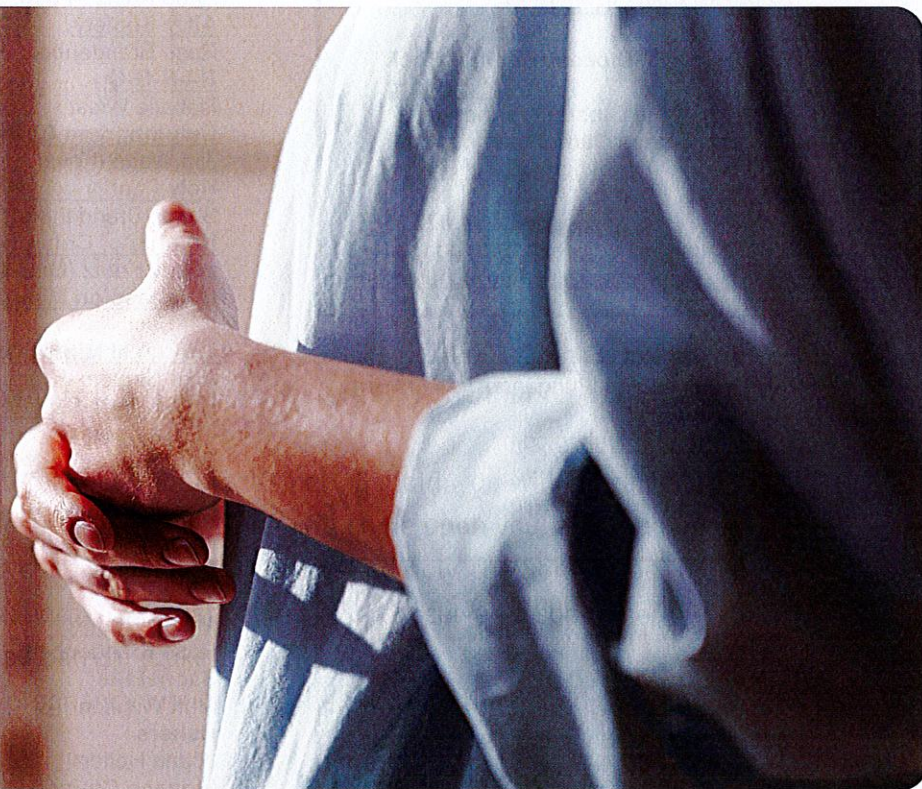




Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

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).

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. ●



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

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 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 Lourduswamy 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 dePaul

Rick Esquivel 318-6442

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

4 p.m. Holy Mass : Gail Demarest

by : Marcella Birkhead

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 Klinge
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 Klinge'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



Collection Report

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 ?



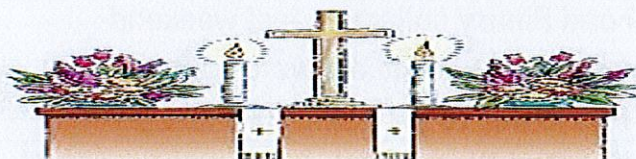
ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

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 Klinge 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 Birkhead, Michael Reddick, Gerald and Carol Metty, Darren Bates, Maryann Barber, Martin and Amy Moriarty, Maria Gerrah, Colleen Royal, Cecilia Cefalu, Darrell and Elizabeth Beason, Jim Whorl, Joyce Speir.
Doug and Tammy Wortham.
Nursing Home: Ruth Klinge, 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 Klinge



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary!

- ♥ December 14th - Darrell and Elizabeth Beason
26 years

Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
Burial Plots

Contact: Bernie Brandenburg

St. Michael's Columbarium
Payment Plans Available

Contact: Jim Wege



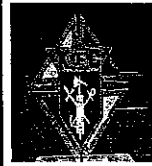
St. Michael's Parish Hall
Thursday 6 p.m.
Doors Open at 5 p.m.
1st Sunday of the month
1 p.m. Doors Open at 12 p.m.

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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

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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,

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).

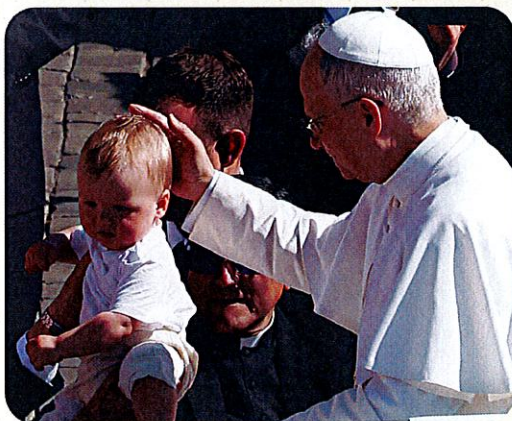
Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called 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. ●

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
<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a	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



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