

# PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MAILING ADDRESS: 7409 W. CLEARWATER AVE., KENNEWICK, WA 99336

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website: [www.holyspiritkennewick.org](http://www.holyspiritkennewick.org)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

FR. MICHAEL BRZEZOWSKI

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FEBRUARY 1, 2026

## Parish Staff:

Secretary	Debbie Forgette	735-8558
Bookkeeper	Bianca Medina	735-8558

Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator  
Presently Unstaffed

## Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade	Karen Gorham	735-8558
6th to 8th Grades/Edge	Danielle May	528-9780
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen	Jennifer Moore	492-8209
	& Joe Bliss	216-402-3118
	email: <a href="mailto:lifeteenhs@gmail.com">lifeteenhs@gmail.com</a>	
Confirmation	Deacon Mike & Carol Gaulke	551-7626
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	Joe & Sherry Schroeder	405-2242

## Ministers of Music:

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass	Julianne Barnaby	735-2163
9:30 a.m. Mass	Paula Bachelor	375-9019
5:00 p.m. Mass	Perry Kelly	735-8558
Children's Choir	Presently Unstaffed	735-8558

## Ministries of Worship:

Scheduler for Liturgical Ministers	Trish Feeney	551-0486
Eucharistic Adoration	Liz Friedrich	783-6223
Prayer Line	Adele Ogryzek	627-0201
Altar Server Training	Zack Rinderer	582-2543

## Parish Ministries:

Mary Martha Prayer Group	Camille Henneberry	735-4858
Welcoming Committee	Jan Beardemphl	948-3367
PCC Nursery	Wynona Vaz	222-8982
Ministry to Sick and Shut-Ins	Deacon Eric Shaber	
	& Charlotte Shaber	208-521-7846
Bible Study	Judy Turner	438-7938
Women's Group	Linda Rego	221-1130
Weekend Mass Refreshments	Judy Urrutia	438-5039

## Councils and Committees:

Parish Council	Jim Carey	627-0321
Finance Council	Jared Liebert	947-9386
Stewardship	Lenice & Pat Nagle	582-6893
Evangelization	Rob Privette	438-1222
Voice of the Spirit	Dieter Bohrmann	987-3158
Parish Library	Ann Stevens	396-2723

## Charter Organizations:

Catholic Daughters	Linda Garner	627-2748
Knights of Columbus	Peter Dreisbach	205-2377
St. Vincent de Paul	Message Line	591-0632
American Heritage Girls	Erin Leistriz	406-579-1891

## Natural Family Planning:

Carol Gaulke	619-5464
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## Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

## Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9:00 a.m.  
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Please visit our Holy Spirit Facebook page to join livestream events:

<https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

## Office Hours: Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and  
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## The Sacrament of Baptism

Babies and young children are usually baptized during Mass on Saturday or Sunday, or on Saturday at 12:00 p.m. Call the parish office for a list of upcoming Baptism dates and to receive registration information for pre-Baptism classes. (735-8558)



*Holy Matrimony*

**On Being Married at Holy Spirit ...** Engaged couples who wish to be married at Holy Spirit Parish are asked to contact the parish office at least nine months prior to their desired wedding date. The couple and the priest will then meet to begin the Marriage preparation program. (735-8558)

## Deaths

**What should I do when there is a death in my family?** Please call the parish office and speak with the office staff and the pastor before making arrangements with the funeral home, to ensure that the church is available at the desired date and time. (735-8558)

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 1, 2026

Calendar for the Week: (Note: PCC = Parish Community Center)

### Sunday, February 1:

#### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Prayer Angels for Peace, PCC hall, 11:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

Edge (Middle School),  
PCC rooms 5 and 6/8,  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School),  
PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



### Monday, February 2:

#### The Presentation of the Lord

Tri Cities Prep Student Retreat, PCC hall and rooms, 7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), PCC rooms 7, 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, February 3

#### Weekday

Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr  
Saint Ansgar, Bishop

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Holy Spirit Mommy and Me, PCC nursery, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education, pre-school to fifth grade, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, CHURCH, 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study, *Ecclesiastes: Wisdom, Purpose, & Meaning*, PCC rooms 6/8, 6:15 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Council 10653 officers, PCC room 9, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, February 4:

#### Weekday

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Bible Study, *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom*, PCC rooms 6/8, 10:00 a.m.

Mary Martha Prayer Group, PCC room 5, 1:30 p.m.

Amazing Grace Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

### Thursday, February 5:

#### Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

American Heritage Girls Troop, PCC hall, 6:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), PCC rooms 7, 7:00 p.m.

Celebration Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

### Friday, February 6:

#### Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., in the vestibule. Concludes with *Prayers for Priestly Vocations* and *Prayers for Peace* at 4:30 p.m. and the *Rite of Benediction* at 4:45 p.m.

### Saturday, February 7:

#### Weekday

#### Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday Vigil Mass in the church at 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday, February 8:

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

No Edge (Middle School)

No Life Teen (High School)







Thank you for your patience during the ongoing work in our church. The abatement work and removal of all water damaged materials inside is now complete. Our roofing contractors are finishing the trim work outside. Once our insurance claim with Catholic Mutual is processed and awarded, our next step will be to work with the diocese on the bidding process for the reconstruction of the damaged areas inside the church.

### HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



**Larry Deats and Mark Loosveldt** were commissioned January 15th as members of our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Our (your) Conference meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. in PCC room 7. If you are available a few hours each month and are seeking a way to serve the poor, grow spiritually, and make new friends, please join Mark and Larry and the rest of us this Thursday.

### A Note From the St. Serra Club of Tri Cities

"Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise ... , not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth ... God chose those who count for nothing ... so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to Him that you are in Christ Jesus." (from First Corinthians 1:26-31) Wouldn't it be great to follow St. Paul, one of the greatest missionary apostles, in bringing others to faith in Christ? That's what you could do as a priest, permanent deacon, brother, monk or nun. Remember, God often chooses the *willing* for service in the Church; not the wise or powerful.

### JOB OPPORTUNITY AT CHRIST THE KING PARISH Parish Receptionist

This is a full-time (35 hours per week) position Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Requirements include fluency in both English and Spanish and at least 2 years of clerical/receptionist experience. Benefits include medical, dental, vision, vacation and sick time. Pay range is \$21.00 - \$24.00 per hour.

For more information on this position please contact Crystal Cuevas at 509-946-1675, or send a cover letter and resume to [ctkdre@ckparish.org](mailto:ctkdre@ckparish.org), or visit [www.applitrack.com/yakimadiocese/onlineapp](http://www.applitrack.com/yakimadiocese/onlineapp).

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative

Monday	February 2	Fr. John O'Shea
Tuesday	February 3, 9:00 a.m.	Richard Renstrom RIP
Wednesday	February 4	Tom McGarry RIP
Thursday	February 5	Bob Sickles RIP
Friday	February 6	Michael Boatright RIP
Saturday	February 7, 4:00 p.m.	Hank Ogryzek
Sunday	February 8, 5:00 p.m.	Fred Derks RIP &

deceased members of Calvey family

The Sunday morning Mass is normally offered for the people of the parish.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of  
**Ron Braschler, Michael Royack and Frank Ferreira.**  
May they rest in peace with the risen Lord.

To have your need added to our parish prayer phone chain,  
please call Adele Ogryzek at 627-0201.  
To have your need added to the list which is published in the bulletin  
once each month, please call the parish office.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do for the sake of the kingdom! The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the kingdom will be rewarded.

**October 2025: \$63,066.94**

Thanks for your giving of time, talent, and treasure.

For online giving, visit:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy7409270>

Thank you for maintaining your financial support of our parish as you are able. If you'd prefer to mail an offering, please send it to **Parish of the Holy Spirit, 7411 W. Clearwater Ave., Ste. E, Kennewick, WA 99336**. If you are currently using offering envelopes and would like to switch to online giving (or bill-payer from your bank), please call the parish office so we can discontinue your envelope mailings with our printing service. Thank you.

Plan to donate blood at the Holy Spirit Council of the Knights of Columbus sponsored **Blood Drive** from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on **Friday, February 20th** in the PCC hall.



Sign up in the vestibule next weekend. Or sign up online anytime at [www.redcrossblood.org/](http://www.redcrossblood.org/), and click on "Holy Spirit Kennewick" on the sign up page.



The February Ultreya of the Cursillo movement will be held **Monday, February 2** at Christ the King in Richland. We'll begin by praying the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel, with the meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Please come, and invite your friends to join in the fellowship.

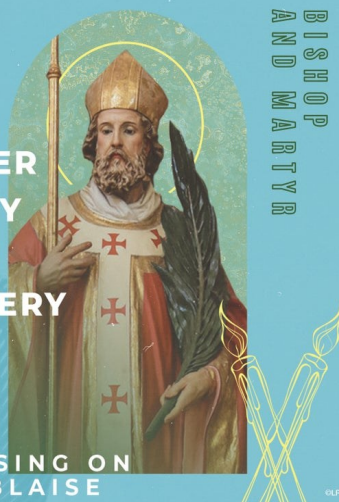
### HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Our **Refreshment Ministry** is an important ministry to parishioners and visitors alike. Sharing refreshments after every weekend Mass encourages fellowship and is yet another visible sign that our parish is welcoming of all guests. Volunteers in this ministry set up coffee, cookies and lemonade before Mass, and serve and clean up after Mass. It is a fun ministry which doesn't involve meetings or evening commitments. **There are openings for helpers, especially after the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays and the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sundays.** Please call Judy Urrutia at 509-628-2361 to volunteer.

“MAY GOD DELIVER YOU FROM EVERY DISEASE OF THE THROAT AND EVERY OTHER ILLNESS.”

-TRADITIONAL BLESSING ON THE FEAST OF ST. BLAISE



BISHOP AND MARTYR

*Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday,  
February 18.*

## LENT ON FORMED®

**Lent is approaching fast.  
Are you ready to make the most of it?**

You're invited to prepare for Lent (yes, even this early!) with *How to Lent* on FORMED. This four-part video series provides insights into the origins of Lent, why the Church compares Lent to a desert, and how to create a Lenten plan that will transform your life beyond Easter Sunday.

Sign up now to receive weekly emails that walk you through Lent with *How to Lent*, *The Heart of Prayer*, and *Foretold*. Position your heart to hear God's voice and make the most of this Lenten season.

If you haven't already signed up for **FORMED** all you need to do is the following:

- Go to [formed.org](https://formed.org)
- Type in your parish name or zip code.
- Enter your name and email, and that's it!

You are registered. You should now download the FORMED app to your phone, tablet, and TV.



### What God Wants You to Offer up for Lent

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. PST

Join Rev. Robert Gahl, PhD to reflect more deeply on what God truly asks of us this Lent—not simply what we give up, but what we offer from the heart. In this free Lenten retreat, Fr. Gahl will guide participants in prayerful reflection on authentic sacrifice, interior conversion, and preparing the soul for the joy of Easter.

Register for the virtual seminar at  
<https://tinyurl.com/23f4ftvd>.



Rev. Robert Gahl, PhD is a Catholic priest, theologian, and ethicist. He is an Associate Professor at the Catholic University of America and teaches at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome. Ordained by St. John Paul II, he lectures internationally on moral philosophy, virtue, and Church leadership.

**PREPARES**  
Pregnancy & Parenting Support

2026  
Open Your Heart Appeal



### PREPARES COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

February 7 - 8, 2026

PREPARES is not simply a service or a charity. It is our Catholic heart in action—our Church's promise that, in all 3 dioceses of Washington state, no child, no mother, no father will walk the parenting journey alone. PREPARES provides young families suffering hardship with essential needs, compassionate accompaniment, and life-affirming hope.

PREPARES is seeing more and more families in need of our mercy and love. Your gift to this appeal will provide help and hope, and will allow us to accompany families right here in our community. Now, more than ever, with safety net funding cuts, rising costs, and employment, food, and health care insecurity ... the needs are urgent! Your generosity—your financial sacrifice, your volunteer assistance—your open heart allows our Catholic community to say to every one of these families: "You will not walk this path alone."



*You're invited to the*

## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING WINTER FORMAL DANCE

FOR DADS, DAUGHTERS, AND SPECIAL GUESTS

2.28.26

6PM - 8PM

CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

**\$50 PER FAMILY**

PREPAY IN ADVANCE WITH CASH OR CHECK

DELIVERED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CHRIST THE  
KING CATHOLIC SCHOOL, MEMO:  
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING DANCE

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

*All proceeds benefit the recess space revamp.*







**FEBRUARY 1 through APRIL 15, 2026**

***Benton / Franklin / Walla Walla Counties***

*Please bring Government Issued Photo IDs, Social Security cards, 2025 Tax Year tax papers and prior year tax return.*

**To schedule an appointment for any of the sites listed below**

**Online: [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](https://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide)**

**Phone: 509-542-7960**

*Please note there could be a 2–3-day delay in phone calls being returned based on volunteer availability. For faster appointment booking, please use the website.*

**Appointments are required at most sites**

**BURBANK SITE**

**Burbank Public Library**

875 Lake Road

Wednesdays: Noon – 5pm

*Walk-ins accepted based on availability*

**PASCO SITE**

**Pasco Public Library**

1320 W. Hopkins Street

Wednesdays: Noon – 4pm

*Walk-ins accepted based on availability*

**PASCO SITE**

**Pasco City Hall**

525 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave – Recreation Classroom

Tuesdays: 9am – 1pm

*Walk-ins accepted based on availability*

**RICHLAND SITE**

**Richland Community Center**

500 Amon Park Drive

Mondays: 8:15am – 8pm (closed 2/16)

Tuesdays: 8:15am – Noon

Saturdays: 9:15am – Noon

**KENNEWICK SITE**

**Keewaydin Park Public Library**

405 S. Dayton Street

Tuesdays: Noon – 4pm

Saturdays: Noon – 4pm

**KENNEWICK SITE**

**Kennewick Public Library**

1620 S. Union Street

Thursdays: Noon – 4pm



**“Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will  
be great in heaven.”**

MATTHEW 5:12a



## The New Evangelization

MIGUEL DULICK

**T**his season of the Church we call “**Ordinary Time**” is full of Jesus’ teaching about how to live our Christian lives. Today’s readings are especially rich. When Jesus takes his place as the New Moses to deliver his Sermon on the Mount, he begins, fittingly, with a new version of the commandments, but instead of “Thou shalt not,” they are blessings! And they are paradoxical; always a sign of the divine touch. The “poor in spirit” get the kingdom of heaven; mourners are blessed, for they shall be comforted.

Now, who is supposed to do the comforting? *We* are. If the beatitudes are new commandments, we disciples are to obey them, even rejoicing in the blessing of persecution. What kind of people sign up for this? Saint Paul describes to the Christians in Corinth what kind of people God chooses: the foolish, the weak, the lowly and despised, the nothings of this world, to shame and confuse those who seem to run things. The wisdom of God seems like nonsense in a world where power reigns supreme. That sweet soul Zephaniah, author of today’s first reading, saw the shift coming, from “don’ts” to “dos,” from bossy to beatitude: “Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land” (Zephaniah 2:3). You will be “a people humble and lowly” who will pasture your flocks (and do the work God intends you to do) with “none to disturb” you (Zephaniah 3:12, 13). Sign me up for that! ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY

### Reflect

***How do Jesus’ teachings work in the “real world”?***





Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2026

Parish of the Holy Spirit

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Onesimus

Born in Phrygia, St. Onesimus was enslaved to Philemon of Colossae in present-day Turkey. He encountered St. Paul during the apostle's imprisonment in Rome, where Onesimus had fled after stealing from his master. Moved by Paul's witness, he repented, was baptized, and later gained his freedom. Onesimus became a trusted companion and co-worker of St. Paul and was eventually martyred for the faith during the persecutions under Emperor Domitian.

### God's Valentine to us

If God sent a Valentine, it might sound something like this: *"My darling child"* (Jeremiah 31:20), *"You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you"* (Isaiah 43:4). *"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love"* (John 15:9). *"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends..."* (John 15:13-14). *"Do you love me?"* (John 21:16) That makes the Bible the world's longest love letter.

"God is not the enemy of our freedom but its ground. That is something we ought to relearn in these days. Only love that is almighty can ground a joy that is free from anxiety." Pope Benedict XVI

## "What do you seek?" (John 1:38)

Have you ever felt restless or quietly dissatisfied, sensing that something in your life needs changing? Lent offers that opportunity. It is a spiritual reset, inviting us to reorient our hearts toward Christ, the true source of peace, joy, purpose, and meaning. Here are practical ways to deepen your encounter with God and His love this Lent.

**Faith is relational, not informational.** The first disciples were not content with simply hearing about Jesus. They wanted to be with Him and to know Him personally. Christ extends that same invitation to us today. We respond by making room for Him through prayer and meditation, regular participation in Mass, and time with Scripture, not as duties to complete, but as ways of choosing a living relationship with the One who loves us most.

**Choose trust over control.** "Let Him lead and guide you," Pope Leo has urged. God's invitation to deeper friendship is renewed each day, and Lent is a privileged time to respond with intention. Begin each morning by

offering your day to God, placing your work, relationships, and uncertainties in His hands. This simple act of trust opens the door to genuine freedom.

**Share what you have received.** A true encounter with God naturally leads to what Pope Leo called "missionary

*"If you sense the Lord calling you, do not be afraid...He alone knows the deepest, perhaps hidden, longings of your heart — the path that will lead you to true fulfillment."* (Pope Leo XIV)

zeal," the desire to share with others what we have received. After meeting Christ, St. Andrew simply brought his brother, Simon Peter, to Him. Likewise, sharing your faith is often as simple as an honest conversation with a friend about the source of your hope. You are not persuading or performing; you are inviting someone you care about to meet the Friend who has changed your life.

This Lent, let renewal take root. Choose presence, trust, and generosity, and allow God to do the rest.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics give up meat on Fridays in Lent?

Abstaining from meat on Fridays in Lent is not merely a rule, but a reverent sacrifice rooted in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on Good Friday. By giving up something we enjoy but do not need, we unite a small, bodily sacrifice to His offering on the Cross.

This "prayer of the body" strengthens the prayer of the soul, training our hearts in discipline and gratitude. It keeps our focus on Christ and serves as a quiet, outward sign of faith. For the same reasons, the Church encourages Friday penance throughout the year.

## When things go wrong, choose charity

When difficulties arise, our instinct is often to complain, assign blame, or turn inward with harsh self-criticism. These reactions rarely solve the problem. More often, they weaken charity, cloud judgment, and strain relationships. A more constructive response is to choose kindness deliberately, in thought, speech, and action.

**Practice kindness in thought:** When self-pity, resentment, comparison, or harsh self-judgment appear, treat them as temptations rather than truths. Pause and redirect your thinking. Replace them with a steady reminder such as, "This is difficult, but I can respond well." Offer yourself the same patience you would give a friend.

**Practice kindness in speech:** Before speaking, ask whether

your words will help or simply vent frustration. If you would not say something to or about someone you love, refrain. When emotions run high, bring your complaints to prayer first. Naming them before God can bring clarity and restraint.

**Practice kindness in action:** Focus on what you can do rather than what you cannot control. Choose one concrete act of goodwill: express gratitude, offer help, listen attentively, or perform a small, unnoticed kindness. These simple actions restore perspective and soften difficult moments.

Responding with kindness does not ignore problems. It creates the conditions for peace, clearer judgment, and constructive action to take root.

### from Scripture

#### Matthew 4:1-11, He chose us

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the Devil. First, Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. Jesus showed us that spiritual needs come first, and to entrust both to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from the temple roof, forcing God's hand. Again, Jesus refused: serving God means doing things God's way.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. While horrible, it

promised a "painless" way to save the world. Jesus rejected it, choosing the Cross because it was the only way to save us. He chose us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

The season of Lent is a powerful opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in love. We can take comfort knowing Jesus faced the same temptations we do and conquered them. If we stay close to Jesus, He will lead us to victory.

### Q & A

#### What to do with dryness in prayer

**A** God never leaves us, yet our experience of prayer can ebb and flow. There are times of joy and peace, and others marked by dryness and difficulty. While dry seasons can be discouraging, that is often when our faith can grow the most. Don't avoid them, but live them well.

**Ask why.** Dryness in prayer can point to areas that need attention. Chronic stress, lack of rest, constant busyness, excessive screen time, or unresolved sin can weaken our attentiveness to God. Examine your habits and ask what may be interfering with prayer.

**Remember the good times.** When times are tough, memory sustains love. Follow Mary's example, who *"kept all these things, pondering them in her heart"* (Luke 2:19). Recall the ways God has acted in your life. Remembering His faithfulness restores confidence.

**Renew your "yes" daily.** Mary's consent to God's will was a daily surrender, even amid suffering. Resist the temptation to abandon prayer. Each day, echo her words: *"Let it be done unto me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38).

### Feasts & Celebrations

**February 5 – St. Agatha (c.251).** Born to a noble Sicilian family, St. Agatha dedicated herself to God at the age of fifteen. The governor Quintianus was determined to marry her and threatened her if she refused him. She kept her vow despite torture, and imprisonment. God sent her a vision of St. Peter to comfort her, heal her, and fill her dungeon with heavenly light.

**February 18 – Ash Wednesday.** The first day of Lent. The ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead in the shape of a Cross, as a sign of penance. It's

also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

**February 22 – St. Margaret of Cortona (1297).** St. Margaret's conversion came after the sudden death of the man she was having an affair with. Shaken, she repented and became a Franciscan tertiary. She founded a hospital and an order of Tertiary sisters — *le Poverelle* — to operate it.

**February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter.** Today marks St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See, the "seat" of authority, in Rome. We thank God for His Church and pray for its holy preservation.

#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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<http://www.infaithpublishing.com>  
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)



# Dear Padre,

***I am struggling with our new pastor. He has been in our parish for less than six months, and nothing seems to please him. Everything has to change, and the parishioners have no input. I thought the days of “pray, pay, and obey” were over.***

The *Code of Canon Law* identifies the pastor as the shepherd of the parish. His duties require him to teach, sanctify, and govern the people entrusted to his care. However, canon law also envisions that the pastor will engage in pastoral care “with the assistance of lay members of Christ’s faithful” (CCL 519).

The intention of the law is to encourage the building up of a community using the “knowledge, prudence, and integrity” of every member (CCL 228, §2). Many issues, feelings, and even theologies make up the personalities of a parish. The one constant that needs to be present is the presumption of goodwill. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2478). If that is missing, then conflict, hard feelings, and many misunderstandings will result.

Without taking sides, I suggest that everyone take a deep breath. Then each of you—the pastor included—ask yourself, “Have I attempted to interpret this person or situation favorably? Have I made any rash judgments?” If honest and prayerful reflection reveals less-than-good intentions, now is the time for an attitude change and to acknowledge that a new start is needed. ●

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)**



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 2	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6	February 7	February 8
<i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Mal 3:1–4	2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a,	2 Sm 24:2, 9–17	1 Kgs 2:1–4,	1 Kgs 2:1–4,	1 Kgs 3:4–13	Is 58:7–10
Heb 2:14–18	30–19:3	Mk 6:1–6	10–12	Sir 47:2–11	Mk 6:30–34	1 Cor 2:1–5
Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32	Mk 5:21–43		Mk 6:7–13	Mk 6:14–29		Mt 5:13–16




## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV


***The desire to work together for a common purpose reflects an essential reality: no one is Christian alone! We are part of a people, a body established by the Lord.... The Christian life is not lived in isolation.... It is lived with others, in a group and in community, because the risen Christ is present wherever disciples gather in his name.***

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