

February 23, 2025

23 de Febrero de 2025

SAINT ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH

IGLESIA DE SANTA ANA

Berryville, AR

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

Mailing Address:

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

Jeanne Duncan



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." - Lk 6:38

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THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/

EL SACRAMENTO DE LA RECONCILIACION

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

ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT/

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 23
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
11am: +Eric Gear
1pm: +Maria Vargas Aguilera

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
6pm: NO MASS

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
8:30am: NO MASS

SUNDAY, MARCH 2
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
11am: +Jerry & My Kral and Vincent Kral
1pm: +Leticia Hernandez



Liturgical Ministers

Sunday, February 23
Lector: Derek Paine
Extraord. Ministers: Kathy Clark, Ron Eby, Clarelyse Krajeski, Terry Dean

Sunday, March 2
Lector: Yolanda Tellez
Extraord. Ministers: Sommer Paine, Ron Eby, Barry Doss, 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**



Please Pray For

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 Alcalá—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 Arkansas-catholic.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.

Summer Intern

College students are invited to apply for Arkansas Catholic's summer internship. The intern would get firsthand experience in journalism and communications. This would include writing articles, taking photographs and completing website and video projects. This position is unpaid, but college credit is possible. Qualified applicants must be Catholic, at least 18 years old and working on a degree and seeking a career in communications. Interns must be able to work at least 10-15 hours a week at St. John Center in Little Rock and have a valid driver's license. To apply, call editor Malea Hargett at (501) 664-0125, text (501) 554-9595 or email mhargett@dolr.org. The deadline is April 21.

MASS FOR HOPE AND HEALING


For everyone who is interested in praying for victims of sexual abuse, their families and friends. Sunday, April 27, 5:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Andrew
617 S. Louisiana St. Little Rock
Bishop Anthony B. Taylor, Celebrant

PROMISE TO PROTECT  PLEDGE TO HEAL

Sponsored by the diocesan Safe Environment office. Contact (501) 664-0340 x. 332 or sdavid@dolr.org


New for 2025!

Small group study on evangelization by Pope Francis.




English

Go to learn.dolr.org/courses/AZ



Apostolic Zeal
Catechesis from Pope Francis




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 Gottspomer (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 Gottspomer (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD's anointed." (1 Sm 26:23)

Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

Second Reading:

Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one. (1 Cor 15:49)

Gospel:

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Jn Lk 6:36)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus' message today is one of radical generosity and abundant mercy, and it scandalized the people of his time. It shook them to their core. It should do the same for us. Are we ready to live as Jesus lived? Are we ready to offer love in the face of hate?

Observances for the week of February 23, 2025

Sunday: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thursday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

Fasting was practiced by righteous men and women of the Old Testament and later by Christ himself. It remains an important part of the Christian devotional life today, being most strongly associated with the penitential season of Lent.

Prayer of Christian Life

Dear Jesus,
Help me to pray for and bless everyone I encounter, whether that be easy or hard. Help me to act in the mercy I have known through you. Help me to demonstrate generosity, as you have given so much to me. Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 23, 2025

Sunday:

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

Monday:

Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday:

Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/
Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday:

Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174,
175/Mk 9:38-40

Thursday:

Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mk 9:41-50

Friday:

Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/
Mk 10:1-12

Saturday:

Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/
Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday:

Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/
1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darknesses.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, **"Be merciful just as your Father is merciful"** (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect that perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of God's life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance.

— *Father John Muir*

“But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” - Lk 6:35-36

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

King David exercised great restraint in sparing the life of Saul. Can you think of a time when you had to take the high road with a friend or co-worker?

Second Reading:

Paul speaks of present-day believers as one day bearing the image of Christ (the “heavenly one”). How often do you think about your future life in heaven?

Gospel:

Jesus presents his followers with some very challenging morals: love your enemy, do not retaliate, and always be willing to forgive. Does this high moral standard seem possible for you personally?



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Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. Today's Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us — or maybe even actively dislike us.

Judgment and Love

"Oh, well. I'm going to hell anyway, right?"

I have a few family members and friends who are not practicing Catholics who say this to me from time to time. It's always spoken in a teasing manner, with a wink and a shoulder shrug, usually to explain away some sort of minor misbehavior they feel guilty about.

It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. I think in part it stems from a misunderstanding on the part of unchurched people (and lots of churched ones, too) regarding what constitutes "judging." It is absolutely not "judging" someone to disagree with a personal decision, whatever that decision may be, or to decline from participating in that decision. We all have functioning consciences; we are all supposed to discern the moral goodness of any action before we take it.

But it is judging someone if we allow their decisions to impact how we treat them.

Today's Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us — or maybe even actively dislike us. Much is said these days of the "culture wars." I certainly don't disagree that it can often feel like you're fighting a war when you're trying to live as the Church teaches. The forces against you often seem overwhelming and nefarious. And guess what? They are.

But we need to remember who the enemy really is. The enemy is not other children of God, even if they are children of God who are actively promoting ideas that are wrong. Perhaps these people are misguided and mistaken. Perhaps they are misled by the devil. Have we not all been misled by him at some point?

We must interact lovingly with people who think differently and live differently from us. The Christian life absolutely demands it.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Is Ash Wednesday a holy day of obligation?

Answer:

Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no! Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event (such as the birth of Christ at Christmas) or celebrate particular people (such as Mary's Immaculate Conception or the feast of All Saints). Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. In a sense, it focuses on a concept rather than something particular and concrete.

Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That's one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

3 TIPS FOR HAVING A GOOD

CONFESSION

EXPERIENCE



CONFESSION TIP 1

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



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 3

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



Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

Wednesday, March 5th

7am- St. Anne

12 noon- St. Elizabeth (Parish Center)

6pm- St. Anne

Horario de Misas Miércoles de Ceniza

miércoles, 5 de Marzo

7am - Santa Ana

12:00 - Santa Isabel (Centro Parroquial)

6pm - Santa Ana

REJOICE
AND RESOLVE
TO SIN NO MORE!



MARDI GRAS
Casino Night

Saturday, March 1st
6 - 10:00 pm

\$30/ticket or \$50/couple

Tickets include heavy hors' d'oeuvres, drinks, and \$500 in chips
Join us for an incredible night as we raise money for Religious Education!

St. Stephen Catholic Church
1300 NE J St.

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

SAINT POLYCARP

BISHOP AND MARTYR

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PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

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!



“No, I am pretty sure it's do unto otters as you would have otters do unto you.”

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

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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 mismos, 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, ¡y 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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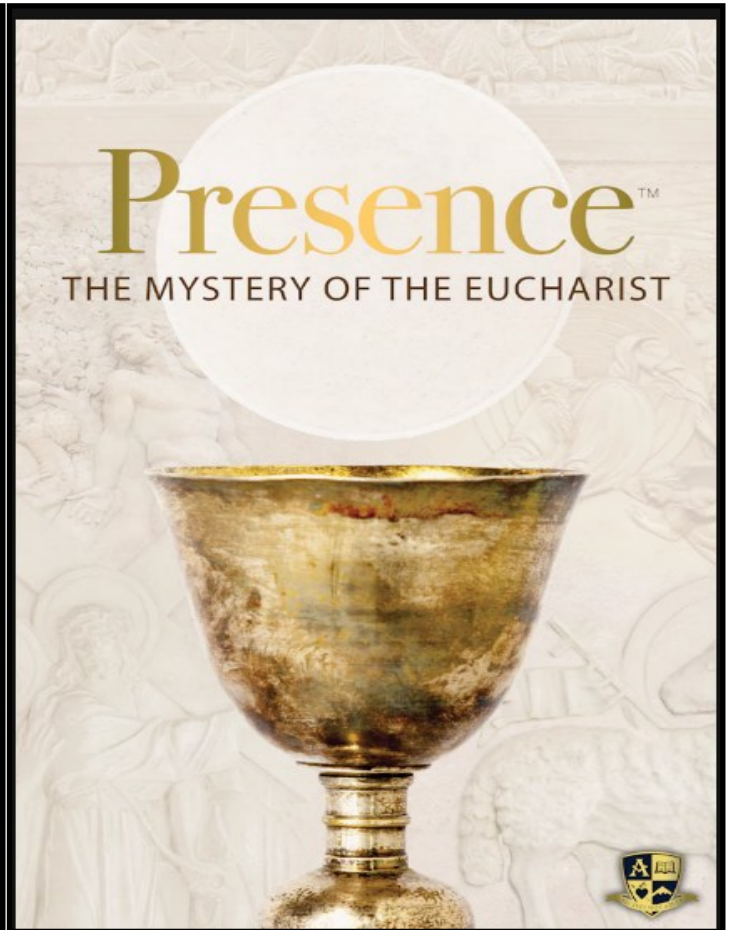
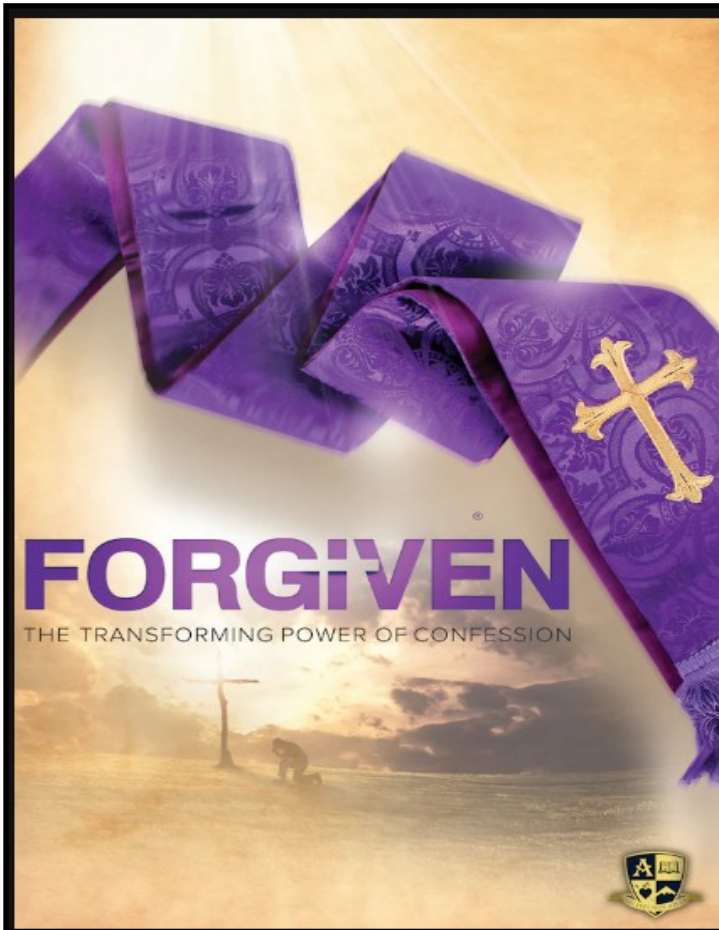
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