



**"We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage."**

MATTHEW 2:2

Following Jesus Without a Star to Guide Us

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage" (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God's universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God's grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—"in the weeds," so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more "gray" than "black and white." There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God's grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God's will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●



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THE AUTHORS
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COMMUNITY

Reflect

How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions?



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Mass Schedule – Forsyth

Sunday at 8:30 AM

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 or any member of the Prayer Chain listed on the bulletin board in Parish Hall.

Mass & Liturgy Schedule:

Sunday	01/04	8:30 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Frances Grasky (D) from Helen Killen.
Sunday	01/04	12:30 PM	Mass in Hysham for Katie & John Olson (D) from David & Rosemary Olson Family.
Tuesday	01/06	5:15 PM	Mass in Forsyth for Lyonors Murnion (D) from Nick & LeAnn Murnion.
Friday	01/09	9:00 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Voyle Triplett from the Steinberger Family.
Saturday	01/10	4:00 PM	Mass at the Nursing Home for Charity Aguirre from Donna Zachmann.
Sunday	01/11	8:30 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Charlene Myrvick from Donna Zachmann.
Sunday	01/11	12:30 PM	Mass in Hysham for Jean Schantz Paul (D) from David & Rosemary Olson Family.

† 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 10:30 AM.

† CCW meeting the 2nd Sunday after Mass.

Announcements:

Please note: The Christmas Season continues through Sunday, January 11th.

St. Joseph, Hysham: Deacon Jim will lead a study group on "The Eucharist in Scripture" by Scott Hahn. It is a 6-part talk/video about the connection between the Old and New Testament and includes three of Hahn's books. It will start at 6:30 PM and go to 8:00 PM. The first session will be Monday, January 12th, and continue each week for 6 weeks. Forsyth will follow in the coming weeks.

Finance Update: Last Sunday Collection: 12/24, 25 & 28/2025

Immaculate Conception – Forsyth			St. Joseph – Hysham		
Loose Cash	305.00	285.00	Loose Cash	551.00	1170.00
Loose Checks	215.00	510.00	Loose Checks	1370.00	0.00
Envelope Cash	0.00	140.00	Envelope Cash	30.00	10.00
Envelope Checks	1950.00	430.00	Envelope Checks	525.00	1150.00
Other (Bathroom)		20.00	Other		0.00
Cathedraticum Assessment		0.00	Building Fund		0.00
Special Collection		0.00	Special Collection		0.00
Capital Campaign		0.00	Capital Campaign		0.00
Current Operating Fund		0.00	Current Operating Fund		0.00
TOTAL:	\$ 2470.00	1385.00	TOTAL:	\$ 2476.00	2330.00

Forsyth & Hysham Ministry Schedule for next Sunday: 01/11/2026

Forsyth:			
	Time	Service	Names
	Mass at 8:30 AM	Eucharistic Ministers	Frank Smith & Diane Wyrick
		Cross Bearer	Frank Smith
		Lector	Cherie Heser
		Ushers	Doug & Cherie Heser
		Gifts	Doug & Cherie Heser
		Col. Counters	Brian Sullivan & Ray Smith
		Sacristan	Margo Anderson
Hysham:			
	Mass at 12:30 PM	Eucharistic Ministers	Del Warren & Joan Thibault
		Lector	Mary Mitchell

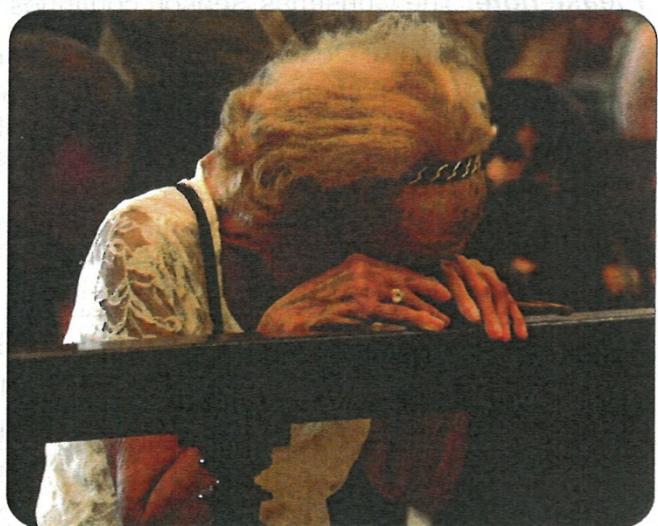
Dear Padre,

I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, "Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...") weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It's because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday	Wednesday	Saturday
January 5 <i>St. John Neumann, Bishop</i> 1 Jn 3:22–4:6 Mt 4:12–17, 23–25	January 7 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:11–18 Mk 6:45–52	January 10 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:14–21 Jn 3:22–30
Tuesday	Thursday	Sunday
January 6 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:7–10 Mk 6:34–44	January 8 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:19–5:4 Lk 4:14–22a	January 11 <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i> Is 42:1–4, 6–7 Acts 10:34–38 Mt 3:13–17
Friday		
January 9 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:5–13 Lk 5:12–16		