



Open Door

MIGUEL DULICK

It is “Good Shepherd Sunday,” and the gospel quotes Jesus: “I am the gate for the sheep.” It seems the oddest of Jesus’ “I am” identities, until you realize that the shepherd himself was often the literal gate of the sheep’s pen, as he would lay his own body across the entrance to keep the sheep secure and safe from any predators. Actually, the predators that worry Jesus the most are other shepherds—“strangers” who came before him, all of whom Jesus flatly denounces as “thieves and robbers.”

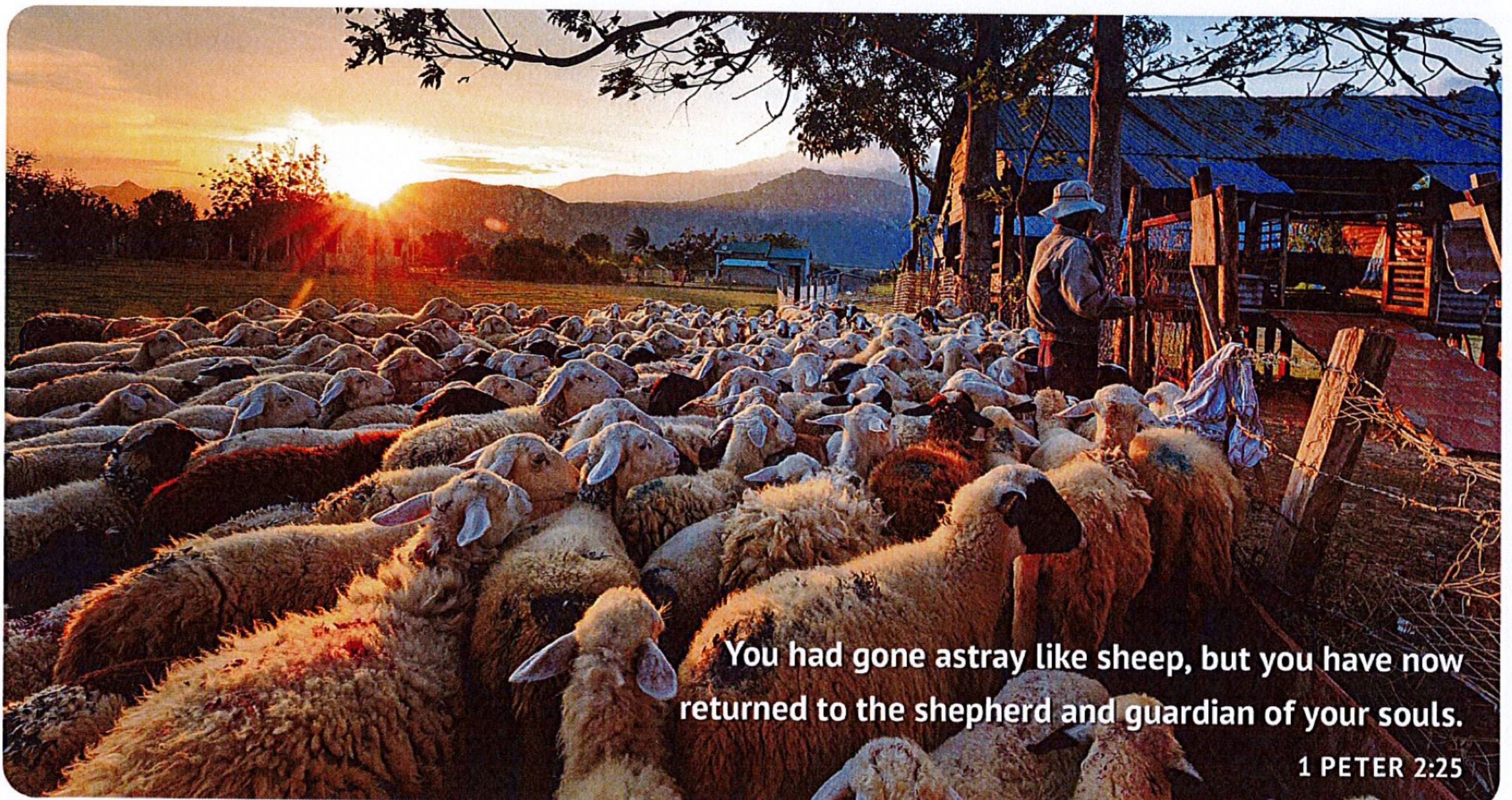
Does that scare us today? Are we vulnerable to attacks, even from those supposedly in charge of our care? When Jesus opens the gate, we go in and out through him, through Jesus, to find pasture. We follow

him because we recognize “his voice.” In the synodal Church that Pope Francis called us to, and to which we continue to be called by Pope Leo XIV, every voice is welcome and needed so that the Holy Spirit will fill the whole Church with truth.

Here in Honduras, where I live, folks with little education can offer profound witness to the love of God. It comes from their own intimacy with Jesus, recognizing his voice in their daily life. They are often the poor victims of widespread corruption, like “a thief [who] comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.” Here in Honduras, we take refuge in Jesus, that we “might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). ●

Reflect

How can we recognize voices that speak the truth? How do we recognize Jesus’ voice?



You had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 PETER 2:25

**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.arkansasatholic.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://stmichaelscvatholicchurch.org>

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy 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 / April 25th – St. Mark, Evangelist

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Margaret Dickey †
by: Dickey Family

Anointing of the sick after Holy Mass

* 2nd collection – Altar Society

**Sunday/ April 26th – Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepard Sunday**

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Mary Welch †
by: Ron Martin and family

Anointing of the sick after Holy Mass

* 2nd collection – Altar Society

Monday/April 27th – Easter weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Ariela Wege †

by: Rhonda Bystry

*Ariela Wege Interment after Holy Mass in columbarium

*KC officers meeting 5 pm The Rosary and meeting after

**Tuesday/ April 28th– St. Peter Chanel, Priest and
St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest**

No Holy Mass :

Wednesday/ April 29th –St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin

Doctor of the church

6 p.m. Holy Mass: Lee Kyle

by: Dorothy Boyd

Thursday / April 30th – St. Pius V, Pope

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All parishioners

by: People of the parish

*Bingo starts at 6 pm doors open at 5 pm

Friday/ May 1st Joseph the Worker

First Friday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Sandie Beardslee

by: Dean Beardslee

Saturday / May 2nd – St. Athanasius, Bishop

First Saturday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All Priests

by: People of the parish

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Dale Lofquist †

by: Barbara Lofquist

* 2nd collection – Maintenance Fund

Food Pantry collection

Sunday/ May 3rd – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Mary Welch †

by: Joe and Doris Waggoner

*First Communion * 2nd collection – Maintenance fund

* Food Pantry collection/ Bingo at 1 pm-1 st Sunday

Thought
for the week

Good Shepherd Sunday

Jesus is not just a shepherd ---

He is the Good Shepherd who:

Knows Us, Loves Us, Feeds Us,

Seeks Us, Dies for Us, and today

He speaks to Our Heart " Follow Me ".

Fourth Sunday- A John 10: 1-10

♪ Wishing you a Blessed Week ♪



April 18th and April 19th, 2026

Main Collection \$2646.00

Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration

Tuesday 6 pm to 7 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 **Maureen Fortuna** in memory of her husband, **Brad Fortuna**.

Tabernacle Roses this week are generously provided by : **Maureen Fortuna** in memory of her husband, **Brad Fortuna**.

First Communion

Sunday May 3rd at Holy Mass we will be having 3 making their **First Communion**:

Blaise Ishmael, Scarlett Santa and Hudson Grothe.

We pray for them and know we all support you.

Memorial Mass

On Thursday May 7th, 2026 for **Theresa Grieshaber** who passed away in Louisiana on Feb. 3rd, 2026. The Rosary will be at 10:30 am and Memorial Mass at 11 am. Interment will follow in the St. Michael's Columbarium. She will be laid to rest with her husband, Henry Grieshaber. They were both past parishioners and active for many years here at church here at St. Michaels.

Memorial Mass

On Saturday May 9th, 2026 for **Marilyn Hadley** who passed away Dec. 20th, 2025 at her home in Cherokee Village. The Rosary will be at 10:30 am and Memorial Mass will start at 11 am., with interment in St. Michael's Columbarium. She will be laid to rest with her husband, James Hadley.

Vacation Bible School

We will have Vacation Bible School this year at St. Michael's. Starting Sunday, May 31st and ending with Mass on Wednesday, June 3rd. The sessions will start at 5:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm on all days. It will be held in the Parish Hall. The children will learn a song to perform at the Wednesday Mass. Bible stories and crafts will top out the agenda. Please spread the word to all youngsters ages 3 and up. The older kids can come and help and earn service hours for school. We will have a sign-up a few weeks before it starts. For more information contact Lori Templet at 225-717-0238 or email: ltemplet2507@yahoo.com

Local Celebrations of the Consecration of the United States of America to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus | can be found at :

USCCB <https://www.usccb.org/local-celebrations-consecration-united-states-america-most-sacred-heart-jesus>

Openings for Holy Mass Intentions and Flowers for the church if you are interested in doing these in honor or memory of a loved one. Many Blessings ~



Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, 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, Ray McHugh, 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, Tim Starcken, Doug and Tammy Wortham, and Toni Travline. Nursing Home: Chuck Wolff, Ruth Klinge, and KayLynn Rodenbeck.

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

- April 25th - Shannon Langellier
- April 25th - Mary Winston
- May 1st - Jennifer Bartow
- May 1st - Andrew Ryan
- May 1st - Caron Wallman



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

♥ April 25 - Ken and Mary Nguyen
38 years

** If we miss your birthday or anniversary please let the office know. Thank you~

CPR CLASS – to be held here at St. Michael's if enough interest. Please contact Garry Raikes if interested : 870-847-1425 (flyers in the vestibule).

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

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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

new beginnings

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

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195 Hospital Drive
Cherokee Village, AR 72525
870-257-6000

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Flower Shop and Christmas Book Store
(870) 856-5659
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Highland, AR 72542

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Hardy, AR 72542

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ST. MARY OF THE MOUNT — Fr. Amal Raju Lourduswamy Punganor — 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

Dear Padre,

Should Christians avoid practicing qi gong or tai chi? Or even meditation in which you empty your mind? Thank you.

This is one of those questions that has been debated for a long time. Social media offers many so-called experts with vastly different opinions. It can be very confusing, particularly if you are looking for a black-and-white answer, a yes or a no.

The pope who provides us with the most helpful direction to answer this question is Pope Benedict XVI. He did not forbid Eastern spiritual practices entirely but warned against their integration into Christian life without proper discernment. His perspective was rooted in a theological understanding that Christian spirituality is a unique path focused on a relationship with Christ. He emphasized that our Catholic spiritual tradition is distinct from the goals and methods of non-Christian traditions. He believed the practice of such non-Christian traditions, without preparation and without awareness of the challenge they present, could lead to spiritual error if not approached with caution and discernment.

So, the answer is nuanced. If you are using the practice as a spiritual practice, you should proceed with the utmost caution. If, on the other hand, you are using these practices for the more common physical or psychological—not spiritual—reasons, then it is permissible. ●



VLADA KARPONICH / PEXELS

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2	May 3
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Acts 11:1-18 Jn 10:11-18	Acts 11:19-26 Jn 10:22-30	Acts 12:24-13:5a Jn 12:44-50	Acts 13:13-25 Jn 13:16-20	Acts 13:26-33 Jn 14:1-6	Acts 13:44-52 Jn 14:7-14	Acts 6:1-7 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did.... Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 24, 2025