



[Jesus said,] "For my yoke is
easy, and my burden light."

MATTHEW 11:30



Take Up the Yoke

ANN M. GARRIDO

The invention of the yoke 6,000 years ago marked one of the great advances in human history. The yoke—a wooden beam fitted across the neck—harnessed the energy of two cattle pulling in the same direction, hastening the tilling of soil and transport of goods.

It is easy to see why, among many ancient peoples, the yoke became a symbol of subjugation. When the Roman army won a battle, they forced defeated soldiers to walk beneath a "yoke" of spears to indicate they were now in a state of servitude. The prophet Jeremiah once walked through Jerusalem wearing a yoke to warn the people they were about to be conquered by Babylon.

In Judaism, however, the Torah was also sometimes referred to as a yoke. It was a law to be submitted to, but it also was a way of life that offered an alternative to the cruel "yokes" imposed by kings. The Book of Sirach encourages youth to "Take [Torah's] yoke upon your neck; that your mind may receive her teaching.... See for yourselves! I have labored only a little but have found much" (Sirach 51:26-27).

It is unclear exactly what Jesus meant when he invited us to accept *his* yoke, but it is likely that he was echoing the invitation of Sirach. He wanted us to know that following God's law makes it possible for us to work together, accomplishing much that we could not do on our own. And that God's law is a gentle law—one that enables rather than oppresses. Are you willing to receive Christ's gentle teaching and make it your own? ●

Reflect

Is there a teaching of Jesus you find challenging?

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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: stmichaeloffice22@yahoo.com
St. Michael's Website: <http://stmichaelscvcatholicchurch.org>

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy Punganoor
Parish Secretary: Rhonda Bystry
Office Email: stmichaeloffice22@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 p.m.: 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 / July 4th – USA, Independence Day

First Saturday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Connie Riedl †

By: Joe and Doris Waggoner

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Zolton and Cecilia Orosz †

by: Terry Phelps and Family

2nd collection- Maintenance Fund /*Food Pantry collection

Sunday/ July 5th – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

by: Terry Phelps and Family

2nd collection- Maintenance Fund /*Food Pantry collection

*Bingo games at 1 pm doors open at noon

Monday/July 6th– St. Maria Goretti, Virgin / Martyr

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Brian and Kelly Ivy

by: Dean Beardslee

Tuesday/ July 7th – Weekday

No Holy Mass

Wednesday/ July 8th – Weekday

6 p.m. Holy Mass : Tracy Kocz

by: Mary Kocz

Thursday /July 9th – St. Augustine Zharo Rong ,Priest

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

by: People of the parish

**Bingo starts at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm

Friday/ July 10th – Weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All deceased parishioners †

by: People of the parish

Saturday / July 11th –St. Benedict, Abbot

4 p.m. Vigil Mass: Mary Welch †

by: Terry Phelps and Family

2nd collection- Peter's Pence collection

Sunday/ July 12th – Fifteen Sunday in Ordinary Time

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Bud Kootz, Sr. †

by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

2nd collection – Peter's Pence collection

Thought
for the week

14th Sun- A

"See Your King Comes To You Humbly Riding On An Ass, On A Colt."

Zec.9:9
Mt.21:1-11

As Saint Augusti taught: 
"It is pride that changed angels devils; it is humility that makes men angels."

"Learn From Me, For I am Meek and Humble of Heart And You Will Find Rest For Your Souls"

 Wishing you a Blessed Week 



June 27th and 28th, 2026

Main Collection \$ 2297.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving !

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

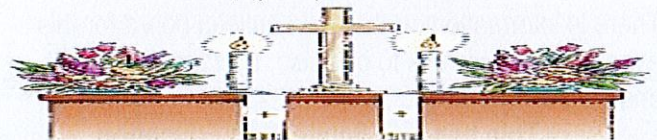

ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration

Wednesday 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Rose, (870) 847-5018, or

Anne, (870) 847-1985



God Bless the Donors and their Intentions

Altar Flowers are generously provided by: People of the parish in honor of those who volunteer here at our church.

Tabernacle Roses are generously provided by Pat and Linda O'Donnell in honor of their special intentions.

St. Monica's Group

They meet monthly on the 1st Thursday of each month after 9 am Holy Mass in the church library. Please, join them to pray for our children, their spiritual protection and strength in their Catholic faith.

Food Pantry

They are always in need of boxed meals like pasta and rice with or without sauces, canned vegetables and fruit, packages of dried beans and bags of rice or any food item that is not extremely past the expiration date. Thank you for helping the needy.

B-I-N-G-O

Come support our Bingo committee, they work hard to keep the bingo games going and the Knights do the concessions. Games are every 1st Sunday of each month, doors open at noon, games start at 1 pm and every Thursday night of the week doors open at 5 pm and games start at 6 pm. It's a great way to enjoy the hot summer nights in the cool with some good food made by the Knights and it benefits our church ! **See you there !!**

Thank you !

To all our volunteers who keep everything running smoothly with your time, talent and treasures.

Taste of Faith

There is information on the main bulletin board for this event if you would like to go. Also, flyers in last week ends bulletin as insert.

This benefits Seminarian Education

Peter's Pence collection

Next weekend the 2nd collection is for Peter's Pence
This global annual collection allows the faithful to support the Pope's charitable activities and the apostolic mission of the Holy See, assisting victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters worldwide.

**Happy 4th of July - America !
250 years !!**



Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Chuck Wolff, Jim Wege, Isabelle Wiest, Michael & 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 Starken, Marcella Birkhead, 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 and KayLynn Rodenbeck.

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday !

- * June 30th – Camille Bates 😊 last Tuesday
- * July 6th – Tony Taylor
- * July 7th – Colleen Noel
- * July 9th – Joyce Speir
- * July 10th – Jamie Siggers
- * July 12th – Christopher Conrad
- * July 12th – Jean-Marie Hendricks



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary !

♥ Alan and Terry Phelps on July 11th
51 years

To Learn More About Penance

Part 4

Penance

1. What is the sacrament of Penance?

Penance is the sacrament by which sins committed after Baptism are forgiven through the absolution of the priest. Penance is the medicine for our soul. The sacrament of Penance is a SIGN. Like every sacrament it is a sign of three things: past, present, and future. *First*, it is a sign of the **Passion of Christ** and of His Precious Blood, which is the medicine He uses to heal our souls, *second*, it is a sign of the **healing action** of Christ on the soul through the absolution of the priest, and *third*, it is a sign of the **spiritual health** which this sacrament gives.

2. When has the priest the power to forgive sins?

The priest has the power to forgive sins from Jesus Christ, who said to His apostles and to their successors in the priesthood: "Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." Only God can forgive sins. But He can decide for Himself how He wants to do it. And the way He has decided upon is to use priests as His instruments. We can truly say that Christ forgives sins, using the lips and hands of the priest, or we can say that the priest forgives sins by the power Christ gives him.

With what words does the priest forgive sins?

The priest forgives sins with the words: "I absolve thee from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

3. What are the effects of the sacrament of Penance, worthily received?

The effects of the sacrament of Penance, worthily received, are: *first*, the restoration or increase of sanctifying grace; *second*, the forgiveness of sins; *third*, the remission of the eternal punishment, if necessary, and also of part, at least, of the temporal punishment, due to our sins; *fourth*, the help to avoid sin in the future; *fifth*, the restoration of the merits of our good works if they have been lost by mortal sin. The fruits of a good confession are: Grace, Forgiveness, Punishment remitted, Future help and Merits restored. Those who are dead in mortal sin are raised by Christ to the life of grace. Those who are sick with venial sin have this life made healthy and strong. Just as light drives out darkness, so does the life given by this sacrament drive out the darkness of sin. The sacramental grace of Penance is a spring from which flow the helps we need to keep out of sin for the future. It is something like a man who returns from a hospital cured and is now able to use his possessions again.

4. What else does the sacrament of Penance do for us?

The sacrament of Penance also gives us the opportunity to receive spiritual advice and instruction from our confessor.

5. What must we do to receive the sacrament of Penance worthily?

To receive the sacrament of Penance worthily, we must: *first*, examine our conscience; *second*, be sorry for our sins; *third*, have the firm purpose of not sinning again; *fourth*, confess our sins to the priest; *fifth*, be willing to perform the penance the priest gives us. Our share in the fruits of a good confession depends in large measure on our preparation

6. What is an examination of Conscience?

An examination of conscience is a sincere effort to call to mind all the sins we have committed since our last worthy confession. O. _____ our conscience is the judgment or decision our mind makes on what is right and wrong. It does not depend on what we feel is right and wrong, but on what Our Lord tells us is right and wrong.

7. What should we do before our examination of conscience?

Before our examination of conscience we should ask God's help to know our sins and to confess them with sincere sorrow.

8. How can we make a good examination of conscience?

We can make a good examination of conscience by calling to mind the commandments of God and of the Church, and the particular duties of our state of life, and by asking ourselves how we may have sinned with regard to them.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

All together we Pray:

O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:
You know the longings of our hearts,
and you desire that we enjoy friendship with you.

From your pierced side,
you have poured out the wellspring of
life, for which we thirst.
Your heart burns with a love for all people to return to a right
relationship with you.

We celebrate the abundant gifts you have given this nation,
founded on the self-evident truths
that our Creator has endowed all people
with the right to life, liberty,
and the pursuit of happiness.

We make reparation for the offenses against you
and against human dignity
that have taken place in this nation.

May our hearts be united to yours,
so that our families and communities
enjoy peace and happiness;
may broken relationships be reconciled,
injustices repaired,
and the wounds of our land be healed.

May your holy Catholic Church serve as a sign,
pointing all people to your infinite love.

O Desire of Nations and Center of History,
we ask you to bless these United States of America.
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

June.11th.2026.

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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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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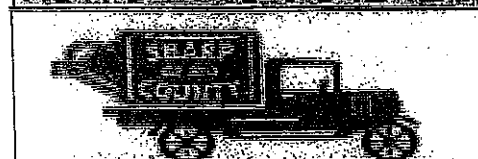
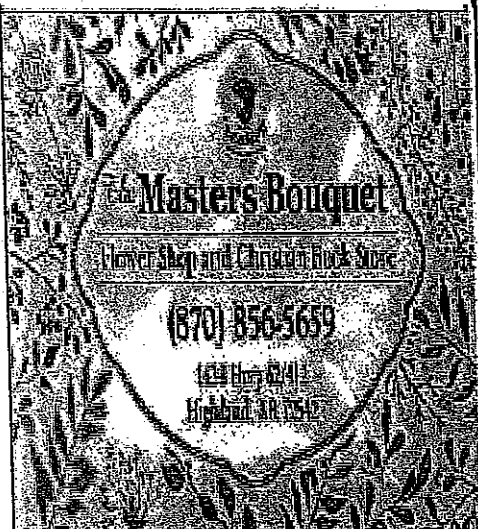
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(870) 670-5896

Dear Padre,

Is it appropriate to display the American flag in our church?

A diocesan bishop—who often delegates this matter to the discretion of the pastor—determines regulations on whether and how to display the American flag in a Catholic church. Displaying the flag, and a book of remembrance for those serving in the armed forces, seems to have originated in many US parishes during World War II. The practice has continued through subsequent wars and national tragedies.

While the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy advised that national symbols should not be *permanent* fixtures of a worship space, they may be appropriate at worship services on a civil holiday, etc. This same committee discouraged pastors from displaying the American flag within the sanctuary itself—a space reserved for the altar, ambo, presidential chair, and tabernacle—but instead to place the flag in the vestibule of the church together with a book of petitions for the living and deceased.

Fundamentally, a church building is where the liturgical assembly gathers as one body in Christ—the same Christ of the Eucharist who is beyond time and place, who came to unite our divisions. “The church building is a sign and reminder of the immanence and transcendence of God—who chose to dwell among us and whose presence cannot be contained or limited to any single place” (US Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Built of Living Stones*, 2000). ●



JOAQUIN OSSORIO CASTILLO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom, and mediocrity?... We need to lift our eyes...to the “things that are above” (Colossians 3:2).

HOMILY, TOR VERGATA, AUGUST 3, 2025

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

July 6
Weekday
Hos 2:16, 17c–18, 21–22
Mt 9:18–26

Tuesday

July 7
Weekday
Hos 8:4–7, 11–13
Mt 9:32–38

Wednesday

July 8
Weekday
Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12
Mt 10:1–7

Thursday

July 9
Weekday
Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9
Mt 10:7–15

Friday

July 10
Weekday
Hos 14:2–10
Mt 10:16–23

Saturday

July 11
St. Benedict, Abbot
Is 6:1–8
Mt 10:24–33

Sunday

July 12
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:10–11
Rom 8:18–23
Mt 13:1–23 or 13:1–9