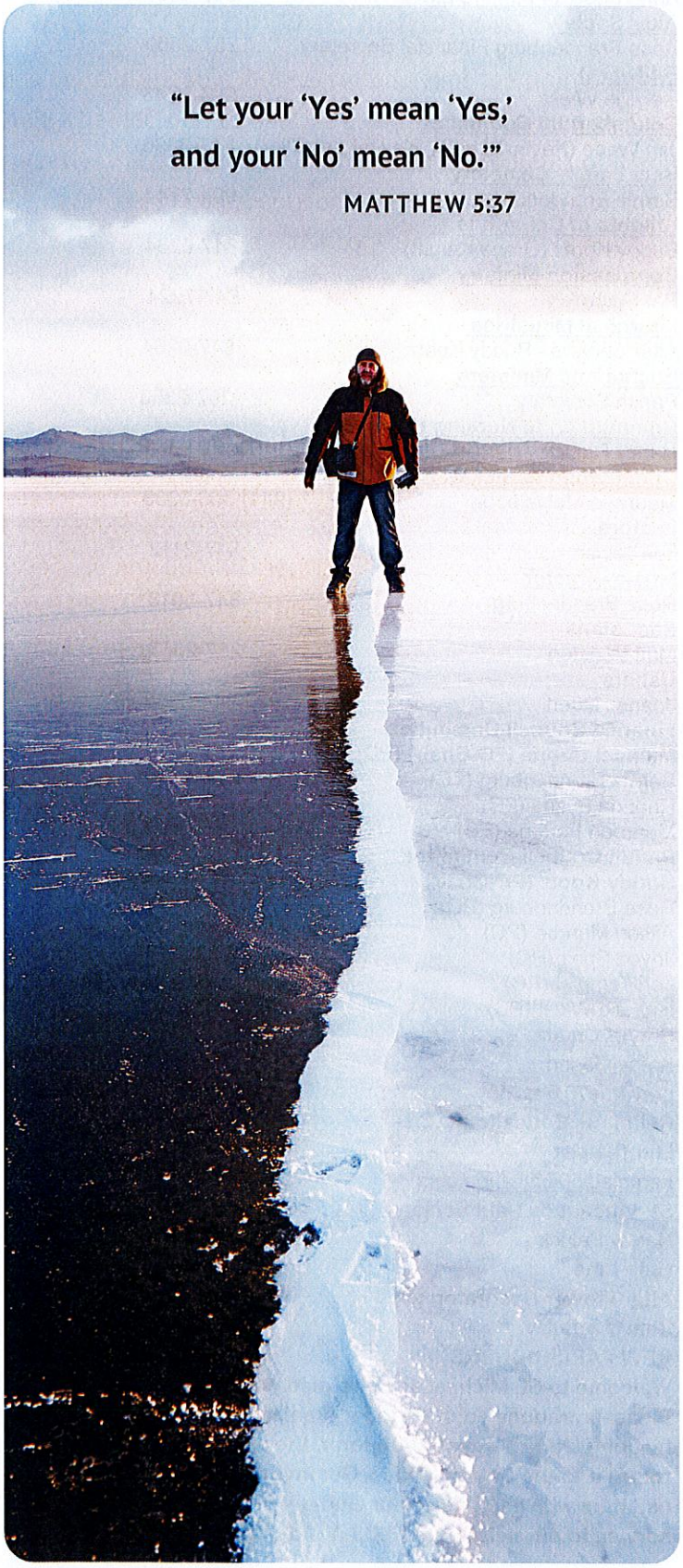
Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 15, 2026
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Sirach 15:15–20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6–10 /
Matthew 5:17–37 or 5:20–22a, 27–28, 33–34a, 37



Some Walk Away

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No'" (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, "And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be" (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

Do you want to say more than a simple "Yes" or "No"? Do you want to say, "Yes, but... I can't do it now." Or "I can't forgive this particular person." Or "I can't welcome this particular stranger." Or "I can't love him or her or them."

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●

Reflect

What teachings of Jesus are too hard to consider?

© 2026 LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS • A MINISTRY OF THE REDEMPTORISTS • IMAGE: VIKTORYA TELMINOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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.arkansascatholic.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://stmichaelscvcatholicchurch.org

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduswamy 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/ February 14th – St. Cyril, Monk
4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Betty Klassen †
by: Buddy and Anne Kootz
2nd Collection – Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Sunday/ February 15th – in Ordinary Time
9 a.m. Holy Mass: Cecilia Orosz †
by : Karen Burton and family
2nd collection – Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Monday/ February 16th – Weekday
President's Day * Diocesan offices closed *
No Holy Mass :

Tuesday/ February 17th – The Seven Holy Founder of the Servite Order
No Holy Mass:

Wednesday / February 18th – Ash Wednesday
Fast and Abstinence
9 a.m. Holy Mass : Brian Ivy
by: Dean Beardslee
6 p.m. Holy Mass : Garry Raikes family
by: People of the Parish
St. Mary's 11:30 a.m. Holy Mass
****Ash Wednesday collection****

Thursday / February 19th –
9 a.m. Holy Mass: Betty Klassen †
by: Buddy and Anne Kootz
BINGO at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm

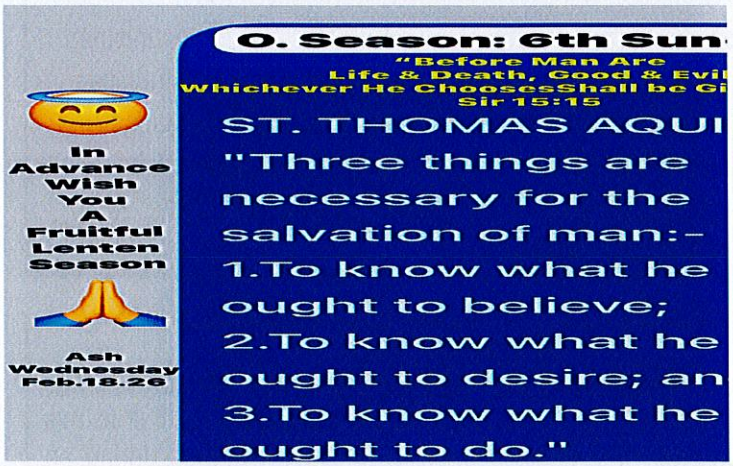
Friday/ February 20th –
9 a.m. Holy Mass : Dave Danelek
by: Patrick and Linda O'Donnell
Stations of the Cross 5 pm

Saturday/ February 21st – St. Peter Damián, Bishop/Doctor
4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Zolton and Cecilia Orosz †
by: Karen Burton and family
2nd Collection – Arkansas Catholic Newspaper

Sunday/ February 22nd – First Sunday of Lent
9 a.m. Holy Mass :Michael Raikes
by : Garry and Cathy Raikes
2nd collection – Arkansas Catholic Newspaper

*** Bingo is every Thursday at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm and 1st Sunday of each month at 1 pm doors open at noon.**
***Food concession is managed by the Knights of Columbus**

Thought for the week



🙏 **Wishing you a Blessed Week** 🙏

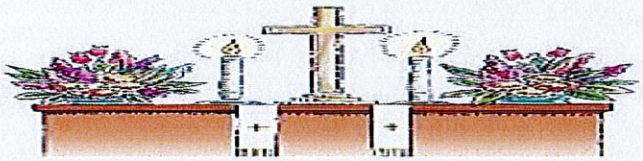
February 7th and 8th, 2026
Main collection : $ 3188.00
Maintenance Fund : $ 974.00

Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration .
No hours available at this time
Rose, (870) 847-5018, or
Anne, (870) 847-19859



God Bless the Donors and their Intentions

Altar Flowers this week are generously provided by:
Karen Burton in memory of her mother's birthday
Cecilia Orosz.
Tabernacle Roses this week are generously provided by: **Karen Burton in memory of her mother's birthday, Cecilia Orosz.**

CASA

Our annual Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal begins today CASA is how our parish supports the work of the Lord in our diocese. **Our parish goal is $14,900.00.** We fund ministries and services that reach parishes, schools and communities across Arkansas. Please complete your CASA envelope and return it as soon as possible. Thank you for generously supporting the work of our Church in Arkansas. The envelopes are postage paid.

Adoration Chapel

If you would like to sign up for an hour with the Lord, please contact Rose or Anne, even though all hours are full at this time, you may come or sign up to be 2nd person during an hour. This will help cover in the event someone can't make their time.

Food Pantry

Thank you for being so generous with the food collection donations this last weekend. There were **245 items collected**. This helps our food pantry remain well stocked for the people in need within our community. The collections are always the 1st weekend of every month. They can accept some expired dated foods.

Stations of the Cross

Will begin Friday February 20th, at 5 pm and it will be each Friday thru Lent. Check the schedule for meals afterwards. Schedules are in the vestibule and posted on the stand by the front door.

Congratulations

James Darren Bates, on your Baptism Saturday
February 14, 2026.here at St. Michael's church.
He is the son of Brady and Kristine Bates.
Godparents are Sean and Madison Taylor.
Many Blessings to the Bates family.

Please, note that there is no 9 am Holy Mass on Monday February 16th, 2026.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and their familes, for all you do here at St. Michael's and in our community.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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 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

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

- February 15th – Mary Nguyen Truong
- February 16th – Doris Waggoner
- February 16th – Tim Starken
- February 19th – Adam Munroe
- February 20th – Kattiya Rachankun

Birthdays & ANNIVERSARIES

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.

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.
Door's 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

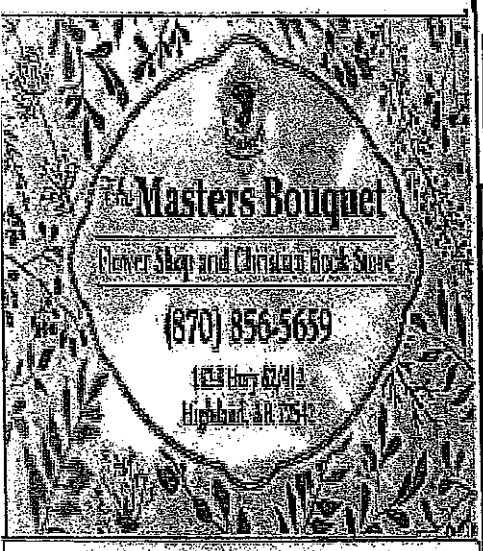
Build Boldly
Commercial
Residential
Excavation

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.

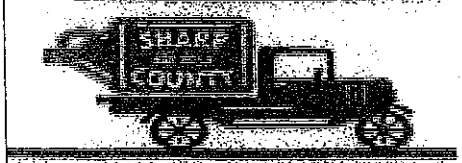
Fourth Degree
Patriotic Degree of the order
FN Michael Gagne (870)751-3419
Quarterly Business Meeting
2nd Saturday of the month

new beginnings
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
tricountyfuneralhome@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



BOOTLEGGER
LIFE IS BREWTIFUL
(870) 994-BEER (2337)
582 Hwy 62/412,
Ash Flat, AR 72513
BEER-WINE-LIQUOR

"A sincere personal service"

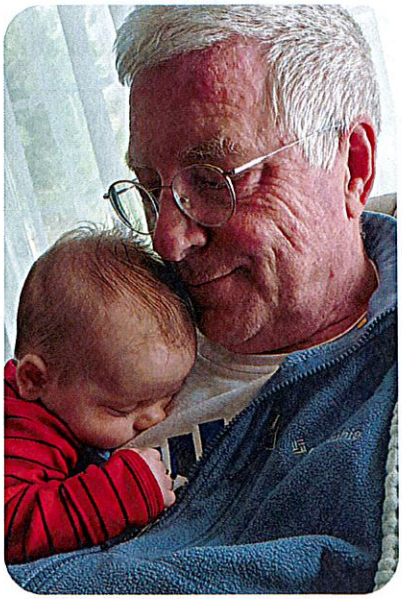
Wortham
Funeral Home
P.O. Box 616
3079 Highway 412 West
Hardy, Arkansas 72542
DOUG WORTHAM, President
(870) 856-5636
worthamfuneralhome.com

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

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 Horseshoe Bend AR.72512 (870) 670-5896

Dear Padre,



JOHN KRUS

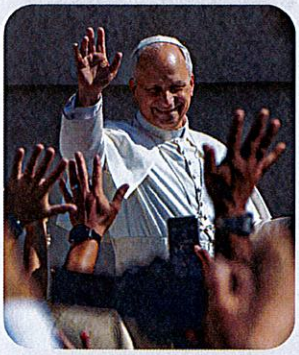
My grandkids' parents don't want them to be baptized. Can I do it myself secretly so as not to cause problems?

Your concern is understandable, but secret baptisms are prohibited in the Catholic Church. The decision to baptize a child is determined by his or her parents. To secretly usurp their decision may cause problems of its own. For an infant to be baptized, "The parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent," and "There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion" (*Code of Canon Law,* 868 §1). An exception is permitted when the child's life is in immediate danger: "An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death, even against the will of the parents"(*CCL* 868 §2). Here, the Church's pastoral concern is for the child to receive the immediate graces from the sacrament; the question of raising the child in the faith becomes moot in a life-or-death situation.

"Since the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit.... Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1282). Continue to pray that your family may see baptism as a sign of God's love, which offers true freedom for humanity. ●

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



FABRIZIO MAFFEI / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. *He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning "social" media, we risk being ever more alone.*

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

Monday
February 16
Weekday
Jas 1:1–11
Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday
February 17
Weekday
Jas 1:12–18
Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday
February 18
Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12–18
2 Cor 5:20—6:2
Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday
February 19
Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15–20
Lk 9:22–25

Friday
February 20
Friday after Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1–9a
Mt 9:14–15

Saturday
February 21
Saturday after Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b–14
Lk 5:27–32

Sunday
February 22
First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:7–9; 3:1–7
Rom 5:12–19 or 5:12, 17–19
Mt 4:1–11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Liguori PUBLICATIONS A Redemptorist Ministry

Catholic. Pastoral. Trusted. © 2026 Liguori Publications. *Imprimi Potest*: Fr. Kevin Zubel, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.