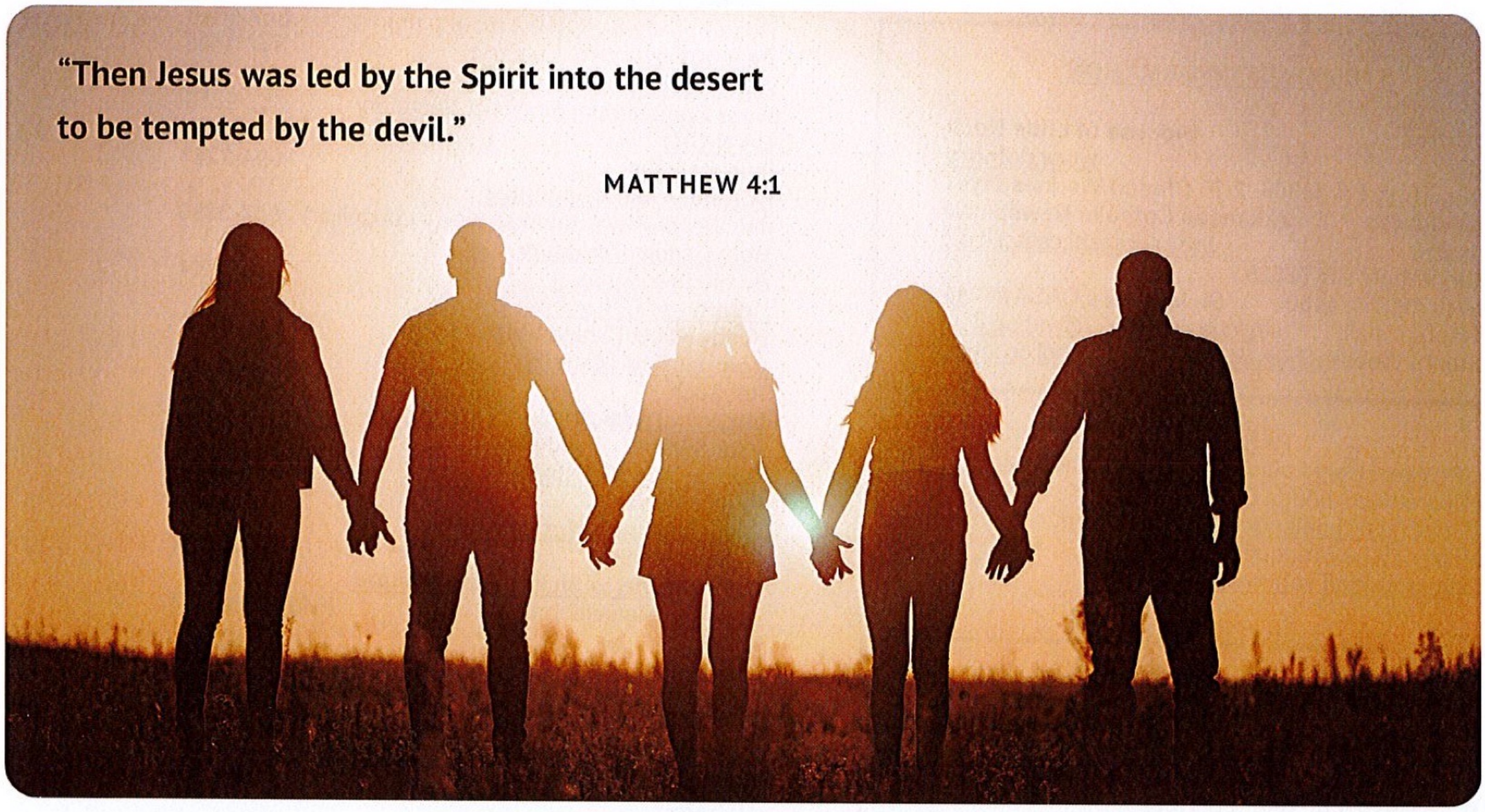
Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7 / Romans 5:12–19 or 5:12, 17–19 / Matthew 4:1–11



Jesus for the Win

MIGUEL DULICK

The account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play. Pope Francis insisted, "Don't talk to the devil!" Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he's had plenty to eat—"every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus "test" his Father by jumping off the "parapet of the temple" (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5–7.) You don't play God, and you don't play *with* God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We'd do the bread; we'd do the jump; we'd definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It's a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan "destroys" her! And Adam, too. If they didn't sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

Saint Paul explains it clearly. Sin entered the world, but with Jesus Christ, there is an "overflow" of grace for the many. (See Romans 5:15.) And that's what Lent is about—a flood of grace. ●

Reflect

What grace do I pray for this Lent—for myself and for someone who is struggling?

© 2026 LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS • A MINISTRY OF THE REDEMPTORISTS • IMAGE: MAXIM IBRAGIMOV / 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 21st – St. Peter Damián, Bishop
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

Monday/ February 23rd – St. Polycarp, Bishop
9 a.m. Holy Mass : Sophie Matederer
by :Garry and Cathy Raikes

Tuesday/February 24th – Lenten Weekday
No Holy Mass :

Wednesday/ February 25th – Lenten Weekday
6 p.m. Holy Mass: Loren Beardslee †
by: Dean Beardslee

Thursday / February 26th – Lenten Weekday
9 a.m. Holy Mass : Betty Klassen †
by: Buddy and Anne Kootz
***BINGO at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm**

Friday/ February 27th – St. Gregory of Narek, Abbott
9 a.m. Holy Mass : Lonnie Branton †
by: Joe and Doris Waggoner
***Knights Fish Fry after Stations of the Cross**
Stations of the Cross 5 pm

Saturday/ February 28th – Lenten Weekday
4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Gary Pospisil
by: Linda Pospisil
2nd Collection – Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Sunday/ March 1st /First Sunday – Second Sunday of Lent
9 a.m. Holy Mass : Issac O'Donnell
by : Patrick and Linda O'Donnell
2nd collection – Saint Vincent de Paul Society

*** 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 managed by the Knights of Columbus**

Thought for the week

2026 Season of Lent 1St.Sun-A

Temptation Teaches Us :-
1.Freedom is Real
2.Love Requires, Choice
3. God's Grace is Stronger than SIN

We have the Choice :
To Pray
To Trust in God
To Listen
To Obey Him

Gen.2:7-9, 3:1-7 **Mt.4:1-11**

What Is the Temptation

Temptation is an invitation to sin — a testing of our freedom, where we are drawn to choose something against God's will.

God is Faithful, and He will not let You be Tempted beyond Your Strength
1Cor.10:13

🙏 **Wishing you a Blessed Week** 🙏

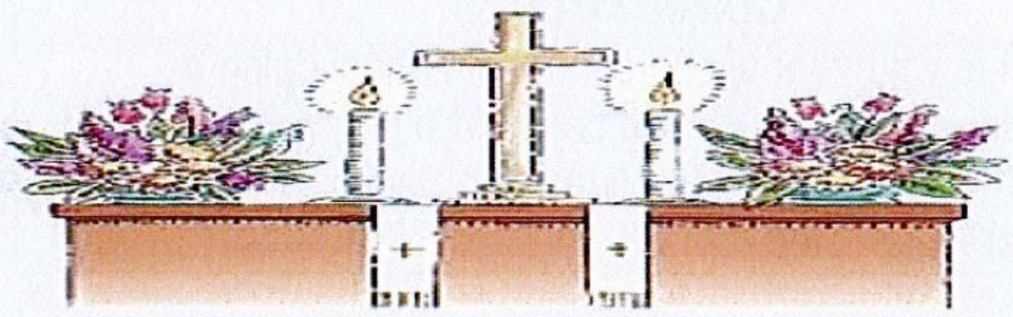
February 15th and 16th, 2026
Main collection : $2689.00
Maintenance Fund : $ 413.00

Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration .
Rose, (870) 847-5018, or
Anne, (870) 847-19859



God Bless the Donors and their Intentions

Altar Flowers this week are generously provided by:
(Lent)
Tabernacle Roses this week are generously provided by: **(Lent)**

Arkansas Catholic Newspaper

We encourage our parishioners to subscribe to the weekly diocesan newspaper. This weekend is the newspaper campaign to get additional subscribers. This is the website to take out a digit subscription : www.arkansas-catholic.org. See insert in the bulletin.

Knights Fish Fry

Our Knights will be having their Fish Fry after Stations of the Cross on Feb. 27th, in the parish hall.

CASA

Don't forget to make your CASA donation. If you need a postage paid envelope they are available on the table in the vestibule. Please, remember to write our church number on your check #7215. **Our parish goal is $14.900.00.**

Food Pantry Collection

The food pantry collection is the 1st weekend of every month. They need all of the basic food items - canned and boxed. You may bring items that are not to far out on the expiraton date.

B-I-N-G-O

Every Thursday night and 1st Sunday of every month is BINGO time ! They help the church in so many ways.. Please, join them and have some fun. We appreicate our BINGO committee and all the work each of you do.

Coffee Groups

Want to volunteer at church ? Think about doing a Sunday coffee group. You can start a new group with your family and friends. Please, contact Joyce Speir if you are interested.

St Monica's prayer group

Join us for prayer for our children and loved ones to come back to our Catholic faith. We meet every 1st Thursday right after 9 a.m. Holy Mass in the church library. For additional information or questions, please contact Anne Kootz.

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 23th – Luis Rachankun
- February 25th – Rosa M. Gallardo
- February 26th – Paula Dyer
- February 27th – Dustin Munroe
- February 28th – Larry Allen
- February 28th – Conner Sandefer
- February 29th – Gary Pospisil (born in a leap year)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

♡ No Anniversaries this week

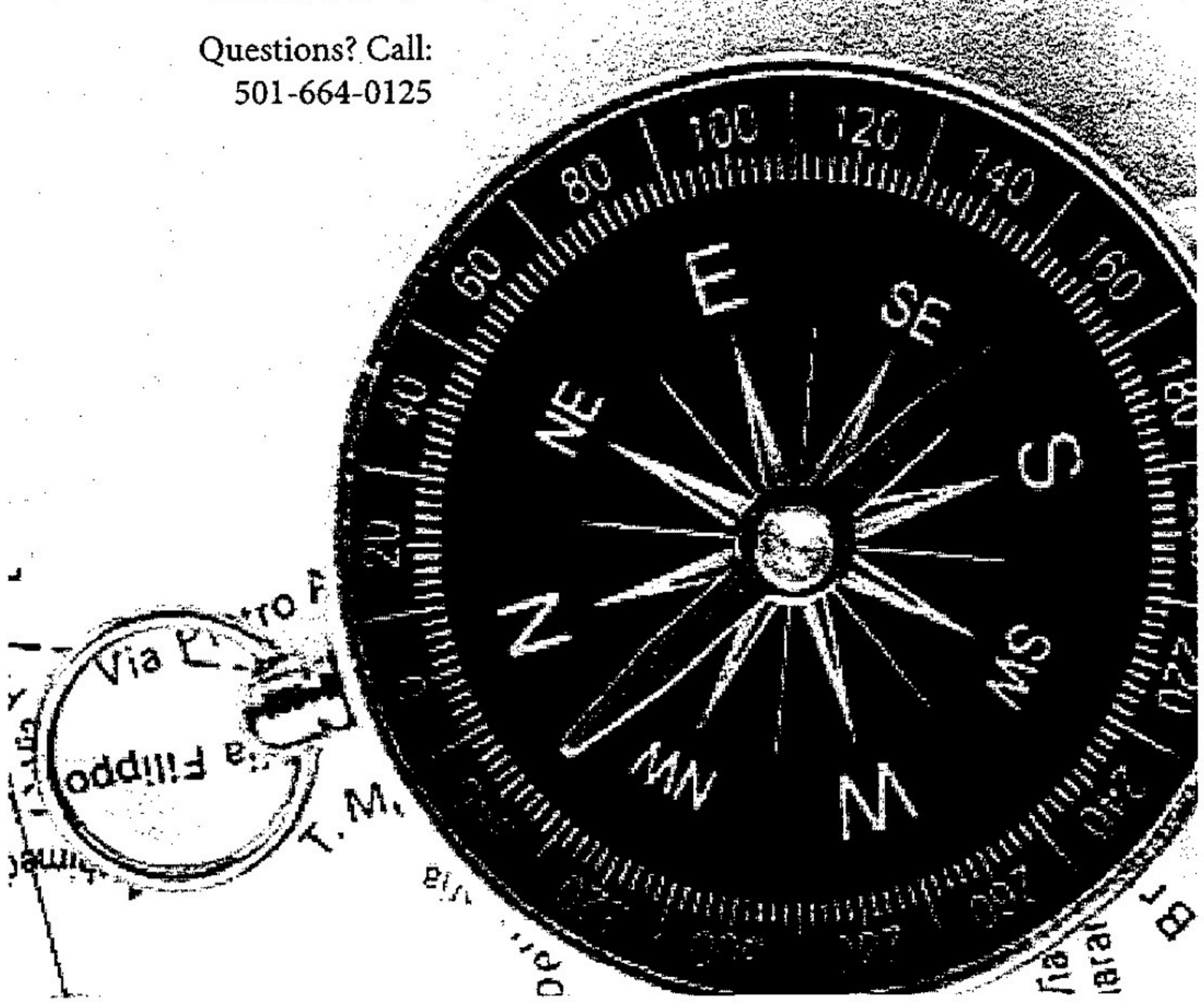
If we miss your birthday or anniversary please contact the church office. It is possible you didn't give us all the information when you registered with the church or our records need to be updated.

Guided *by faith*

Scan the QR code or visit https://bit.ly/ACsubscribers

Questions? Call: 501-664-0125

Arkansas CATHOLIC
THE DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



Guided by Faith

No distractions. No detours. Guided by faith, *Arkansas Catholic* is a reliable roadmap to support your faith journey. Find accurate info about the Church in Arkansas, in Rome and around the world.

Print edition:
Delivered to your mailbox each week.

Digital edition:
Read the complete newspaper FREE on your computer or most smart devices.

GET THE DIGITAL EDITION FREE and INSTANTLY:

Sign up for a free account at digital.arkansas-catholic.org

PRINT EDITION in your MAILBOX:

Mail this form or subscribe at arkansas-catholic.org/product-category/subscriptions/

REGULAR RATE		SENIOR DISCOUNT (65 and older)
☐ $11.95	**Try it! 6-month Special for New Subscribers**	☐ $9.95
☐ $32	1 year (12 months)	☐ $30
☐ $61	2 years (Save!)	☐ $58
☐ $84	3 years (Best value)	☐ $78

☐ Add the digital edition to my print subscription for free. My e-mail address is below.

☐ Please bill me.

☐ Check enclosed $_____ Check no._____(Payable to "Arkansas Catholic")

Name:_____

Address:_____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Day phone number: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____
**E-mail address is necessary for digital edition*

Parish: _____

P.O. Box 7471, Little Rock, AR 72217 • (501) 664-0125 • www.arkansas-catholic.org

Dear Padre,

GREGORY SHEMITZ

I was taught that it is a requirement to fast at least one hour before receiving Communion. However, I've seen donuts out before Mass begins and hear candy wrappers being crumpled around me. This seems disrespectful to me.

It is important to use the correct words when describing a particular action. In this case, "requirement" does not really capture the full meaning and understanding of what the Church teaches. A better understanding is that it is a discipline and a practice of the Church to ordinarily observe the eucharistic fast for one hour before receiving holy Communion. If you are of a certain age, you may remember that there have been changes regarding the eucharistic fast. A "requirement" might suggest that the fast is integral to the sacrament itself. It is not.

The second part of your question seems to be a matter of perception. Based on your perception, you judge something to be not quite right. But, consider that there are many reasons why hospitality may be set up before Mass. The crumpling of wrappers could be something other than what you identify. Regardless, you are not required to assume the burden of policing what is taking place at Mass. It is much better to participate, celebrate, and be grateful for the sacrament that we gather to experience as a community of faith. ●

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1
Lenten Weekday	*Lenten Weekday*	*Lenten Weekday*	*Lenten Weekday*	*Lenten Weekday*	*Lenten Weekday*	*Second Sunday of Lent*
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18	Is 55:10–11	Jon 3:1–10	Est C:12, 14–16, 23–25	Ez 18:21–28	Dt 26:16–19	Gn 2:1–4a
Mt 25:31–46	Mt 6:7–15	Lk 11:29–32	Mt 7:7–12	Mt 5:20–26	Mt 5:43–48	2 Tm 1:8b–10
						Mt 17:1–9

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

JIM WEST

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!

MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025

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.

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.

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

Masters Bouquet

Flower Shop and Christian Book Store
(870) 856-5659
[illegible]
Highland, AR 72542

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

"A sincere personal service"

Wurtham Funeral Home

P.O. Box 665
3079 Highway 412 West
Hardy, Arkansas 72542

DOUG WURTHAM, President
(870) 856-5636
wurthamfuneralhome.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

BOOTLEGGER INC

LIFE IS BREWTIFUL

(870) 994-BEER (2337)

582 Hwy 62/412,
Ash Flat, AR 72513
BEER-WINE-LIQUOR

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