February 16, 2025 16 de Febrero de 2025

SAINT ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH IGLESIA DE SANTA ANA

Berryville, GR

Mass Schedule/
Horario de misas
Wednesday/Miercoles 6pm
Saturday/Sabado 8:30am
Sunday/Domingo
Mass in English 11:00am
Misa en español 1:00pm

Parish Contact Information
Info. de contacto de la parr
Parish Phone: (870) 423-3927
Parish Email:
secretary@stannesberryville.com
Pastor Emergency Number:
(870) 929-6374
Pastor Email:

frjoseph@stannesberryville.com <u>Mailing Address</u>: 614 S. Main St.

Berryville, AR 72616

Parish Staff & Ministry
Personal y Ministerio Parr
Pastor
Rev. Joseph Archibong

Deacon Dc. Elias Rangel

Secretary/Bookkeeper Regina Morris

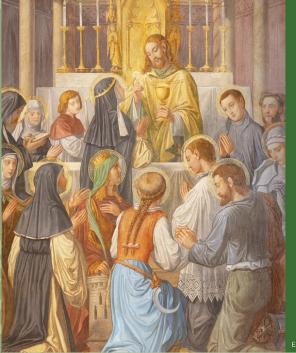
DRE/Faith Formation
Pam Richter

Liturgical Music Ellen Eby

Música litúrgica Jesse Fernandez de Lara

RCIA Coordinator Robin Grear

Parish Council Jeneanne Duncan



6[™] SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gio

"Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh." - Lk 6:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/ EL SACRAMENTO DE LA RECONCILIATION

is offered at 9:00 am after the Saturday morning Mass and during the Holy Hour on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-5:45 pm /se ofrece a las 9:00 am después de la misa del sábado por la mañana y durante la Hora Santa los miércoles por la tarde de 5:00 a 5:45pm

ADORACIÓN DEL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO

is on every Wednesday at 5:00pm and every First Friday from 7pm to 8am the following morning. / es todos los miércoles a las 5:00 pm y el primer viernes de 7:00 pm a 8:00 am la mañana siguiente.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE/VIDA SACRAMENTAL

If you are interested in receiving any of the Sacraments, please contact the parish office./ Si está interesado en recibir alguno de los sacramentos, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial.



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

11am: +Manuel Ibarra Mejia 1pm: Familia Niño Vargas

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

6pm:

NO MASS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:30am:

NO MASS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

11am: +Eric Grear 1pm: +Maria Vargas Aguilera

Liturgical Ministers

Sunday, February 16

Lector: Connie Doss Extraord. Ministers: Margie Kyle, Clarelyse Krajeski, Sommer Paine, Terry Dean

Sunday, February 23

Lector: Derek Paine Extraord. Ministers: Kathy Clark, Ron Eby, Clarelyse Krajeski, Terry Dean

Knights of Columbus Fried Catfish Dinners March 7, March 21, April 4

5:00pm-7:00pm Parish Hall

\$15/\$18

St. Elizabeth

232 Passion Play Rd., Eureka Springs, AR 72632



Our Seminarians for the month of February, 2025

Samuel Stengel
Contact address:
St. Meinrad Seminary,
200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
For more information
on our seminarians, go to
www.dolr.org/seminarians



Quinton Thomas



Our Parishioners: Alexa & Alexia Arrizon, Ting
Tuazon, Aurora Tuazon, Antonio Nino, Terry & Pat
Dean, Del Waller, Andrew Tovar, Mary Lou Fuller,
Toni Meyers, Myrtle Tharp, Tiffany, Jesse, Bill &
Faye McKee, Mataya and Rayland Winburn, Maya
Tamayo, Maria Sandoval, Maria Welch, Cindy
Mitchell, David, Jane & Monica Reuter, Denise
Reuter, Rodriguez Family, Baldwin Family, Elver
Morales, Sebastian Camarillo, Chris Jablonski, June
Sawyer, David Ingram, Barbara Strain, Larry Miller, Kathy Owen, and Norma Miller.

Nursing home patients and homebound:

Betty Blach, Kevin Harris, Paul Chapel, Shirley Johnson, Flo Fitzsimmons and Bill Jenkins and Grace Doss.

Our Military & Law Enforcement: Marissa Richter—Army Nat'l Guard, Jonathon Waller—Army, Michael A. Wilhelm-Army in Korea, Dr. Kate Williams—Army Reserve, Daniel Clifford—Chief Navy Officer, Thomas Dean—Corrections Officer, Robert Dean—EMT, Michael Alcala-Airforce. Robert Bartos, Eric Richter, Mary Clifford, Josue Rangel, and all others in the Armed Forces & Law Enforcement.



PHOTO CONTEST

Any Arkansas photographer, 18 or older, can enter their photo of a local Catholic church or institution for a chance to be featured on the cover of

the 2026 Diocese of Little Rock directory . Arkansas Catholic sponsors the annual cover photo contest. The contest entry deadline is March 17. Complete rules and how to enter are available at Arkansascatholic.org/. For more information, contact Debbie Kelley at dkelly@dolr.org. or 501-664-0125.

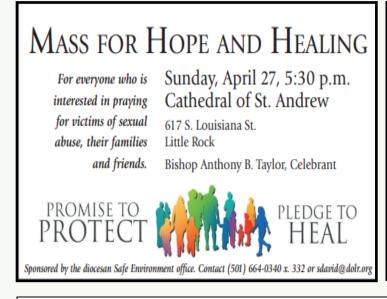
CHURCH IN CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE

This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule and now struggling with the war in Ukraine. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation and poverty outreach. Thank you for your generosity to the collection today. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

Retiro de Oracion y Sanación: El ministerio de Proyecto Raquel ofrecerá un retiro para mujeres o hombres que sufren a causa un aborto provocado el sabado 22 de febrero de 2025 de 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. en el noroeste de Arkansas. La ubicación exacta solo se revela a los participantes. Este retiro se llevará a cabo



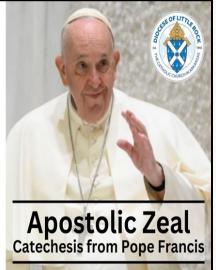
en español. Para inscribirte u obtener más información, llama o envía un texto a la línea confidencial 501-663-0996 o envía un correo electrónico a projectrachel@dolr.org. Aunque sientas miedo o vergüenza, contacta a Proyecto Raquel. No estás sola y este retiro es sin juzgar. La esperanza, la sanación y el perdón son posibles. Todas las comunicaciones son confidenciales.







Go to learn.dolr.org/courses/AZ





La Diócesis Católica de Little Rock está comprometida con la protección de niños y jóvenes. Si tiene conocimiento de abuso o ha sido abusado por clérigos, voluntarios de la Iglesia o trabajadores de la Iglesia, comuníquese con la Línea Directa del Estado de Arkansas para Delitos contra Niños al 1-800-482-5964 y el Canciller de Asuntos Canónicos, Dcn. Matthew A. Glover, (501) 664-0340 ext. 361. Para obtener ayuda pastoral, comuníquese con el Coordinador de Asistencia a las Víctimas de la Diócesis de Little Rock: Laura Gottsponer (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diócesis de Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.



The Catholic Diocese of Little Rock is committed to protecting children and young people. If you are aware of abuse or have been abused by clerics, Church volunteers, or Church workers, please contact the State of Arkansas Hotline for Crimes against Children at 1-800-482-5964 and the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs, Dcn. Matthew A. Glover, (501) 664-0340 ext. 361. For pastoral assistance please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Little Rock: Laura Gottsponer (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD. (Jer 17:7)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. (Ps 1)

Second Reading:

If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain. (1 Cor 15:16-17)

Gospel:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours." (Lk 6:20)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Too many of us make the mistake of expecting prosperity here on Earth as a reward for following Christ. But Jesus is very clear: sorrow and hardship are a part of life. But when we offer these sufferings to Christ, they become transformed. They become blessed. And so do we.

Observances for the week of February 16, 2025

Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

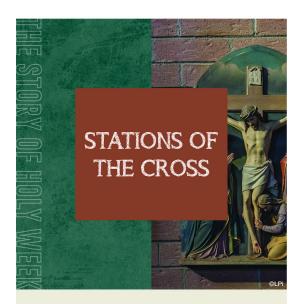
Monday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order;

Presidents' Day

Friday: St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Next Sunday: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, Explained!

Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have meditated upon Christ's passion and death. Over the centuries, the Stations of the Cross was popularized as a devotional means to experience the places and moments central to the story of Holy Week.

Prayer of God's Blessing

Bless me, Lord, mold my heart in imitation of Yours.

Bless me, Lord, help me to see people as You do, and to hear their needs.

Bless me, Lord, replace my understanding with Yours.

Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 16, 2025

Sunday:

Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a)/ 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26

Monday:

Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday:

Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday:

Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/ Mk 8:22-26

Thursday:

Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mk 8:27-33

Friday:

Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/ Mk 8:34—9:1

Saturday:

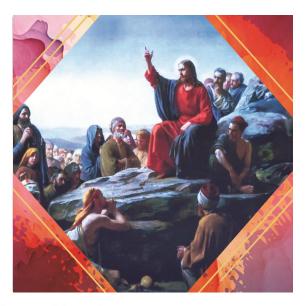
1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

Next Sunday:

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/ 1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I craved four things as a teenager: success in sports, food, fun and the attention of popular people. However, I noticed that as I acquired them, I was more unsatisfied than before. So, I'd strive even more energetically, achieve more, and the sense of emptiness was greater still. These four things started to feel like burdens or even curses. Soon after, I encountered Christ in my high school youth group. Experiencing his love was totally different than anything those four things previously produced. It produced a lasting happiness.

Jesus utters a kind of four-fold curse in this week's Gospel of Saint Luke's "woes": "Woe to you who are rich...who are filled now...who laugh now...who are well-spoken of" (cf. Luke 6:24-26). How marvelous that these correspond perfectly to the four things that obsessed my teenage soul: riches, food, laughter and good reputation. The "woes" the Lord speaks are warnings: when those things are the purpose of your life, you'll be miserable. He is saying, "You'll be happy, or blessed, in the measure that these things do not determine the shape of our lives, and the kingdom of God does."

To some degree, we're all spiritual teenagers, addicted to one or more of those four "woes." How splendid that the Lord wants his to bless us — that is, to satisfy us, make us laugh with joy, and in the kingdom of God, offer us what will truly satisfy us. But first let's admit what is causing our "woes."

— Father John Muir

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Behold, your reward will be great in heaven."
- Lk 6:22, 23b

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Jeremiah believes it is wise to trust in the Lord. When have you had to place your trust in God?

Second Reading:

Paul challenged those in the Corinthian community who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. How do you support family or friends who are non-believers?

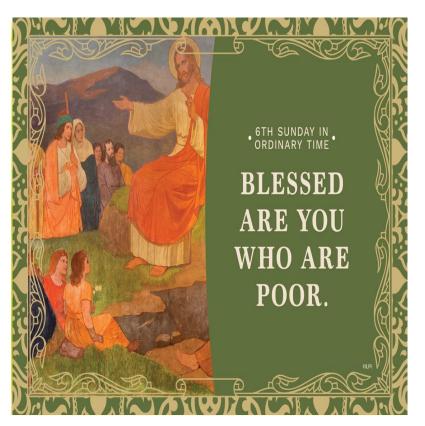
Gospel:

We hear today how Jesus brought comfort to those struggling in life and challenged those who lived a life of ease. Is there someone you know who could benefit from your words of comfort this week?



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Liturgical Life

CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Jesus was radical in his teaching that the "stuff" in life wasn't all that important. It was radical for him to say that the worldly signs of success did not amount to a whole lot in the grand scheme of things and that suffering could sanctify us. Are we ready to be radical, too?

In the End, Does it Matter?

I love today's Gospel passage, and not just because I love a When I was a teenager, the priest I would go to for confession used to tell me, over and over: "In the end, we all get the same dirty hole in the ground."

What he meant was, it doesn't matter how rich or smart or well-liked we are. We're all heading to the same place. This life comes to an end for every man. All the money he earns, all the stuff, all the worldly esteem, will at some point be of no further use. We all get the same dirty hole in the ground.

It was an important message for me to hear, because at the time, it all seemed so important: my after-school job and my FAFSA application and my grades. The admiration of my friends and teachers. I was so consumed with what I was going to become that I wasn't spending a lot of time thinking about who I was going to become. But the who is the only thing that lasts until the next life.

And to be honest, it's all still too important to me. Avoiding sadness and disappointment. Saving money and being liked. Focusing on "the five-year plan" when it comes to career, house plans, and a whole bunch of other things I can't take to my dirty hole in the ground.

Jesus was radical in his teaching that the "stuff" in life wasn't all that important. It was radical for him to say that the worldly signs of success — wealth, popularity, pleasure — did not amount to a whole lot in the grand scheme of things and that suffering could sanctify us. It was radical in the ancient world, and it's radical today.

Are we ready to be radical, too?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Catholic Life Explained Question:

Carnivale and Mardi Gras celebrations are linked to Ash Wednesday, Lent, fast and abstinence. Can you tell us more about the connections between these events?

Answer:

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the forty days known as Lent. Every year, Christians highlight this penitential season as a time of self-examination, reformation of one's life, and continued development of a deeper spiritual life. The recommended practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving become the focus of Lenten activity and ritual. Each of these spiritual practices is aimed at personal discipline as well as continued concern for the other, especially the poor or alienated.

Forty days is a symbolic biblical period of time, during which personal transformation occurs and out of which people surface as more spiritual, ready to carry out God's mission. Relying on God's providence and care, no matter how difficult life becomes, is crucial to Lenten spirituality. Fasting was initially stricter, permitting only one simple meal a day without meat, fish, or other delicacies. Such things were not even allowed in the house.

In order to prepare for this in an age of no refrigeration, people gathered to consume whatever was not allowed during Lent. This led to parties or celebrations originally referred to as Carnivale, literally meaning "goodbye to meat," or Mardi Gras, literally meaning "Fat Tuesday." The eating and celebrating ended on the Tuesday just before Ash Wednesday. Today we focus more on moderation in all things, as well as a strong concern for the poor. What are you doing for the poor this Lent?

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Mark you calendar! Our Lenten Reconciliation Service will be on Wednesday, April 9th at 5pm.







CONFESSION TIP 2

Write down what you want to confess and any prayers you don't have memorized so you don't forget in the moment.



CONFESSION TIP 1

Look up confession times before you go and make a plan so you aren't rushed.

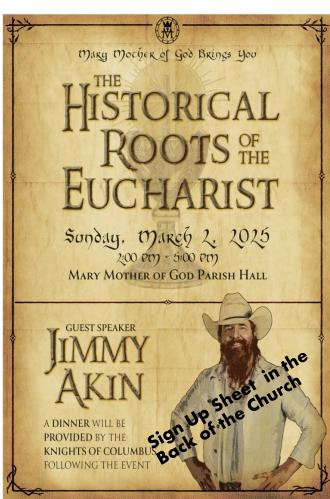


CONFESSION TIP 3

Be humble, sincere, and entire. These are the chief qualities of a good confession.











Arkansas CATHOLIC

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Stations of the Cross Estaciones de la Cruz

Fridays during lent Viernes durante la cuaresma

St. Anne/Santa Ana
5pm in English/ en Ingles
6pm in Spanish/en Español

St. Elizabeth/Santa Isabel
Mass at 12noon at the parish center followed by
Stations of the Cross/
Misa a las 12 del mediodía en el centro
parroquial seguida del Vía Crucis

Mary Mother Of God

Lenten Retreat and Bible Study

ENLIGHTENED

Understanding the Luminous Mysteries

Saturday, February 22 9:30am-4:00pm Mary Mother of God Parish Hall 1614 Maplewood Road Harrison, AR

Presented by Amy Schisler author, speaker, catechist

Cost per person Is \$40.
Includes study guide, light breakfast, and lunch.
Contact Holly Coffman at 870-416-9928 and
hollygram1329@gmail.com.

MONTHL'

FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR/HIGHLIGHTS	
THU FEB 6	St. Paul Miki and Companions, Japanese Martyrs
TUE FEB 11	Our Lady of Lourdes
SAT FEB 22	Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™

→ MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

February 2025 – February gives us a glance at Ordinary Time before we plunge into Lent in early March. We should use this time in an "ordinary" month to renew our prayer lives and strengthen our devotions. The angels and saints always assist us in our every attempt to draw closer to God.

THE GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER

The Church has always encouraged the faithful to pray the Guardian Angel Prayer to strengthen our spiritual relationship with our personal angel. The traditional Guardian Angel Prayer dates back to the 11th century nearly a thousand years ago! An English Benedictine monk named Reginald composed the prayer Angele Dei and added it to the writings of St. Anselm.

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here; Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Note that the prayer outlines four duties of angels on our behalf. First, they enlighten us. Angels are great teachers! We often fail in the moral or spiritual life through lack of understanding. We should often ask our guardian angel for light from God to help us know His will, particularly when we are facing a big decision.

Second, our angels guard us, which is obvious from their name. While they do protect us from physical harm and accidents at times, that is not their main mission. Every guardian angel's primary duty is to protect us from the greater spiritual dangers of demons and sin.

When we ask our guardian angels to "rule" us, we are asking them to help us form good habits in the moral and spiritual life so that we can live according to God's law. Angels are often depicted as soldiers or warriors because they help us maintain a healthy spiritual discipline.

Finally, our Guardian Angels "guide" us on our journey of life, which reminds us of the way in which the Archangel Raphael guided Tobias on his journey in the Book of Tobit. Angels know the way to Heaven, and we should ask their help very day to get there!



BIBLE BASICS -



Exodus 23:23.25 "My angel will go before you and... you shall serve the LORD, your God; then he will bless your food and drink, and I will remove sickness from your midst."

Matthew 18:10 "See that you do not look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

This month's challenge is to nurture devotion to your guardian angel and ask your angel for an increase of grace to live your Catholic faith more robustly, especially as we approach the holy season of Lent. Let us learn to trust our holy angel's guidance in all things.

-FAITH FUNDAMENTALS -

Catechesis on God's Holy Angels

We live in an age of fascination with angels, but we must always remember that not all angels are good angels (2 Corinthians 11:14). So, to protect ourselves from false ideas and distortions about angels, we turn to the solid teaching of the Church:

They are Pure Spirits – First of all, the Church recognizes that angels are purely spiritual beings, not composed of any material substance whatsoever, even though they can enter the material world and appear in human form. (It is said that St John Bosco's guardian angel appeared to him as a large, grey dog!)

They are Messengers – The name "angel" in both Hebrew and Greek means "messenger", which designates the primary function of angels. They communicate God's messages to humanity. We have only to think of the glorious Archangel Gabriel, who greeted the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Annunciation to see the most perfect example of an angel messenger.

They are Missionaries – All angels are "sent" by God to perform some function or mission to human beings. In addition to being messengers, they are ambassadors, emissaries, or actors in implementing God's will. In the Bible, angels free people from jail (Peter), direct the disciples to new missions (Paul), and even facilitate marriage (Tobias and Sarah), among other functions.

They Assist us in Prayer – Finally, we must never forget that angels' primary task is to worship God. The Lord said that our angels "behold the face of God in heaven" (Matthew 18:10). Most powerfully, the Book of Revelation (8:3-4) shows an angel offering up the prayers of the faithful like incense that rises to God's throne.

- THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS-

"Make friends with the angels, who though invisible are always with you. Often invoke them, constantly praise them, and make good use of their help and assistance in all your temporal and spiritual affairs." ~ Saint Francis de Sales

"That God whom we desire to see and hold before us, is always ready to come to our assistance. Always faithful to his promises and seeing us fighting valiantly, he will send us his angels to sustain us in the trial."

~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Featured Prayer for February

Evening Offering

O my God, at the end of this day I thank You most heartily for all the graces I have received from You. I am sorry that I have not made a better use of them. I am sorry for all the sins I have committed against You. Forgive me, O my God, and graciously protect me this night. Blessed Virgin Mary, my dear heavenly mother, take me under your protection. St. Joseph, my dear Guardian Angel, and all you saints of God, pray for me. Sweet Jesus, have pity on all poor sinners and save them from hell. Have mercy on the suffering souls in purgatory.

(This prayer is taken from the Prayers in the Pew Family Edition Prayer Card. Please refer to our website SitStandKneel.com for the online version of this newsletter and all our prayer cards.)

CATECHISM CONNECTION



336 – From its beginning until death human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. "Beside each believer stands an

angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life" (St. Basil). Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God.

CALENDAR OF FAITH | February

FEB 2	Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
FEB 3	St. Blase, Bishop and Martyr (Blessing of
	Throats)
FEB 5	St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
FEB 6	St. Paul Miki and Companions, Japanese
	Martyrs
FEB 8	St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
FEB 10	St. Scholastica, Virgin
FEB 11	Our Lady of Lourdes
FEB 14	Saints Cyril and Methodius, Bishops and
	Doctors of the Church
FEB 17	Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
FEB 21	St. Peter Damien, Bishop and Doctor of
	the Church
FEB 22	FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER,
	APOSTLE
FEB 23	St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

The Prayers in the Pew monthly newsletter and Faith Fundamentals supplement are publications of SitStandKneel Partners, San Diego, CA. Visit us at wws.sitstandkneel.com for our prayer cards, novenas, and online newsletters. See our special offer on Prayer Cards by using the QR Code.



Helping Catholics to Learn, Live, and Love their Faith.

Immigration Message January 23, 2025



As you know, the contentious issue of immigration continues to dominate the public square, often without any serious consideration of what Jesus and our Christian faith has to say about this matter. It is my hope that our elected officials will have the courage and wisdom to do what is right, to do what Jesus would do—to do the loving thing. You may feel like there is nothing you can do to change politicians' minds. But the place to begin is with ourselves, our own

hearts and our own parishes, and our own discomfort in dealing with another culture and immigrant group. And to not forget about the human dignity and the human rights of the other person.

As you also know, I've written a pastoral letter which you can download from the Diocese of Little Rock website. I have preached and taught on this issue throughout my time here as your bishop. And so, I don't want to rehash all the Catholic principles that must be taken into account. Rather, I want to appeal to your hearts—to the reality that we are all brothers and sisters—including the 1/3 of Arkansas Catholics who worship in Spanish in 43 of our parishes. And right now, this Spanish speaking part of our body of Christ is hurting and living in fear.

If you're living in fear today, I want you to know we stand in solidarity and in prayer with you. And if you're not familiar with the parts of our one body of Christ who are living in fear, I implore you to pray for them and try to find ways to get to know them. Find ways to help your fellow believers feel welcomed.

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us at the last judgment he will say to his chosen ones: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me.... As often as you did it for one of my least brothers and sisters, you did it for me." And to others he will say: "As often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to me."

I could go into all the theological reasons behind the Church's teachings on the rights of migrants, and all the arguments as to why our current immigration system is deeply broken. For example, many of us are under the mistaken impression that people who want to migrate to the United States can easily do so by getting in line. But for most people there really is no line, which is why circumstances forced them to come here without papers. And anyone who's tried to navigate the system can tell you how bureaucratic, complex, inconsistent, and expensive it really is—and that's for people who have financial means and family or highly skilled employment based connections! But all those arguments aside, what Jesus is challenging us to do here regarding immigration is to let him share his heart and mind with us. All that I've said in the past really boils down to Jesus' call for us to love as he loves, without fear, trusting in God's providence.

One of the most distinguishing features of our Catholic faith is that we are called to be "universal" in fact as well as in name. This means that there must be no dividing lines within our parishes, no second-class parishioners—all are welcome, no exceptions. But there's more to it than that. You and I are being offered a unique and privileged opportunity to share the mind and heart of Jesus Christ, the same Jesus whom we honor with so many images of the Sacred Heart, his heart visible, crowned with thorns and on fire with love. And that's who he now invites us to be, Christ for others. In this, God will use us to be not only a light to our nation (enlightening others about human rights, about truth, about life), but also more importantly a source of love, love that banishes fear, love that brings hope and healing, and in this way become a model for what all of American society is called to be.

Mensaje sobre inmigración 23 de enero de 2025



Como saben, el polémico tema de la inmigración sigue dominando la esfera pública, a menudo sin ninguna consideración seria de lo que Jesús y nuestra fe cristiana dicen sobre este asunto. Espero que nuestros funcionarios electos tengan la valentía y la sabiduría de hacer lo correcto, de hacer lo que Jesús haría: amar a tu prójimo como a ti mismo. Puede que sientan que no hay nada que puedan hacer para cambiar la opinión de los políticos, pero para poder comenzar a cambiar sería primero con nosotros mis-

mos, con nuestros corazones y parroquias, como también con nuestra propia incomodidad al tratar con otra cultura y grupo de inmigrantes sin olvidarnos de la dignidad y los derechos humanos de la otra persona.

Como también saben, he escrito una carta pastoral que pueden descargar del sitio web de la Diócesis de Little Rock. He predicado y enseñado sobre este tema durante todo mi tiempo aquí como su obispo. Y por eso, no quiero repetir todos los principios católicos que deben tenerse en cuenta. Más bien, quiero apelar a sus corazones, a la realidad de que todos somos hermanos y hermanas, incluido el 1/3 de los católicos de Arkansas que celebran la Misa en español en 43 de nuestras parroquias. Y ahora mismo, esta parte de nuestro cuerpo de Cristo sufre y vive con miedo. Para todos aquellos que están hoy con miedo, quiero que sepan que nos solidarizamos y oramos por ustedes.

Y si no estás familiarizado con todas las personas que tienen miedo; quienes también son parte de nuestro Señor Jesucristo; le imploro que ore por ellos y trate de encontrar maneras de conocerlos como también acogerlos con cariño.

En Mateo 25, Jesús nos dice que en el juicio final les dirá a sus elegidos: "Fui forastero y me acogieron... Cada vez que lo hicieron con uno de estos hermanos y hermanas más pequeños, lo hicieron conmigo". Y a los demás les dirá: "Cada vez que dejaron de hacerlo con uno de estos más pequeños, dejaron de hacerlo conmigo".

Podría explicar todas las razones teológicas que sustentan las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre los derechos de los inmigrantes, y todos los argumentos que justifican por qué el sistema actual de inmigración está profundamente roto. Por ejemplo, mucha gente tiene la impresión errónea de que las personas que quieren inmigrar a los Estados Unidos pueden hacerlo fácilmente. Pero para la mayoría de las personas en realidad no es fácil como se cree. Por estas y otras circunstancias se sienten obligados a venir a este país sin papeles. Y cualquiera que haya intentado navegar por el sistema puede decirles cuán burocrático, complejo, inconsistente y costoso es en realidad, iy eso para las personas que tienen medios financieros y conexiones familiares o laborales altamente calificadas! Pero dejando de lado todos esos argumentos, lo que Jesús desea que hagamos por los inmigrantes es que compartamos nuestros corazones y mentes con ellos. Todo lo que he dicho en el pasado realmente se reduce al llamado de Jesús a que amemos como Él ama, sin miedo, confiando en la providencia de Dios.

Una de las características más distintivas de nuestra fe católica es que estamos llamados a ser "universales" de hecho, así como de nombre. Esto significa que no debe haber líneas divisorias dentro de nuestras parroquias, ni feligreses de segunda clase: todos son bienvenidos, sin excepciones. Pero hay más que eso. Se nos ofrece una oportunidad única y privilegiada de compartir la mente y el corazón de Jesucristo, el mismo Jesús a quien honramos con tantas imágenes del Sagrado Corazón, su corazón visible, coronado de espinas y ardiendo de amor. Y eso es lo que ahora nos invita a ser, Cristo para los demás. En esto, Dios nos usará para ser no solo una luz para nuestra nación (iluminando a otros sobre los derechos humanos, sobre la verdad, sobre la vida), sino también, lo que es más importante, una fuente de amor, amor que destierra el miedo, amor que trae esperanza y sanación, y de esta manera convertirnos en un modelo de lo que toda la sociedad estadounidense está llamada a ser.

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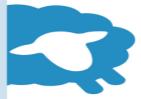
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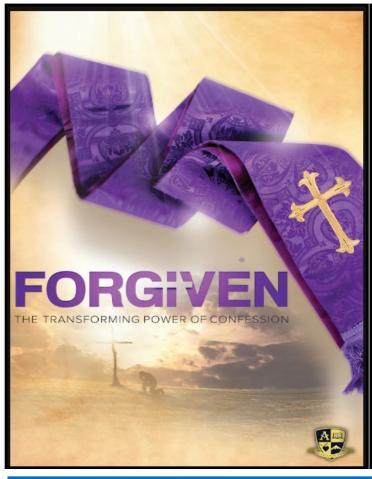


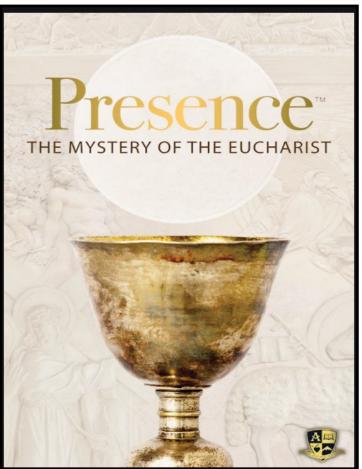


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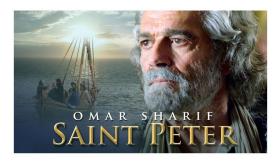
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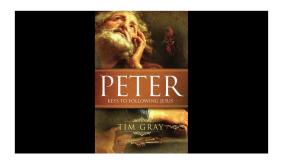
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