



[Jesus said,]
“For where
two or three
are gathered
together in my
name, there
am I in the
midst of them.”

MATTHEW 18:20

Like a Gentile or a Tax Collector

ANN M. GARRIDO

As someone who works in the field of conflict management, I like to think that all situations can be worked out if we go about it in a skilled manner. If we use the right words. Ask the right kinds of questions. It’s embarrassing to admit that even the best “tools” in my “conflict belt” sometimes still effect little change. Today’s gospel can be consoling in a strange way. It acknowledges that even when we use all the tools we have on hand to heal a relationship, it doesn’t always work out. Sometimes, we may need to become strangers to one another, at least for a while—like a Jew to a Gentile or a tax collector.

Of course, when Jesus says “treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector,” it is important to consider how Jesus treated Gentiles and tax collectors. He healed the centurion’s servant. He ate in Zacchaeus’ house. Jesus did not see Gentiles and tax collectors as enemies and did not treat them as such. Rather, Jesus understood Gentiles and tax collectors as those with whom he might start a relationship should the opportunity present itself. The past cannot be rewritten, but perhaps a different kind of future is still possible.

Is there a relationship in your life that feels beyond healing at this point and from which perhaps you need some distance? Is it still possible to treat the other person with the kindness Jesus showed toward Gentiles and tax collectors? ●



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THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Could I improve how I handle conflict with others?

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office Diocese of Little Rock
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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://stmichaelscatholicchurch.org>

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy Punganoor
Parish Secretary: Rhonda Bystry
Office Email: stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com
Bookkeeper: Rose Brandenburg
Email: stmichaelscv@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
Jason Sabado (Grand Knight) 412-477-7946
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 / September 5th – St. Teresa of Calcutta

(First Saturday)

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Lauren Kootz

by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : John Michael Bystry †

by: John A. and Patricia Bystry

* Food Pantry collection / 2nd Collection St. Vincent de Paul

Sunday/ September 6th – Twenty-Third Sunday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : John Michael Bystry †

by: Rhonda Bystry

* Food Pantry collection / *Bingo 30th Anniversary !!

*2nd Collection-St. Vincent de Paul

Monday/ September 7th – Weekday (Labor Day)

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Charles Autry †

by: Phyllis Autry

Tuesday/September 8th – Nativity of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

No Holy Mass

Wednesday/September 9th – St. Peter Claver, Priest

6 p.m. Holy Mass : All volunteers at St. Michael's

by : People of the parish

Thursday /September 10th – Weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All Staff at St. Michael's

by: People of the parish

*Bingo doors open at 4:30 pm games at 6 pm

*St. Monica's group meets after 9 am Holy Mass

Friday/ September 11th – Weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Mary Kocz

by: Kocz Family

Saturday / September 12th – The Most Holy Name of Mary

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Sebastain Kocz

by: Mary Kocz

*2nd Collection – Maintenance Fund

Sunday/ September 13th – Twenty-Fourth Sunday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : John Michael Bystry †

by: John A. and Patricia Bystry

*2nd Collection – Maintenance Fund

**Knights Big Breakfast after 9 am Holy Mass

Thought for the week

23rd Sunday A

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name;

Thy kingdom come;

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil. AMEN



Wishing you a Blessed Week



Collection Report

August 29th and 30th, 2026

Main Collection \$ 1856.92

Altar Society \$807.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving !

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?



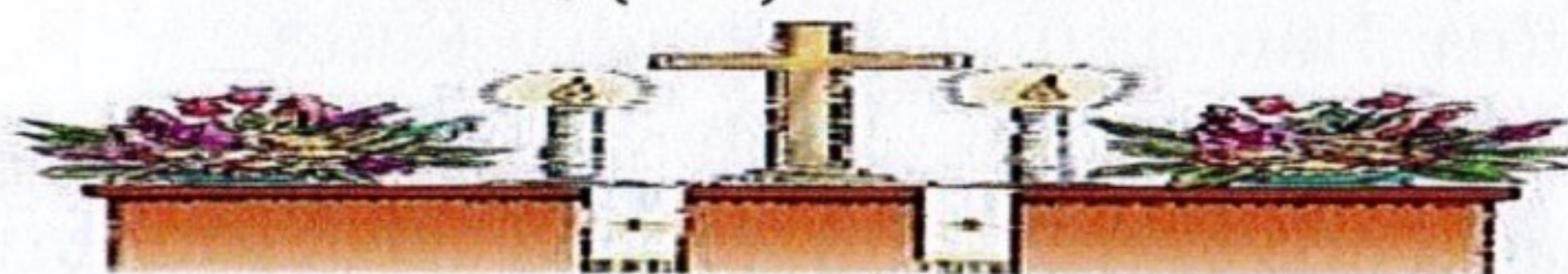
ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration

Wednesday 12:00 am to 1:00 pm

Rose, (870) 847-5018, or

Anne, (870) 847-1985



God Bless the Donors and their Intentions.

**Altar Flowers and Tabernacle
Roses are both generously
provided by: Rhonda Bystry in
memory of her husband,
John Michael "Mike" Bystry.**

Food Pantry collection

This weekend September 5th and 6th is the food collection for those in need. The pantry needs canned foods like tuna, spaghetti, pastas, dry or canned meals, cereals, canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, dry milk and toilet paper.

St. Michael's B-I-N-G-O

30th year Anniversary Celebration !!!!!!!!!!!

Join them on **Sunday September 6th, 2026** for a fun filled afternoon. **Doors open at noon and games/sessions start at 1:30 pm. See you there!!**

Mary's Mantle Ladies Group Luncheon

The next luncheon will be **Thursday Sept. 17th** in the parish hall from **noon to 1 pm**. All ladies are invited **that are single or widowed**. Please bring a dish to share. **We hope to see you there !**

St. Monica Prayer Group

They meet every 1st Thursday of each month. In the church library after 9 am Holy Mass. Please come pray for our children that they stay strong in their catholic faith and practice their faith. If any questions please contact Anne Kootz.

There are openings on the Holy Mass special intentions calendar and on the Altar Flowers and Tabernacle Roses schedule. This is a wonderful way to honor someone's special day, needed extra prayers said for them or in memory of a loved one !

Magnificat Luncheon

~ Magnificat is a ministry to Catholic Women ~
It is an international ministry based on:

"The Visitation" Luke 1:39

The next luncheon will be on **Saturday September 26th 2026**. Tickets are \$15 each which includes your meal. The speaker for this event is **Alexis Kiser Christopher**. The luncheon will be from **11 am to 2 pm**.

This ministry is Diocesan approved by Bishop Taylor and Father Amal is our spiritual director. Please come join us.



Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Chuck Wolff, Jim Wege, Isabelle Wiest, Michael and Martha DeCoster, Larry Allen, Steve Allen, Georgia Harris, Dan Such, Dawn Logan, Sister Joy Wege, Tim and Betty Eash, Jimmy White, Gail Demarest, Nico Woode, Ray McHugh, Tim Starcken, Marcella Birkhead, Jean Marie Henricks, Michael Reddick, Colleen Royal, Gerald and Carol Metty, Darren Bates, Joseph Huff, Maryann Barber, Cecilia Cefalu, Darrell and Elizabeth Beason, Toni Travline, and Doug and Tammy Wortham.

Nursing Home: Ruth Klinge, KayLynn Rodenbeck and Timothy Huff

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday !

September 5th - Joseph Huff

September 6th - Eric Bartow

September 8th - Tyler Noel

September 9th - Kathy Esquivel

September 12th - Alexis Blanco

September 13th - Scott Rimel



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary !

September 8th - Rick and Jeonilla VanHouten

♡ **51 years**

September 9th - Jeff and Elizabeth Pope

♡ **37 years**

September 9th - Garry and Catherine Raikes

♡ **54 years**

September 12th - Marvin and Eden Callahan

♡ **11 years**

To Learn More About Sacramentals and Prayer

Page 11

The Sacramentals

1. What are sacramentals?

Sacramentals are holy things or actions of which the Church make use to obtain for us from God, through her intercession, spiritual and temporal favors. Sacramentals are signs. They remind us of God, the saints and spiritual truths. They are something like sacraments, but there is this big difference: the sacraments were instituted by Christ to produce grace of themselves and are signs of His direct action on souls; the sacramentals were instituted by the Church and obtain graces for us indirectly by arousing us to those acts of virtue which draw down God's graces on us.

2. How do the sacramentals obtain favors from God?

The sacramentals obtain favors from God through the prayers of the Church offered for those who make use of them, and through the devotion they inspire.

3. What are the chief benefits obtained by the use of the sacramentals?

The chief benefits obtained by the use of the sacramentals are: first, actual grace; second, the forgiveness of venial sins; third, the remission of temporal punishment; fourth, health of body and material blessings; fifth, protection from evil spirits.

4. Which are the chief kinds of sacramentals?

The chief kinds of sacramentals are: first, blessings given by priests and bishops (Always ask a priest for his blessing. He represents Christ and his blessing obtains special graces); second, exorcisms against evil spirits (Exorcism means freeing persons or things from the power of the devil. He rarely possesses persons now, but uses things to tempt us. Exorcisms destroy this power.); third, blessed objects of devotion (Have articles of devotion blessed by a priest. This blessing obtains God's grace to arouse devotion).

5. Which are the blessed objects of devotion most used by Catholics?

The blessed objects of devotion most used by Catholics are: holy water, candles, ashes, palms, crucifix, medals, rosaries, scapulars, and images of Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, and the saints. Examples of other sacramentals which are not in the possession of individual Catholics but are used by them together are: a church building the ceremonies of Benediction and the Stations of the Cross.

6. How should we make use of sacramentals?

We should make use of the sacramentals with faith and devotion, and never make them objects of superstition. Using sacramentals with faith means believing in what they represent and treating them as signs of spiritual things. We break the first commandment by superstition in using them as good luck charms.

Prayer

1. What is prayer?

Prayer is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God. Prayer is an act of love. It is sometimes called conversation with God-but conversation of love-a heart-to-heart talk with God, who is Love and loves us always.

2. Why do we pray?

We pray: first, to adore God, expressing to Him our love and loyalty; second, to thank Him for His favors; third, to obtain from Him the pardon of our sins and the remission of their punishment; fourth, to ask for graces and blessings for ourselves and others.

3. How should we pray?

September 6, 2026

We should pray: *first*, with attention; *second*, with a conviction of our own helplessness and our dependence upon God; *third*, with a great desire for the graces we beg of Him; *fourth*, with loving trust in His goodness; *fifth*, with perseverance.

4. For whom should we pray?

We should pray especially for ourselves, for our parents, relatives, friends, and enemies, for sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the Pope, bishops, and priests of the Church, and for officials of our country and for any particular needs as help needed from God.

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5. How do we know that God always hears our prayers if we pray properly?

We know that God always hears our prayers if we pray properly because Our Lord has promised: "If you ask the Father anything in My name, He will give it to you." We ask for what we need to love Him. What we really mean is this: "O Lord, please give me what I need to please You, and if what I am asking for does not really please You, then do not give it to me. Give me instead what would really please You, even if it is a cross." Such a prayer, God has guaranteed to answer.

6. Why do we not always obtain what we pray for?

We do not always obtain what we pray for, either because we have not prayed properly or because God sees that what we are asking would not be for our good. Many people do not pray in the name of Christ but instead ask the Lord to give me what I want. And they often do not think whether or not it will help them to love God more, and sometimes they do not even care. God has never guaranteed to answer a prayer such as this as it is not really a prayer but selfishness.

7. Are distractions in our prayers always displeasing to God?

Distractions in our prayers are not displeasing to God, unless they are willful. Distractions are the wanderings of our imaginations. If we deliberately wander and do not even try to pray that is a sin. If you notice a distraction, gently turn your mind back to some thought of God.

8. How many kinds of prayer are there?

There are two kinds of prayer: mental prayer and vocal prayer.

9. What is mental prayer?

Mental prayer is that prayer by which we unite our hearts with God while thinking of His holy truths. Mental prayer usually begins with meditation, which means thinking about God to move our hearts to love Him. Our hearts then speak to Him without words. Then we listen to Him in silence. This is the highest form of private prayer.

10. What is vocal prayer?

Vocal prayer is that prayer which comes from the mind and heart and is spoken by the lips.

11. May we use our own words in praying to God?

We may use our own words in praying to God, and it is well to do so often.

12. What are the prayers that every Catholic should know by heart?

The prayers that every Catholic should know by heart are: the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Apostles' Creed, the Confiteor, the Glory Be to the Father, the Rosary and the acts of faith, hope, charity, and contrition.

13. How do we usually begin and end our prayers?

We usually begin and end our prayers with the sign of the cross.

14. Why do we make the sign of the cross?

We make the sign of the cross to express two important mysteries of the Christian religion, the Blessed Trinity and the Redemption.

15. How are these mysteries expressed by the sign of the cross?

When we say "In the name," we express the truth that there is only one God; when we say "of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," we express the truth that there are three distinct Persons in God; and when we make the form of the cross on ourselves, we express the truth that the Son of God, by Jesus himself, made man, redeemed us by His death on the cross.

**Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
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870-994-2744

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Contact: Jim Wege
870-847-3396

St. Michael's Parrish Hall

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Social and Potluck Meeting

2nd Monday of the month

Rosary 5:00 p.m. Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Officers Meeting

Last Monday of the month

Rosary 5:30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.

Fourth Degree

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Quarterly Business Meeting
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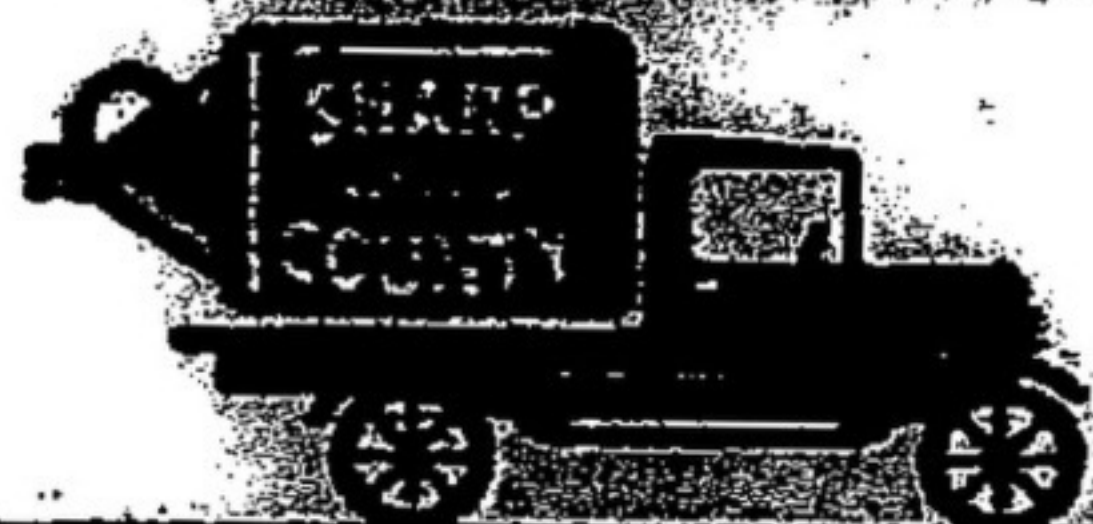
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Dear Padre,

I had not been to confession for decades until recently, and I've probably committed mortal sins I can't remember. I want God's forgiveness, but I'm unsure how to get it at this time.

You ask if God has forgiven you for sins that you may have committed in the past but that you don't remember now. You say you have been to confession recently.

A mortal sin has three criteria: it is seriously wrong; the person knows it is seriously wrong; and the person is free to commit the sin or not. In the case you are describing, you don't even remember what the mortal sin might have been, or even if there was one. So, no, you don't have to confess something you don't remember. Also, you have already gone to confession recently, and you sound truly repentant for your past sins. You do not indicate that you were deliberately trying to hide any sins from the priest. So, you have already been forgiven, not only for the sins you remembered but also for those you don't remember. That is why usually we will say something like "for these sins and for those I may have forgotten" when we go to confession.

The bottom line is that confession is for you to experience God's mercy. It is not to test how good your memory is. Be at peace. God loves you and particularly wants you to experience the peace that comes from his forgiveness. ●



JON TYSON / UNSPLASH

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

The Church is at the same time an earthly community and the mystical body of Christ, a visible assembly and a spiritual mystery, a reality present in history and a people journeying toward heaven (Lumen Gentium, 8; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 771). The human and divine

dimensions integrate harmoniously, without one overshadowing the other.... [The Church] is a reality that is both human and divine.

**GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME, MARCH 4, 2026**

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CHRISTIAN HARB / UNSPLASH

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](https://dearpadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

September 7

Weekday

1 Cor 5:1-8

Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday

September 8

*The Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Mi 5:1-4a or

Rom 8:28-30

Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

or 1:18-23

Wednesday

September 9

St. Peter Claver, Priest

1 Cor 7:25-31

Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

September 10

Weekday

1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13

Lk 6:27-38

Friday

September 11

Weekday

1 Cor 9:16-19,

22b-27

Lk 6:39-42

Saturday

September 12

Weekday

1 Cor 10:14-22

Lk 6:43-49

Sunday

September 13

*Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Sir 27:30-28:7

Rom 14:7-9

Mt 18:21-35