



Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M.
SANTA, CSSR

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Hwy 62/412 & 49 Tekakwitha Dr.
Cherokee Village, Arkansas 72529

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office 257-2850	Diocese of Little Rock www.dolr.org
Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, 9:30 – 2:30 Closed Wednesdays	
Mailing Address P.O. Box 970	Arkansas Catholic Newspaper 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://stmichaelscycatholicchurch.org	

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy Punganoor
Parish Secretary: Rhonda Bystry
Office Email: stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com
Bookkeeper: Rose Brandenburg
Email: 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
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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
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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 Matselbaba	(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

Religious Education C.C.D

Lori Templet	856-2261
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templet2507@yahoo.com

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 13th – St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
 4 p.m. Holy Mass : Gail Demarest
 by : Marcella Birckhead
 2nd Collection : Maintenance Fund
 **Altar Server training 9 am

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

Monday/ December 15th – Advent
 9 a.m. Holy Mass: Mae Smith †
 by: Tom and Joann Helfert

Tuesday/ December 16th – Advent
 No Holy Mass :

Wednesday / December 17th – Advent
 6 p.m. Holy Mass : Dorothy Mikolajek †
 by: Jeffrey and Linda Mikolajek
 *Altar Society Card party at noon

Thursday / December 18th – Advent
 9 a.m. Holy Mass : Raikes Family
 by : Garry and Cathy Raikes
 ***100th Birthday Brunch for Ruth Klingle
 after 9 am Holy Mass
 *Bingo- doors open at 5 pm games start at 6 pm

Friday/ December 19th – Advent
 9 a.m. Holy Mass : Brett Kootz
 by: Buddy and Anne Kootz

Saturday/ December 20th – Advent
 4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Maederer Family
 by : Garry and Cathy Raikes
 ***Parish Christmas Party after 4 pm Vigil Mass
 2nd Collection : St. Vincent de Paul Society

Sunday/ December 21st – Fourth Sunday of Advent
 9 a.m. Holy Mass : Bishop Strickland
 by : Buddy and Anne Kootz
 2nd Collection : St. Vincent de Paul Society

***Mrs. Ruth Klingle's 100th Birthday Brunch
 Thursday Dec. 18th after 9 am Holy Mass

***Parish Christmas Party Saturday Dec. 20th
 after 4 pm Holy Mass
 *Bingo Thursdays - games start at 6 pm
 doors open at 5 pm

Thought for the week


**Advent:
 3rd Sun-A**
**In Latin
 "Gaudete"**
Means
"Rejoice"

**"Joy "
 is A "SIGN"
 That
 You Have
 Found
 "CHRIST"
 -St.Theresa
 Of
 Calculate**

**"Emmanuel"
 Isaiah. 7:14.
 Matthew. 1:23**
**Christian Joy Is Not
 Emotional Happiness**
**It is the deep peace
 that comes from
 knowing or Finding:**
**"God is with us and
 will save us." **
**Rejoice
 (Lk.1:46 - Phil.4:4)**

 Wishing you a Blessed Week 



December 6th and 7th , 2025

Main collection : \$ 3189.59

Retired Religious : \$ 882.00

Holy Day : \$411.00

Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

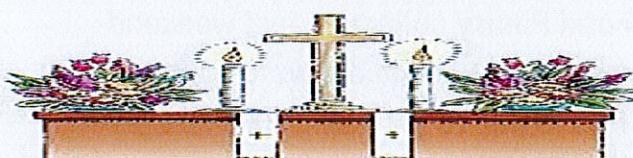


Available Adoration.

Tuesday 3 pm to 4 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:
 Buddy and Anne Kootz in honor of their son,
 Brett for his birthday.

Tabernacle Roses this week are generously
 provided by: Buddy and Anne Kootz in honor of
 their grandson, Andrew for his birthday.

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 

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 !

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

We want to thank you for all of your generous help with the needs and health of our retired religious on last weekend 2nd collection.

Many Blessings to you all !

Thank you

Food Pantry collection last weekend results was 363 items were collected. This is due to your kindness and giving. May God Bless You !

Knights Big Breakfast

In the parish hall after Holy Mass this Sunday December 14, 2025 come enjoy a good homecooked breakfast. Tickets available at the door.



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 and Amy Moriarty, Maria Gerra, Colleen Royal, Cecilia Cefalu, Darrell and Elizabeth Beason, Jim Whorl, Joyce Speir. Doug and Tammy Wortham. Nursing Home: Ruth Klingle, Chuck Wolff and KayLynn Rodenbeck. Expectant Mother: Kristene Bates

Please, let the office know if you do not see your birthday or anniversary below. These are from Saturday to Sunday weekly. We want to include everyone.

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday!

- ◆ December 15th – Mary McPherson
- ◆ December 17th– Grayson Grothe
- ◆ December 17th– Lori Templet
- ◆ December 19th– Ruth Klingle



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

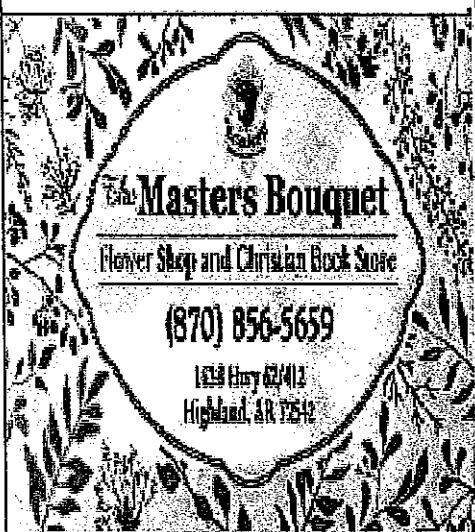
◆ December 14th - Darrell and Elizabeth Beason
26 years

Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
Burial Plots
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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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Mailing Address

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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
PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

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After Hours Hotline

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TXT Helpline to 313131

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

churchoffice@stmaryshsb.org
Horseshoe Bend AR 72512
(870) 670-5896

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke begins, "In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26–27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that "in the sixth month" refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, "Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months" (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, "And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren" (Luke 1:36).

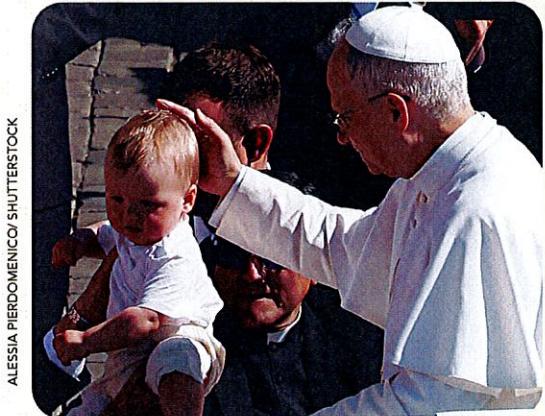
In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●



GENIVI

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a Mt 21:23–27	Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 Mt 21:28–32	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Is 7:10–14 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–24



ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO/SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025