



Judged or Invited?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus' words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on "repent," or is the emphasis on the announcement, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand"? Does it make any difference?

Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees" (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: "for the

kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).

In the invitation, we are challenged to see in a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

What does "repent" mean to me?
A threat or an invitation?



"Repent, for the kingdom
of heaven is at hand!"

MATTHEW 3:2

**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
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B-I-N-G-O

Isabelle Wiest	994-2243
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Columbarium Committee

Jim Wege (Kevin Temple, Kevin Langellier)	847-3396
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Holy Family Cemetery

Bernie Brandenburg	994-2744
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Knights of Columbus

Buddy Kootz (Grand Knight)	847-0264
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Compassion Ministry

Pat Such	847-7224
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Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers - Buddy Kootz	847-0264
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Eucharistic Ministers

Parish Secretary	257-2850
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Communion to Nursing Homes

Nancy Paluck	421-9383
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Communion to Sick & Homebound

Maureen Matselboba	(941) 356-0333
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Lectors

Teri Taylor	847-2112
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Music Director

Rose Brandenburg	847-5018
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Sacristans

Matt Winston	257-2857
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Ushers

Joann Helfert	920-344-0365
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Finance Council Committee

Michael Gagne (FC-Chair) (PC)	751-3419
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Bernie Brandenburg (FC)	994-2744
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Rhonda Bystry (FC)	994-2177
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Maureen Fortuna (FC)	966-3367
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Parish Council Committee

Buddy Kootz (PC-Chair)	847-0264
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Rose Brandenburg (PC)	847-5018
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Alison Munroe (PC)	847-7707
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Joyce Speir (PC)	266-3586
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Lori Temple (PC)	856-2261
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Isabelle Wiest (PC)	994-2243
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Prayer Chain

Kathy Gagne	751-3420
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pray4me70@att.net	
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Religious Education C.C.D

Lori Temple	856-2261
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litemplet2507@yahoo.com	
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St. Vincent de Paul Society

Nancy Paluck	421-9383
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Help Line

Altar Flower Decorator	257-3448
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Pam MacAulay	847-6742
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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 24th – St. Francis de Sales, Bishop/Doctor
 4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Marilyn Hadley †
 by: Caren Wallman
 2nd collection – Black and Indian Mission Office
 *Anointing of the Sick after Mass

Sunday/ January 25th – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 9 a.m. Holy Mass : Edgar Loren Beardslee †
 by : Dean Beardslee
 2nd collection – Black and Indian Mission Office
 *Anointing of the Sick after Mass

Monday/ January 26th – St. Timothy and St. Titus, Bishops
 9 a.m. Holy Mass : Bryan Durbin †
 by: Matthew and Mary Winston
 KC's officers meeting : The Rosary at 5:30 pm
 meeting at 6 pm

Tuesday/ January 27th – St. Angela Merici
 No Holy Mass :

Wednesday / January 28th – St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor
 6 p.m. Holy Mass : Mary Jack
 by: Marcella Birckhead

Thursday / January 29th -
 9 a.m. Holy Mass: Bill Budewig †
 by: Matthew and Mary Winston
 Bingo at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm
 *Finance Council meeting 6 pm

Friday/ January 30th-
 9 a.m. Holy Mass : Fritz Ross †
 by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

Saturday/ January 31st – St. John Bosco, Priest
 4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Yvonne Ross †
 by: Buddy and Anne Kootz
 2nd collection – Annual Property/Liability Insurance

Sunday/ February 1st – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 9 a.m. Holy Mass : All deceased parishioners †
 by : People of the Parish
 2nd collection – Annual Property/Liability Insurance
 **Bingo doors open at noon and games start at 1 pm

*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.

**Thought
for the week**

Jan.
25th, 2026

Ordinary
Time
3rd Sun.

A


 "Repent
For
The Kingdom
Of
Heaven
Is
At
Hand"
Mt.4:17.



"Come after Me, and
I will make
you Fishers of Men".
Mt. 4: 19

"God does not call the
equipped; He equips
those whom He calls."
— St. Ignatius of

Loyola

"O Lord,
Attended the Pleas of
Your People with
Heavenly Care,
That They may See
What must be Done
And
Gain Strength to Do
What They have Seen"

Ordinary
Season
1st
Sun
Collect

Blessed Sunday

▲ Wishing you a Blessed Week ▲



January 17th and 18th , 2026

Main collection : \$ \$1853.00

Altar Society : \$625.00

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: **People of the Parish.**

Tabernacle Roses this week are generously
 provided by: **People of the Parish**

Thank you Bingo !

Thank you to the Bingo Committee for the blessing of being able to cover the expense of the **new heating and cooling unit** that has to be replaced. Thru their devotion and hard work at the Bingo games they were able to bless the church. We thank you- **Izzy, Dana and Joyce** along with all of the **Bingo Committee team and volunteers** at the Bingo games. We want to let them know we appreciate them always showing up to manage and work the Bingo games. Over the years **Bingo** have paid for many expenses at St. Michael's with the proceeds from the Bingo games. If you attend Bingo thursday nights and 1st Sundays you will always see these 3 ladies and their team who show up and stay several hours until everyone has left. Also, with the time that Izzy and Dana Wiest put in making sure they are coming up with new games and staying within the state guidelines. It is a good night of entertainment and the KCs always have food ready to sell at the concession stand.

Many Blessings to all of you !

Our Heartfelt Condolences

To the family of Mr. Bill Budewig who passed away last weekend. Several of us remember him and his wife Aggie when they attended here at St. Michael's. The Funeral Mass will be at Sacred Heart Church in Thayer Mo. On January 29th, 2026 at 11 a.m. May the Lord comfort his wife and loved ones.

2026 Mass Intentions

If you would like to have a special Holy Mass said this year, please stop by the parish secretary office. So we can check for availability on the date you would prefer. There is a \$10 stipend per each intention. This is a blessed way to honor or remember a loved one, friend or special occasion in your life or loved one's.

Sunday Coffee Groups

Interested in being an occasional volunteer with having your own coffee group on Sundays? They schedule the groups in advance so you have time to plan around your Sunday. A great way to get involved and meet people you may not get a chance to know at Holy Mass. If interested please contact Joyce Speir.

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



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 Gerra, Colleen Royal, Cecilia Cefalu, Darrell and Elizabeth Beason, Doug and Tammy Wortham.

Nursing Home: Ruth Kingle, Chuck Wolff and KayLynn Rodenbeck

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

- ▲ January 26th — Christopher Grothe
- ▲ January 27th — Daniel Sandefer
- ▲ January 27th — CJ Simon
- ▲ January 29th — Marcella Birckhead
- ▲ January 29th — Steve Ritter
- ▲ February 1st — Danny Sorg



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

No Anniversaries this week

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

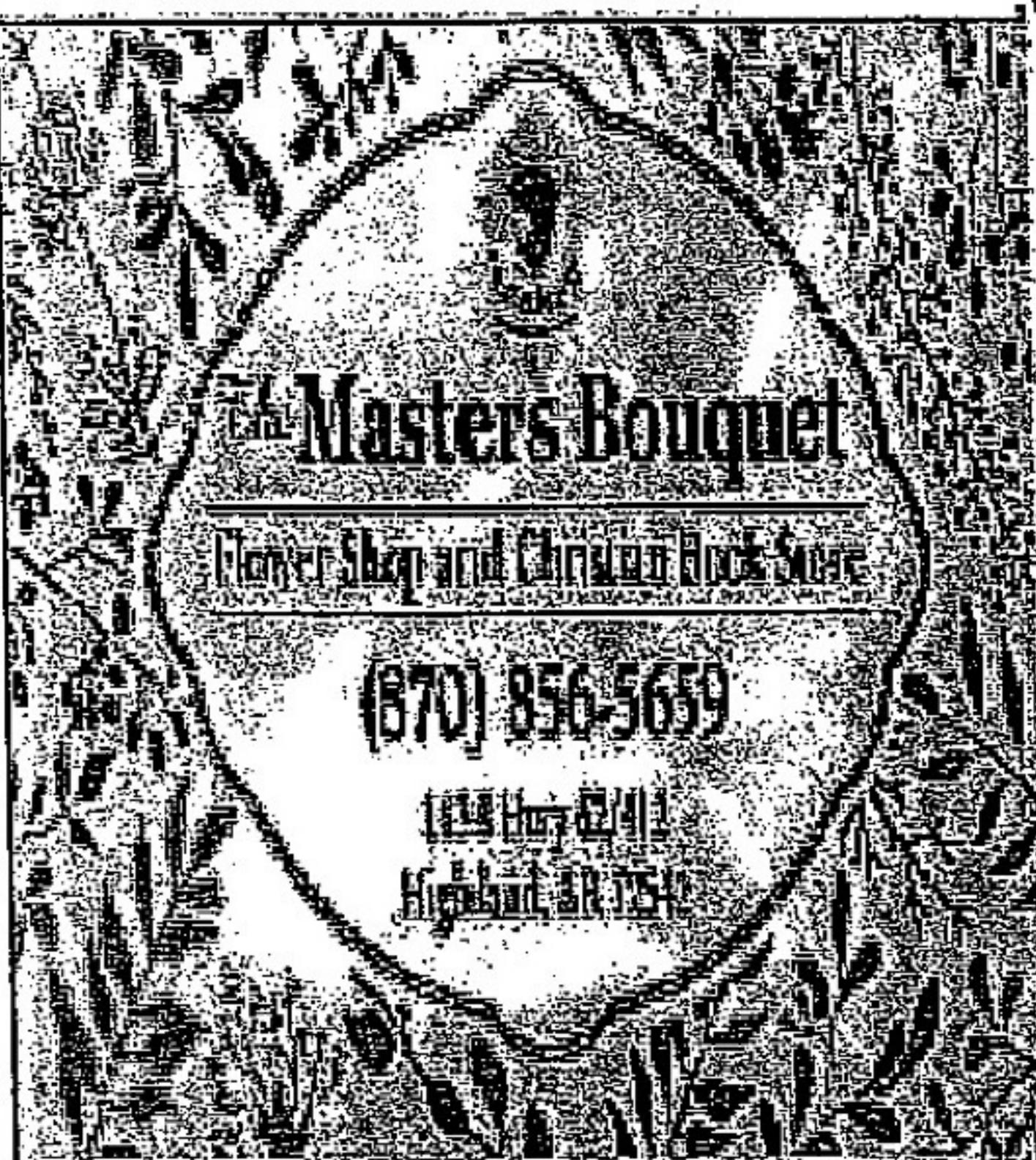
St. Michael's Columbarium
Payment Plans Available
Contact: Jim Wege

St. Michael's Parish Hall
Thursday 6 p.m.
Doors Open at 5 p.m.
1st Sunday of the month
1 p.m. Doors Open at 12 p.m.

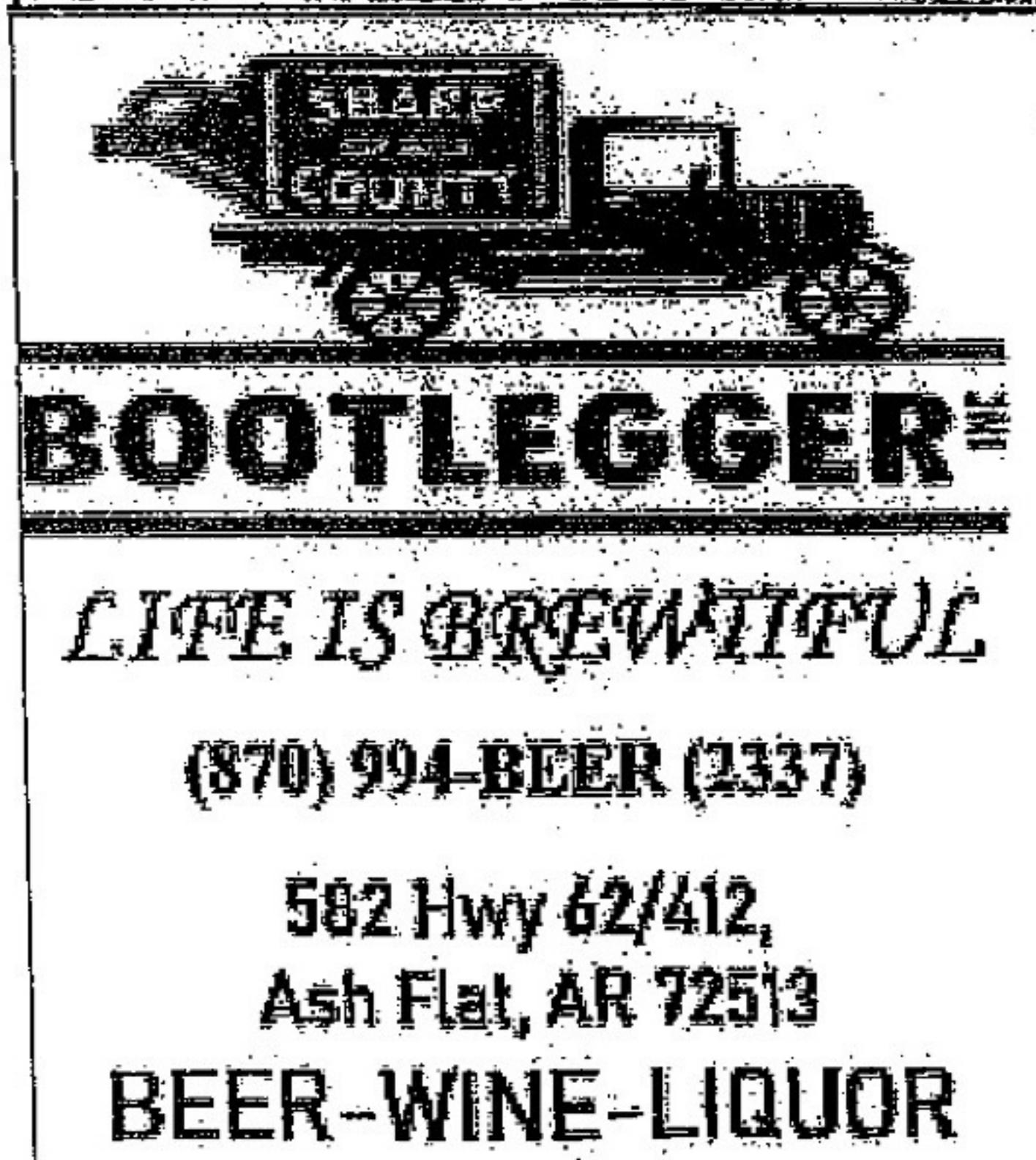
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**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
CHARITY, UNITY,
FRATERNITY

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

TRI-COUNTY
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**Compassion and Guidance
when needed most**

(870) 856-2705

tricountyfuneralhome@yahoo.com

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1540 Highway 62-412
Highland, AR 72542**

Mailing Address

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Hardy, AR 72542**

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Monday — Thursday open

10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday



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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

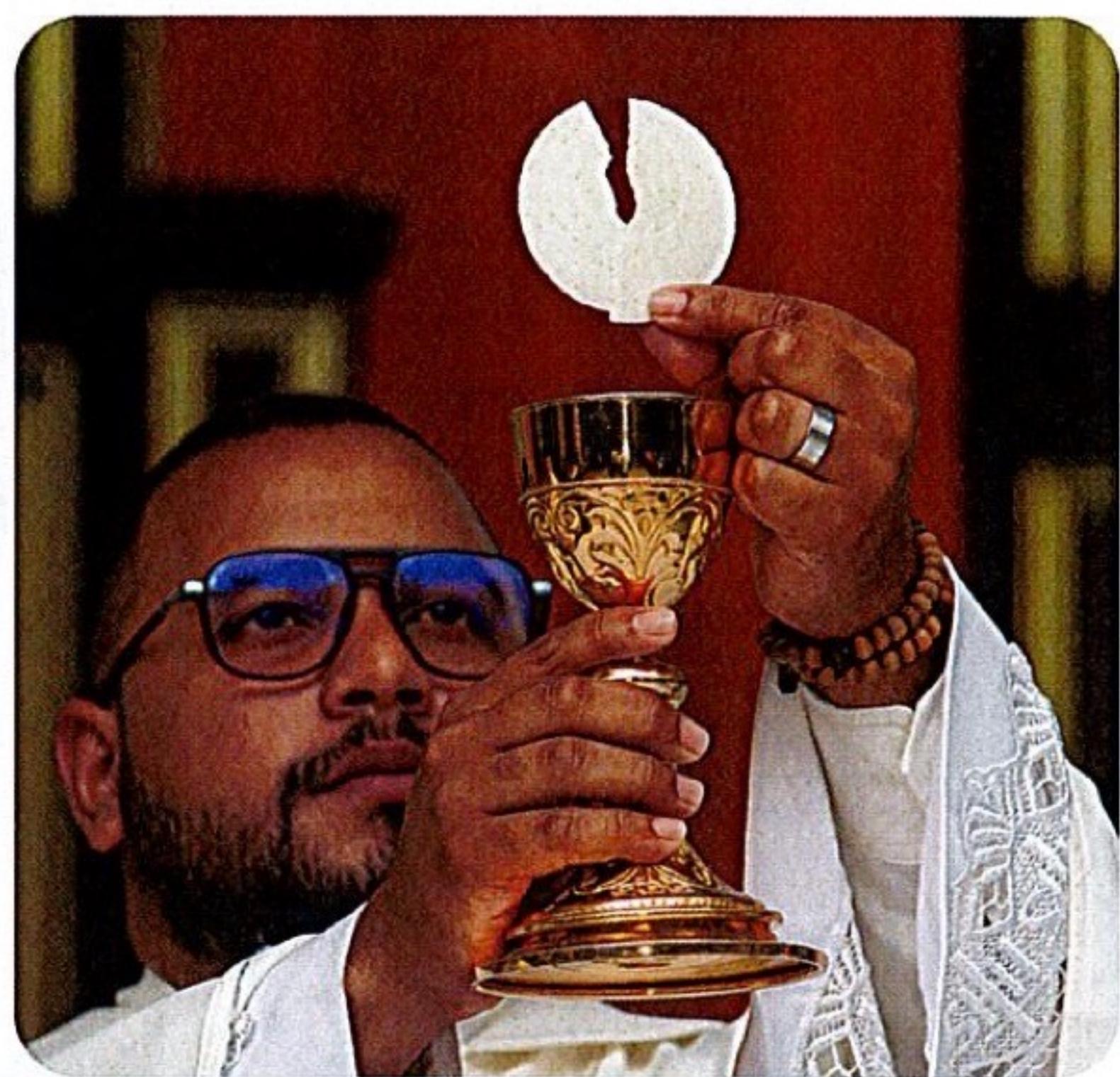
Dear Padre,

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our "Amen" to "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" means, "Truly, so be it!" It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). ●



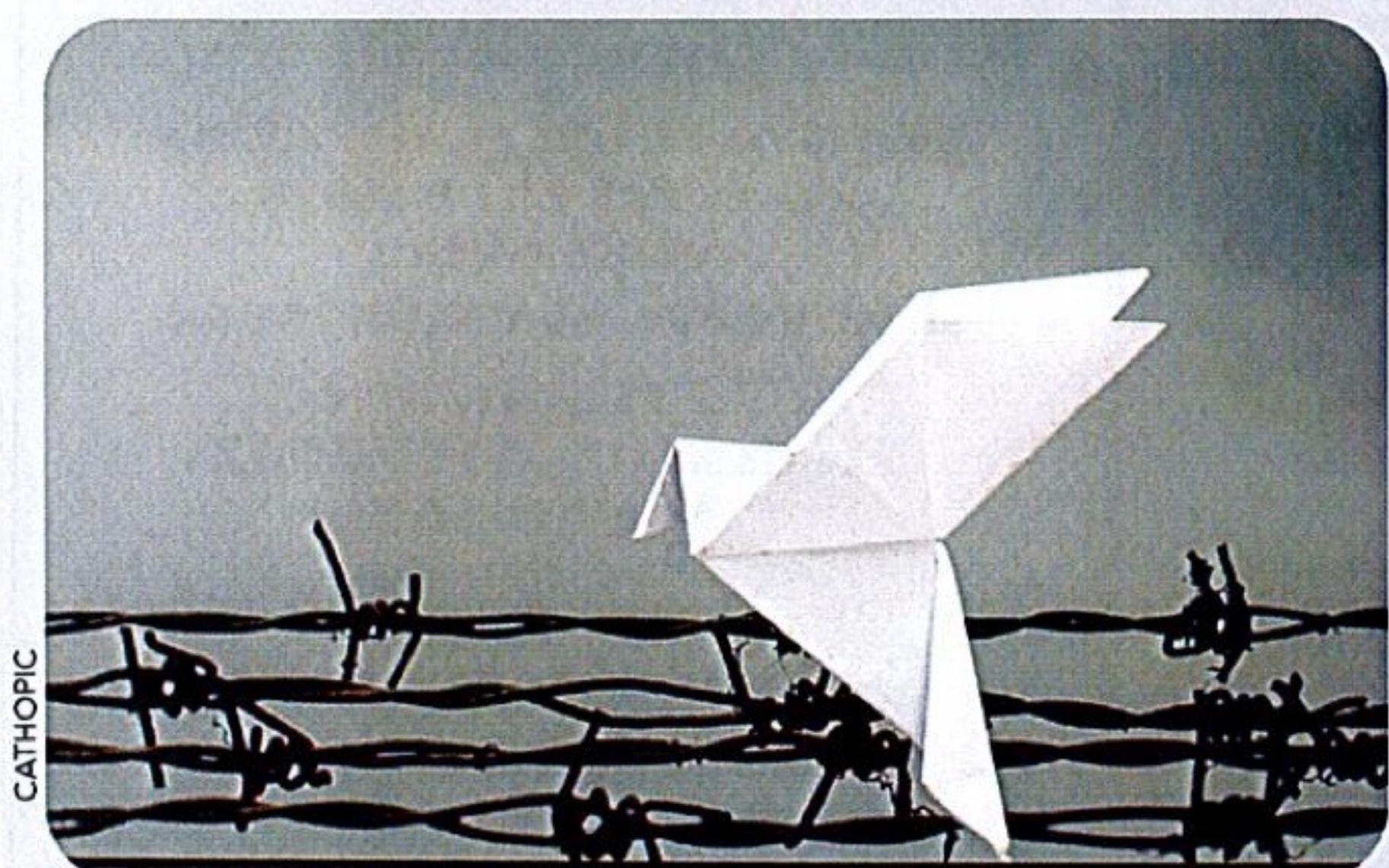
CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOPIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
<i>Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Mk 3:22-30	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19 Mk 3:31-35	2 Sm 7:18-19, and Doctor of the Church 2 Sm 7:4-17 Mk 4:1-20	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29 Mk 4:21-25	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 Mk 4:26-34	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17 Mk 4:35-41	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025