

[Jesus said to the crowd,]  
“Strive to enter through  
the narrow door, for many,  
I tell you, will attempt  
to enter but will not be  
strong enough.”

LUKE 13:24

## The Narrow Gate

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**S**ome people find love in their lives; others complain of loneliness. Some find peace, while others seem to be perpetually angry. Some live comfortably amid human diversity, yet others insist that the rest of the world be like them. There are those who are able to forgive and compromise and offer compassion and those who cannot. The difference seems to be the ability to forgo one’s own desires for the sake of a greater good or the common good. Such may be the narrow gate through which some may not be strong enough to enter.

Phrases like *the kingdom of God* or *the kingdom of heaven* are not just references to places to which we go

but also ways of being or states of existence. They all refer to God’s presence, to life with God. You’ve heard people say they were so happy that they felt it was like heaven on earth. It wasn’t a place they went but an experience of being filled with joy and peace. It’s pure gift. No one ever finds it by focusing on oneself. It is the narrow gate by which we find our way into such a life. It is the doorway of caring for others. ●

### Reflect

***What is the “narrow gate” before me now—the most difficult challenge as a follower of Jesus?***



# 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.dolr.org](http://www.dolr.org)  
Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, 9:30 – 2:30 Closed Wednesdays  
Mailing Address Arkansas Catholic Newspaper  
P.O. Box 970 [www.arkansascatholic.org](http://www.arkansascatholic.org)  
Cherokee Village, AR 72525  
Rectory: (870) 257-4456 St. Michael's CASA #7215  
St. Michael's Email: [stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com](mailto:stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com)  
St. Michael's Website: <http://stmichaelcatholicchurch.org>

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduswamy Punganoor  
Parish Secretary: Rhonda Bystry  
Office Email: [stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com](mailto:stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com)  
Bookkeeper: Rose Brandenburg  
Email: [stmichaelcv@yahoo.com](mailto: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 251-2850

### 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](mailto:pray4me70@att.net)

### Religious Education C.C.D

Lori Templet 856-2261

[ltemplet2507@yahoo.com](mailto:ltemplet2507@yahoo.com)

### St. Vincent dePaul

Rick Esquivel 318-6442

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/ August 23rd – St. Rose of Lima, Virgin**

4 p.m. Holy Vigil Mass: Tom Kihm †  
by Nell Kihm

**\*\*Anointing of the Sick after Holy Mass**

**\* Special 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for people in Gaza**

**Sunday /August 24th – Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Jerry Hawbaker †  
by Barbara Hawbaker

**\*Anointing of the Sick after Holy Mass**

**\*Special 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for people in Gaza**

**Monday/ August 25th – St. Louis and St. Joseph Calasanz**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All Staff at St. Michael's  
by People of the Parish

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

**Tuesday /August 26th –**

No Holy Mass

**Wednesday /August 27th – St. Monica**

6 p.m. Holy Mass : Anne Kootz  
by Buddy Kootz

**Thursday /August 28th – St. Augustine Bishop, Doctor**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All Volunteers at St. Michael's  
by People of the Parish

**Friday /August 29th – The Passion of St. John the Baptist**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Dorothy Mikolajec †  
by Gary Balcerzak and Beth Sabez

**Saturday/ August 30th –**

4 p.m. Holy Vigil Mass: Dennis and Karen Burton  
by People of the Parish

**\*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is for the Altar Society**

**Sunday /August 31st – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

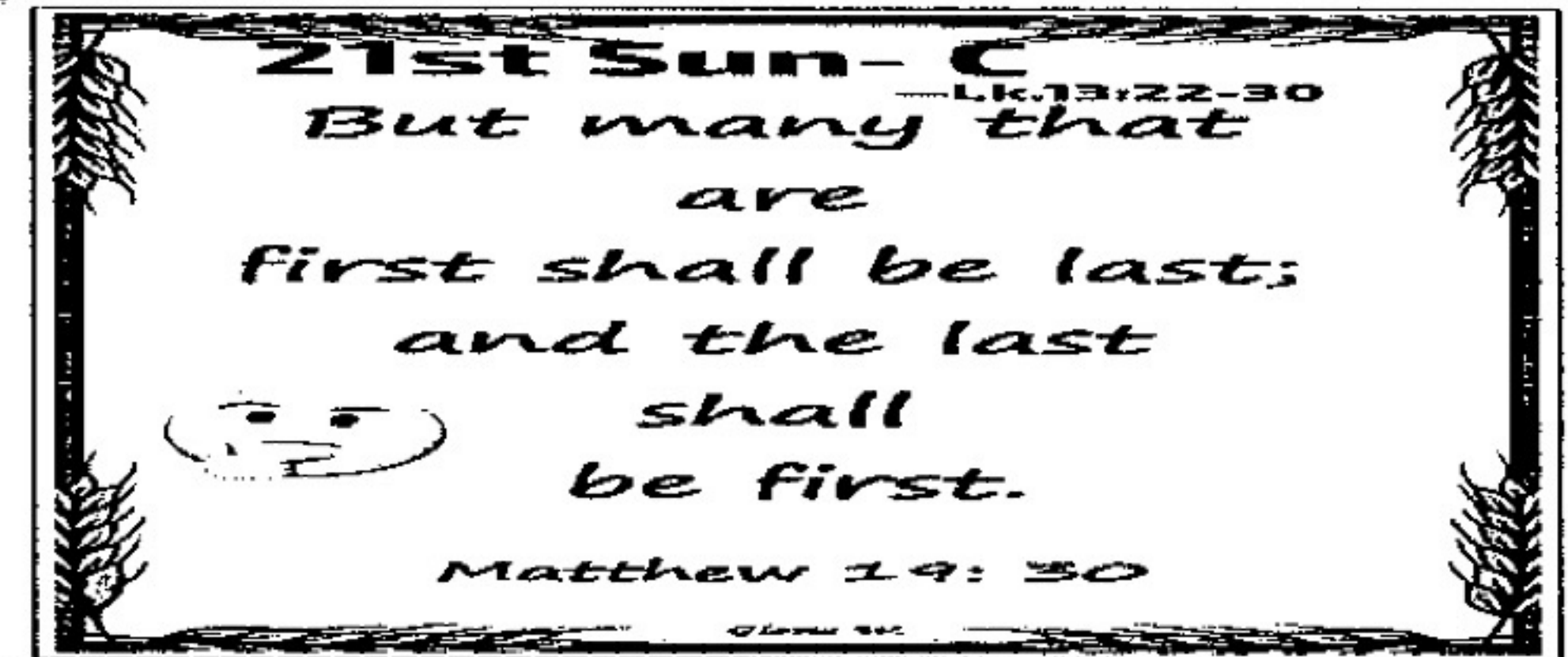
9 a.m. Holy Mass : Joseph Kocz †  
by Mary Kocz

**\*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection is for the Altar Society**

**\*Bingo every Thursday at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm  
also 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm doors open at noon**

**\*Food concession by the Knights of Columbus**

## Thought for the week



▲ Wishing you a Blessed Week ▲



### Collection Report

**August 16th and 17th, 2025**

**Main Collection - \$1432**

**Catholic Home Missions - \$422**

*Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!*

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

### ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

#### Available Adoration

Friday 5 pm to 6 pm

Rose, (870) 847-5018, or

Anne, (870) 847-1985



*God Bless the Donors and their Intentions*

**Altar Flowers** this week are generously provided by : **Buddy Kootz** in honor of **Anne Kootz's** birthday.

**Tabernacle Roses** this week generously provided by: **Helen Oberding** in honor and thanksgiving for her birthday.



### Our Condolences

Our prayers and thoughts are with Buddy Kootz and his family for the loss of his father, Bud Kootz Sr.

Mr. Kootz passed away August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please, keep Buddy in your prayers. No further information at this time. May his soul rest in peace.

### No Holy Mass

At 9 a.m. Monday September 1, 2025 here at St. Michael's. Enjoy your Labor Day and God Bless the USA and all those who labor and protect our country.

### Food Pantry Collection

The food collection is the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of every month. Here is the list of food items needed for our food pantry: **canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned meats, dish soap, washing powder and Jello.** Thank you for blessing those in need.

### Religious education classes

For both adults and children (OCIA) it will begin on Catechetical Sunday, September 21. This weekend August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> you can register. Please register so books can be ordered and arrive in time for the classes. Just let Lori know if you are unable to register this weekend. For more information contact Lori Templet at phone number 225-717-0238 or ltemplet2507@yahoo.com

### Special Collection

Bishop Taylor has issued a letter, and it is posted in the vestibule on the bulletin board about the crisis in Gaza. We will be taking up a special collection the weekend of August 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup> for the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). This will be used for the crisis in Gaza. Bishop Taylor is on the board of directors of CRS.

### Altar Society

The funds collected with the 2<sup>nd</sup> collections for the Altar Society help to pay for many items used during Holy Masses and other necessary expenses here at St. Michael's. Please, be generous with this important society. The next collection is on August 30<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>.



Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Mary Welch, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Chuck Wolff, Isabelle Wiest, Michael & Martha DeCoster, Larry Allen, Steve Allen, Michael Gagne, JoAnn Colwell, Georgia Harris, Dan Such, Jerry Gorton and Dawn Rogan.

Also :

Mary Lee, Sister Joy Wege, Tim and Betty Eash, Joan Schulz, Gail Demarest, Nico Woode, Marcella Birckhead, Michael Reddick, Gerald & Carol Metty, Darren Bates, Pat Kimball, Maryann Barber, Martin Moriarty, Colleen Royal, Cecilia Cefalu, and Darrell and Elizabeth Beason.

And :

Nursing Home: Ariela Wege, Ruth Klinge, Vernon Mcttmiller and KayLynn Rodenbeck. Expectant Mothers: Samantha Eichhorn, and Kristene Bates.

- 🕯 August 24<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Hawbaker
- 🕯 August 26<sup>th</sup> – Anne Kootz
- 🕯 August 27<sup>th</sup> – Cindy Raith
- 🕯 August 28<sup>th</sup> – Gary Keithley
- 🕯 August 28<sup>th</sup> – Helen Oberding
- 🕯 August 31<sup>st</sup> – Paulette Montoya

*We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!*



♥ August 30<sup>th</sup> – Dennis and Karen Burton  
50 years

*We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!*

\*\*\* Think about attending Holy Mass on your birthday or Anniversary to give thanks for your blessings.



# Your will, your Church, your legacy



**FREEWILL** 

Find empowerment in your planning and support the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock during National Make-A-Will Month this August

A gift to our faith community from the Diocese of Little Rock! Create a legally-binding will to ensure peace of mind and security for you and your loved ones at no cost to you. Nearly 68% of Americans do not have an up-to-date will, missing an essential act of personal and financial empowerment.

Your will sets out the legacy you will pass on to the next generation. What do you want your legacy to be?

Begin or update your estate plan with FreeWill. Using their free online tool, you can:

- Make a will in as little as 20 minutes, at no cost
- Care for your loved ones and craft a plan for your assets
- Create a planned gift to support the Church's work to build God's Kingdom in Arkansas



Scan the QR code or visit:  
[FreeWill.com/dioceseflittlerock](https://FreeWill.com/dioceseflittlerock)

Questions? Contact Kelly Wewers, Director of Stewardship & Development  
501-664-0340 ext. 391 - [kwewers@dolr.org](mailto:kwewers@dolr.org)



Holy Family Catholic Cemetery  
Burial Plots  
Contact: Bernie Brandenburg

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



Thursday 6 p.m.  
Door's Open at 5 p.m.  
1st Sunday of the month  
1:30 p.m. Doors Open at 12

# CANYON

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70.994.7472 | CanyonBuilds.com

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## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

CHARITY, UNITY,  
FRATERNITY

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

*"A sincere personal service"*

**Northam**  
Funeral Home  
Est. 1945

P.O. Box 676  
3079 Highway 412 West  
Hardy, Arkansas 72542

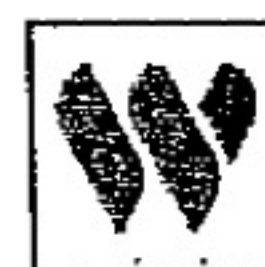
DOUG NORTHAM, President  
(870) 856-5638  
northamfuneralhome.com

**Family Owned & Operated**  
We are third generation  
Funeral Directors  
with over  
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Highland, AR 72542  
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Serving Catholic families in  
Northeast Arkansas  
since 1945

## new beginnings

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

New Beginning  
1438 HWY 62/412  
Highland, AR. 72542.  
(870) 994-LIFE (5433)  
After Hours Hotline  
1-800-712-HELP (4357)  
TXT Helpline to 313131  
Monday — Thursday open  
10 a.m. — 5 p.m.  
Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday



## White River Health

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Cherokee Village, AR 72525  
870-257-6000

## Tri-County Funeral Home

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In Sharp County

**ST. MARY OF THE MOUNT — Fr. Amal Raju Lourduswamy Punganoor — Pastor**

1002 First Street  
Horseshoe Bend AR. 72512  
(870) 670-5896

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

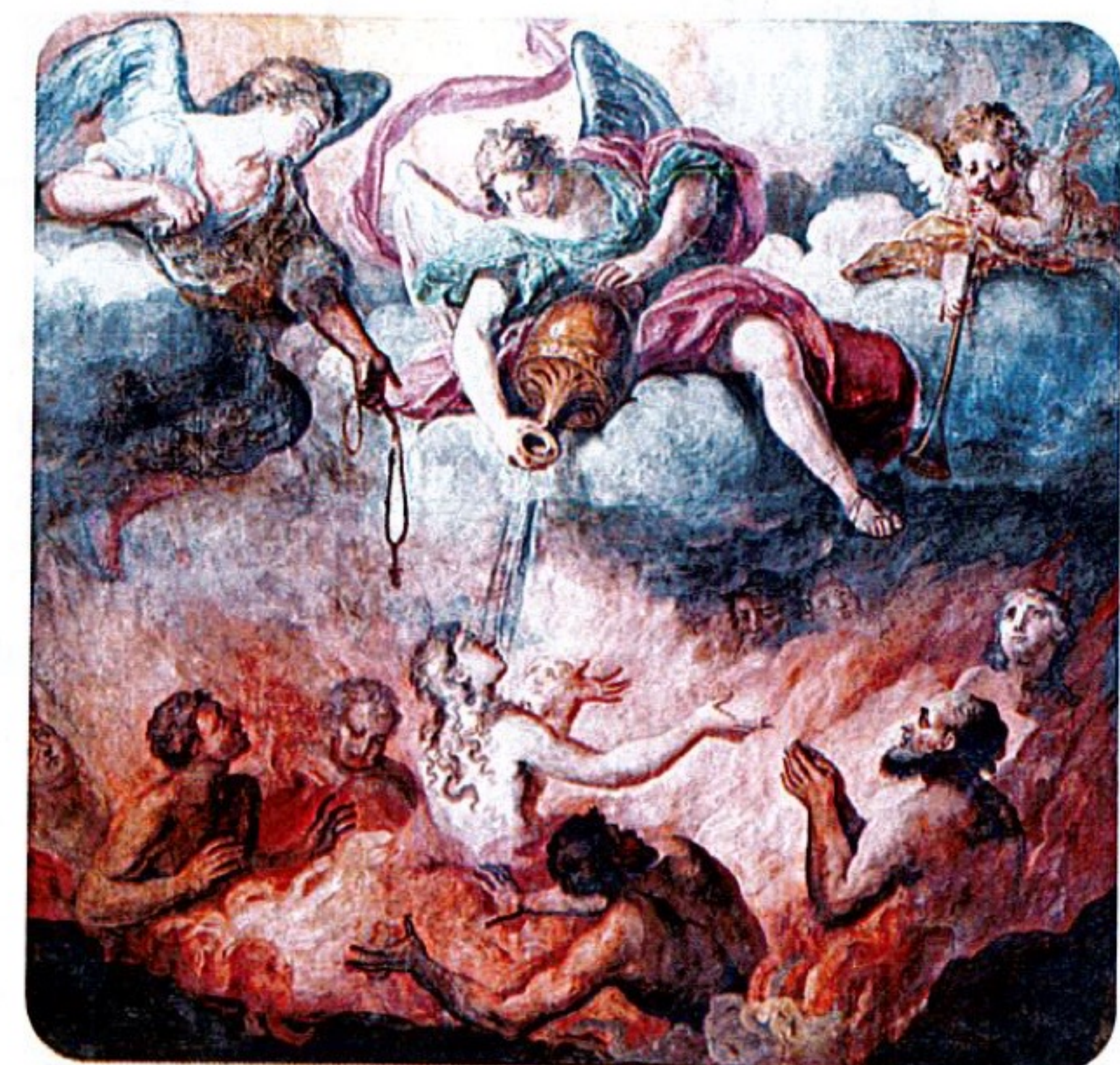
[churchoffice@stmaryshsb.org](mailto:churchoffice@stmaryshsb.org)  
Horseshoe Bend AR. 72512  
(870) 670-5896



# Dear Padre,

***My wife mentioned that neither the Book of Mormon nor the Catholic Bible mentions purgatory. Please comment.***

A not-uncommon frustration is when a person searches the Bible for a particular word or phrasing. Frankly, it is expecting too much from the religious text to be able to faithfully record a particular word or phrase that originated hundreds of years after the ancient text was composed. Purgatory is one such example of this frustration. The concept of purgatory is referenced in the biblical text, particularly in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 7:1, Hebrews 9:27 and 12:14, and 2 Maccabees 12:46, but the word is never used.



SOULS IN PURGATORY BY LORENZO PERETTI / RENATA SEDMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

This should come as no real surprise because it was not until the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) that the concept was expanded and formed into a theological statement of belief that has become central to Roman Catholicism. And what is that belief? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is clear: “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned” (CCC, 1030, 1031a). The Book of Mormon never references purgatory, but it does speak about the afterlife and the experience of “waiting” in the spirit world for the completion of earthly time. ●

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



LOSSERVATORE ROMANO / CNA

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***The narrow door is an image that could scare us, as if salvation is destined for only a select few, or for perfect people. But...a little further ahead, [Jesus] confirms, “Men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.”***

***Therefore, this door is narrow, but is open to everyone!***

**ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 21, 2022**

### Monday

August 25

Weekday

1 Thes 1:1–5, 8b–10

Mt 23:13–22

### Tuesday

August 26

Weekday

1 Thes 2:1–8

Mt 23:23–26

### Wednesday

August 27

St. Monica

1 Thes 2:9–13

Mt 23:27–32

### Thursday

August 28

St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Thes 3:7–13

Mt 24:42–51

### Friday

August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

1 Thes 4:1–8

Mk 6:17–29

### Saturday

August 30

Weekday

1 Thes 4:9–11

Mt 25:14–30

### Sunday

August 31

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 3:17–18, 20, 28–29

Heb 12:18–19, 22–24a

Lk 14:1, 7–14