



“We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage.”

MATTHEW 2:2

Following Jesus Without a Star to Guide Us

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage” (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God’s universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God’s grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—“in the weeds,” so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more “gray” than “black and white.” There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God’s grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God’s will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions?

**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 Matselbaba (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

Itemplet2507@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/ January 3rd – The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Lynne Colles
by : Roger and Betsy Edmonds

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Buddy Kootz
by : Anne Kootz

**Food Pantry collection

*2nd collection- Respect Human Life

Sunday/ January 4th – The Epiphany of the Lord

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Jackie Hale Morris †
by : Roger and Betsy Edmonds

**Food Pantry collection

• Bingo 1st Sunday starts at 1 pm doors open at noon

*2nd collection – Respect Human Life

Monday/ January 5th – St. John Neumann, Bishop

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

Tuesday/ January 6th – St. Andre Bessette, Religious

No Holy Mass :

Wednesday / January 7th – St. Raymond of Pennyafort, Priest

No Holy Mass :

Thursday / January 8th - Christmas Weekday

No Holy Mass :

• Bingo at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm

Friday/ January 9th – Christmas Weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Arthur Schexnayder †
by: Lori Templet

Saturday/ January 10th – Christmas Weekday

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : James and Betty Franklin †
by : James Franklin

* 2nd collection – Maintenance Fund

Sunday/ January 11th – The Baptism of the Lord

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Captain Thomas and Sandie Beardslee
by : Dean Beardslee
2nd collection – Maintenance Fund

BINGO is every Thursday at 6 pm with doors opening at 5 pm.
Also :every 1st Sunday of the month at 1 pm with doors opening at noon.

Knights of Columbus manage the food concessions at the Bingo games.

**Please, support them, they all work so they can help support our church in so many ways !

Bless you and Thank you-

Thought
for the week

The Feast
of
The Epiphany
of the Lord

"The 'STAR' Bowed down before THE SUN, And 'creation' Worshipped It's 'Creator.' St. Ephrem The Syrian

"SEEK
You
WILL
FIND"
Mt. 7:7

**2nd Sunday
After Christmas**

"We have seen His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage." (Mt 2:2)

Predicted in the O.T:

Numbers 24:17:- where Balaam foretells, "a star shall come out of Jacob, a scepter shall rise out of Israel".

▲ Wishing you a Blessed Week ▲



Collection Report

December 27th and 28th , 2025

Main collection : \$ 2205.00

Holy Day Christmas : \$1791.00

Diocesan Retired Priest \$1239.00

Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

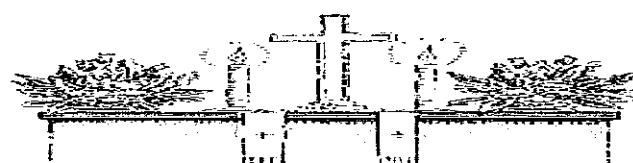
ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

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: **People of the Parish** in honor of all our Volunteers.

Tabernacle Roses this week are generously provided by: **People of the Parish** in honor of our Volunteers.

Thank you and Blessings

We want to say thank you to Rose Brandenburg, and all the church choir, Pam MacAulay and all the decorators, all who helped prepare the meals and clean up with all the birthday and Christmas events. Lori Templet and Jeonilla VanHouten, along with all the teachers, parents and youth who helped with the joyful Christmas play, Izzy Wiest and the Bingo Committee, The Knights of Columbus who are always helping with anything that needs to be done here at our church.

Father Daniel Brandenburg for your Holy Masses and homily while you were here with your family. All the Volunteers, that are silently working behind the scenes that just make everything come together so smoothly and with Joy !

Father Amal wants to thank each and everyone and a special Thank you to all who blessed him and the staff with Christmas Blessings - too many to mention. We are blessed. Our heartfelt thank you !!

**Know you are all a great blessing to
St. Michael's Church.**

Food Pantry Weekend

The 1st weekend of each month is the Food Pantry collection for those in need. The pantry is in need of the following food items :jelly, cereal, oatmeal, macaroni, any pasta, spaghetti sauce, tuna, chicken, tuna or chicken helper, canned ravioli and spaghetti, canned fruits, packaged noodles and packaged potatoes. Thank you for helping those in need. You may bring food at any time -leave in the library and let someone know.

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

**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.

*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 Kingle, Chuck Wolff
and KayLynn Rodenbeck
Expectant Mother: Kristene Bates**

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

▲ January 3rd – Aric Eichhorn
January 3rd – Buddy Kootz
January 4th – Nancy Paluck
January 8th – Michael Orosz
January 10th – Auryn Van Raalte
January 11th – Jim Wege



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

♡ January 11th - Dan and Pat Such

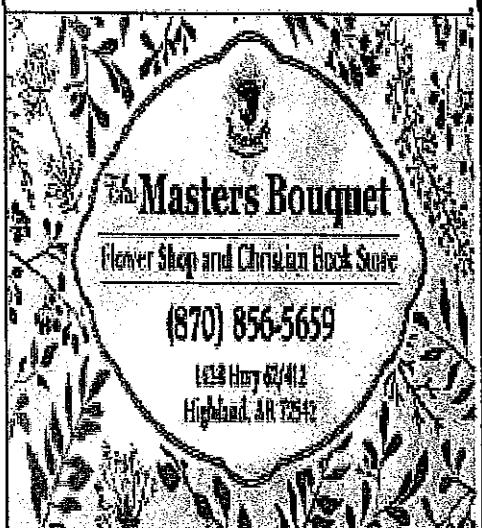
*Thank you to all our volunteers here at St. Michael's for sharing your time, talents and treasures with us.

Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
Burial Plots
Contact: Bernie Brandenburg

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St. Michael's Columbarium
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Contact: Jim Wege



**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

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Mailing Address

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Hardy, AR 72542**

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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.

new beginnings
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PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

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1002 First Street
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(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,

I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, "Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...") weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It's because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●

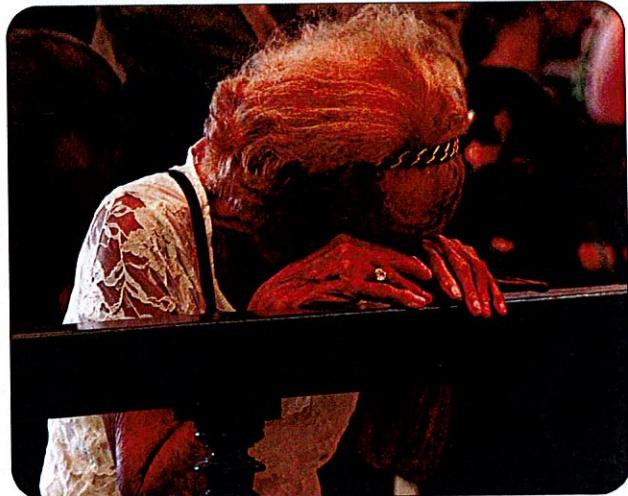
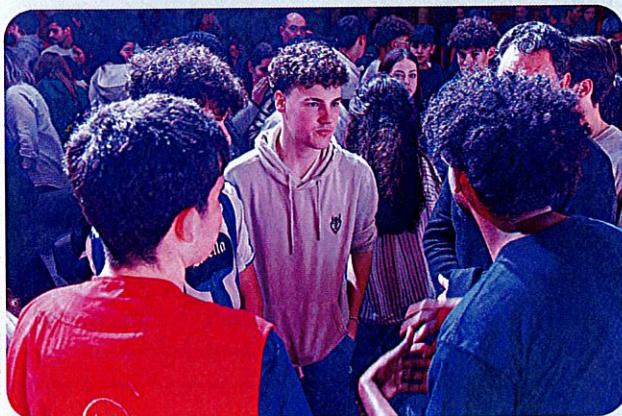
Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025

YANDRY FERNÁNDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC



YANDRY FERNÁNDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday	Wednesday	Saturday
January 5 <i>St. John Neumann, Bishop</i> 1 Jn 3:22–4:6 Mt 4:12–17, 23–25	January 7 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:11–18 Mk 6:45–52	January 10 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:14–21 Jn 3:22–30
Tuesday	Thursday	Sunday
January 6 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:7–10 Mk 6:34–44	January 8 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:19–5:4 Lk 4:14–22a	January 11 <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i> Is 42:1–4, 6–7 Acts 10:34–38
Friday	January 9 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:5–13 Lk 5:12–16	January 13 <i>Mt 3:13–17</i>