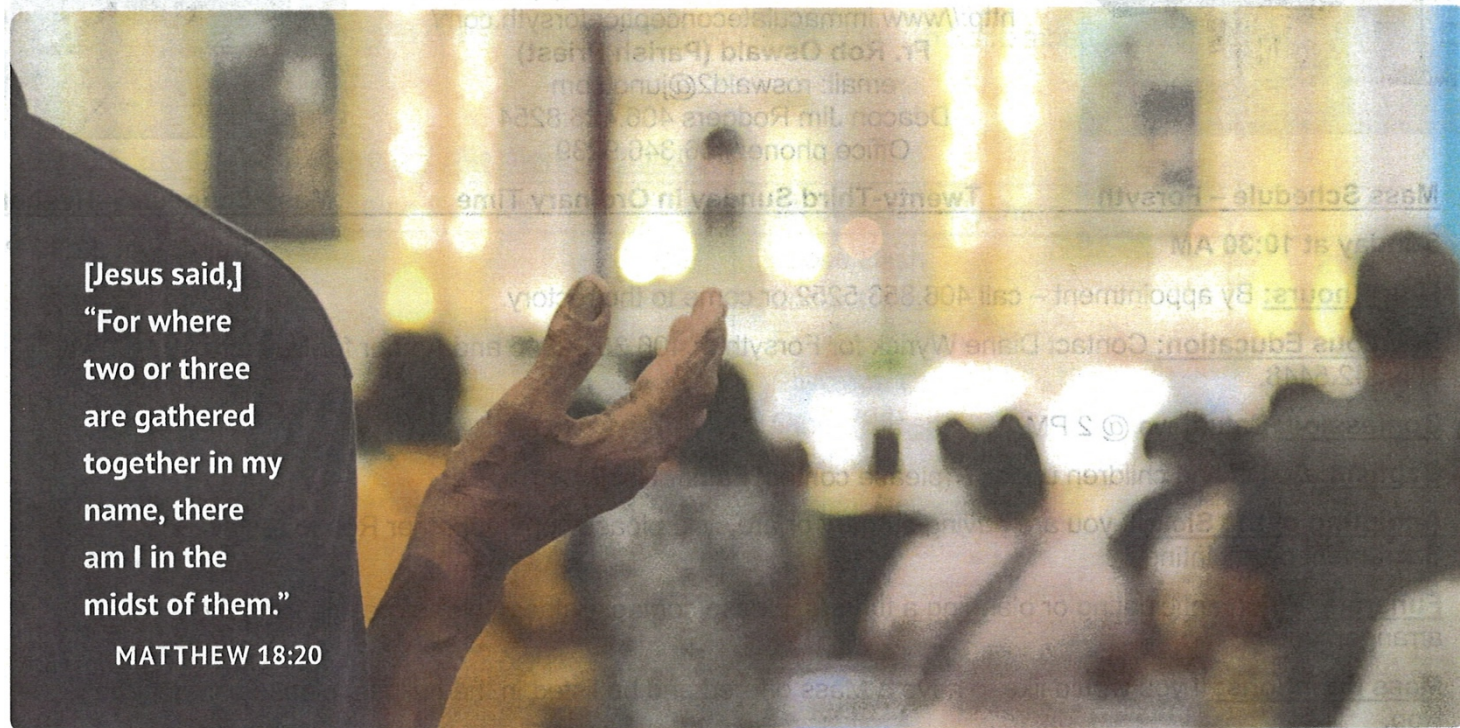




[Jesus said,]
“For where
two or three
are gathered
together in my
name, there
am I in the
midst of them.”

MATTHEW 18:20

Like a Gentile or a Tax Collector

ANN M. GARRIDO

As someone who works in the field of conflict management, I like to think that all situations can be worked out if we go about it in a skilled manner. If we use the right words. Ask the right kinds of questions. It's embarrassing to admit that even the best “tools” in my “conflict belt” sometimes still effect little change. Today's gospel can be consoling in a strange way. It acknowledges that even when we use all the tools we have on hand to heal a relationship, it doesn't always work out. Sometimes, we may need to become strangers to one another, at least for a while—like a Jew to a Gentile or a tax collector.

Of course, when Jesus says “treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector,” it is important to consider how Jesus treated Gentiles and tax collectors. He healed the centurion's servant. He ate in Zacchaeus' house. Jesus did not see Gentiles and tax collectors as enemies and did not treat them as such. Rather, Jesus understood Gentiles and tax collectors as those with whom he might start a relationship should the opportunity present itself. The past cannot be rewritten, but perhaps a different kind of future is still possible.

Is there a relationship in your life that feels beyond healing at this point and from which perhaps you need some distance? Is it still possible to treat the other person with the kindness Jesus showed toward Gentiles and tax collectors? ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Could I improve how I handle conflict with others?



**Immaculate Conception &
St. Joseph's Catholic Church**

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email: roswald2@juno.com

Deacon Jim Rodgers 406.426.8254

Office phone: 406.346.9239



Mass Schedule – Forsyth

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule – Hysham

Sunday at 10:30 AM

Sunday at 12:30 PM

Office hours: By appointment – call 406.853.5252 or come to the rectory.

Religious Education: Contact Diane Wyrick for Forsyth at 406.351.2845 and Amber for Hysham at 406.342.5448.

Confession: Saturdays @ 2 PM.

Baptism: Adults and children under 7 (please contact Father Rob.)

Anointing of the Sick: If you are having surgery or are sick, please contact Father Rob to receive the Sacrament of Anointing.

Funerals: When anticipating or planning a funeral, please contact Father Rob before finalizing the arrangements.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered and be listed in the bulletin, please contact Father Rob.

Homebound & Sick: If you or someone you know can no longer attend Mass due to physical inability, please contact Father Rob or Diane Wyrick at 406.351.2845 or Rosemary in Hysham at 406.740.1457 to receive Holy Communion and Anointing.

Immaculate Conception Prayer Chain: For requests, call Cherie Heser at 406.351.9048.

Mass & Liturgy Schedule:

Sunday	09/06	8:30 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Terry Wilson from Ann Kanta.
Sunday	09/06	12:30 PM	Mass for Hysham for Bob & Jill Ouren from Joan Thibault.
Tuesday	09/08	5:15 PM	Mass in Forsyth for Paula Seliski from Betty Sperle.
Friday	09/11	9:00 AM	Mass in Forsyth for the Silvernagel Family from Jon & Carol Wigen.
Saturday	09/12	4:00 PM	Mass at the Nursing Home for the Wigen Family from Jon & Carol Wigen.
Sunday	09/13	10:30 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Rick Scheidt from the Pester Family.
Sunday	09/13	12:30 PM	Mass for Hysham for Healing for Travis Walker from Joan Thibault.

† Rosary every Monday at 8:15 AM, Tuesday at 4:45 PM and Friday at 8:30 AM.

† Religious education for children Sunday at 9:30 AM.

† Bible Study in Forsyth is Friday morning after Mass.

† CCD & Sacramental Prep Classes on Sunday morning. Questions: Please contact Diane Wyrick in Forsyth and Amber in Hysham.

† Mass times at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Colstrip Sunday 8:30 AM.

† CCW meeting the 2nd Sunday after Mass.

Announcements:

The Outreach Clinic in Miles City has collected \$28,290 of its \$32,000 goal for 2026 so far from the Baby Bottle Drive. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you to the K of C for sponsoring the Parish Picnic for Forsyth and Hysham on the 30th. It is much appreciated!

Fr. Rob has priests' meetings in Great Falls from September 14th through September 17th, so there will be no Mass on Tuesday the 15th.

Finance Update: Last Sunday Collection: 08/30/2026

Immaculate Conception – Forsyth		St. Joseph – Hysham	
Loose Cash	586.00	Loose Cash	21.00
Loose Checks	35.00	Loose Checks	110.00
Envelope Cash	60.00	Envelope Cash	0.00
Envelope Checks	575.00	Envelope Checks	420.00
Other (Bathroom)	0.00	Other (Stipend)	0.00
Music	0.00	Building Fund	0.00
Special Collection (Stipend)	0.00	Special Collection	0.00
Special Collection (Peters Pence)	0.00	Capital Campaign	0.00
Current Operating Fund	0.00	Current Operating Fund	0.00
TOTAL:	\$ 1256.00	TOTAL:	\$ 551.00

Forsyth & Hysham Ministry Schedule for next Sunday: 09/13/2026

Forsyth:			
	Time	Service	Names
	Mass at 10:30 AM	Eucharistic Ministers	Phil Steinberger & Frank Smith
		Cross Bearer	Phil Steinberger
		Lector	Lloyd Nelson
		Ushers	Wayne & Heather Pester
		Gifts	Wayne & Heather Pester
		Col. Counters	Wayne Pester & Brian Sullivan
		Sacristan	Heather Pester
Hysham:			
	Mass at 12:30 PM	Eucharistic Ministers	Joan Thibault & Renee Zent
		Lector	Hope Manning

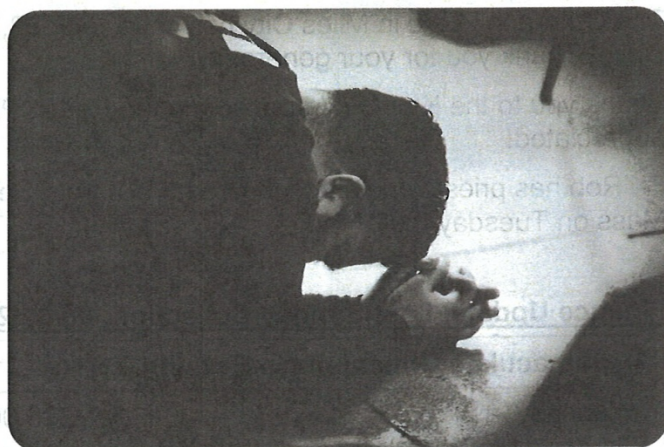
Dear Padre,

I had not been to confession for decades until recently, and I've probably committed mortal sins I can't remember. I want God's forgiveness, but I'm unsure how to get it at this time.

You ask if God has forgiven you for sins that you may have committed in the past but that you don't remember now. You say you have been to confession recently.

A mortal sin has three criteria: it is seriously wrong; the person knows it is seriously wrong; and the person is free to commit the sin or not. In the case you are describing, you don't even remember what the mortal sin might have been, or even if there was one. So, no, you don't have to confess something you don't remember. Also, you have already gone to confession recently, and you sound truly repentant for your past sins. You do not indicate that you were deliberately trying to hide any sins from the priest. So, you have already been forgiven, not only for the sins you remembered but also for those you don't remember. That is why usually we will say something like "for these sins and for those I may have forgotten" when we go to confession.

The bottom line is that confession is for you to experience God's mercy. It is not to test how good your memory is. Be at peace. God loves you and particularly wants you to experience the peace that comes from his forgiveness. ●



LUIGI JENNIFER / JAMES L. JAMES

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

The Church is at the same time an earthly community and the mystical body of Christ, a visible assembly and a spiritual mystery, a reality present in history and a people journeying toward heaven (Lumen Gentium, 8; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 771). The human and divine

dimensions integrate harmoniously, without one overshadowing the other.... [The Church] is a reality that is both human and divine.

**GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME, MARCH 4, 2026**

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CHRISTIAN HARB / UNSPLASH

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 7

Weekday

1 Cor 5:1–8

Lk 6:6–11

Tuesday

September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1–4a or

Rom 8:28–30

Mt 1:1–16, 18–23

or 1:18–23

Wednesday

September 9

St. Peter Claver, Priest

1 Cor 7:25–31

Lk 6:20–26

Thursday

September 10

Weekday

1 Cor 8:1b–7, 11–13

Lk 6:27–38

Friday

September 11

Weekday

1 Cor 9:16–19,

22b–27

Lk 6:39–42

Saturday

September 12

Weekday

1 Cor 10:14–22

Lk 6:43–49

Sunday

September 13

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30–28:7

Rom 14:7–9

Mt 18:21–35