



Embracing a Spirituality of Listening

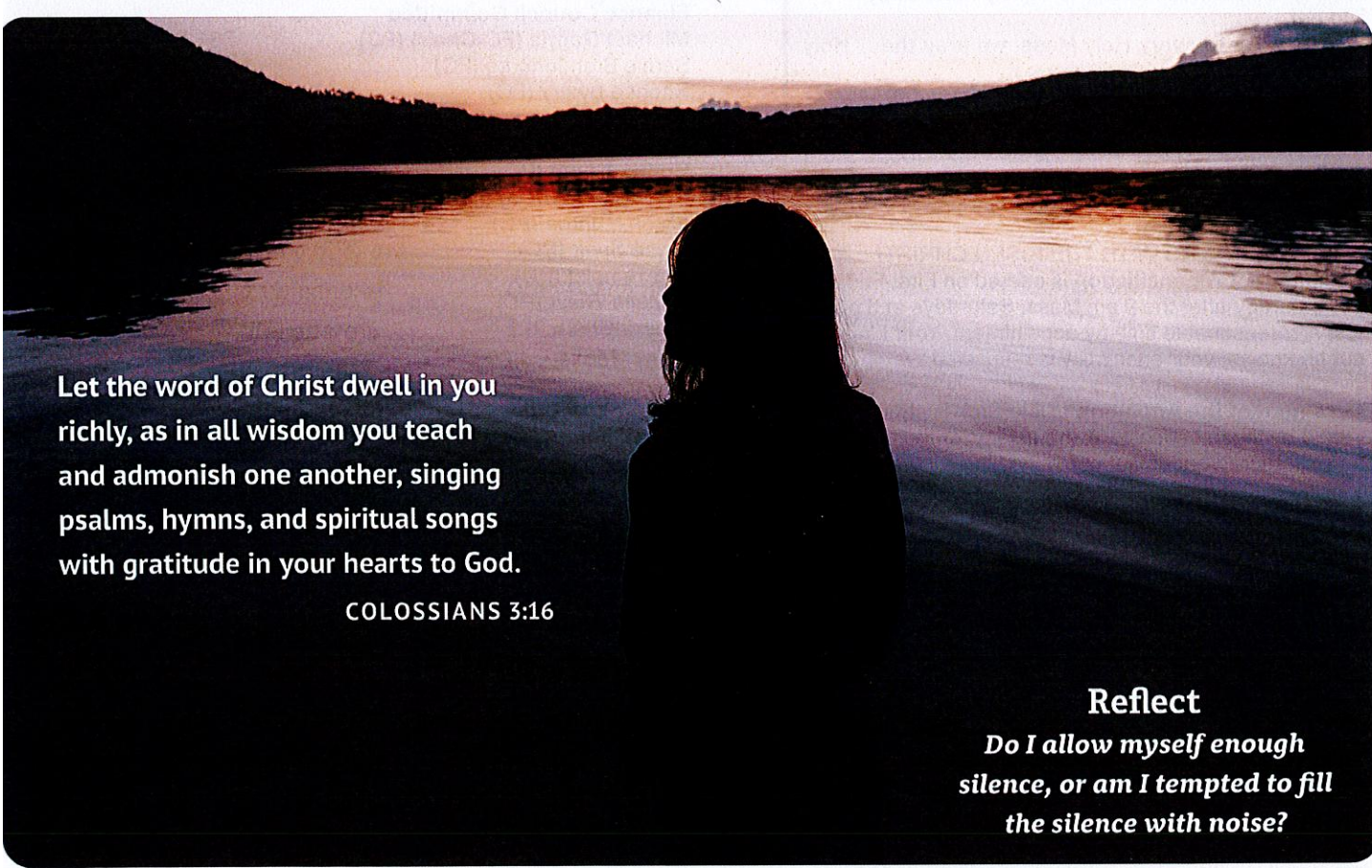
ANN M. GARRIDO

The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
ANN M.
GARRIDO



Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly, as in all wisdom you teach
and admonish one another, singing
psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Reflect

*Do I allow myself enough
silence, or am I tempted to fill
the silence with noise?*

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
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://stmichaelscatholicchurch.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 p.m.: 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 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.

Saturday/ December 27th – St. John, Apostle

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Marty Barrack †

by : Dean Beardslee

Anointing of the Sick after Holy Mass

*no 2nd collection

Sunday/ December 28th – The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Cardinal Burke

by : Buddy and Anne Kootz

Anointing of the Sick after Holy Mass

* no 2nd collection

Monday/ December 29th – Fifth Day of the Octave
of the Nativity of the Lord, St. Thomas Becket, Bishop

9 a.m. Holy Mass: Dean Beardslee

by: Marcella Birkhead

Tuesday/ December 30th –Sixth Day of the Octave
of the Nativity of the Lord

No Holy Mass :

Wednesday / December 31st- Seventh Day with in Octave
of the Nativity of the Lord

4 p.m. Holy Mass : Fr. Amal

by: Marcella Birkhead and

Ray Charbonneau † by: Dean Beardslee

*Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament 3 pm to 4 pm

Thursday / January 1st - The Octave Day of the Nativity of the
Lord Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Dorothy Beardslee †

by: Dean Beardslee

*Holy Day of Obligation

Friday/ January 2nd – St. Basil the Great and
St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Birkhead grandchildren

and great grandchildren

by: Marcella Birkhead

Saturday/ January 3rd – The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9 a.m. Holy Mass : : Lynne Colles

by : Roger and Betsy Edmonson

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Buddy Kootz

by : Anne Kootz

Sunday/ January 4th – The Epiphany of the Lord

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

by : People of the Parish

Thought for the week

Sunday
Dec.28.
2025
Year -A

The
Holy Family
Of
Jesus
Mary
Joseph

Merry
Christmas
2025

**The Feast of
the Holy Family of Nazareth**

- "Nazareth: a home of silence, love, and obedience."
- "The family is the domestic Church."
- "Holiness begins at home."
- "Prayer is the heart of family life."
- "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—pray for our families."

Always  God Bless You All 

 Wishing you a Blessed Week 



December 20th and 21st , 2025

Main collection : \$ 2443.00

Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration.

Tuesday 3 pm to 4 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: **Anne Kootz** in honor of **Buddy Kootz's birthday.**

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

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Please, join us on Wednesday December 31st, from 3 pm to 4 pm prior to 4 pm Holy Mass.

Altar Linens

A request from the ladies who volunteer to keep our linens clean for the altar. Please, help prevent staining the linens with lipstick. Sometimes the cloth must be disposed of because we are unable to remove the stains. Thank you for your cooperation. Anne Kootz ph# 870-847-1985

Our Heartfelt Sympathy

We express our condolences to the family and loved ones of Marilyn Hadley who passed away at her home on Saturday December 20th, 2025. No arrangements have been announced at this time.

Thank you- Rodenbecks !

We thank you, Ken and Linda Rodenbeck for always being there at Christmas and for the many years that you have been there for generations of St. Michael's childrens. You both have blessed many with your donated your time, energy and talents here at St. Michael's and our community.

Damage to the New Book Sets

It has come to our attention that we have already had 2 books damaged due to children not being watched or properly taught not to damage property. These books were purchased at a large expense to the church and should last us 10 years. In the short time they have been in the pews 2 books have been damaged. Please, parents watch your children and remind them you do not damage others property, this is very disrespectful. Several Parishioners have generously donated their money to help with the expense of these book sets. Please, let Father Amal or the church office know if you see anyone attempting to damage the book sets or if you find one that is damaged.

****New Flower charts for 2026 will be going up soon! If you have a special date you want to reserve, please see the parish secretary to scheduled if the charts are not up.**

****Want to schedule a special intention for 2026 just stop by the office. They are \$10 each.**



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, Marcella Birkhead, 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 Klinge, Chuck Wolff and KayLynn Rodenbeck
Expectant Mother: Kristene Bates

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

- 🍰 December 30th – Chuck Wolff
- 🍰 January 2nd – James Branch
- 🍰 January 3rd – Aric Eichhorn
- 🍰 January 3rd – Buddy Kootz
- 🍰 January 4th – Nancy Paluck



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

No anniversaries for this week

***Thank you to all our volunteers here at St. Michael's for sharing your time, talents and treasures with us.**

Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
Burial Plots
Contact: Bernie Brandenburg

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

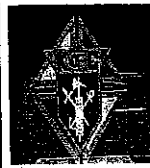


St. Michael's Parish Hall
Thursday 6 p.m.
Doors Open at 5 p.m.
1st Sunday of the month
1 p.m. Doors Open at 12 p.m.

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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
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
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195 Hospital Drive
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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

Dear Padre,

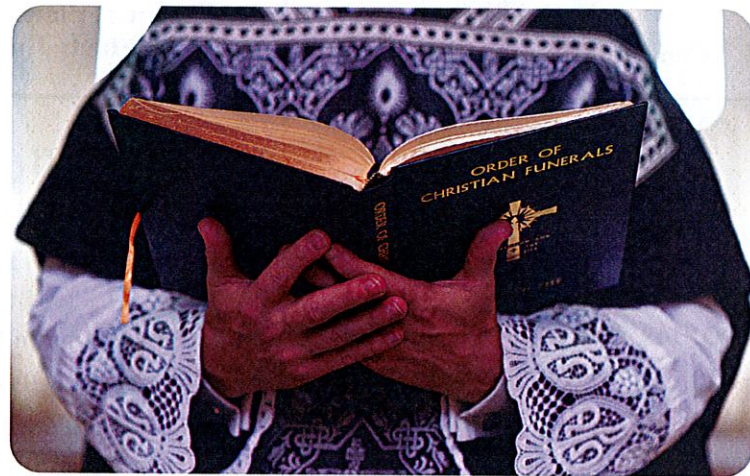
A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.

Yes, your friend should most certainly receive a Catholic funeral and burial. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2283).

A person who is suffering with a mental illness or disorder, certainly a prerequisite for suicide, may not have the necessary mental freedom to choose something that is understood as grave or mortal. In other words, he or she does not have the necessary requirements for full and free consent of the will.

Not that long ago, suicide was often misunderstood. Thankfully, today we understand the havoc and suffering of mental illness, and that a person can be a victim, even if it might look like he or she is not. The great suffering of those who take their own lives must not be dismissed or discarded. The family members and friends of a person who suffers suicide should also not be judged but should only receive compassion and understanding. They, too, are victims, in the fullest sense of the word and in the truest understanding of what it means to be a fragile human being. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



Young people of our time, like those of every age, are a volcano of life, energy, sentiments, and ideas. It can be seen from the wonderful things they are able to do, in so

many fields. However, they also need help in order for this great wealth to grow in harmony and to overcome what...can still hinder their healthy development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 15, 2025

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

December 29
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday

December 30
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:12-17
Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday

December 31
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:18-21
Jn 1:1-18

Thursday

January 1
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Friday

January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22-28
Jn 1:19-28

Saturday

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29-3:6
Jn 1:29-34

Sunday

January 4
The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12