



Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

Reflect

How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?



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 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 20th – Advent

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Maederer Family

by : Garry and Cathy Raikes

*****Parish Christmas Party after 4 pm Vigil Mass**

2nd Collection : St. Vincent de Paul Society

Sunday/ December 21st – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Bishop Strickland

by : Buddy and Anne Kootz

2nd Collection : St. Vincent de Paul Society

Monday/ December 22nd – Late Advent

9 a.m. Holy Mass: Charlotte Kathleen Ivey

by: Dean Beardslee

Tuesday/ December 23rd – St. John of Kanty, Priest

No Holy Mass :

Wednesday / December 24th – Christmas Eve

4 p.m. Holy Mass : Marty Barrack †

and Dean Beardslee

by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

***Christmas Play**

****Birthday Party for Fr. Amal in the Parish Hall**

after Holy Mass

(Adoration Chapel closed)

Thursday / December 25th – The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Day HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Fr. Amal and Fr. Lewandowski

by : Buddy and Anne Kootz

*****Collection for the Diocesan Retired Priests**

(Adoration Chapel closed)

Friday/ December 26th – St. Stephen the first Martyr

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Pope Francis †

by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

Saturday/ December 27th – St. John ,Apostle

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Marty Barrack †

by : Dean Beardslee

***no 2nd collection**

Sunday/ December 28th – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Bishop Strickland

by : Buddy and Anne Kootz

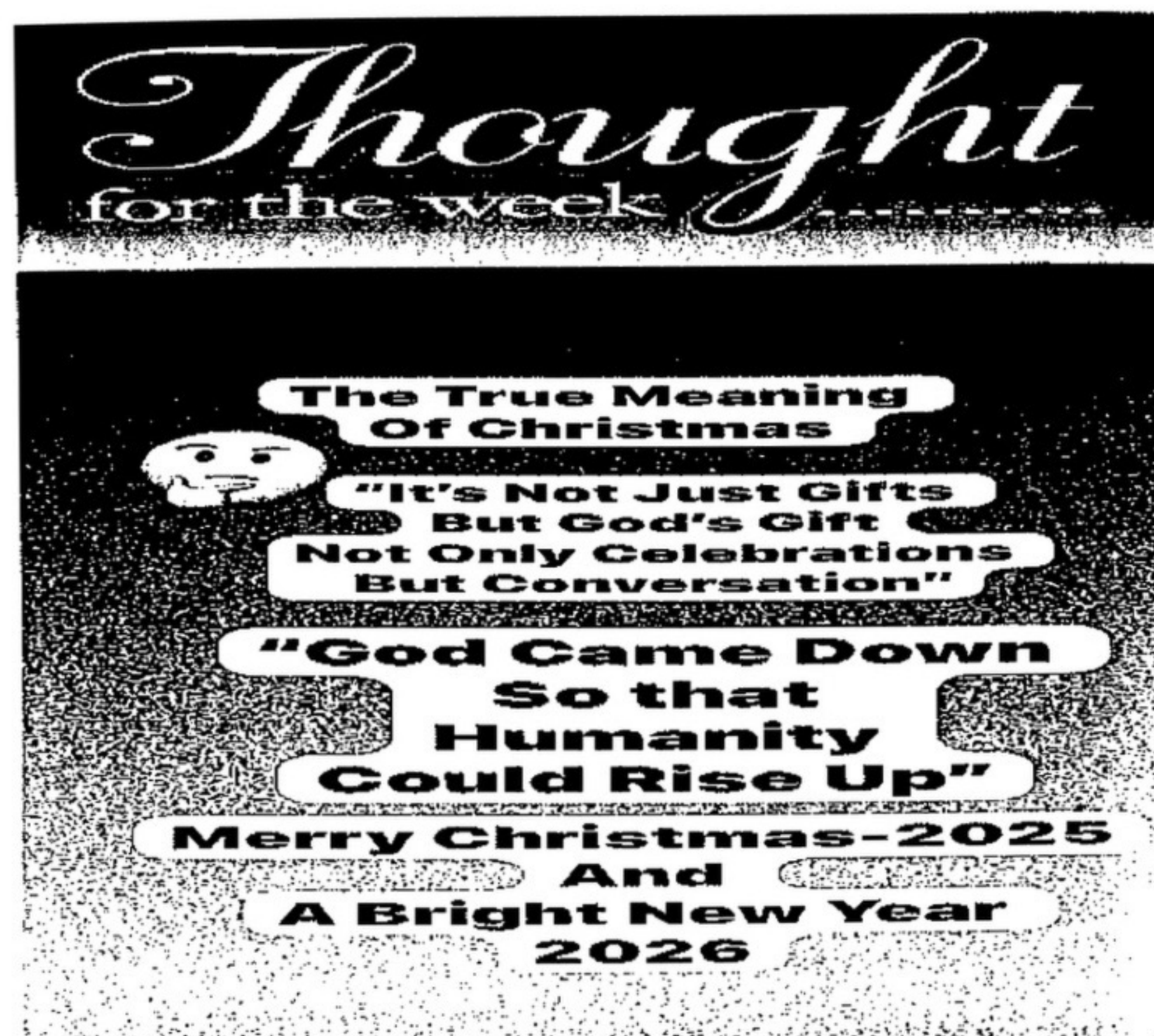
Anointing of the Sick after Holy Mass

*** no 2nd collection**

***Christmas Party Sat. 12.20.25 after 4 pm Holy Mass**

***Fr. Amal B-day party Wed. 12.24.25 after 4 pm Holy Mass**

***Adoration Chapel closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**



Wishing you a Blessed Week



December 13th and 14th , 2025

Main collection : \$ 3094.00

Maintenance Fund : \$ 812.00

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:

Tony and Teri Taylor in honor of their grandchildren.

Tabernacle Roses this week are generously provided

by: Isabelle Wiest in memory of her husband

Scotty's birthday.

Father Amal's Birthday Party

We will be celebrating his birthday on Christmas Eve after 4 p.m. Holy Mass. Downstairs in the parish hall.

****We ask that everyone who attends please bring a finger food to share.

Father Amal we want to celebrate you !

We are blessed to have you with us.

Adoration Chapel

The adoration chapel will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Enjoy your time with your loved ones. If any questions please contact Rose or Anne.

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

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.

Bingo Raffle Winners

Peggy Snyder (candles), Dion Wilson (folding snack tray), Donna Dupay (kettles), Isabelle Wiest (blankets) Andon Templet (back packs), Pat Mills (large tea set and dishes), Barb Sullivan (4 cups & blanket), Sandra England (sauce pan and meat thermometer), Joyce Speir (christmas globes), Maureen Fortuna (comforter set), and JoAnn Colwell. (casserole dish & carrier. Thank you to all who participated, Izzy Wiest



Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Mary Welch, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Michael Gagne, Isabelle Wiest, Michael & Martha DeCoster, Larry Allen, Steve Allen, JoAnn Colwell, Georgia Harris, Dan Such, Dawn Logan, Mary Lee, 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, Jim Whorl, Joyce Speir, Doug and Tammy Wortham. Nursing Home: Ruth Klinge, Chuck Wolff and KayLynn Rodenbeck Expectant Mother: Kristene Bates

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day collections will be for the Clergy Welfare Fund 100% stays in our Diocese. It provides for our retired and infirm priests.

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

- 🎂 December 22nd- Amy Moriarty
- 🎂 December 23rd- Dean Beardslee
- 🎂 December 24th- Pat Branch
- 🎂 December 24th- Fr. Amal Punghanoor
- 🎂 December 26th - Jacinta DiCresce
- 🎂 December 26th- Angela Munroe



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

No anniversaries for this week

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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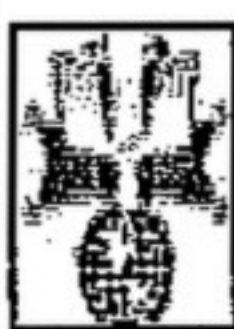


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

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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,

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament.

"From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, "How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?" The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●

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



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen

to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

Monday

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Tuesday

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Wednesday

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Thursday

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

Friday

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10;
7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Saturday

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Sunday

December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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