



## Leaving Room for the Unexpected

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**T**he Father is the reckless Sower. He sows not only in the good soil, where a harvest might be anticipated, but also in the difficult soil, where nothing seems to take root. He sows with abandon, seemingly wasting good seed, for no other reason than to experience the joy of creation and the endless possibilities of expecting to be surprised.

There is nothing wrong with well-laid-out plans and careful, methodical use of the resources available. However, planning should not exclude the possibility of the creative manifestation of the power of God in an unanticipated manner. Our planning should not restrict and constrict but rather enable and encourage. We have all experienced the unexpected flower that somehow lives surrounded by pavement. Or the hardy tree that clings to the side of the mountain. They should not be there. It should not be possible. Nothing can grow there. Yet, there they are, doing the impossible and proclaiming the improbable.

Thankfully, we serve a God who sees more than we are ever able to see. Who imagines for us more than we have ever dreamed possible. Who not only sows but also tends and waters, enabling stupendous growth, until it is time for the abundant harvest. ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY

### Reflect

***Have you ever been surprised by grace? Could you have missed it?***

[God said,] So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me, achieving the end for which I sent it.

ISAIAH 55:11





# 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](http://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](http://www.arkansasatholic.org)  
Cherokee Village, AR 72525  
Rectory: (870) 257-4456 St. Michael's CASA #7215  
St. Michael's Email: [stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com](mailto:stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com)  
St. Michael's Website: <http://stmichaelscatholicchurch.org>

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduswamy Punganoor  
Parish Secretary: Rhonda Bystry  
Office Email: [stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com](mailto:stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com)  
Bookkeeper: Rose Brandenburg  
Email: [stmichaelscv@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Langelier) 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](mailto:pray4me70@att.net)

### Religious Education C.C.D

Lori Templet 856-2261

[ltemplet2507@yahoo.com](mailto: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 11th – St. Benedict, Abbot

4 p.m. Vigil Mass: Mary Welch †

by: Terry Phelps and Family

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

2<sup>nd</sup> collection – Peter's Pence collection

\*\*Knights Big Breakfast after Holy Mass

### Monday/July 13th– St. Henry

9 a.m. Holy Mass : For reconciliation of SSPX

by: Gail Demarest

\*KC meeting 5 pm The Rosary then 5:30 pm meeting

### Tuesday/ July 14th – St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

No Holy Mass

### Wednesday/ July 15th – St. Bonaventure, Bishop/Dr.

No Holy Mass :

\*Altar Society card party at noon in the parish hall

### Thursday /July 16th – Our Lady of Mount Camel

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

by: People of the parish

\*\*Bingo starts at 6 pm doors open at 4:30 pm

### Friday/ July 17th – Weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Cathy Duncan

by: Dean Beardslee

### Saturday / July 18th – St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest

4 p.m. Vigil Mass: Persephone Kootz

by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

2<sup>nd</sup> collection- Altar Society

### Sunday/ July 19th – Sixteenth Day in Ordinary Time

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Jerry Hawbaker †

by: Barbara Hawbaker

2<sup>nd</sup> collection – Altar Society



**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 Augustine taught: "It is pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels."

"Learn From Me, For I am Meek and Humble of Heart; And You Will Find Rest For Your Selves." Mt. 11:29

Happy Independence Day July 04 1776 - 250 Years God Bless Our Nation and Our People

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 ?



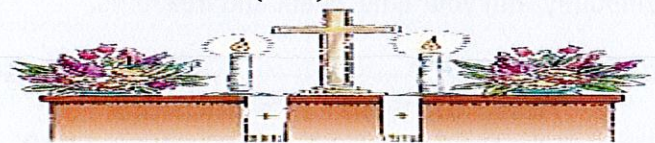
ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

### 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: Pat and Linda O'Donnell in honor of their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

There were **229 food items** collected last weekend. We appreciate all your help in supplying these items. **Thank you for helping those in need.**

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, doors open at noon, games start at 1:30 pm and every Thursday night of the week doors open at 4:30 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 - Pocahontas

There will also be a Taste of Faith in **Pocahontas** to benefit the seminarian's education. It will be held on Saturday August 1st, 2026, at **St. Paul's Catholic Church** beginning with the Holy mass at 5 pm then (Happy Hour Cash bar) begins at 6 pm with dinner and program to follow. Tables seat 8. We must have reservations so if you would like to attend, please contact Lori Templet at email at [ltemplet2507@yahoo.com](mailto:ltemplet2507@yahoo.com) or phone # 225-717-0238

### Peter's Pence collection

This weekend the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



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 !*

July 12th - Christopher Conrad  
July 12th - Jean-Marie Hendricks  
July 13th - Connie Conrad  
July 13th - John Paul Ishmael  
July 14<sup>th</sup> - Rick Esquivel  
July 17th - Maryann Barber  
July 20th - Michael DeCoster  
July 20th - Shelly Yingling



*We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary !*

♥ Alan and Terry Phelps on July 11th  
51 years  
♥ CJ and BJ Simon on July 18th  
46 years

\*Let the office know if we miss your birthday or anniversary. Please, register with the church if you are new. Thank you~

# **To Learn More About Contrition**

## **Part 5**

### **Contrition**

#### **1. What is contrition?**

Contrition is sincere sorrow for having offended God, and hatred for the sins we have committed, with a firm purpose of sinning no more. This is the most necessary part of the sacrament of Penance. There are times when sins can be forgiven without confession or without satisfactions afterward, but there are never times when sins can be forgiven without sorrow in the heart.

#### **2. Will God forgive us any sin unless we have true contrition for it?**

God will not forgive us any sin, whether mortal or venial, unless we have true contrition for it.

#### **3. When is sorrow for sin true contrition?**

Sorrow for sin is true contrition when it is interior, supernatural, supreme, and universal. The garment of contrition must have all four of these qualities or it will not please God and win for us His pardon.

#### **4. When is our sorrow interior?**

Our sorrow is interior when it comes from our heart, and not merely from our lips. This means we must not only say we are sorry, but we must mean it. We must want to be sorry even though we cannot always feel it.

#### **5. When is our sorrow supernatural?**

Our sorrow is supernatural when, with the help of God's grace, it arises from motives which spring from faith and not merely from natural motives. This means we must be sorry because we may have offended God and may lose our soul, not just because we may have been caught or because something bad happened to us.

#### **6. When is our sorrow supreme?**

Our sorrow is supreme when we hate sin above every other evil, and are willing to endure any suffering rather than offend God in the future by sin. This means that we know that sin is the greatest, the supreme evil in the world and we would do anything to keep out of it.

#### **7. When is our sorrow universal?**

Our sorrow is universal when we are sorry for every mortal sin which we may have had the misfortune to commit. This means we must be sorry at least for all our mortal sins, if we have any.

#### **8. Should we always try to have sorrow for all our venial sins when receiving the sacrament of Penance?**

We should try to have sorrow for all our venial sins when receiving the sacrament of Penance, and, when we have only venial sins to confess, we must have sorrow for at least one of them or for some sin of our past life which we confess.

#### **9. Why should we have contrition for mortal sins?**

We should have contrition for mortal sin because it is the greatest of all evils, gravely offends God, keeps us out of heaven, and condemns us forever to hell.

#### **10. Why should we have contrition for venial sin?**

We should have contrition for venial sin because it is displeasing to God, merits temporal punishment, and may lead to mortal sin.

#### **11. How many kinds of contrition are there?**

There are two kinds of contrition: perfect contrition and imperfect contrition.

#### **12. When is our contrition perfect?**

Our contrition is perfect when we are sorry for our sins because sin offends God, whom we love above all things for His own sake.

#### **13. When is our contrition imperfect?**

Our contrition is imperfect when we are sorry for our sins because they are hateful in themselves or because we fear God's punishment.

**14. To receive the sacrament of Penance worthily, what kind of contrition is sufficient?**

To receive the sacrament of Penance worthily, imperfect contrition is sufficient.

**15. Should we always try to have perfect contrition in the sacrament of Penance?**

We should always try to have perfect contrition in the sacrament of Penance because perfect contrition is more pleasing to God, and because with His help we can always have it.

**16. How can a person in mortal sin regain the state of grace before receiving the sacrament of Penance?**

A person in mortal sin can regain the state of grace before receiving the sacrament of Penance by making an act of perfect contrition with the sincere purpose of going to confession.

**17. What should we do if we have the misfortune to commit a mortal sin?**

If we have the misfortune to commit a mortal sin, we should ask God's pardon and grace at once, make an act of perfect contrition, and go to confession as soon as we can. It is much worse to commit a mortal sin than to catch a bodily disease. If a man has a heart attack, will he wait a month to call a doctor? Anyone who has committed a mortal sin should go to confession immediately and cancel all other appointments so as to be there at the first possible opportunity. Since that might be a few days away, he should do his best to make an act of perfect contrition as explained in the preceding question.

**18. May we receive Holy Communion after committing a mortal sin if we merely make an act of perfect contrition?**

We may not receive Holy Communion after committing a mortal sin if we merely make an act of perfect contrition; one who has sinned grievously must go to confession before receiving Holy Communion.

**19. What is the firm purpose of sinning no more?**

The firm purpose of sinning no more is the sincere resolve not only to avoid sin but to avoid as far as possible the near occasions of sin. Suppose someone says, "I promise not to steal again, but I will not stay away from my companions who steal." Is he really sorry? Of course not. He is fooling himself if he thinks he can keep out of sin without giving up the occasions of sin.

**20. What purpose of amendment must a person have if he has only venial sins to confess?**

If a person has only venial sins to confess, he must have the purpose of avoiding at least one of them. He should want to avoid all of them, but he must have the purpose of avoiding at least one of them or his confession is worthless.



Holy Family Catholic Cemetery  
Burial Plots  
Contact: Bernie Brandenburg

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



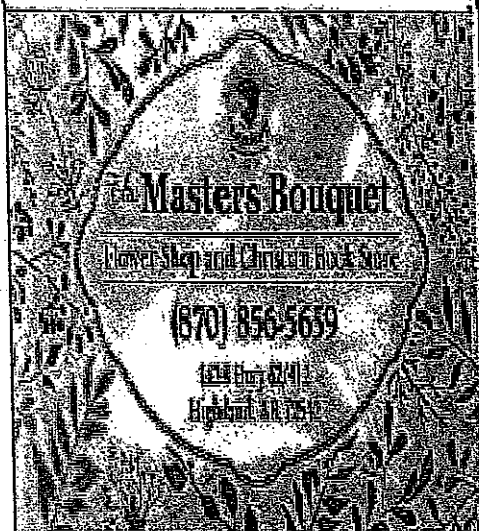
St. Michael's Parish Hall  
Thursday 6 p.m.  
Doors Open at 5 p.m.  
1st Sunday of the month  
1 p.m. Doors Open at 12 p.m.

# CANYON

CONSTRUCTION

PO Box 295 | Ash Flat, AR 72513  
870.994.7472 | CanyonBuilds.com

**Build Boldly  
Commercial  
Residential  
Excavation**



**BOOTLEGGER**

*LIFE IS BREWITFUL*

(870) 994-BEER (2337)

582 Hwy 62/412,  
Ash Flat, AR 72513  
**BEER-WINE-LIQUOR**



**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 FUNERAL HOME

**Compassion and Guidance  
when needed most**

**(870) 856-2705**

[tricityfuneralhome@yahoo.com](mailto:tricityfuneralhome@yahoo.com)

**Physical Address**  
1540 Highway 62-412  
Highland, AR 72542

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

**only on-site crematory  
In Sharp County**



**new beginnings**  
PREGANACY HELP CENTER  
**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**

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

*"A sincere personal service"*



**Wortham  
Funeral Home**  
Est. 1945

P.O. Box 665  
3079 Highway 412 West  
Hardy, Arkansas 72542

DOUG WORTHAM, President  
(870) 856-6659  
[worthamfuneralhome.com](http://worthamfuneralhome.com)

**Family Owned & Operated**  
We are third generation  
Funeral Directors  
with over  
130 years of experience  
3079 Highway 62  
Highland, AR 72542  
870-856-5636  
Serving Catholic families in  
Northeast Arkansas  
since 1945

**ST. MARY OF THE MOUNT — Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy Punganoor — Pastor**

1002 First Street  
Horseshoe Bend AR.72512  
(870) 670-5896

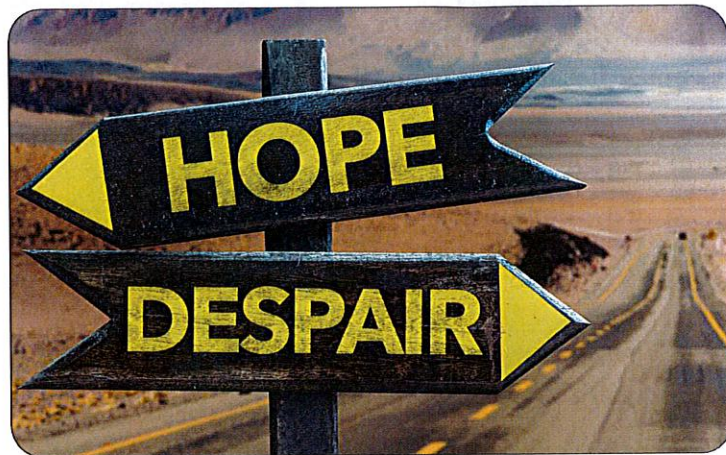
<https://stmaryshsb.org>  
Confessions after every Mass  
Adoration after Friday Mass

[churchoffice@stmaryshsb.org](mailto:churchoffice@stmaryshsb.org)  
Horseshoe Bend AR.72512  
(870) 670-5896

# Dear Padre,

*I look at what's going on in our world today, and I start to lose faith. How can I keep my faith strong in a time that seems faithless?*

Evil isn't a new phenomenon. The Book of Judges, for example, presents a faithless time that may rival what's happening in our world today. Judges' twenty-one chapters are so full of vandalism and war, murder and assassination, fratricide and suicide, that it makes a grim statement on the worst of humanity. Judges reminds us of humanity's need for salvation. In *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*, author Oscar Lukefahr writes, "Left to itself, humanity degenerates into a frightful caricature of what we ought to be. We see such lessons repeated in recent history.... In the Book of Judges, we see our need for God." It's easy to lose faith when our focus is on how bad the world is rather than on how we can do our part to make it holy. Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, "Awareness of our own sinfulness, including that which is inherited, is the first condition for salvation; the next is the confession of this sin before God, who desires only to receive this confession so that he can save man. To save means to embrace and lift up with redemptive love, with love that is always greater than any sin." Don't lose Christian hope! While Christ already triumphed over sin and death, the reality of evil remains until God's kingdom is fully realized on earth as it is in heaven. (See 1 John 5:18–20.) ●

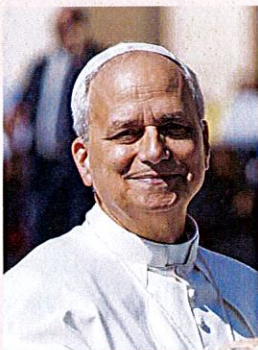


GUSTAVO FRAZAO / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

**Mission is not so much about "departing," but instead "remaining" in order to proclaim Christ through hospitality and welcome, compassion and solidarity. We are to remain...so as to look upon those who arrive from lands that are distant and violent; to remain and open our arms and hearts to them, welcoming them as brothers and sisters, and being for them a presence of consolation and hope.**



**HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 5, 2025**

The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione-Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved.

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

### Monday

July 13  
Weekday  
Is 1:10–17  
Mt 10:34–11:1

### Tuesday

July 14  
St. Kateri Tekakwitha,  
Virgin  
Is 7:1–9  
Mt 11:20–24

### Wednesday

July 15  
St. Bonaventure,  
Bishop and Doctor of  
the Church  
Is 10:5–7, 13b–16  
Mt 11:25–27

### Thursday

July 16  
Weekday  
Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19  
Mt 11:28–30

### Friday

July 17  
Weekday  
Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8  
Mt 12:1–8

### Saturday

July 18  
Weekday  
Mi 2:1–5  
Mt 12:14–21

### Sunday

July 19  
Sixteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
Wis 12:13, 16–19  
Rom 8:26–27  
Mt 13:24–3 or  
13:24–30