



The Debt We Have in Common

THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

As we hear today's Gospel of the servant whose enormous debt is forgiven, yet who refuses mercy to a fellow servant owing far less, we cannot help but ask: how can this be? This is the first question that comes to mind. How could a person be forgiven so much and then, just a few minutes later, refuse to forgive something inconsequential in comparison? Selfishness doesn't really explain it. Being so full of oneself doesn't explain it. Being completely dense and obtuse is perhaps closer to the truth, but even that explanation comes up short.

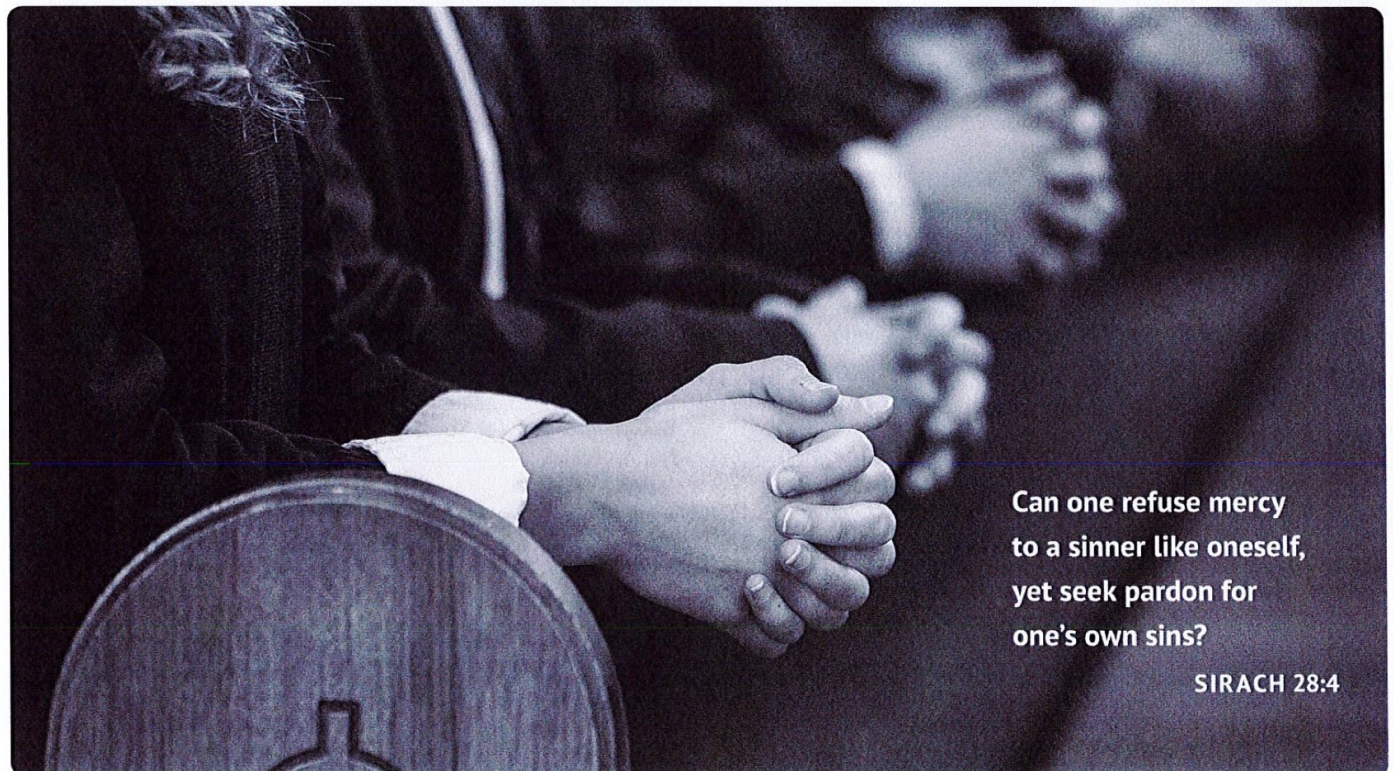
The truth is that the exaggeration of the debt is secondary to the story. What is essential to the story is the invitation to reflect on what it means to be a human being. It is to acknowledge that, when all is said and done, everyone owes a huge debt. No one is exempt from gratitude. An honest acceptance of who we are—completely and totally dependent on God who created us—is the core truth. To be so disconnected from this truth as to not recognize one's own dependence and be completely unaware of the need to be grateful—that is the real challenge the story considers. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How am I at forgiveness—with others and with myself?



Can one refuse mercy
to a sinner like oneself,
yet seek pardon for
one's own sins?

SIRACH 28:4

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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://stmichaelscatholicchurch.org>

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduswamy 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 I

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

Jason Sabado (Grand Knight) 412-477-7946

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

lttemplet2507@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 / September 12th – The Most Holy Name of Mary

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Sebastain Kocz

by: Mary Kocz

*2nd Collection – Maintenance Fund

Sunday/ September 13th – Twenty-Fourth Sunday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : John Michael Bystry †

by: John A. and Patricia Bystry

*2nd Collection – Maintenance Fund

**Knights Big Breakfast after 9 am Holy Mass

Monday/ September 14th – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Michael and Tracey Kocz

by: Mary Kocz

*KC meeting 5 pm the Rosary 5:30 meeting

Tuesday/September 15th – Our Lady of Sorrows

No Holy Mass

*Parish Council meeting at 5 pm in the church library

Wednesday/September 16th – St. Cornelius, Pope / St. Cyprian, Bishop

6 p.m. Holy Mass : St. Michael's volunteers

by : People of the Parish

*Altar society card party at noon

Thursday /September 17th – St. Bellarmine ,Bishop / St. Hildegard of Bingen

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Charles Autry †

by: Phyllis Autry

* Mary's Mantle luncheon noon to 1 pm parish hall

*Bingo doors open at 4:30 pm games at 6 pm

Friday/ September 18th – Weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Lauren and Dylan Ruckstahl

by: Mary Kocz

Saturday / September 19th – St. Januarius, Bishop

4 p.m. Vigil Mass : Danielle Roseman

by: Mary Kocz

*2nd Collection – Catechetical Sunday

*Knights Yard Sale 8 AM until Noon

Sunday/ September 20th – Twenty-Fifth Sunday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : John Michael Bystry †

by: Rhonda Bystry

*2nd Collection – Catechetical Sunday / Youth Mass



24th Sun- A

Sirach 🙏🙏🙏

27:30v :-

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. 🙏🙏🙏

28:2.v. "Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven." 🙏

Psalm. 103:8:-

The Lord is Kind And Merciful, Slow To Anger, And Rich In Compassion

🙏 Wishing you a Blessed Week 🙏



Collection Report

September 5th and 6th , 2026

Main Collection \$ 5724.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving !

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?



ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration

Rose, (870) 847-5018, or

Anne, (870) 847-1985



God Bless the Donors and their Intentions.

Altar Flowers are generously provided by: Buddy and Anne Kootz in honor of their daughter-in-law Lauren Kootz's birthday.

Tabernacle Roses are generously provided by: Terry Phelps in memory of Nick VanHouten (Jeonilla's son).

Thank you !

To Trevor Orosz with Orosz Construction for repairing our main chapel on the inside and John Dill Roofing for repairing the roof. We would like to thank Mike Gagne and Garry Raikes for all their work on coordinating with the insurance company to ensure it was done timely and as specified. As always, we want to include the Parish and Finance Councils for their help and guidance with assisting Father Amal when we have repairs that are needed here at St. Michael's. Lastly, we could not do it without our church family. **Many Blessings to all ~**

KNIGHTS BIG BREAKFAST

Will be this Sunday September 13th after 9 am Holy Mass
They work hard to make sure they have a good breakfast ready after Holy Mass. Tickets will be on sale at the door in the parish hall. The KC's do so much for our church ! We thank them always ! Please, join them.

Knights Annual Yard Sale

Mark your calendars ! Knights will be doing their yard sale on Saturday September 19th from 8 am until noon. This is a big fundraiser for them and the men put out a lot of work to make this event successful each year. If you see a Knight thank them for all their efforts and hard work here at St. Michael's.

Food Pantry collection

Thank you for all who brought food to restock our pantry. We collected 212 items. May God Bless you ~

Mary's Mantle Ladies Group Luncheon

The next luncheon will be Thursday Sept. 17th in the parish hall from noon to 1 pm. All ladies are invited that are single or widowed. Please bring a dish to share. We hope to see you there !

Magnificat Luncheon

~ Magnificat is a ministry to Catholic Women ~
It is an international ministry based on:
"The Visitation" Luke 1:39

The next luncheon will be on Saturday September 26th 2026. Tickets are \$15 each which includes your meal. The luncheon will be from 11 am to 2 pm. Tickets will be sold this weekend and next weekend at both Masses. No tickets will be sold at the door. Let's show the speaker from California a warm welcome !



Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Chuck Wolff, Jim Wege, Isabelle Wiest, Michael and 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, Jean Marie Henricks, 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, KayLynn Rodenbeck and Timothy Huff

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday !

September 12th - Alexis Blanco

September 13th - Scott Rimel

September 16th - David Boatwright

September 19th - Adreana Gentile

September 19th - Donna Higdon



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary !

September 12th - Marvin and Eden Callahan

♡ 11 years

September 19th - Michael and Adreana Gentile

♡ 4 years

September 20th - Kattiya and Desiree Rachankun

♡ 7 years

Youth Mass

September 20th is Catechetical Sunday so our youth will be doing the readings, ushering and gift bearing. Please, support them in their participation and let them know we appreciate it.

To Learn More About The Our Father

Page 12

“Father, I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which You loved me, may be in them and I in them.” (John 17:26)

The Our Father prayer : Mt. 6:9-13 and Lk. 11: 2-4

1. Why is the Our Father the best of all prayers?

The Our Father is the best of all prayers because it is the Lord’s Prayer, taught us by Jesus Christ Himself, and because it is a prayer of perfect and unselfish love.

2. Why is the Our Father a prayer of perfect and unselfish love?

The Our Father is a prayer of perfect and unselfish love because in saying it we offer ourselves entirely to God and ask from Him the best things, not only for ourselves but also for our neighbor.

There are seven petitions in the Our Father:

1. God’s Glory
2. Union with God
3. Perfect Love
4. Needs of Soul and Body
5. Forgiveness of Sin
6. Protection in Temptation
7. Freedom from all Harm

We cannot really desire what these petitions express unless we love unselfishly, for they are arranged in the order of love. We must, be more desirous that God’s will should be done than that we should escape our own troubles. Most people begin by desiring the last petitions of the Our Father and only gradually grow in love to the point where they desire chiefly what is expressed in the first petitions. All prayer should be made in the spirit of the Our Father, really desiring what its petitions express.

3. Why do we address God as “Our Father who art in heaven”?

We address God as “Our Father who are in heaven” because we belong to Him, our loving Father, who created us and watches over us, who adopts us through sanctifying grace as His children, and who destines us to live forever with Him in heaven, our true home. The word “our” is important. It is in the plural. Christ has highly recommended prayer in common in which we as God’s children who love one another unite to ask our loving Father for what we need. The official prayer of the whole Church as a body is called the liturgy. This public prayer of the Church is of far more value than private prayer, even though this too is necessary and highly important.

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Questions? Contact:

Kelly Wewers - kwewers@dolr.org - 501-6501-664-0340 ext. 391

Graydon Carter - gcarter@dolr.org - 501-6501-664-0340 ext. 348



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Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
Burial Plots
Contact: Bernie Brandenburg
870-994-2744

St. Michael's Columbarium
Payment Plans Available
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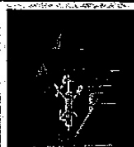
St. Michael's Parrish Hall
Thursday 6 p.m.
Doors Open at 4:30 p.m.
1st Sunday of the month
1:30 p.m. Doors open at 12

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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FRATERNITY

St. John Neumann Council 6969
Grand Knight Jason Sabado (412) 415-7946

Social and Potluck Meeting
2nd Monday of the month
Rosary 5:00 p.m. Meeting 5:30 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

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Dear Padre,

If Catholics say the Confiteor at Mass, then why do we still need to go to confession?

Recall when Jesus told Simon and his fishing companions to lower their nets after they had caught nothing. (See Luke 5:1–11.) When their boats began to sink with so many fish, Simon fell at Jesus' feet and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Likewise, at Mass, we're so filled with awe upon entering the presence of God that we become aware of our own sinfulness.

The penitential act prepares the assembly to enter the celebration in a proper spirit of humility. The priest and the faithful observe a period of silence to acknowledge their sinfulness and confess their awe of Christ's love and mercy. This is expressed in different forms, one of which is the Confiteor, a general confession that invokes the support of the communion of saints and the specific community gathered at Mass. It includes the instruction to strike one's breast, an ancient gesture of humility and penitence. (See Luke 18:13; 23:48.) The rite concludes with the priest's absolution, but it "lacks the efficacy of the sacrament of penance" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 51). Thus, the penitential act isn't a substitute for absolution from sins confessed in the sacrament of penance, particularly serious, mortal sins. Rather, it prepares the faithful as a unified community to properly listen to God's word and celebrate the Eucharist worthily (*GIRM* 46). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



ZULFIKAR KARIMOV / UNSPLASH

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the Church there is...a place for everyone, and... every Christian is called to proclaim the gospel and bear witness in every environment.... Thus,



FRANCESCO ALBERTI / UNSPLASH

this people shows its catholicity, welcoming the wealth and resources of different cultures and, at the same time, offering them the newness of the gospel to purify them and to raise them up.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 11, 2026

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

September 14
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Nm 21:4b–9
Phil 2:6–11
Jn 3:13–17

Tuesday

September 15
Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Cor 12:12–14, 27–31a
Jn 19:25–27 or
Lk 2:33–35

Wednesday

September 16
Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
1 Cor 12:31–13:13
Lk 7:31–35

Thursday

September 17
Weekday
1 Cor 15:1–11
Lk 7:36–50

Friday

September 18
Weekday
1 Cor 15:12–20
Lk 8:1–3

Saturday

September 19
Weekday
1 Cor 15:35–37, 42–49
Lk 8:4–15

Sunday

September 20
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:6–9
Phil 1:20c–24, 27a
Mt 20:1–16a