassion Ministry
Pat Such 847-7224

Liturgical Ministries
Altar Servers - Buddy Kootz 847-0264

Eucharistic Ministers
Parish Secretary 257-2850

Communion to Nursing Homes
Nancy Paluck 421-9383

Communion to Sick & Homebound
Maureen Matselboba (941) 356-0333

Lectors
Teri Taylor 847-2112

Music Director
Rose Brandenburg 847-5018

Sacristans
Matt Winston 257-2857

Ushers
Joann Helfert 920-344-0365

Finance Council Committee
Michael Gagne (FC-Chair) (PC) 751-3419
Bernie Brandenburg (FC) 994-2744
Rhonda Bystry (FC) 994-2177
Maureen Fortuna (FC) 966-3367

Parish Council Committee
Buddy Kootz (PC-Chair) 847-0264
Rose Brandenburg (PC) 847-5018
Alison Munroe (PC) 847-7707
Joyce Speir (PC) 266-3586
Lori Templet (PC) 856-2261
Isabelle Wiest (PC) 994-2243

Prayer Chain
Kathy Gagne 751-3420
pray4me70@att.net

Religious Education C.C.D
Lori Templet 856-2261
ltemplet2507@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Nancy Paluck 421-9383

Help Line 257-3448

Altar Flower Decorator
Pam MacAulay 847-6742

NEW PARISHIONERS
Welcome to St. Michael's! We're glad you're here. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Amal, and register by completing a registration form, then kindly return it to the Church Office. Get involved! Volunteer! Let us share with each other our God-given talents, love, and service to our neighbors. R.C.I.A. Adult Education.

 *Mass Intentions*

Saturday/March 7th – St. Perpetua and St. Felicity

9 a.m. Holy Mass: John Stute

by: Patrick and Linda O'Donnell

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Garry and Cathy Raikes

by: People of the Parish

2nd Collection – Easter Flowers

*Food Pantry collection

Sunday/ March 8th – Third Sunday of Lent

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Amy Anderson

by : Patrick and Linda O'Donnell

2nd collection – Easter Flowers

KC Big Breakfast after Holy Mass

*Food Pantry collection

Monday/March 9th – St. Francis of Rome

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Elizabeth Matteson

by: Dean Beardslee

*KC meeting 5:30 pm Rosary/ 6pm meeting

Tuesday/March 10th –

No Holy Mass :

Wednesday/ March 11th– Lenten Weekday

No Holy Mass: Fr. Amal assisting

at other church w/ their Penance Service

Thursday / March 12th – Lenten Weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Bingo Committee

by: People of the Parish

Penance Service 4 pm to 6 pm

*BINGO at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm

Friday/ March 13th – Lenten Weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All deceased parishioners †

by: People of the Parish

**Penance Service at St. Mary's 1 pm to 3 pm

*Stations of the Cross 5 pm/*Parish Life Soup Supper

Saturday/March 14th – Lenten Weekday

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Joshua Maederer

by: Garry and Cathy Raikes

2nd Collection – Maintenance Fund

Sunday/ March 15th – Fourth Sunday of Lent

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Mechelle Bryant †

by : Joyce Speir

2nd collection – Maintenance Fund

Thought
for the week

Jesus And The Samaritan Women At the Well John.4:5-42



It Doesn't Matter What You've Done, Come To Jesus, He will

Lent: 3rd Sun-A

"Let us set things
Says the Lord.
Though Your Sins
Be like Scarlet,
They May Become
White as Snow;
Though they be Red
like Crimson,
They may become

🙏 Wishing you a Blessed Week 🙏



Collection Report

February 28th and March 1st, 2026

Main collection : \$4675.00

Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

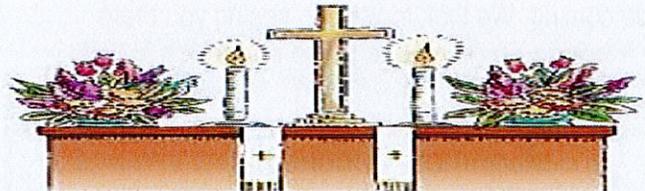


ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration .

Rose, (870) 847-5018, or

Anne, (870) 847-19859



God Bless the Donors and their Intentions

Altar Flowers this week are generously provided by:

(Lent)

Tabernacle Roses this week are generously provided

by: (Lent)

** EASTER FLOWERS collection is this weekend please be generous so we can make our church beautiful for Easter ! You also may contribute at any time for the Easter flowers. Thank you~

KC Big Breakfast

The Knights will be cooking their Big Breakfast on Sunday March 8th in the parish hall after Holy Mass.. Please come join them and enjoy breakfast while you visit with your church family.

Tickets are on sale at the door.

Parish Life Lenten Soup Supper

Please, join us Friday March 13th, after Stations of the Cross in the parish hall. The sign-up sheets are in the vestibule for what you will be bringing to the supper. Come join us.

Lenten Penance Services

St. Michael's will be having Penance Service on Thursday March 12, from 4 pm to 6 pm.

St. Mary's at HSB will be having Penance Service on Friday March 13th from 1 pm to 3 pm.

NEW – Single Retired Ladies Ministry

You are invited to join this new ministry here at St. Michael's. The 1st gathering will be a ladies luncheon on **Thursday March 26th in the parish hall. Lunch will be from noon to 1 pm. Please, bring a dish to share.** If you would like to be included in this ministry please let the church office know so we can be aware of how many will be coming. We look forward to seeing you there. **May it bring you many blessings and much joy !!!**

Magnificat Luncheon

Magnificat ladies will be hosting their upcoming luncheon on Saturday March 21st. **Fr. Jon Miskin from St. Mary's in Batesville will be our speaker.** Tickets are \$15 each. Flyers are available in the vestibule. For more information contact Lori Templet at cell 225-717-0238 or ltemplet2507@yahoo.com.



Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Mary Welch, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Joyce Speir, Michael Gagne, Isabelle Wiest, Tim Starken, Michael & Martha DeCoster, Larry Allen, Steve Allen, JoAnn Colwell, Georgia Harris, Dan Such, Dawn Logan, Mary Lee, Jim Whorl, Sister Joy Wege, Tim and Betty Eash, Jimmy White, Joan Schulz, Gail Demarest, Nico Woode, Pat Kimball, Marcella Birckhead, Michael Reddick, Gerald and Carol Metty, Darren Bates, Maryann Barber, Martin and Amy Moriarty, Maria Gerrah, Colleen Royal, Cecilia Cefalu, Darrell and Elizabeth Beason, Doug and Tammy Wortham.
Nursing Home: Ruth Klingle, Chuck Wolff and KayLynn Rodenbeck

Say some Extra Prayers for Ms. Ruth Klingle – Fr. Amal has given her last rites and communion. She celebrated her 100th birthday in the past few months. She has been living at Eaglecrest Nursing.

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

- 🕯️ **March 9th – Ryan Munroe**
- 🕯️ **March 9th – Jamisen Laire**



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

♡ No Anniversaries this week

If we miss your birthday or anniversary please contact the church office. It is possible you didn't give us all the information when you registered with the church or our records need to be updated



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

Statement on the use of military power

March 3, 2026

My Brothers and Sisters,

Now that we find ourselves unexpectedly in a war that our own government initiated, it is important that we keep in mind Church teaching regarding the strict conditions that need to be in place for defense by military force to be morally legitimate, as follows:

Just War Doctrine

The “just war” doctrine of the Catholic Church as found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 2309, lists four strict conditions for “legitimate defense by military force”:

- the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain;
- all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective;
- there must be serious prospects of success;
- the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated (the power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition).

In the paragraphs that follow, the Catechism elaborates not only on the *ius ad bellum* (the legitimate conditions for going to war), but also on the *ius in bello* (right conduct within a war). In other words, even if the initial use of defensive military force is morally legitimate, not all actions thereafter are necessarily morally permissible.

This analysis often comes down to prudential judgments, on which Catholics may be able to reasonably disagree depending on the facts and circumstances. However, as your bishop, I have an obligation not only to remind you of the conditions for the use of defensive military force, but also to share my deep concerns that the necessary conditions for so-called “just war” do not appear to be met in the present conflict between the United States and Iran based on the information publicly available.

The current conflict is even more troubling given the inherent instability of that region and the real possibility of use of nuclear weapons. From Pope Saint John Paul II on, our Popes have spoken repeatedly about the moral dangers of even possessing nuclear weapons. Over time, the Church has moved away from accepting the deterrence effect of nuclear stockpiles, and towards a position of abolition. Indeed, the Vatican was the first nation-state to sign and ratify the United Nations’ “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

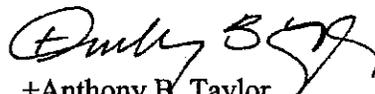
None of this, of course, means that we should not be supportive of the members of our armed forces and their families, who sacrifice so much for our nation's safety and security. We certainly can and should hold them in our prayers.

But let us also pray for the leaders of our country, that their hearts might be softened on resorting to the use of military force—and that their resolve for peace might be steeled. As Pope Leo recently warned us all: “Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself.... Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one's own dominion.” In order for our leadership to once more seek peace as a gift and a good in and of itself, that change must start within our own hearts, our own families, and our own circles of influence. Jesus' first greeting after his resurrection was, “Peace be with you.” I pray that we all follow Jesus' lead and seek to spread peace, rather than to impose our own will.

Pope Leo's remarks at last Sunday's Angelus Address apply directly to the situation in which we find ourselves today. He said: “I am following with deep concern what is happening in the Middle East and in Iran during this tumultuous time. Stability and peace are not achieved through mutual threats, nor through the use of weapons, which sow destruction, suffering, and death, but only through reasonable, sincere, and responsible dialogue.

Faced with the possibility of a tragedy of immense proportions, I make a heartfelt appeal to all the parties involved to assume the moral responsibility of halting the spiral of violence before it becomes an unbridgeable chasm. May diplomacy regain its proper role, and may the well-being of peoples, who yearn for peaceful existence founded on justice, be upheld. And let us continue to pray for peace.”

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony B. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "T".

+Anthony B. Taylor
Bishop of Little Rock

Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
Burial Plots

Contact: Bernie Brandenburg

St. Michael's Columbarium
Payment Plans Available
Contact: Jim Wege



St. Michael's Parish Hall
Thursday 6 p.m.
Doors Open at 5 p.m.
1st Sunday of the month
1 p.m. Doors Open at 12 p.m.

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St. John Neumann Council 6969
Grand Knight Buddy Kootz (870) 847-0264

Social and Potluck Meeting

2nd Monday of the month

Rosary 5:30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.

Officers Meeting

Last Monday of the month

Rosary 5:30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.

Fourth Degree

Patriotic Degree of the order
FN Michael Gagne (870)751-3419

Quarterly Business Meeting

2nd Saturday of the month



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Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday

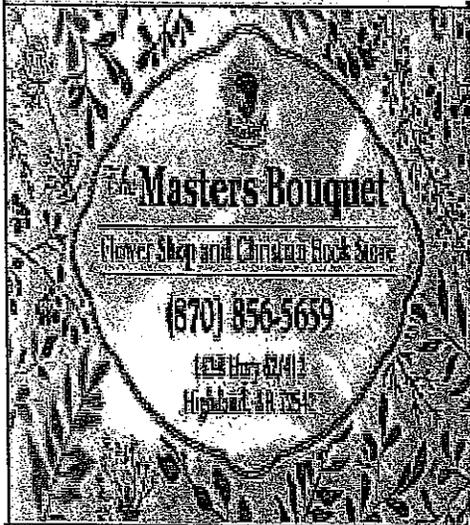


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<https://stmaryshsb.org>
Confessions after every Mass
Adoration after Friday Mass

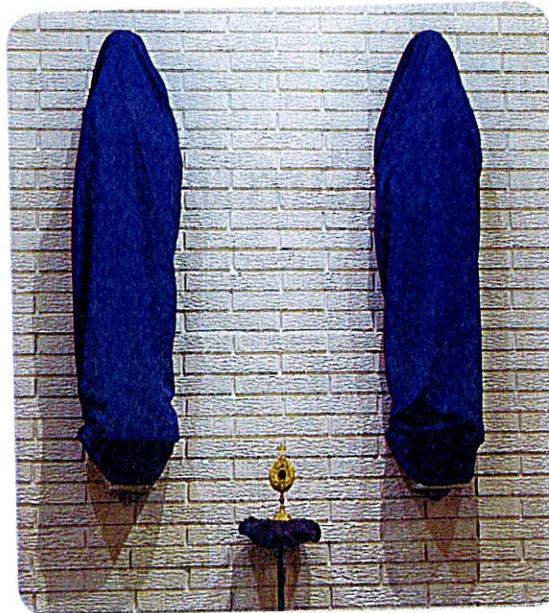
churchoffice@stmaryshsb.org
Horseshoe Bend AR.72512
(870) 670-5896

Dear Padre,

When I was young, my parish covered all the statues during part of Lent. What did it mean exactly? Do any churches still do this?

In 2001, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the practice of veiling statues and crosses during the last two weeks of the season of Lent, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent. This practice is optional, at the discretion of the local pastor. According to the Roman Missal, "Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

Covering crosses and statues in violet cloth in the final weeks of Lent indicates a shift in the Church's focus from Jesus in the desert (gospel for the first Sunday of Lent) to Christ during his Passion. Similar to other Lenten disciplines of penance and fasting that align us in solidarity with Christ, the veiling custom is meant to deepen our appreciation for Christ's ultimate sacrifice. It represents our "fasting" from sacred depictions of the cross on which hung our salvation and from images of the saints, who glorify Christ and in whom he is glorified. This concealment creates an absence to make our hearts grow fonder for the Lord, who "bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). ●



CATHOPIC

Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MARCH 9	MARCH 10	MARCH 11	MARCH 12	MARCH 13	MARCH 14	MARCH 15
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab Lk 4:24-30	Dn 3:25, 34-43 Mt 18:21-35	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

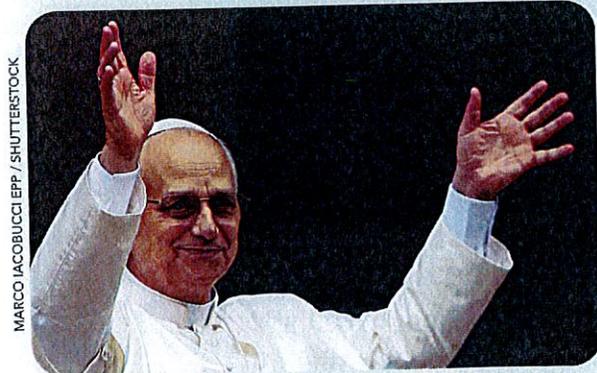
Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy. Knowing this, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations!... Let us turn this thirst into a step stool, like children who stand on tiptoe, in order to peer through the window of encounter with God.

HOMILY, ROME, AUGUST 3, 2025



MARCO JACOBUCCI EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK