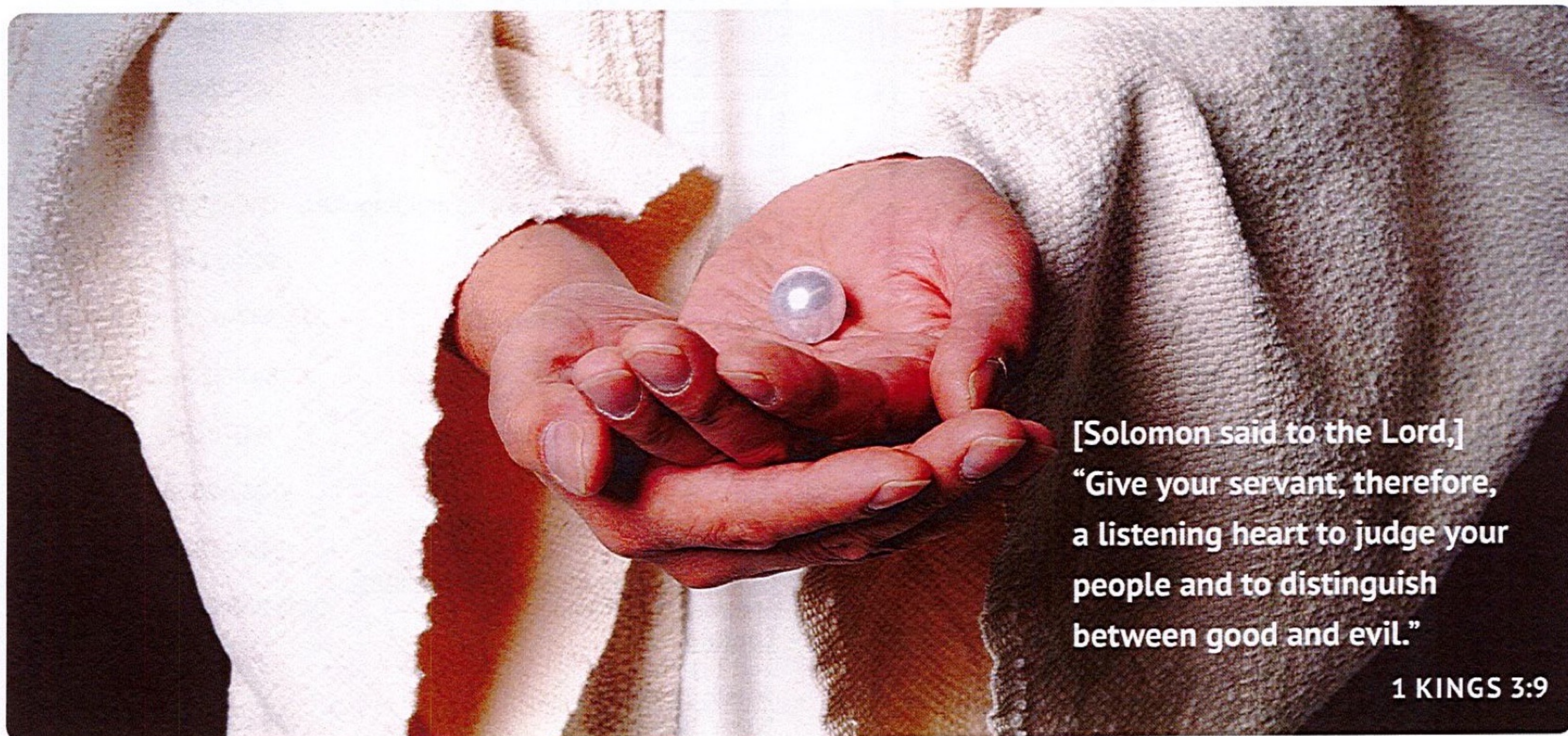




[Solomon said to the Lord,]
“Give your servant, therefore,
a listening heart to judge your
people and to distinguish
between good and evil.”

1 KINGS 3:9

What Image of the Kingdom Will You Serve Up?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Jesus' favorite thing to talk about was a mystery he called the kingdom of God, referred to in the Gospel of Matthew as the kingdom of heaven. He was not the first to speak of it. The prophets before him spoke often of God's dream for the world. They wanted all to know what it would look like when God reigns here on earth as God already reigns in the heavens. But Jesus added to that teaching by offering vivid new images of what God's reign is like. Matthew 13 is filled with such snapshots. The kingdom of heaven will be like a mustard seed, a pearl, a measure of leaven, a hidden treasure. It will be like a sower casting out seed, a wheat harvest, a net that catches many fish.

At the end of this litany, however, Jesus offers an image of what he expects of those who have received his teaching about the Kingdom. They are to be like “the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old” (Matthew 13:52). It sounds as if Jesus' disciples are to act like hosts of a banquet, setting the table with stories from across time to feed their guests with whatever words and images would best help them grasp the mystery of this kingdom. They are to continue Jesus' work of developing new ways to illumine a mystery that is in the end too great for words. ●



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THE AUTHORS
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Reflect

What image of God's kingdom would you offer people of the twenty-first century?

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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.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://stmichaelscvatholicchurch.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 p.m.: 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 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 25th – St. James, Apostle

4 p.m. Vigil Mass: Mr. and Mrs. Garland Liles †

by: Terry Phelps and family

2nd collection- Altar Society

*Anointing of the sick after Holy Mass

Sunday/ July 26th – Seventeenth Sunday

Ordinary Time

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Mary Welch †

by: Ron Martin and Family

2nd collection – Altar Society

*Anointing of the sick after Holy Mass

Monday/July 27th – Weekday

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

by: People of the parish

*KC Officers meeting 5 pm Rosary/ 5:30 pm meeting

Tuesday/ July 28th – Weekday

No Holy Mass

Wednesday/ July 29th– St(s) Martha, Mary and Lazarus

6 p.m. Holy Mass :Chuck Wolff

by : Terry Phelps and family

Thursday /July 30th – St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop/Dr.

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

by: People of the parish

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

Friday/ July 31st – St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All homebound parishioners

by: People of the parish

Saturday / August 1st – St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop/Dr.

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All parishioners who are sick (1st Saturday)

4 p.m. Vigil Mass: Lynn and Terry Phelps

by: The Phelps family

*Food Pantry collection / Anointing of the sick after Mass

Sunday/ August 2nd – Eighteenth Sunday

Ordinary Time

9 a.m. Holy Mass : John Patton †

by: Terry Phelps and family

* Anointing of the sick after Mass

*Food pantry collection/Sunday Bingo doors open at noon



17th Sun-A

What to Choose...? Or
What is the Most Important thing
that We look for...In our lives??



Power-Money-Fame-Comfort- Pleas

OR
Faith, Hope, Charity, Humi
Mercy, Holiness, Eternal Li

"What profit is there for
to gain the whole world
forfeit his life?"



— Mark 8:36

Wishing you a Blessed Week



July 18th and July 19th 2026

Main Collection \$2032.00

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: People of the parish in honor of all
our church volunteers.

Tabernacle Roses are generously
provided by: Rhonda Bystry in honor of
her daughter, Claia Bystry Casey's
birthday.

Kids Play Day !!!

Sunday August 9th we will have a "Last Summer Day Fling" for the kids before school starts. We will provide the water slide again. The kids will need to bring their swimsuits and a towel. It will be on the same day as the Knight's Big Breakfast so they can eat, change and then go play on the waterslide. Later in the day we will have hot dogs, chips and snacks for them. All kids come out and join us for a fun day before school starts !

Religious Education Registration

Mark your calendars for registration for religious education registration for adults and children. It will be on Saturday and Sunday August 15-16 and Saturday and Sunday August 22-23 before and after Holy Mass. Please sign up your children or any adult at one of these dates so the material can be ordered and be here in time for the classes when they start. Classes will begin in middle of September. For more information contact Lori Templet

Ph# 225-717-0238 or email : ltemplet2507@yahoo.com

St. Monica's Group

They meet monthly on the 1st Thursday of each month after 9 am Holy Mass in the church library. Please join them to pray for our children and grandchildren for their spiritual protection and strength in their Catholic faith.

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 1st 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 from the Knight's and it benefits our church !

Food Pantry Needs

Toilet paper, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats (any protein food) that is canned and dry milk. This is an example you can use for what is needed for the next collection on the 1st full weekend in August.

B-I-N-G-O RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE !

Bingo will be having a raffle Saturday and Sunday August 1st and 2nd we will be selling the tickets before and after Holy Mass. We have a microwave, Igloo cooler, man's watch and a variety of other goodies !

Tickets are \$1.00 each/6 for \$5.00/ 12 for \$10.00



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 Birckhead, 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 25th – Glenda Moore
July 26th – Ken Rodenbeck
July 27th – Nell Kihm
July 28th – Luke Rachankun
July 30th – Maureen Matselboba
July 31st – Samantha Eichhorn
July 31st – Mark Yingling



We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary !

♡ Michael and Stacey Burton on July 26th ♡ 29 years
♡ Dustin and Allison Munroe on July 26th ♡ 23 years

****PLEASE SUPPORT THE BINGO RAFFLE
THE BINGO COMMITTEE DOES SO MUCH
FOR OUR CHURCH and all the volunteers
donate many hours to keep Bingo going at
our church. Lets buy those tickets !**

To Learn More About Confession

Part 6b

1. What kinds of punishment are due to sin?

Two kinds of punishment are due to sin: the eternal punishment of hell, due to unforgiven mortal sins, and temporal punishment, lasting only for a time, due to venial sins and also to mortal sins after they have been forgiven. Eternal punishment is God's angry punishment, which balances the scales of justice upset by sin. This punishment is reserved for those in hell, since they refused to let God correct them on earth. Temporal punishment is God's loving, corrective punishment. This punishment is given either on earth or in purgatory.

2. Does the sacrament of Penance, worthily received, always take away all punishment?

The sacrament of Penance, worthily received, always takes away all eternal punishment; but it does not always take away all temporal punishment.

3. Why does God require temporal punishment for sin?

God requires temporal punishment for sin to satisfy His justice, to teach us the great evil of sin, and to warn us not to sin again. The wound caused by sin in the will is healed by the medicine of the sacrament of Penance. But there are also wounds in the other power of the soul. These are healed by the further medicine of temporal punishment. Temporal punishment repairs all the damage done to the soul by sin.

4. Where do we pay the debt of our temporal punishment?

We pay the debt of our temporal punishment either in this life or in purgatory.

5. What are the chief means of satisfying the debt of our temporal punishment, besides the penance imposed after confession?

Besides the penance imposed after confession, the chief means of satisfying the debt of our temporal punishment are: prayer, attending Mass, fasting, almsgiving, the works of mercy, the patient endurance of sufferings, and indulgences. The secret of healing the effects of sin quickly is love of the Cross. Our Lord tells us to take up our cross daily. But what is our cross? Our cross is everything that happens to us during the day that we do not like. When these things happen to us, it is a sign of God's love. He is sending crosses to heal the wounds of our soul. Crosses heal us quickly if we accept them and love them the way Our Lord did. We must pray for help to recognize and love the crosses God sends us each day.

6. Before entering the confessional, how should we prepare ourselves for a good confession?

Before entering the confessional, we should prepare ourselves for a good confession by taking sufficient time not only to examine our conscience but, especially, to excite in our hearts sincere sorrow for our sins and a firm purpose not to commit them again. Never enter the confessional without at least a few minutes (at least 5) of preparation.

7. How should we begin our confession?

We should begin our confession in this manner: entering the confessional we make the sign of the cross as say to the priest: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned"; and then we tell how long it has been since our last confession

8. After telling the time of our last confession, what do we confess?

If we have committed any mortal sins since our last confession, we must confess them, and also any that we have forgotten in previous confessions, telling the nature and number of each; we may also confess any venial sins we wish to mention. (For example: "I missed Mass once. I was disobedient ten times. I told lies 5 times. I was unkind eight times)."

9. What should we do if we cannot remember the exact number of our mortal sins?

If we cannot remember the exact number of our mortal sins, we should tell the number as nearly as possible, or say how often we have committed the sins in a day, a week, a month, or a year.

10. What should we do when we have committed no mortal sin since our last confession?

When we have committed no mortal sin since our last confession, we should confess our venial sins or some sin told in a previous confession, for which we are again sorry, in order that the priest may give us absolution.

11. How should we end our confession?

We should end our confession by saying: "I am sorry for these and all the sins of my past life, especially for ...; and then it is well to tell one or several of the sins which we have previously confessed and for which we are particularly sorry. After telling our sins, at the end, we say, "For these and all my other sins, which I cannot remember or call to mind. I am truly sorry for my sins."

12. What should we do after confessing our sins?

After confessing our sins, we should answer truthfully any question the priest asks, seek advice if we feel that we need any, listen carefully to the spiritual instruction and counsel of the priest, and accept the penance he gives us.

13. What should we do when the priest is giving us absolution?

When the priest is giving us absolution, we should say from our heart the act of contrition in a tone to be heard by him. Remember that you are telling Our Lord you are sorry you have hurt Him. Be sure to mean what you are saying.

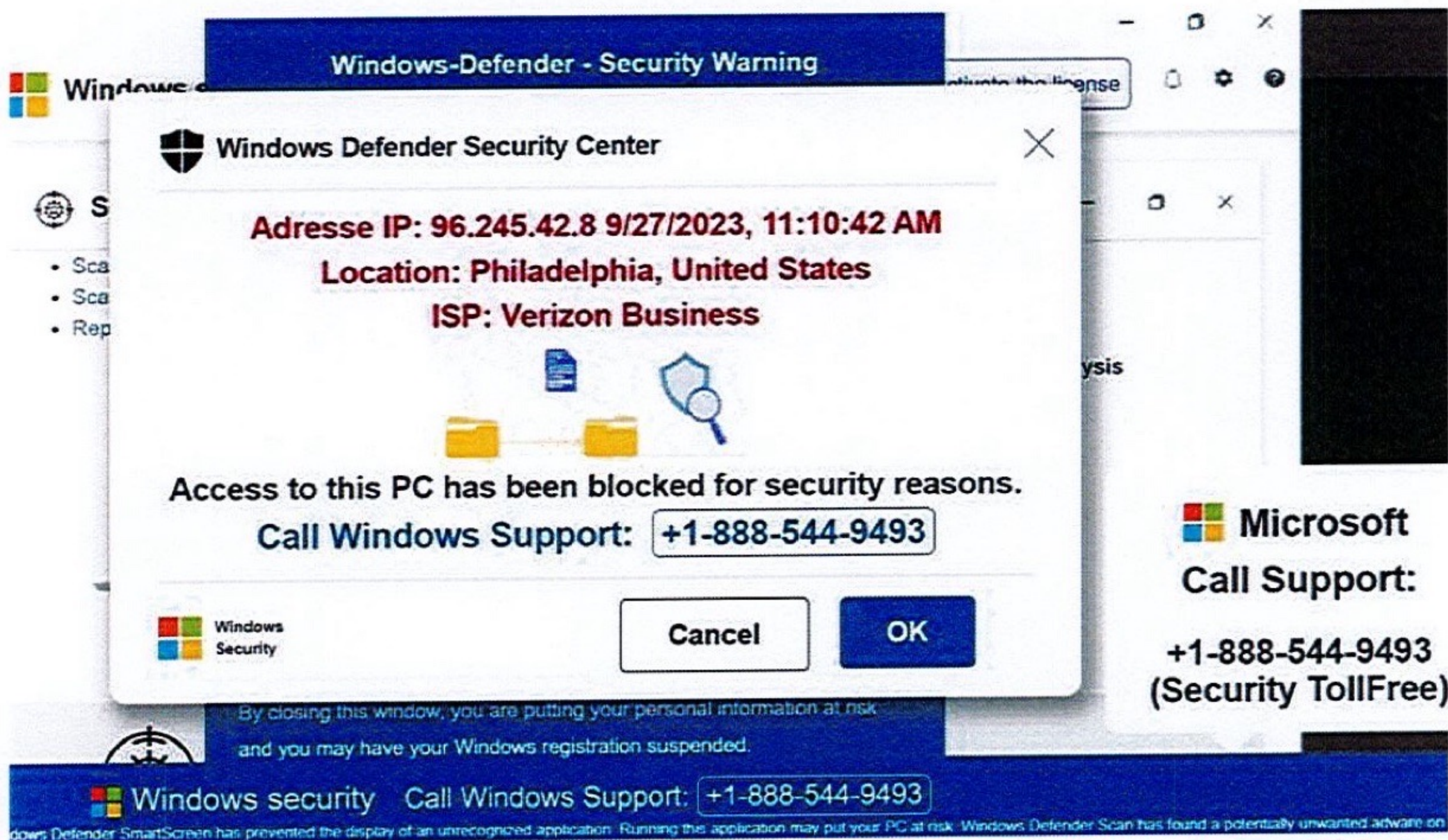
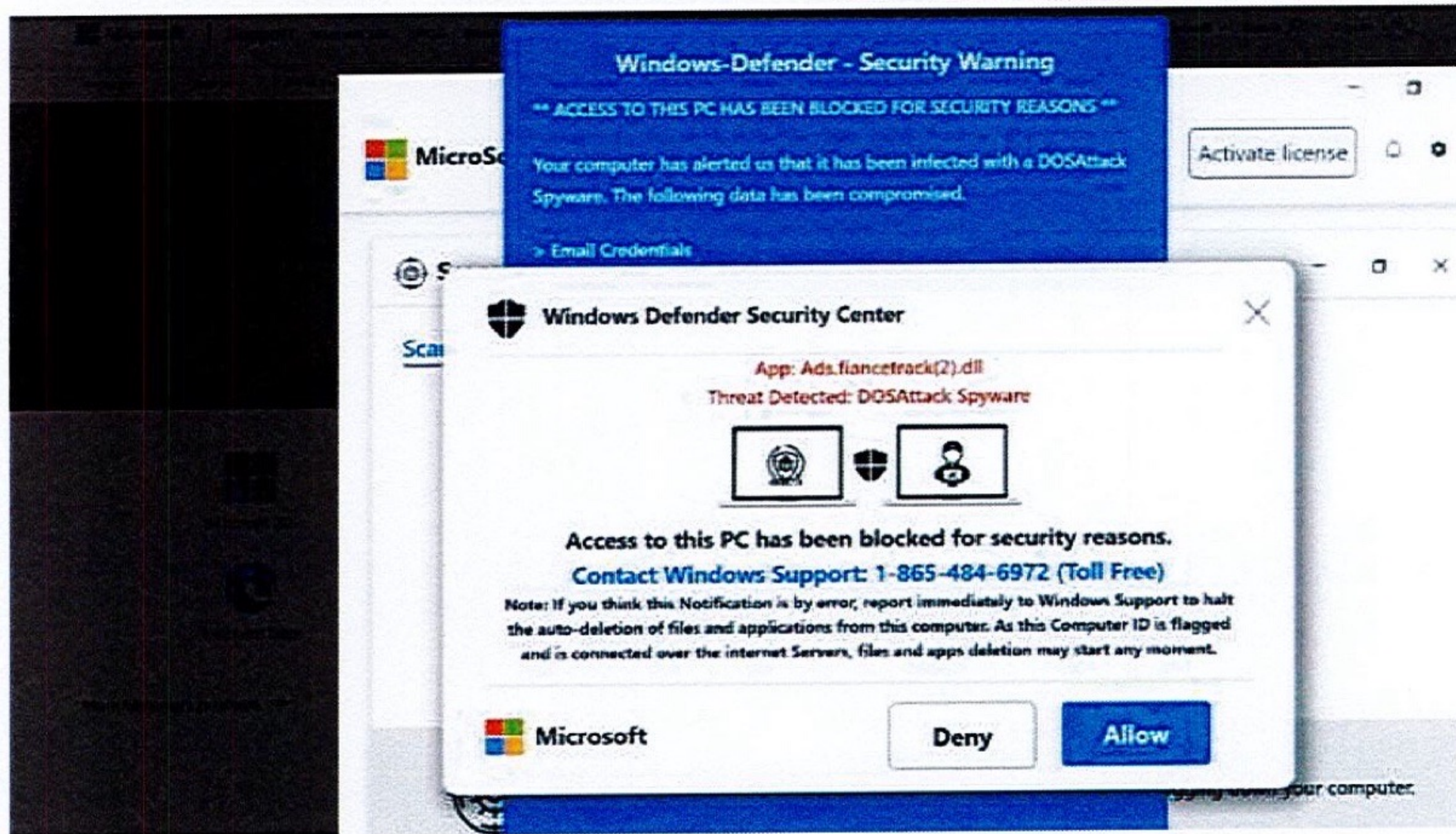
14. What should we do after leaving the confessional?

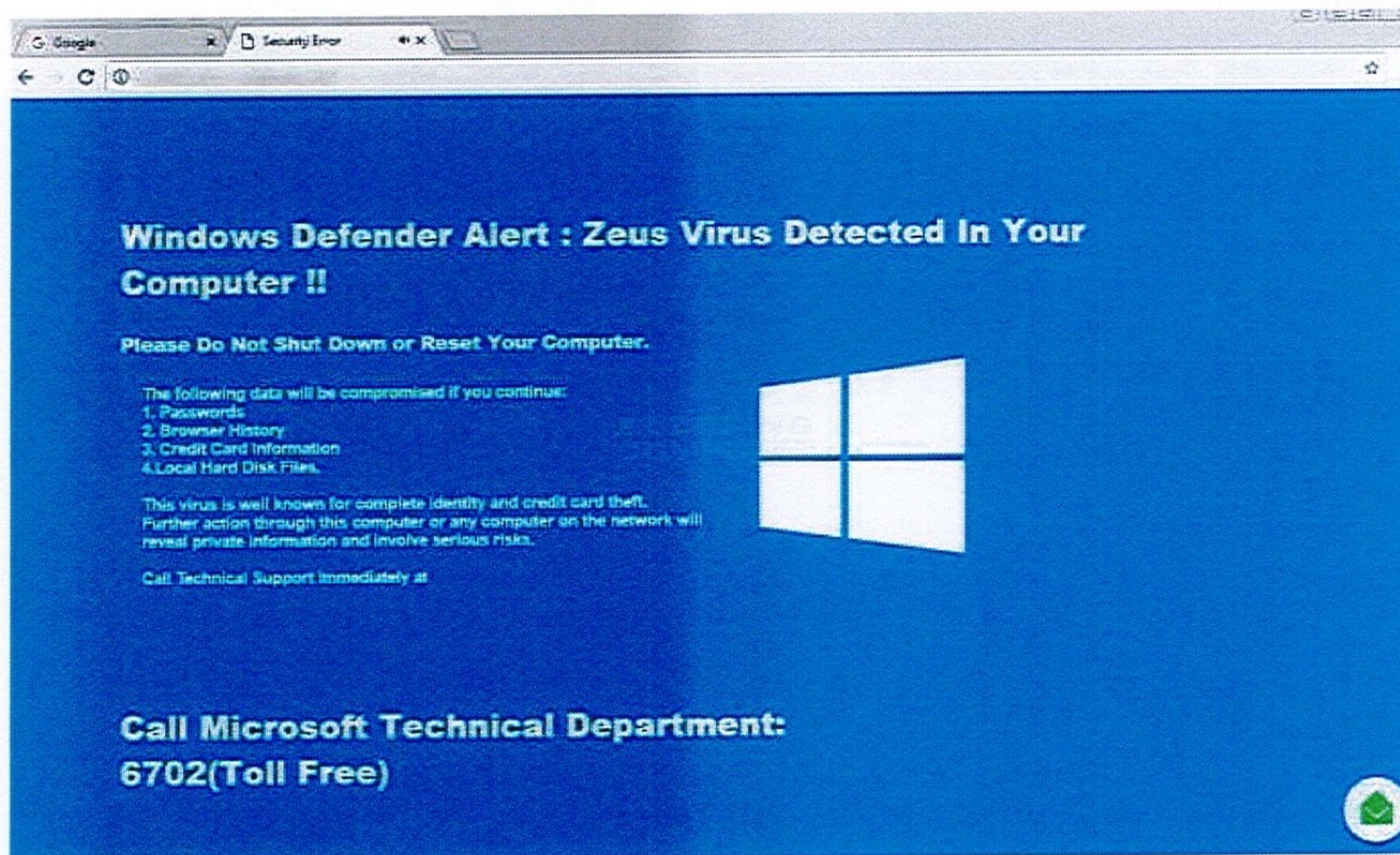
After leaving the confessional we should return thanks to God for the sacrament we have received, beg Our Lord to supply for the imperfections of our confession, and promptly and devoutly perform our penance. Always spend a few minutes in thanksgiving after Our Lord has healed your soul. Thank Him from the bottom of your heart for all He went through in His Passion, since His sufferings paid the price for this medicine of the Sacrament of Penance. Think over what you can do to improve.

July 26, 2026

Computer “Pop-Up Scams”

In these scams, a “Pop-Up window” will appear after different google searches are made, or after the computer is restarted (because the malware is already in place). The “Pop-Up windows” often look like something below.





It will ask you to click on the link or to call the Microsoft phone number that's listed.

Clicking on the link can give the scammers access to your computer and network information. And calling the Microsoft phone number that's listed (**which isn't legitimate**) will direct you to an individual who may direct you to withdraw cash and meet up for an exchange; to wire funds; to make deposits in cryptocurrency; or otherwise issue you threats and ultimatums.

The scams may also direct you to a "refund portal" or "refund processing" site—all of which may look legitimate, but which are remote access tools allowing the scammer to access your computer. Some of the more prominent bogus sites right now are: **TeamViewer; AnyDesk; Zoho Assist; LogMeIn Resolve; UltraViewer; ConnectWise; and GoToAssist.**

The guidance we've received from civil authorities is as follows: **If you see one of these "Microsoft Pop-Up windows,"**

1. **DO NOT click on anything and DO NOT call any numbers listed.**
2. **Immediately hold the power button until your computer completely shuts down.**
3. **Contact your IT professional to assist you with restarting your computer and scanning it for any viruses, malware, ransomware, etc.**
4. **If needed, notify local or federal law enforcement and/or the Attorney General Consumer Protection division (see also, <https://arkansasag.gov/divisions/public-protection/common-scams/>).**

-Information from DOLR, Chancellor's office

Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
Burial Plots

Contact: Bernie Brandenburg

St. Michael's Columbarium
Payment Plans Available

Contact: Jim Wege



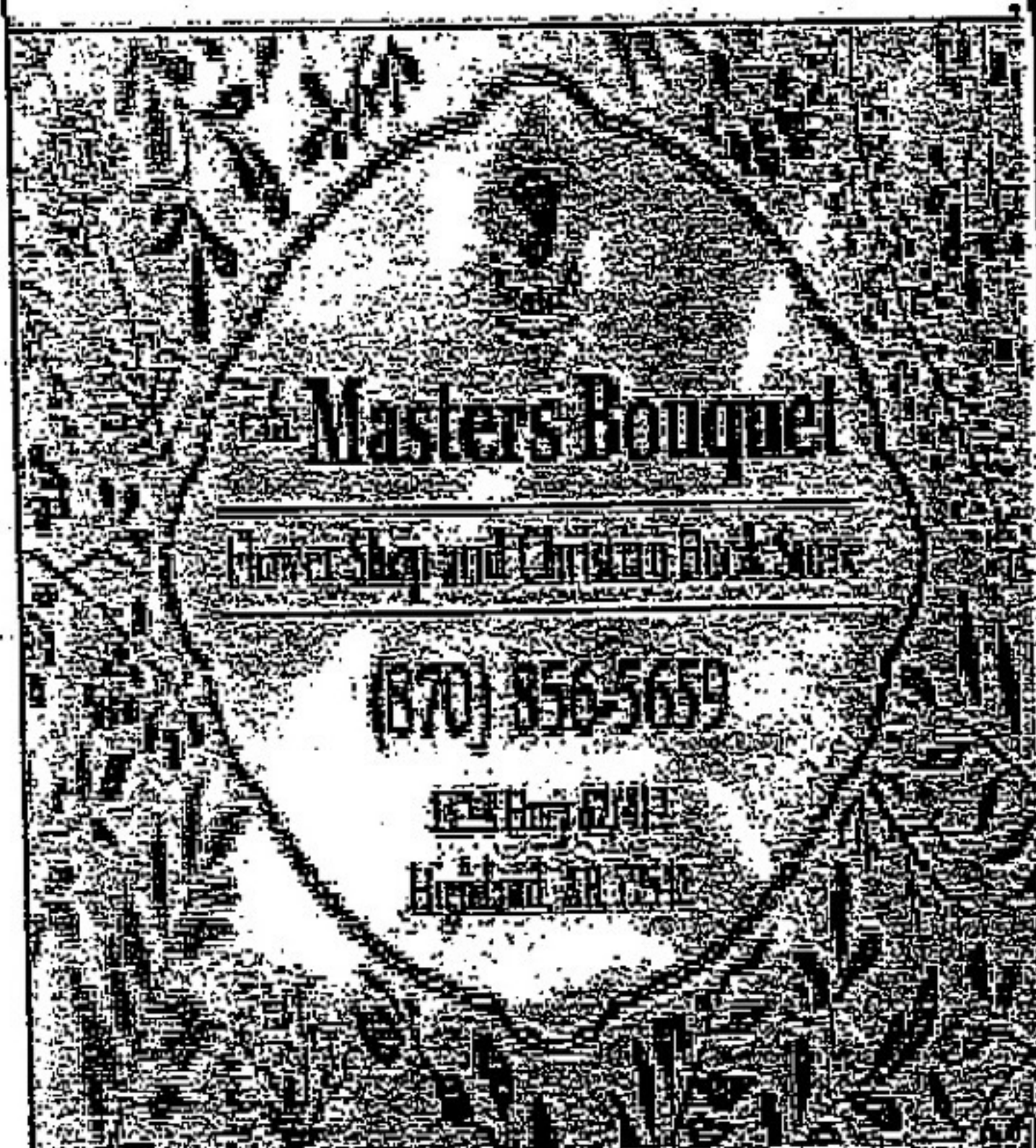
St. Michael's Parish Hall
Thursday 6 p.m.
Doors Open at 5 p.m.
1st Sunday of the month
1 p.m. Doors Open at 12 p.m.

CANYON

CONSTRUCTION

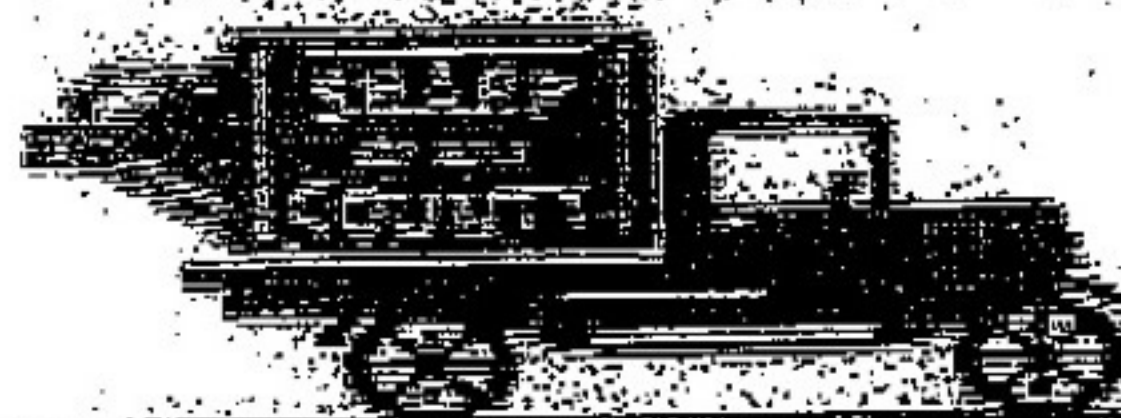
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CHARITY, UNITY,
FRATERNITY

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



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(870) 994-LIFE (5433)

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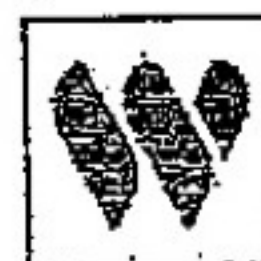
1-800-712-HELP (4357)

TXT Helpline to 313131

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Confessions after every Mass
Adoration after Friday Mass

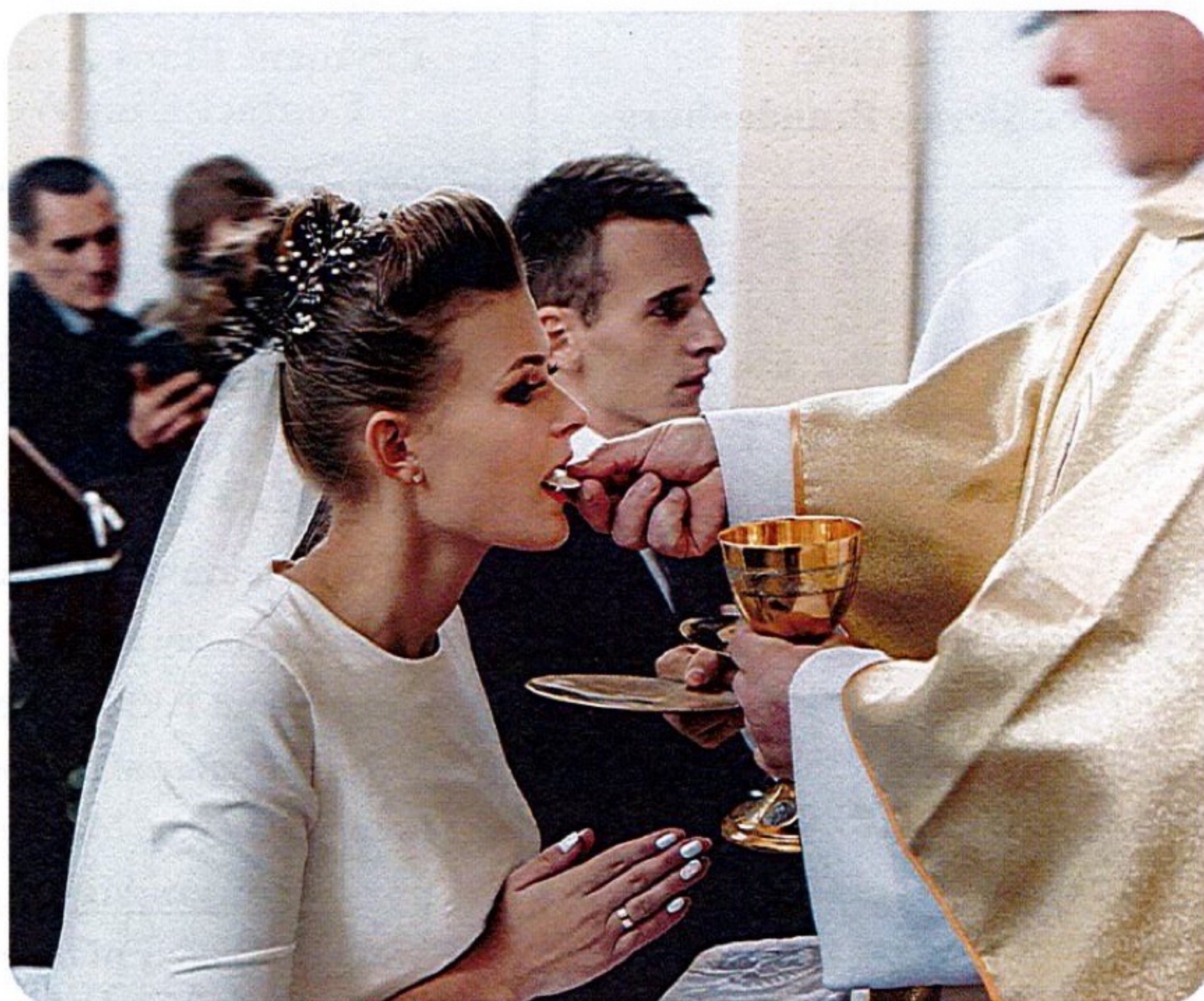
churchoffice@stmaryshsb.org
Horseshoe Bend AR.72512
(870) 670-5896

Dear Padre,

I'm in the OCIA program. My wife and I were married civilly. She goes to a non-denominational church but is not baptized. Someone said we would have to get our marriage "convalidated." Why? And what does that mean?

Convalidation is a legal term, but it can also be understood as good pastoral practice and even more as a wise spiritual choice. Basically, from a legal point of reference, your marriage took place outside of the canonical structure of the Church.

It needs to be "regularized" and "documented" for you to move forward. Because your wife is not baptized, it cannot be a sacramental marriage, which requires baptism, but it can be made valid and recorded in official Church documentation. Such documentation is helpful, particularly if you have children and intend to raise them as Catholic. Also, if your wife ever decides to become a baptized Catholic, your marriage would automatically become a sacramental marriage when she is baptized. Nothing more is required of you. All in all, it is a good decision and a positive step in your spiritual journey. ●



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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

God speaks to us.... [T]he first attitude to cultivate is listening, so that the divine Word may penetrate our minds and our hearts; at the same time, we are required to speak with God, not to communicate to him what he already knows, but to reveal ourselves to ourselves. Hence the need for prayer, in which we are called to live and to cultivate friendship with the Lord.

**GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME, JANUARY 14,
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

July 27
Weekday
Jer 13:1-11
Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday

July 28
Weekday
Jer 14:17-22
Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday

July 29
Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
Jer 15:10, 16-21
Jn 11:19-27 or
Lk 10:38-42

Thursday

July 30
Weekday
Jer 18:1-6
Mt 13:47-53

Friday

July 31
St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Jer 26:1-9
Mt 13:54-58

Saturday

August 1
St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Jer 26:11-16, 24
Mt 14:1-12

Sunday

August 2
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:1-3
Rom 8:35, 37-39
Mt 14:13-21