



Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

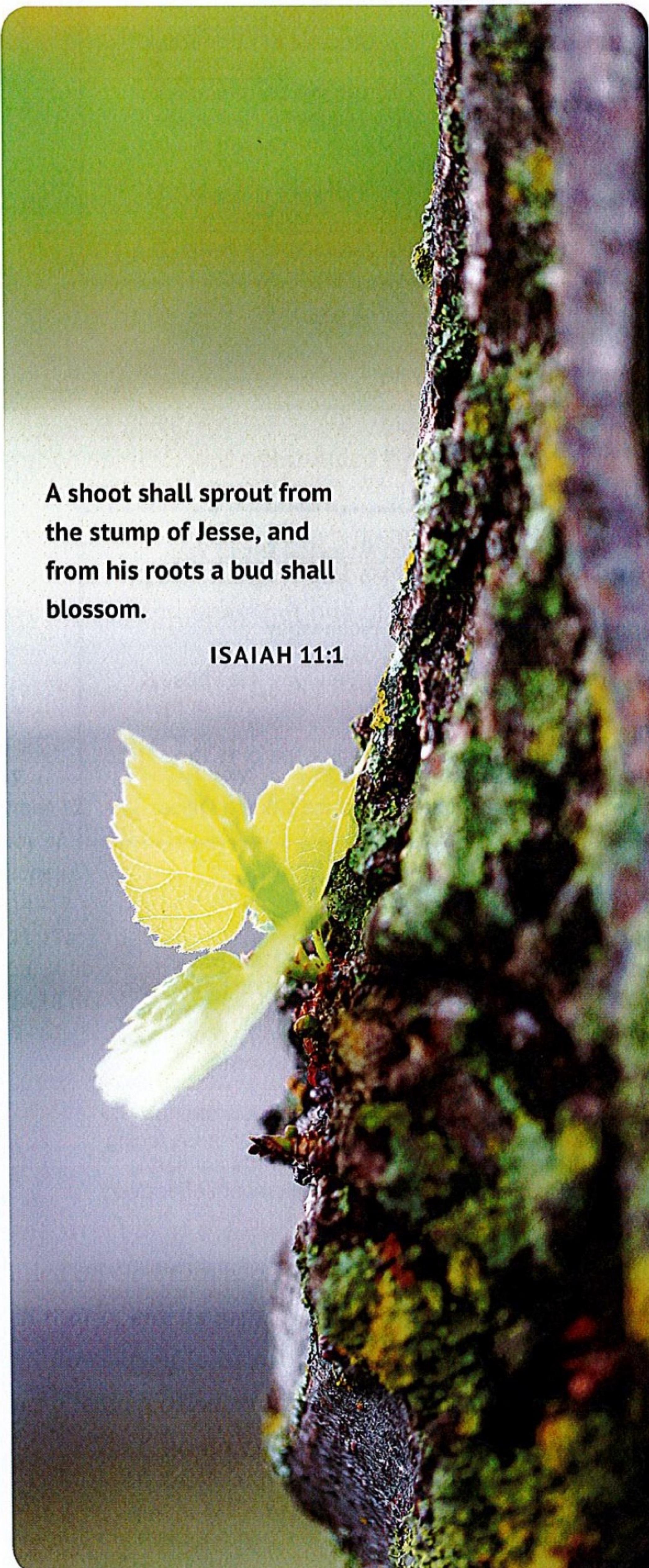
So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking

for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

Reflect

Are my eyes open to the small signs of God's work in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?



A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

ISAIAH 11:1



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR ANN
M. GARRIDO

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

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduswamy 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 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 Templet, 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
----------	----------

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 Templet (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 Templet	856-2261
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ltemplet2507@yahoo.com	
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St. Vincent dePaul

Rick Esquivel	318-6442
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Help Line	257-3448
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Altar Flower Decorator

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/ December 6th – St. Nicholas, Bishop

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All Volunteers at St. Michael's
by : People of the Parish
Confessions after Holy Mass

4 p.m. Holy Mass : Frisk/Johnson/Sabado Families
by : Richard and Norma Frisk

2nd Collection : Retirement Fund for the Religious
*Food Pantry Collection

Sunday/ December 7th – Second Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Lori Templet
by : Kevin Templet

2nd Collection : Retirement Fund for the Religious

*Bingo -doors open at noon and games start at 1:30 pm

*Food Pantry Collection

Monday/ December 8th – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

****HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION****

9 a.m. Holy Mass: Mary D'Ainco †
by: Mary Tarpley and Pam Swacker

11:15 a.m. Holy Mass: St Mary's HSB

6 p.m. Holy Mass: Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen †
by: Dean Beardslee

Tuesday/ December 9th – St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

No Holy Mass :

Wednesday / December 10th – Our Lady of Loreto

6 p.m. Holy Mass : Thanksgiving for our Baptism
by: Marcella Birckhead

Thursday / December 11th – St. Damasus I, Pope

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Mary D'Ainco †
by : Mary Wadley and Pam Swacker

**Advent Reconciliation Services 4 pm to 6 pm
at St. Michael's Cherokee Village **

Bingo- doors open at 5 pm games start at 6 pm

Friday/ December 12th – USA: Our Lady of Guadalupe

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All deceased of the Birckhead family †
by: Marcella Birkhead

**Advent Reconciliation Services 1 pm to 3 pm
at St. Mary's Horseshoe Bend **

Saturday/ December 13th – St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

4 p.m. Holy Mass : Gail Demarest
by : Marcella Birckhead

2nd Collection : Maintenance Fund

Sunday/ December 14th – Third Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Andrew Kootz
by : Buddy and Anne Kootz

2nd Collection : Maintenance Fund

**Knights Big Breakfast after Holy Mass today

Thought for the week

**Advent:
2nd Sunday- A**



**Repentance
Brings:**

1. God's Mercy
2. Healing
3. Peace
4. Restores the Dignity As Children of God
5. Joy of Salvation

6. Deeper Union with Jesus

Example

Luke, 15th Chapter
The Parables
-The Lost Sheep
-The Lost Coin
-The Lost Son

Mt.3:2

"Repent,

for the kingdom of

heaven is at hand!"

Mt. 3:8:-

Produce good fruit

as evidence of

your repentance.

****** John the Baptist
REPENTANCE Means**

**Turning Away From SIN
Turning Towards God
Living A New Life that
Pleases God**

Wishing you a Blessed Week



Collection Report

November 29th and 30th , 2025

Main collection : \$ 1674.00

Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?



ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration

Tuesday 3 pm to 4 pm

Friday 5 pm to 6 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: **Kevin Templet** in honor of
Lori Templet's birthday.

Tabernacle Roses this week are generously
provided by: **Kevin Templet** in honor of
Lori Templet's birthday.

Parish Christmas Party !!

Please, join us for the annual Christmas Party on Saturday December 20th after 4 pm Holy Mass in the parish hall. The sign-up sheets are in the vestibule so we know how many will be attending and how many children
* Santa doesn't want to leave any children off his list.
Don't forget to sign up for the dish you will be bringing to share at the Christmas Meal. **** See you there !

Altar Servers Training

If you are interested in learning about or becoming an Altar Server there will be a training on Saturday December 13, 2025 at 9 am. Here at St. Michael's.
* Please contact Buddy Kootz for more information.

Retirement Fund for Religious

The 2nd Collection this weekend is for the retired sisters, brothers, religious order older priest in our country. They gave their lives in service for decades. They deserve care in return. Please, be generous. Thank you in advance. Blessings ~

KNIGHTS BIG BREAKFAST

The Knights will be doing their Big Breakfast after Holy Mass Sunday December 14, in the church hall. Tickets will be available at the door. Please come enjoy breakfast. Our Knights help our church in so many ways please support them!

B-I-N-G-O Raffle

Bingo will be having an early Christmas Raffle Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th. Before and after Holy Mass. We have some very nice gifts to raffle off. Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5 and 12 for \$10. Bingo provides many items for our church. Please, support them !

100th Birthday Party !!!!!!!

Thursday December 18th after 9 am. Holy Mass we will be honoring Mrs. Ruth Klingle with a Birthday Brunch in the Parish Hall. Please, bring a brunch food to share. Please, come and celebrate this wonderful sweet lady.

We are blessed to have her 



Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Mary Welch, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Michael Gagne, Isabelle Wiest, Michael & Martha DeCoster, Larry Allen, Steve Allen, JoAnn Colwell, Georgia Harris, Dan Such, Dawn Logan, Mary Lee, 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 Moriarty, Maria Gerra, Colleen Royal, Cecilia Cefalu, Darrell and Elizabeth Beason, Jim Whorl, Joyce Speir, Amy Moriarty, Doug and Tammy Wortham.
Nursing Home: Ruth Klingle, Chuck Wolff and KayLynn Rodenbeck
Expectant Mother: Kristene Bates

Congratulations

Kevin and Josie Gregory and children on the birth of their new son, Henry Michael on November 19th, 2025. We wish you many blessings to you and whole family.

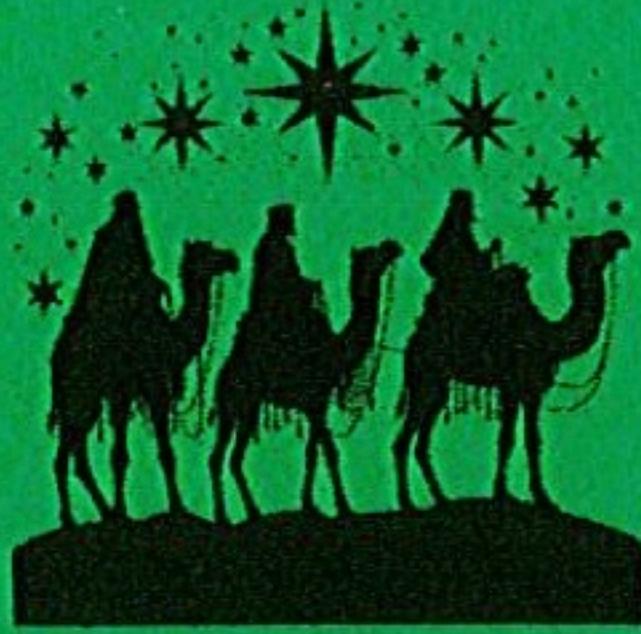
We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

-  December 8th – Thomas Hernandez
-  December 10th – Joe Waggoner
-  December 12th – John (Johnny) Hueser



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

-  December 9th - David and Sally Scheschi 58 years
-  December 14th - Darrell and Elizabeth Beason 26 years



Dear Parishioners

The Christmas Holiday Season is soon approaching, and as we spend time with family and friends, share meals and exchange gifts with one another, our St. Michael's Parish also wishes to spread some Holiday joy to our parishioners in need through the giving of "Christmas Blessings". If you would like to participate in this charitable project, please place your contribution (cash or check made payable to St. Vincent DePaul) in the envelope provided by **Sunday, December 14**. You can put it in the collection basket or leave it in the office. (Please note that these contributions are ear-marked specifically for "Christmas Blessings" and are separate from the regular quarterly collection which will be taken up on the weekend of December 20-21.

If you are in need, or if you know of another St. Michael's parishioner who may be having a difficult time financially and you think they might be interested in help with their Christmas meal and/or gifts for their children, we ask you to submit their names to the St Vincent DePaul Society at St. Michael's. You may submit their names by filling in the information below and placing it in the same envelope. The entire program is confidential and all names will remain private.

Please submit names no later than December 14. Gifts will be ready for distribution by the week of December 15.

For those who wish to donate by mail, please send your donation to St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Michael's Catholic Church, P. O. Box 970, Cherokee Village, AR 72525.

Although we know that there are many families that are in need at this time, we must limit ourselves to **ONLY** St. Michael's parishioners.

Thank you for your generosity!

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NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

NIMBER OF ADULTS: _____



Winter Weather Reminder if Highland School is Closed due to inclement weather

Adoration Chapel will be **CLOSED**

Offices **may** be **CLOSED**

Safety is important for all our **parishoners and staff**, so please do not come to the parish if snow or icy conditions exist. If you do, **exercise good judgement** when **walking on the church parking lot and grounds**. Exercise caution if you must travel. We will do our best to inform you of any changes you may need to know about. Make sure **the prayer chain and office has your cell # to be included in a text alert if any updates are made quickly**. We will try to get any immediate change on our church website.

If in doubt be safe !

We ask that you take care and stay warm.

Please, be alert to ice, snow covered roads/sidewalks and cold weather conditions.

May God Bless You and Protect you !

St.Michael's Church - Cherokee Village, AR – December 2025

Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
Burial Plots
Contact: Bernie Brandenburg

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Contact: Jim Wege



**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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(870) 856-2705
tricountyfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Physical Address
1540 Highway 62-412
Highland, AR 72542

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 665
Hardy, AR 72542

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

new beginnings
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PREGANACY HELP CENTER

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(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,

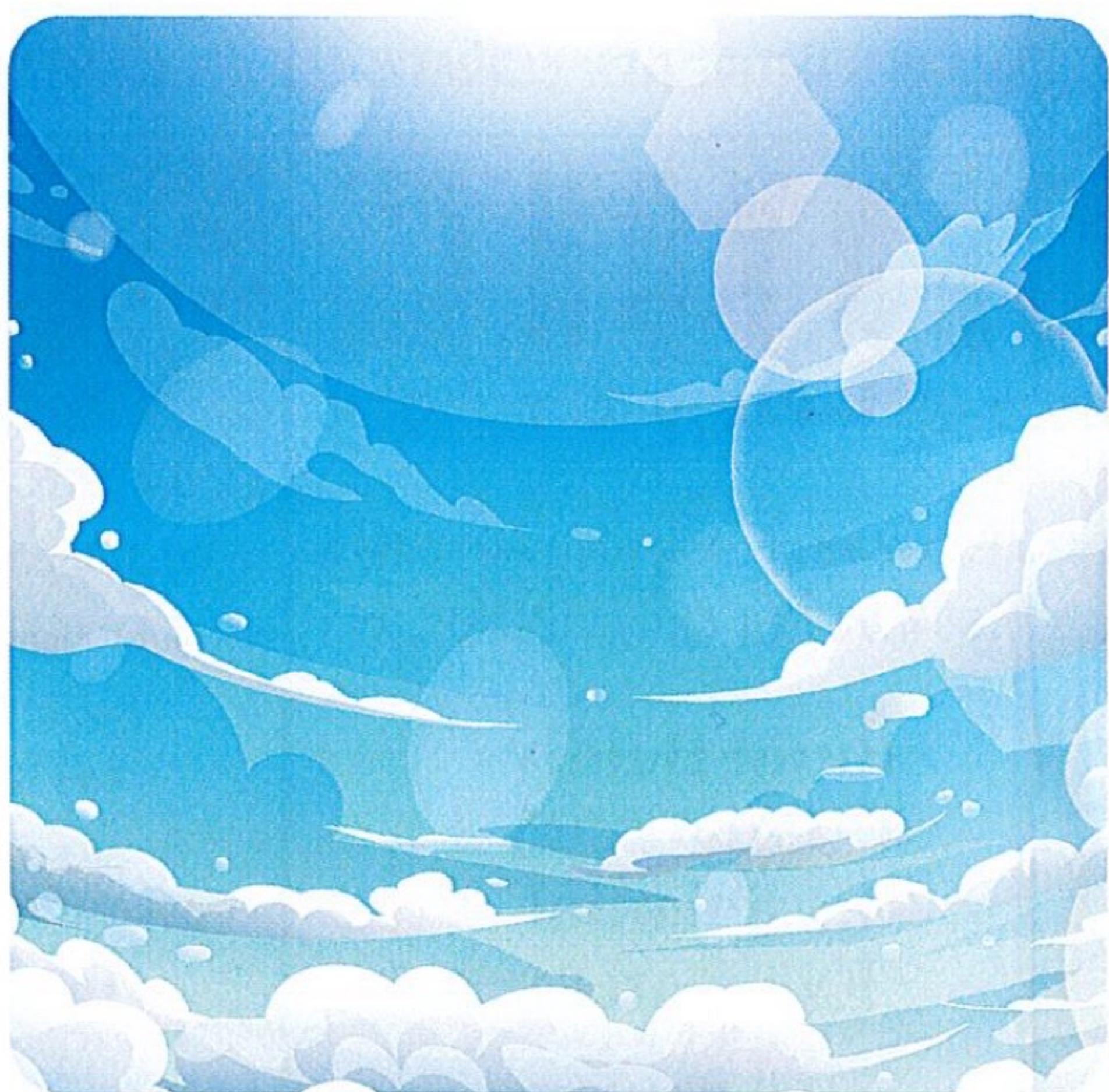
Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

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



PASCAL HUOT / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday

December 8
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday

December 9
Advent Weekday
Is 40:1–11
Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday

December 10
Advent Weekday
Is 40:25–31
Mt 11:28–30

Thursday

December 11
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13–20
Mt 11:11–15

Friday

December 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14–17
or Rv 11:19a;
12:1–6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26–38 or
Lk 1:39–47

Saturday

December 13
St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Sir 48:1–4,
9–11
Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Sunday

December 14
Third Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1–6a, 10
Jas 5:7–10
Mt 11:2–11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made "restless" by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025