



The two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

LUKE 24:35



## Three Basic Rules

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**T**he Emmaus story is about two disciples walking seven miles from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus and their encounter with Jesus, whom they did not recognize. The story is rich in both symbolism and meaning. In a nutshell, it teaches us three basic rules for the formation of Christian community: *Welcome the stranger. Break open the word. Celebrate the Eucharist.* When we are faithful to these practices, we are faithful to the promise of the kingdom in our midst. If we choose to ignore these basic rules, we should not be surprised that we seem to be struggling.

Three out of three rules set the baseline. We cannot congratulate ourselves if we follow one or two of them

well enough and ignore the third. We cannot pick and choose. It is the Lord who sets the parameters; our mission is only to respond positively in faith to what he directs us to do.

How are we doing? An honest appraisal probably suggests that improvement is needed. Each of our local communities, and indeed even the wider Church, sometimes struggles to form an Emmaus community of faith. We know we can do better. The good news is that we are not uninformed, and we know where we need to place the most effort. The Holy Spirit of God will show us how we need to apply this renewed effort. ●

### Reflect

**Where does my family and parish need improvement to form a genuinely faithful Emmaus community?**

**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 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 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 / April 18th – Easter weekday**

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Bill Williams †

by: Trudi Williams

\* No 2<sup>nd</sup> collection :

**Sunday/ April 19th – Third Sunday of Easter**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Theresa Kootz

by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

\* No 2<sup>nd</sup> collection:

**Monday/April 20th – Easter weekday**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All St. Michael's volunteers

by: People of the Parish

**Tuesday/ April 21st –St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor**

No Holy Mass :

**Wednesday/ April 22nd – Easter weekday**

6 p.m. Holy Mass: Irene Barrack †

by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

**Thursday / April 23rd – St. George and St. Adalbert, Bishops**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Dale Lofquist †

by: Barbara Lofquist

\*Bingo starts at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm

**Friday/ April 24th – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All St. Michael's deceased †

by: People of the parish

**Saturday / April 25<sup>th</sup> – St. Mark, Evangelist**

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Margaret Dickey †

by: Dickey Family

\* 2<sup>nd</sup> collection – Altar Society

**Sunday/ April 26th – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Mary Welch †

by: Ron Martin and family

\* 2<sup>nd</sup> collection – Altar Society

\*\*\*\*\*Bingo is 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays at 1 PM doors open at noon and every Thursday at 6 PM doors open 5 PM. Our Knights of Columbus work the concession stand. Come support them ! They support our church in so many ways.

*Thought*  
for the week

Ignorance  
Of the  
Scripture  
Is  
Ignorance  
Of  
Christ  
- St. Jerome



When  
Christ Speaks  
He Awakens  
Our Souls.  
It's not Just  
Emotional  
But  
Spiritual  
We Are  
Transformed  
As  
His Light  
To Others

**Easter: 3rd Sun-A**

**The disciples on  
the road to Emmaus:**

—Luke 24:13-35

*"Were not our hearts  
burning within us  
while He talked to us  
on the road,*



*while He opened to  
us, the Scriptures?"*

- Luke .24:32

🙏 Wishing you a Blessed Week 🙏



*Collection Report*

April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Main Collection \$3536.27

Maintenance Fund \$761.00

*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: Fr. Amal in honor of Fr. Philip.

**Tabernacle Roses** this week are generously provided by: People of the parish in honor of our volunteers here at St. Michael's.

\*\* There are open weekends for the Flowers, for the Altar and Tabernacle at this time.

### Vacation Bible School

We will have Vacation Bible School this year at St. Michael's. Starting Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and ending with Mass on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The sessions will start at 5:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm on all days. It will be held in the Parish Hall. The children will learn a song to perform at the Wednesday Mass. Bible stories and crafts will top out the agenda. Please spread the word to all youngsters ages 3 and up. The older kids can come and help and earn service hours for school. We will have a sign-up a few weeks before it starts. For more information contact Lori Templet at 225-717-0238 or email: [ltemplet2507@yahoo.com](mailto:ltemplet2507@yahoo.com)

### Holy Mass Intentions

There are still openings on the 2026 Holy Mass schedule please, see the office if you would like to schedule one or several. The cost for each one is \$10.

### Ariela Wege Interment

On Monday April 27th, 2026, after 9 AM Holy Mass, she will be interred in the St. Michael's Columbarium.

### Church Flowers

\*\* Please, consider signing up for Altar Flowers or Tabernacle Roses for the church. Just sign up on the charts in the vestibule and put a check under the parish secretary's office door or drop it by. The stipend amount is on the charts and is due before or the day after your request. You may also call the church to schedule and to check on if that date is available.

### Bulletin Insert for this week

There is a **9 Day Novena** insert that you can pray in the month of April. Our Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in this for **National Child Abuse Prevention** month. For the next 9 days lets pray that the vulnerable are protected from abuse and that survivors of abuse may be accomplished on their paths to healing. Extras are available in the vestibule on the table.

### Easter Lilies

There are a few that are left in the vestibule if you would like to take one home.



**Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, 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: Chuck Wolff, Ruth Klinge, and KayLynn Rodenbeck.**

*We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!*

- April 20th - Samuel Burton
- April 23rd - Richard Conrad
- April 24th - Frank Scholz
- April 25th - Shannon Langellier
- April 25th - Mary Winston
- April 26th - Susan Reddick



*We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!*

- ♥ April 25 - Ken and Mary Nguyen  
38 years

\*\* If we miss your birthday or anniversary please let the office know. Thank you~

Dear Friends,

Greetings of Peace, be with you.

We would like to inform you, regarding **ANY FALSE INFORMATION** that may reach you by others, don't acknowledge it.

We kindly request that you acknowledge only messages or information that comes from the following :

**Father Amal**

**Buddy Kootz, PC President and Grand Knight**

**Parish Secretary**

**Emails from Kathy Gagne that have been authorized by the above people**

**Notices placed on the stand outside the church doors by the office**

We sometimes request Kathy Gagne to send out official messages or information regarding changes or arrangements with updated schedules for example :

**Funeral / Memorial Masses**

**Canalization of any program**

**Updated or last-minute changes to Holy Mass schedules**

**Changes due to inclement weather / emergency events**

**If you get messages from anyone else, please double check with the church office or with the designated people before acting upon that message or repeating it.**

Please, we do not want confusion or chaos, nor any misunderstandings.

Thank you for all of your kindness, support and prayers.

God bless you and bless all of your dear ones.

With affection and prayers,

Fr. Amal Punganoor

April 13, 2026

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month. While dioceses work year-round to prevent abuse, during this month a special emphasis is placed on the importance of learning how to protect the vulnerable from this evil.

Together, for the next nine days, let's pray that the vulnerable are protected from abuse, and that survivors of abuse may be accompanied on their paths to healing.

# Novena

## for Protection and Healing from Abuse

### Intercessions

- Day 1:** May the most vulnerable be protected from all types of abuse and exploitation.
- Day 2:** May those who have been sexually abused receive comfort and healing.
- Day 3:** May those who work with children and young people be vigilant in protecting them from harm.
- Day 4:** May those who provide help for the abused act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministries.
- Day 5:** May all families strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.

**Day 6:** May all those who have committed abuse acknowledge the harm they have done, repent, and accept justice that ultimately comes from God.

**Day 7:** May those who have been abused receive the courage to tell their story, and may they be believed and supported.

**Day 8:** May Church leaders, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, promote justice and healing for survivors of abuse.

**Day 9:** May our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, fulfill his role as good shepherd and protect the most vulnerable in his flock.

### Prayers

*Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be, Prayer for Healing*

### Prayer for Healing

God of endless love,  
Ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in  
them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters  
who have been gravely harmed,  
and the cries of those who love them.

Soothe their restless hearts with  
hope, steady their shaken  
spirits with faith.  
Grant them justice for their cause,  
enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform brokenness into wholeness.  
Grant us the courage and wisdom,  
humility and grace, to act with justice.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.  
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



# Dear Padre,

## Why are there different stories about Jesus' resurrection?

As a whole, the New Testament is a testimonial to the resurrection. About twenty years after Jesus' death, St. Paul offers the earliest written reference to the resurrection. (See 1 Thessalonians 1:10.) All four gospels tell the story of Jesus, who was crucified, rose from the dead, and appeared to his disciples. However, the evangelists incorporated elements that were handed on orally, and they presented them in their own style to address the particular needs and cultural backgrounds of their readers. Each author attempted to express the inexpressible resurrection within the limits of language, and they selectively highlighted or omitted material for theological purposes. If minor details vary among the writers—such as the number of women or angels at Christ's tomb—these variations are consistent with the nature of eyewitness accounts and recorded events as they are remembered. Divergent accounts are not false accounts. Despite discrepancies, the objective of the authors remained uncompromised: the identity of the historical Jesus of Nazareth is now the risen Lord of All. (See Acts 10:34–43.) Moreover, the authors wanted to convey this fundamental truth: Jesus Christ's defeat of death by his resurrection is central to our Christian hope and is the assurance of our own resurrection! Guided by the Holy Spirit, the gospels' resurrection accounts have inspired believers for 2,000 years—for “if Christ has not been raised, then...empty, too, your faith” (1 Corinthians 15:14). ●



VLADIS CHURN / SHUTTERSTOCK

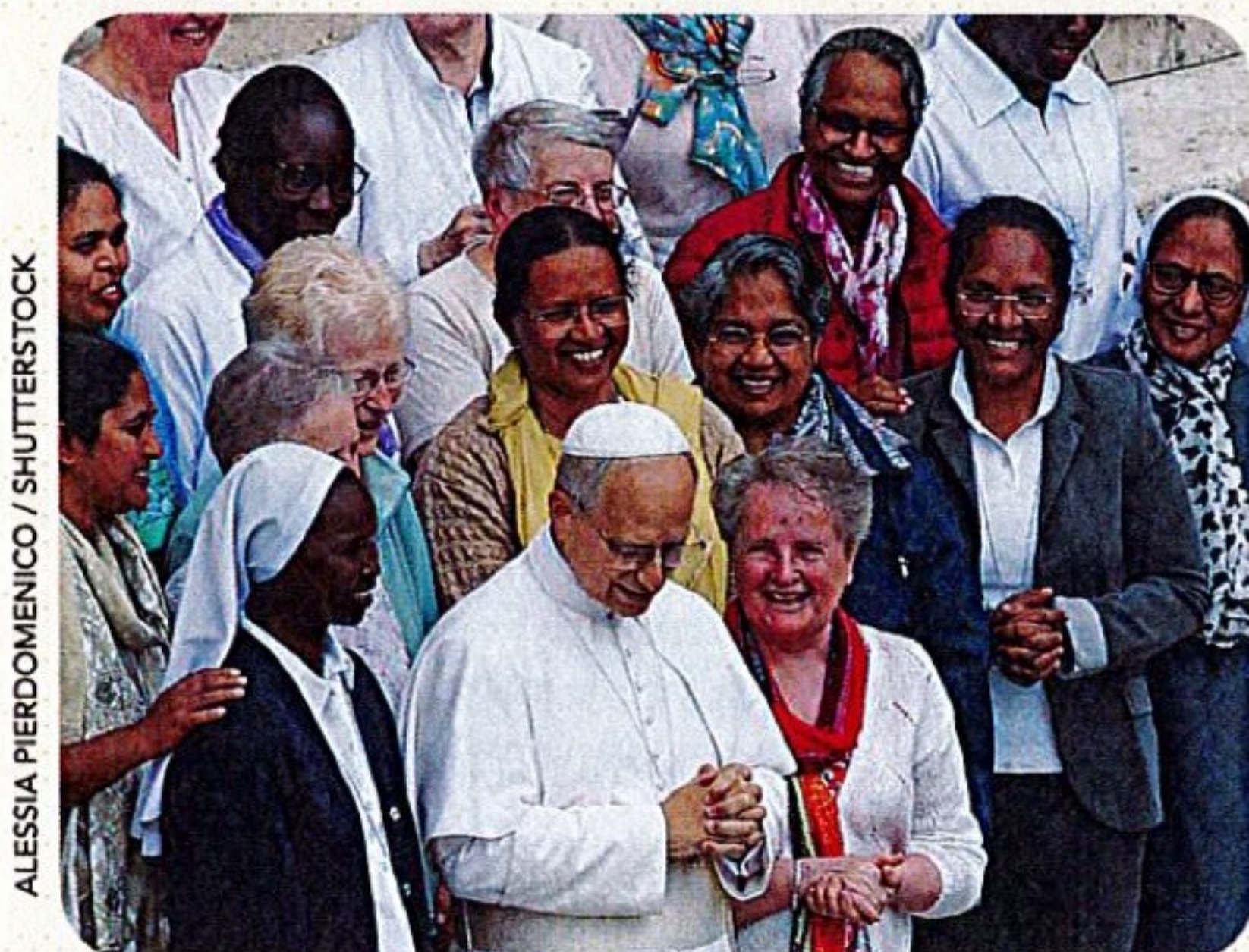
**Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Mark, Evangelist	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:8–15 Jn 6:22–29	Acts 7:51–8:1a Jn 6:30–35	Acts 8:1b–8 Jn 6:35–40	Acts 8:26–40 Jn 6:44–51	Acts 9:1–20 Jn 6:52–59	1 Pt 5:5b–14 Mk 16:15–20	Acts 2:14a, 36–41 1 Pt 2:20b–25 Jn 10:1–10

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

**The Church is brokenhearted at the cry of pain rising from places devastated by war.... We must never get used to war!... For this reason, in the name of human dignity and international law, I reiterate to those in positions of responsibility the frequent warning of...Pope Pius XII: “Nothing is lost with peace. Everything may be lost with war.”**

**GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 18, 2025**



ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO / SHUTTERSTOCK

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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## 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

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER  
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

## TRI-COUNTY FUNERAL HOME

Compassion and Guidance  
when needed most

(870) 856-2705

tricityfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Physical Address  
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Highland, AR 72542

Mailing Address  
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Hardy, AR 72542

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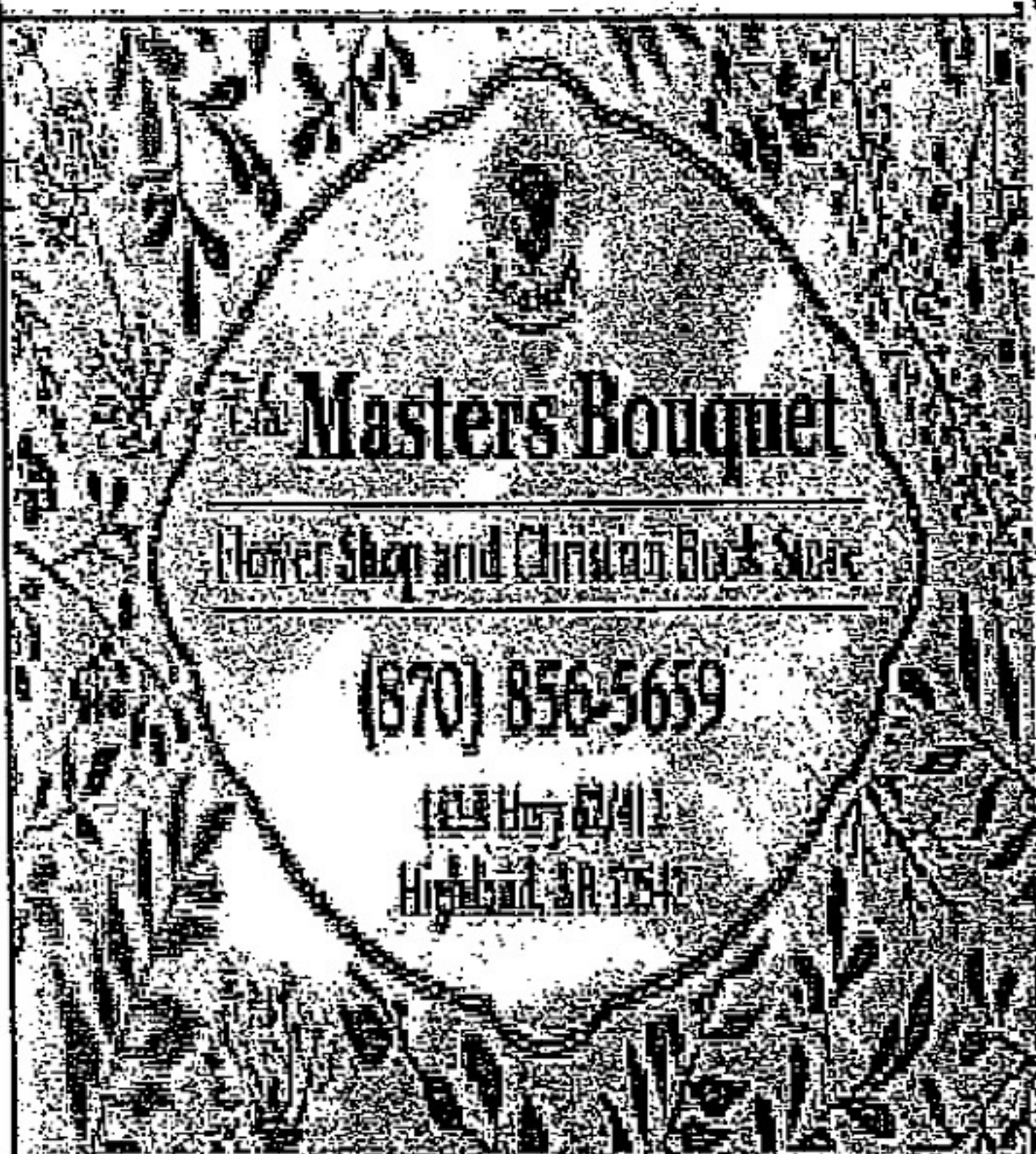
## Wortham Funeral Home

Est. 1828

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DOUG WORTHAM, President  
(870) 856-5636  
worthamfuneralhome.com

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

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

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