



## I Am the Resurrection

ANN M. GARRIDO

**T**he prophets before Jesus had long spoken of God's dreams for our world. In seasons of darkness and despair, they would offer snapshots of hope for what it would be like in the "kingdom of God." Those who were blind would see. Those unable to walk would dance. Those imprisoned would be free. And those who had died would be raised to life again.

In today's gospel, we hear that Martha shared in the prophets' hope. When Jesus tells her that her brother Lazarus will rise, she replies, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." In other words, Martha believes in the coming "kingdom of God." But then, Jesus stuns her with his response: "I am the resurrection and the life." That is, "I am the kingdom of God."

Origen of Alexandria—a third-century theologian—spoke of Jesus as the *autobasileia*. The term comes from two Greek words: *auto*, meaning "self," and *basileia*, meaning "kingdom." It was his way of expressing that Jesus was the fulfillment of all that the prophets had preached. He was all of God's dreams for us manifest, not as had been anticipated in a future time, but in a living person.

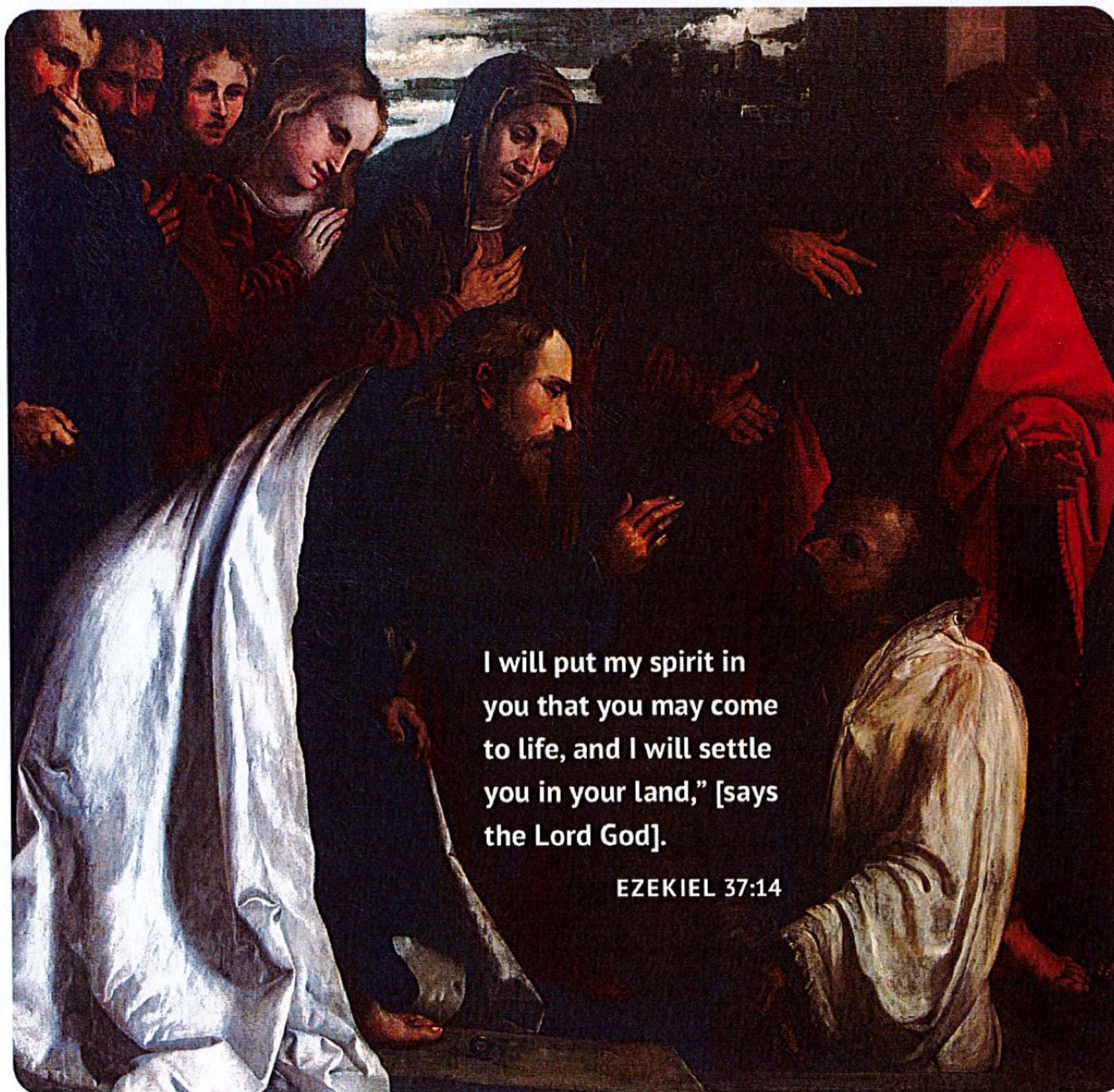
We still wait for God's dreams to be realized on a global scale, but, like Martha, we have seen what that realization will look like already in our experience of Jesus. With Martha, we can confess that he is "the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." ●

### Reflect

**Where do I see signs or snapshots of the kingdom of God?**



LEARN  
ABOUT THE  
AUTHORS OF  
OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY



**I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land," [says the Lord God].**

**EZEKIEL 37:14**

**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://stmichaelscvatholicchurch.org>

**PARISH STAFF**

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy 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 I**

**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](mailto:pray4me70@att.net)  
**Religious Education C.C.D**  
Lori Templet 856-2261  
[ltemplet2507@yahoo.com](mailto: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 21st – Lenten Weekday**

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Rob and Patricia Hummel

by: Sydney Breedlove

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – none

\*\*Anointing of the Sick after Mass

\*\* Magnificat Ladies Luncheon 11 am to 2 pm

**Sunday/ March 22nd – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Kimberly Matselboba †

by : Maureen Matselboba

\*\*Anointing of the Sick after Mass

2<sup>nd</sup> collection – none

**Monday/March 23rd – St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Jane Wege †

by: Jim Wege

\*\*KC Officers meeting 5:30 pm The Rosary/Meeting 6 pm

**Tuesday/March 24th – St. Oscar Romero, Bishop**

No Holy Mass :

**Wednesday/ March 25th – THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

6 p.m. Holy Mass: All Volunteers of St. Michael's

by: People of the Parish

**Thursday / March 26th – Lenten Weekday**

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

by: People of the Parish

\*\*Single Retired Ladies luncheon Noon to 1 pm

\*BINGO at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm

**Friday/ March 27th – Lenten Weekday**

Memorial Mass for Margaret Dickey

10:30 am : The Rosary / 11:00 am : Memorial Mass

\*\*Stations of the Cross 5 pm

\*\* Parish Life Soup Supper after Stations

**Saturday/March 28th –**

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Bingo Committee

by: People of the Parish

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Catholic Relief Services

**Sunday/ March 29th – Palm Sunday**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Zolton Orosz †

by : Karen Burton and family

\*2<sup>nd</sup> collection – Catholic Relief Services

\*\*Ministry Group photos after Holy Mass

*Thought*

If You  
Feel  
Small  
or  
Unimportant  
Remember:  
David  
Was  
Forgotten  
By His Own  
Family -  
But  
Not  
By  
God

  
St. Augustine:  
God  
Loves  
Each of Us  
As if  
There were  
None

**Lent: 4th Su**  
"Not as man  
does God see  
because ma  
appearance  
Lord looks in  
heart."  
-1 Sam  
St. John Vian  
"Man judges  
according to  
appearance

🙏 Wishing you a Blessed Week 🙏



March 14th and March 15th, 2026

Main collection : \$ 2183.00

Maintenance fund : \$ 951.00

*Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!*

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

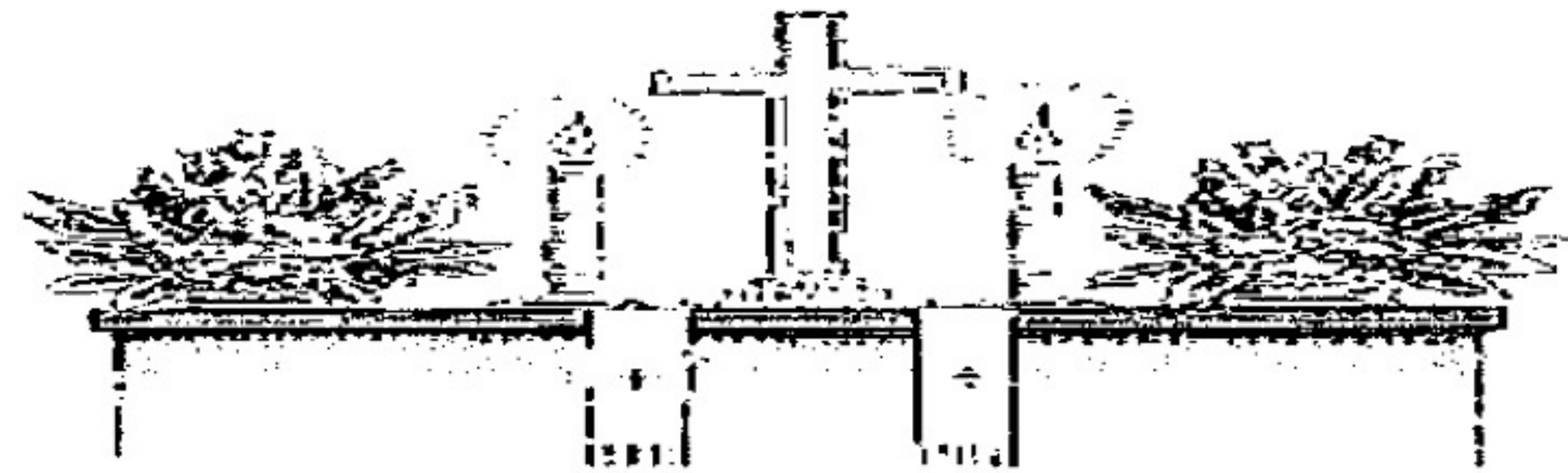
ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration

Tuesday 6 pm to 7 pm

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 : you may donate for Easter flowers at any time,  
please be generous so we can make our church beautiful for Easter !  
Thank you~

## In Our Thoughts & Prayers



### NEW – Single Retired Ladies Ministry

You are invited to join this new ministry here at St. Michael's. The 1<sup>st</sup> gathering will be a ladies luncheon on Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> 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 !!!

### Ministry Groups Photos

After Holy Mass on Palm Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>, if you are a member of the following : Altar Servers, Minister of Communion, Parish Staff, OCIA, Altar Society, Lectors, Music Ministry, Magnificat, Prayer Chain and Ushers. Please, stay near the front of the Altar after Holy Mass. Tom Helfert will be taking group photos for the upcoming church directory. If he has missed a group please, contact Rhonda in the church office so he can get that group's photo.

(KCs, SVDP and Bingo have been taken care of).

### Dickey Memorial Mass

On Friday March 27, 2026 there will be a Memorial Mass for Margaret Dickey. She passed away on January 6, 2026. She will be interred in St. Michael's Columbarium afterwards. We extend our sympathy to her husband, children and loved ones.

May she rest in peace.

### Palm Sunday Holy Mass Schedule

\*St. Michael's Palm Sunday Vigil Mass is

Saturday March 28, 2026 is at 4 pm

And Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 is

Palm Sunday Holy Mass is at 9 am.

\* St. Mary's at Horseshoe Bend will have

Palm Sunday Holy Mass at 11:15 am.

### Thank you !

Knights of Columbus for all of the Lenten Fish Fry meals. We know it takes a lot of time and energy to keep those going. Know we appreciate each and everyone of you. Many Blessings for all you do !

### Church Liability Insurance

Our collection for the liability insurance we had a few weeks ago was not enough to cover the full amount of the insurance. Please, check your financial situation and see if you may be able to contribute more to the annual insurance for the church. Just make a note on your check that it is to go towards the liability insurance for the church. Thank you in advance.

Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Mary Welch, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Joyce Speir, Michael Gagne, Isabelle Wiest, 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, Ray McHugh, 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, Tim Starcken, Doug and Tammy Wortham.  
Nursing Home: Ruth Klinge and KayLynn Rodenbeck

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

- 🎂 March 21st – Rebecca Pope
- 🎂 March 22nd – Elizabeth Pope
- 🎂 March 25th – Jacob Hendricks
- 🎂 March 25th – Lucmaria Huerta
- 🎂 March 26th – Judy Smith
- 🎂 March 28th – Sally Scheschi



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

# Saint Michael's Catholic Church

March 4, 2026

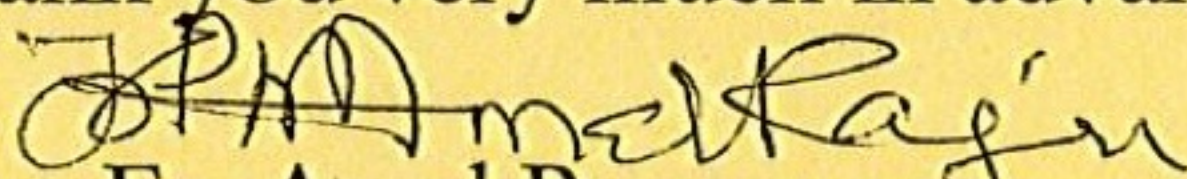
Letter/Pulpit announcement to the parish of St. Michael the Archangel.

Over the past few months we have seen a decline in church attendance. Along with that decline comes a decline in almsgiving. Our weekly collections have been down significantly.

We have a couple of projects which are ongoing that we have gotten windfalls to cover. That money is set aside in a savings account at the diocese. Recently we have had to take money out of that savings to cover monthly expenses. We are currently reviewing our expenses to see where we can cut back and save as much as we can.

We realize that things are not any better for you individually as it is also for the church. All I can do is ask for everyone to see where you can be a little more generous to help our parish to meet its basic expenses. We on the finance committee will do our best to better manage what we do with your money.

Thank you very much in advance.

  
Rev. Fr. Amal Punganoor

Michael Gagne

Finance Committee Chairperson

**Office:**  
P.O. Box 970  
Cherokee Village, AR 72525-0970

[www.stmichaelscv.org](http://www.stmichaelscv.org)

870-257-2850

**Rectory:**  
12 Micanopy Cr.  
Cherokee Village, AR 72529-7618

870-257-4456

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.

# CANYON

CONSTRUCTION

PO Box 295 | Ash Flat, AR 72513  
870.994.7472 | CanyonBuilds.com

**Build Boldly**  
**Commercial**  
**Residential**  
**Excavation**



## 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

## new beginnings PREGANACY 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

Caring Beyond Healthcare  
195 Hospital Drive  
Cherokee Village, AR 72525  
870-257-6000

**Masters Bouquet**  
Flower Shop and Christian Book Store  
(870) 856-5659  
1438 Hwy 62/412  
Highland, AR 72542

## TRI-COUNTY FUNERAL HOME

Compassion and Guidance  
when needed most

**(870) 856-2705**

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

Physical Address  
1540 Highway 62-412  
Highland, AR 72542

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 665  
Hardy, AR 72542

only on-site crematory  
in Sharp County

*"A sincere personal service"*

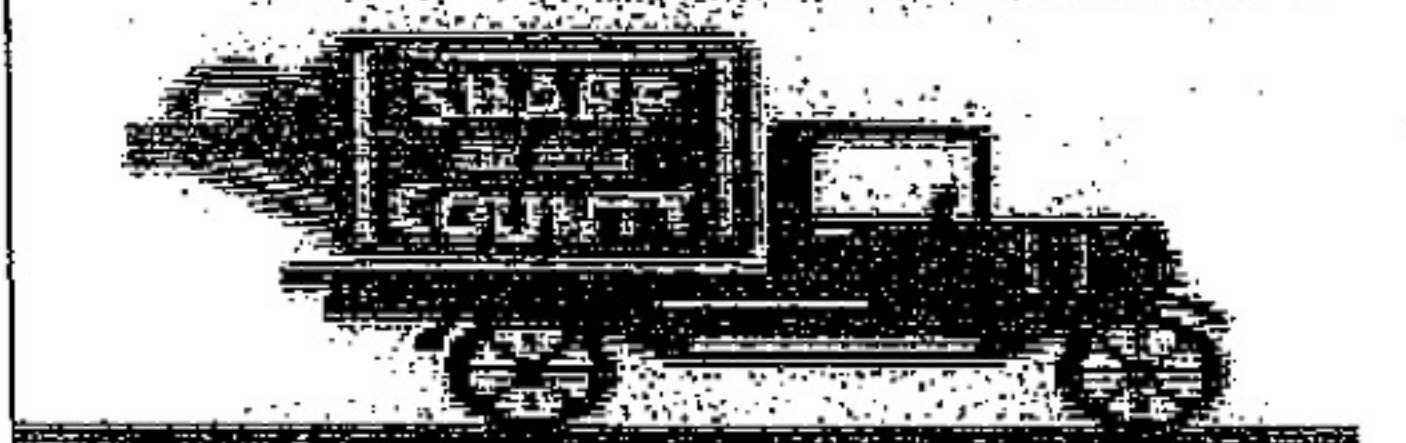


## Wortham Funeral Home

P.O. Box 616  
3023 Highway 412 West  
Hardy, Arkansas 72542

DOUG WORTHAM, President  
(870) 856-5636  
[worthamfuneralhome.com](http://worthamfuneralhome.com)

Family Owned & Operated  
We are third generation  
Funeral Directors  
with over  
130 years of experience  
3079 Highway 62  
Highland, AR 72542  
870-856-5636  
Serving Catholic families in  
Northeast Arkansas  
since 1945



## BOOTLEGGER INC

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

(870) 994-BEER (2337)

582 Hwy 62/412,  
Ash Flat, AR 72513

BEER-WINE-LIQUOR

ST. MARY OF THE MOUNT — Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy Punganor — 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,

*I've offered many Masses for wife and family, thinking if perhaps they are in Purgatory, it would help shorten their time. How can we tell if our prayers and Masses are beneficial? How do we know?*

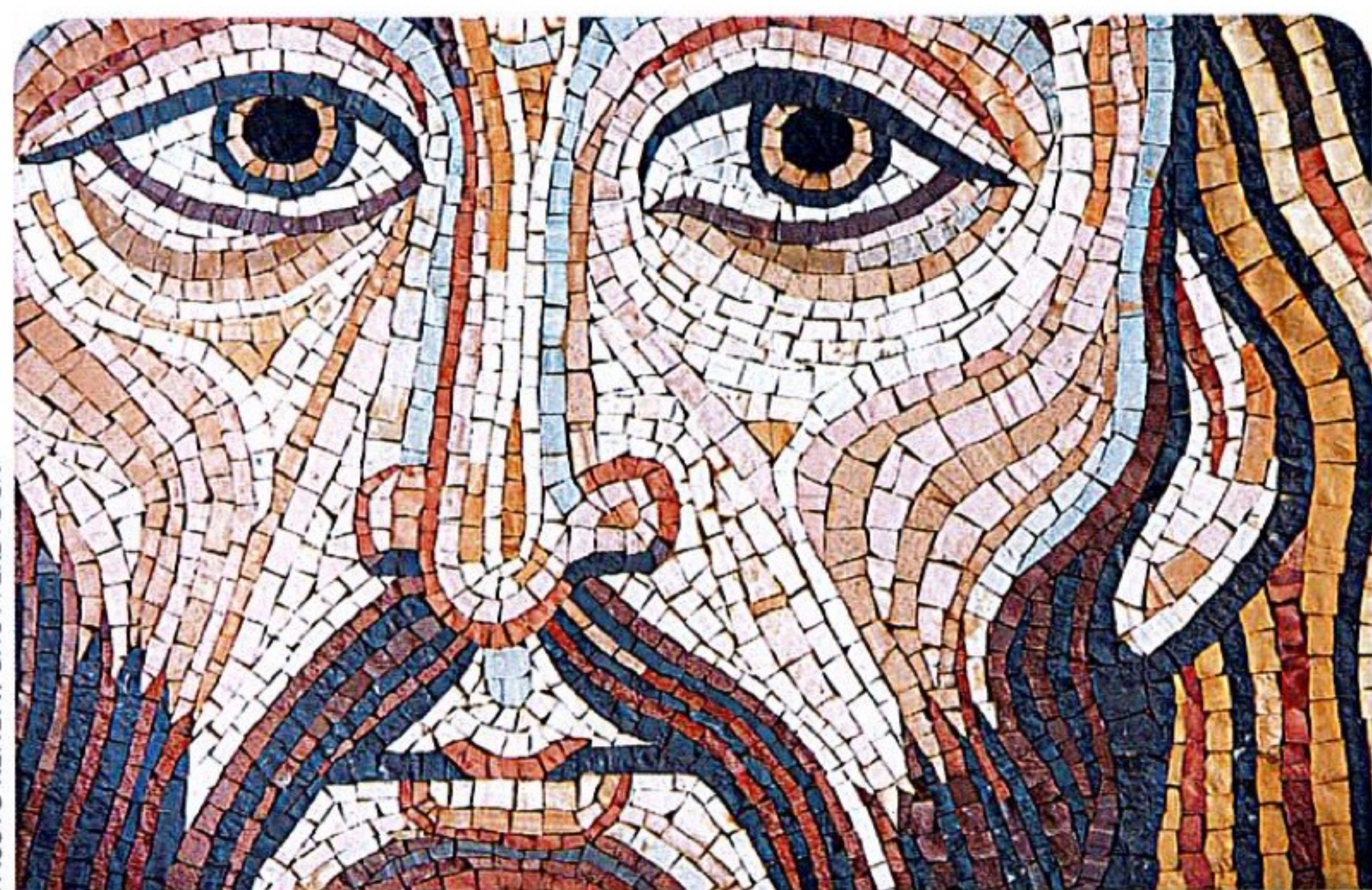
It has been a long- and well-established expression of Catholic faith and practice to pray for the departed. Our prayers help us as we grieve and mourn the passing of the people we love. Our prayers help us keep their passing in perspective—not as the end of something, but rather as the beginning of new life in Christ. This is beneficial and needs no further evidence to illustrate the value of the practice.

Your question, on the other hand, goes beyond what the tradition emphasizes. It seems like you are seeking some sort of guarantee or warranty, which you assume will be reassuring. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee or warranty either promised or implied in this spiritual practice. In death, indeed in the whole of Christian life, we bump up against mystery, not certitude. We are invited to enter into the mystery. To grow in the mystery. To be graced by the mystery. Nothing more is possible. We hope because we believe. We believe because we practice what we hope for. ●



RENATA SEMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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



FAUSTO RENDA / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*A very widespread ailment of our time is the fatigue of living: reality seems to us to be too complex, burdensome, difficult to face. And so, we switch off, we fall asleep.... But reality has to be faced.... Let us go to Jesus: he can heal us; he can revive us. Jesus is our hope!*

**GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 25, 2025**

### Monday

**MARCH 23**

*Lenten Weekday*

Dn 13:1–9, 15–17,  
19–30, 33–62 or  
13:41c–62  
Jn 8:1–11

### Tuesday

**MARCH 24**

*Lenten Weekday*

Nm 21:4–9  
Jn 8:21–30

### Wednesday

**MARCH 25**

*The Annunciation  
of the Lord*

Is 7:10–14; 8:10  
Heb 10:4–10  
Lk 1:26–38

### Thursday

**MARCH 26**

*Lenten Weekday*

Gn 17:3–9  
Jn 8:51–59

### Friday

**MARCH 27**

*Lenten Weekday*

Jer 20:10–13  
Jn 10:31–42

### Saturday

**MARCH 28**

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 37:21–28  
Jn 11:45–56

### Sunday

**MARCH 29**

*Palm Sunday of the  
Passion of the Lord*

Mt 21:1–11  
Is 50:4–7  
Phil 2:6–11  
Mt 26:14–27:66 or  
27:11–54

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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