

PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHURCH: 7409 W. CLEARWATER AVE., KENNEWICK, WA 99336

PARISH OFFICE: 7411 W. CLEARWATER AVE., SUITE A, KENNEWICK WA 99336
OFFICE PHONE: 509-735-8558

Email: office@holyspiritkennewick.org Website: www.holyspiritkennewick.org Facebook Page: 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.

FR. MICHAEL BRZEZOWSKI
509-735-8558
pastor@holyspiritkennewick.org

Deacon Ken Ellis
509-948-4355
deaconkeneth@holyspiritkennewick.org

Deacon Eric Shaber
208-521-7846
ecshaber@gmail.com

Deacon Mike Gaulke
509-551-7626
micaajere@msn.com

Parish Staff:

Secretary
Bookkeeper
Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator Presently Unstaffed

Debbie Forgette 509-735-8558
Heejung Chung 509-735-8558

Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade
6th to 8th Grade/Edge
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen

Karen Gorham 509-735-8558
Danielle May 509-528-9780
Jennifer Moore 509-492-6209
& Joe Bliss 216-402-3118
Deacon Mike & Carol Gaulke 509-551-7626
Joe & Sherry Schroeder 509-405-2242

Confirmation
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Ministers of Music:

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
9:30 a.m. Mass
5:00 p.m. Mass

Julianne Barnaby 509-735-2163
Paula Bachelor 509-375-9019
Perry Kelly 509-735-8558

Ministries of Worship:

Scheduler for Liturgical Ministers
Eucharistic Adoration
Prayer Line
Altar Server Training

Trish Feeney 509-551-0486
Liz Friedrich 509-783-6223
Adele Ogryzek 509-627-0201
Zack Rinderer 509-582-2543

Parish Ministries:

Mary Martha Prayer Group
Welcoming Committee
PCC Nursery
Ministry to Sick and Shut-Ins
Bible Study
Women's Group
Elizabeth Ministry
Weekend Mass Refreshments

Camille Henneberry 509-735-4858
Jan Beardemphl 509-948-3367
Wynona Vaz 509-222-8982
Deacon Eric & Charlotte Shaber 208-521-7846
Judy Turner 509-438-7938
Linda Rego 509-221-1130
Catherine Maier 509-771-2372
Judy Urrutia 509-438-5039

Councils and Committees:

Parish Council
Finance Council
Stewardship
Evangelization
Voice of the Spirit
Parish Library

Jim Carey 509-627-0321
Bob Baemmert 509-531-2085
Lenice & Pat Nagle 509-582-6893
Presently Vacant
Dieter Bohrmann 509-987-3158
Ann Stevens 509-396-2723

Charter Organizations:

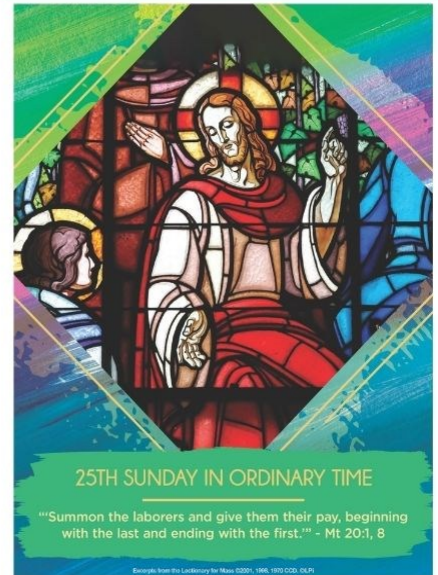
Catholic Daughters
Knights of Columbus
St. Vincent de Paul
American Heritage Girls

Ann Garcia 509-579-2361
Bernie Ip 509-551-0738
Message Line 509-591-0632
Erin Leistritz 406-579-1891

Natural Family Planning:

Carol Gaulke 509-619-5464

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES

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

WEEKDAYS IN PCC HALL

Monday: Daily Mass | 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday through Friday - Rite of
Distributing Holy Communion Outside Mass
with the Celebration of the Word of God
Tuesday | 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday | 9:00 a.m.
Thursday | 9:00 a.m.
Friday | 9:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday | **No Reconciliation this week.**
Sunday | 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Babies and young children are usually baptized during Mass on Saturday or Sunday, or on Saturday morning. Call the parish for a list of upcoming Baptism dates and to receive registration information for pre-Baptism classes.

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.

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.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 20, 2026

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

Sunday, September 20:

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation, PCC room 7, 11:00 a.m.

Confirmation Super Sunday, PCC hall and rooms 3 and 5, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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

Order of Christian Initiation for Children (OCIC), PCC room 7, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Edge Parent Meeting, PCC rooms 6/8, 3:30 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, September 21:

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Mass in the PCC hall at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 22:

Weekday

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

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

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass with the Celebration of the Word of God in the PCC hall at 5:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Council 10653, PCC room 9, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23:

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass with the Celebration of the Word of God in the PCC hall at 9:00 a.m.

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

Amazing Grace Choir, PCC hall, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 24:

Weekday

Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass with the Celebration of the Word of God in the PCC hall at 9:00 a.m.

American Heritage Girls, PCC rooms 6/8, 6:45 p.m.

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

Celebration Choir, PCC hall, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 25:

Weekday

Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass with the Celebration of the Word of God in the PCC hall at 9:00 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., in PCC room 5. 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, September 26:

Weekday

Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Blessed Virgin Mary

San Lorenzo Ruiz Mass in the church, 11:00 a.m.

Luncheon and Filipino dance/entertainment to follow in the PCC hall. All are invited.

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

Sunday, September 27:

Twenty-Sixth 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.

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.



STEWARDSHIP: In today's Gospel, the vineyard owner says, "I am free to do as I please with my money, am I not?" We are likewise free. Is a generous return to the Lord in thanksgiving for His many blessings among the choices we have made?

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. A, 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.



Construction has begun in our church to repair past water damage. The work is expected to be ongoing throughout the next months. Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and support through each phase of this much needed repair work in our church. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Ken Ellis at 509-735-8558. Deacon Ken is serving as the liaison with our contractor for this project.



Our Holy Spirit Jail Ministry is collecting toiletry bags. Please fill a ziplock bag with **only** soap, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste. These filled bags can be placed in the box next to the Food Bank box in the hallway near the church kitchen.

CLASSES ARE STARTING!



- **Preschool to 5th Grade started on**
Tuesday, September 15, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.
- **Edge (Middle School) starts**
Sunday, September 20, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Life Teen (High School) starts**
Sunday, September 20, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

*** Make sure you are registered! ***

Tickets are now on sale for Bishop Barron's new film, *Heaven in Stone and Glass*. Journey across France to explore the sacred mysteries and transcendent beauty built into Europe's great cathedrals. This movie will be showing at the AMC theater on Louisiana Street in Kennewick on Sunday, September 20th and Wednesday, September 23rd. Find more information and get movie tickets at <https://heaveninstoneandglass.com>.



Please stop by the booklet display case in the vestibule and pick up a **free** copy of *Heaven Speaks about Addictions*. Experience Jesus' clear and calming words to those who struggle with addictions of any kind. Guidance from St. Barnabas, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Andrew and the Blessed Mother are also part of this powerful booklet. You're welcome to take one and share another with a family member or friend.

PLANNING FOR THANKSGIVING!

Team members are needed as Deacon Ken Ellis is interested in organizing a parish Thanksgiving dinner in our PCC hall this year. Please call Deacon Ken at 509-735-8558 or email deaconkenneth@holyspiritkennewick.org for more information about helping to organize, cook, and serve during this fun event for our parishioners; especially for those who may not have family members in our local area.



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative.

Monday	September 21	Fr. John O'Shea RIP
Saturday	September 26, 4:00 p.m.	Ashton Stultz
Sunday	September 27, 5:00 p.m.	Arnulfo Sanchez RIP

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

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.



DIOCESE OF YAKIMA CONVOCAION OF PRIESTS

September 22 - 25, 2026



This yearly event includes discussion of diocesan business and offers continuing education opportunities for the presbyterate of our diocese. It also affords our priests the opportunity to pray together, to socialize, and to celebrate the milestone anniversaries of ordination of our jubilarian priests. Please keep our bishop and priests in your prayers. **Due to the Convocation, there will only be daily Mass on Monday, September 21 at Holy Spirit this week.**

On Thursday, September 24th, all are invited to Mass at 4:30 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Tyson and the priests of our Diocese. Jubilarian priests will be recognized.



San Lorenzo Ruiz Mass
Saturday, September 26, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Parish of the Holy Spirit

Join us for the Feast Day Celebration of the first Filipino saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Joseph Tyson, Fr. Michael Brzezowski, and Fr. Rex Familiar. A fellowship potluck luncheon in the PCC hall will follow the Mass. Special cultural entertainment will be provided by Fil-Am Dance Troupe members from Tri-Cities and Spokane. For more information, contact Lito Ines at 509-727-2391.

BIBLE STUDY RETURNS



We will resume our study of the Gospel of Matthew on **Wednesday, September 30th** continuing until November 18th. Our gathering will be in rooms 6 & 8 of the PCC at 10:00 a.m. These 8 weeks will conclude our study, focusing on chapters 18 - 28 of the Gospel.

Anyone who would like to join our study is invited to a review of the earlier chapters of the Gospel of Matthew, scheduled for Wednesday the 23rd of September at the same location and time as above. This session will be limited to an hour and will give newcomers the opportunity to become familiar with the study materials and format. Our regular participants are welcome as well. As always, there will be snacks.



Claire Constantine Shepherd,
daughter of Edward and Katie Shepherd,
was baptized at Holy Spirit on September 11.

May God's blessings of peace and joy
be with her and protect her all of her days.

A Note From the St. Serra Club of Tri Cities

"Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call to him while he is near." (Isaiah 55:6) Help others to seek the Lord as a priest, permanent deacon, brother, monk, or nun. Next Sunday is *Priesthood Appreciation Sunday*. Be thinking now of how you can show a priest that you appreciate him.



Please sign up to help with the Knights of Columbus Sprinkler Blowouts. This is a fundraiser requiring lots of help and more volunteers than usual. Proceeds benefit the most vulnerable in our community.

Sprinkler blowouts will begin October 16. To volunteer, see the Knights in the vestibule after Mass this weekend or contact Marcel Bergeron at 509-554-4924 or marce.bergeron@gmail.com, Bernie Ip at 509-551-0738 or bernard.c.ip@gmail.com, Darrell Kahl at 509-585-2333, or George Stoltz at 509-531-2422.

Surviving Divorce (12 Sessions - Ascension Press)
Starts September 28th
Christ the King Catholic Church in Richland
Monday Nights, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. in the Library
Cost of workbook: \$25

Surviving Divorce was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. Led by Elizabeth Weiss, it is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues related to divorce many years later. It will help answer questions, restore hope, and begin authentic healing. Developed and hosted by Rose Sweet, *Surviving Divorce* features experts Dr. Ray Guarendi, Ph.D., Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C., Fr. Steve Porter, S.T.L., and Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J.

For more information or to register for this class, please e-mail Meggin Sanner at ckadultr@gmail.com.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a time to rejoice in the beauty of your marriage, family and faith. The next Spokane Weekend will be **October 2 - 4, 2026** at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center. For more information, call Ken and Cheryl at 509-922-9813 or sign up at www.wwme.org/apply.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

The fall prayer vigil to protect the unborn will be held from September 23 to November 1. You are invited to join the vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 7426 W. Bonnie Place in Kennewick each Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Your prayers from home are also welcomed. Use the QR code to find more information.



St. Joseph Parish/Kennewick Mission—October 5-9, 2026
“To Live as a Favorite Son/Daughter of God and No Longer as an Orphan”

Monday-Friday mornings in the Small Church:
Mission Talk after each 8:30 a.m. Mass – “God Alone Suffices”
Monday-Wednesday evenings in the Big Church:
6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m. Mission Talk



Fr. Philip is the founder of the Family of Jesus religious community in Peru. He preaches parish missions and retreats throughout the world. His ministry focuses on healing wounds that often prevent people from embracing their identity as beloved sons and daughters of God and entering into a deeper intimacy with Him.

Family of Jesus website: <https://familiadejesusperu.org/>
For more information, contact Wendy Nuxoll at 509-551-0013 or nuxoll4@charter.net.



Seniors Helping All Kids' Education (S.H.A.K.E.) staff and volunteers extend their thanks to Holy Spirit parishioners for the many boxes full of school supplies that were gathered at the parish prior to the start of the school year. S.H.A.K.E. delivered school supplies to 94 Benton/Franklin Public Schools and 2 preschools. The vision of S.H.A.K.E. is to see students ready to begin school and learn with the necessary school supplies.

— Join us for —
Hope Medical's
10TH BIRTHDAY
★ CELEBRATION BENEFIT ★
OCTOBER 17, 2026



SCAN TO
BUY
TICKETS!



CALVARY CHAPEL
10611 W. CLEARWATER AVE KENNEWICK, WA 99336



PRE-SHOW RECEPTION
5:30 PM



This will be a fun and meaningful evening with clean comedy, a pre-show reception, appetizers, desserts, silent auction, and an opportunity to celebrate 10 years of hope in our community.

Reserve your seat or host package by scanning QR code above, mailing a check to Hope, or by calling 509-396-7737.

★ Individual Admission and Table Host Packages are available now.

TABLE HOST PACKAGE – \$500

Enjoy early entry at 5:30 PM and a reserved table for 8 at the pre-show reception featuring appetizers, desserts, and access to the silent auction, followed by priority seating for the show.

VIP TICKET – \$65

Enjoy early entry at 5:30 PM to the pre-show reception featuring appetizers, desserts, and access to the silent auction, followed by priority seating for the show.

GENERAL ADMISSION – \$30

Includes admission to the show only. Doors open at 6:30 PM.

FAMILY ADMISSION – \$120

Includes admission to the show for 2 adults and 2 or more children. Doors open at 6:30 PM.

FEATURING

Shawn Reynolds

CLEAN COMEDY FOR ALL AGES

Visit www.hopemedicalwa.com for more information.



FALL CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERIES
— 2026 —

★ MONDAYS • 6:15 PM • PARISH COMMUNITY CENTER ★



OCTOBER
19

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:
A holy covenant and lifelong union between a man and a woman that reflects Christ's love for the Church.
Presented by Deacon Eric



OCTOBER
26

ANNULMENTS & DISSOLUTIONS:
Pastoral support of individuals to restore their full communion with the Church and heal the wounds of failed marriages.
Presented by Father Michael & Deacon Eric



NOVEMBER
2

WITNESS TO LIFE:
The Catholic Teaching on Human Dignity. Understanding what the Church really teaches on being Pro-Life.
Presented by Carol Gaulke

All are welcome.

Light refreshment will be provided before the presentations.

✦
GROW IN FAITH. DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING. JOURNEY TOGETHER.

September 19th, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon, our parishes will participate in the annual **Retirement Fund for Religious** collection, which takes place on **September 19-20, 2026**.

This appeal supports more than 21,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have devoted their lives to serving the Church and God's people.

For generations, these women and men have been teachers, caregivers, spiritual guides, and quiet witnesses of faith in our communities. Many of us can name a sister, brother, or religious order priest whose example strengthened our faith or whose kindness shaped our lives.

Today, the reality they face is challenging. Most religious received little compensation during their ministry. Now, their communities must pay for rising costs in health care, nursing support, and medications. These financial pressures are significant, and the need continues to grow.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious directly supports their care and helps their communities provide for them with dignity. It is a meaningful way to express gratitude for lives spent in faithful service.

I am mindful that you are asked to support many important causes, and I am sincerely grateful for your generosity. I encourage you, if possible, to donate to this year's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Your contribution will make a real difference in the lives of our elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Please also keep them in your prayers, just as they faithfully pray for us.

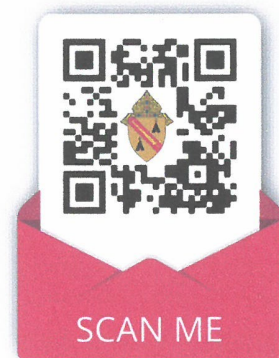
May God bless you and your loved ones with lasting peace, strength, and good health.

With all my prayers and blessing,



Most Reverend Joseph J Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

JJT/alc



Scan to donate online.
Thank you!

Retirement Fund for Religious

Why We Ask

- In 1988, Catholic bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.
- For most of their lives, elder religious worked for little to no pay. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.
- Only 6 percent of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office are adequately funded for retirement; 48 percent have fewer than 25 members. Many small communities struggle to care for elder members due to a lack of financial resources and personnel.
- Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.
- Today, retired religious outnumber wage-earning religious by more than two and a half to one.
- There are 18,931 religious age 70 or older living in the United States. In 2025, the average annual cost for their care was roughly \$62,000 per person; skilled nursing care averaged about \$102,000 per person.
- Since 2009, the annual total cost to support senior women and men religious has exceeded \$1.1 billion.
- In 2025, 69 percent of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office had a median age of 70 or older.
- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is \$9,390, whereas the average lay US beneficiary receives \$24,856.

How Donations Help

- Each year, hundreds of US religious communities receive financial assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Communities can use this funding for immediate retirement expenses or invest it for future needs. Since the first collection, US Catholics have donated more than \$1 billion.
- Since the collection began, nearly \$940 million has been distributed to support the day-to-day care of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. An additional \$103.7 million has been allocated toward self-help projects initiated by religious communities, including collaborative health-care facilities.
- In addition to supplying direct financial assistance, proceeds from the annual collection underwrite educational programming, services, and resources that enable religious communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs.
- Support from the Retirement Fund for Religious helps religious communities care for senior members while continuing their important ministries to the people of God.



From left: Father David Costello, OCD, 90; Sister Anne Lanh Tran, LHC, 80; Sister Aida Sansor, MGSps, 87.

Statistics on women and men religious were obtained from the NRRO database of participating religious institutes as of December 31, 2025. Visit usccb.org/nrro to access a full statistical report.



National Religious Retirement Office
Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194
Phone (202) 541-3215
Fax (202) 541-3053

retiredreligious.org



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM



LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL
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UNION GAP, WA 98903



509-965-7117



info@yakimadiocese.org



yakimadiocese.org



**DIOCESE OF
YAKIMA**



Next Up!

MIGUEL DULICK

I keep hearing preachers say this is their least favorite gospel, because it makes people so mad! All the workers in a vineyard get a full day's pay—which folks interpret as heaven—even the ones who came at the last hour of the afternoon. “You mean, I work hard my whole life, and some nobody from nowhere just waltzes into heaven ahead of me?” But wait a minute! You think you *deserve* your “pay”? None of us is anywhere or anything, even breathing, without God's grace. It's not a competition; it's our only hope! We should be dancing in the street to celebrate God's generosity. Matthew himself must have chuckled at this parable, since he was also a latecomer, having spent his life grinding his own brothers and sisters into poverty to feed the tax maw of the Roman Empire. Then, Jesus called him! I love the twist in the parable: the owner not only pays the last ones equally, but he pays them *first*!

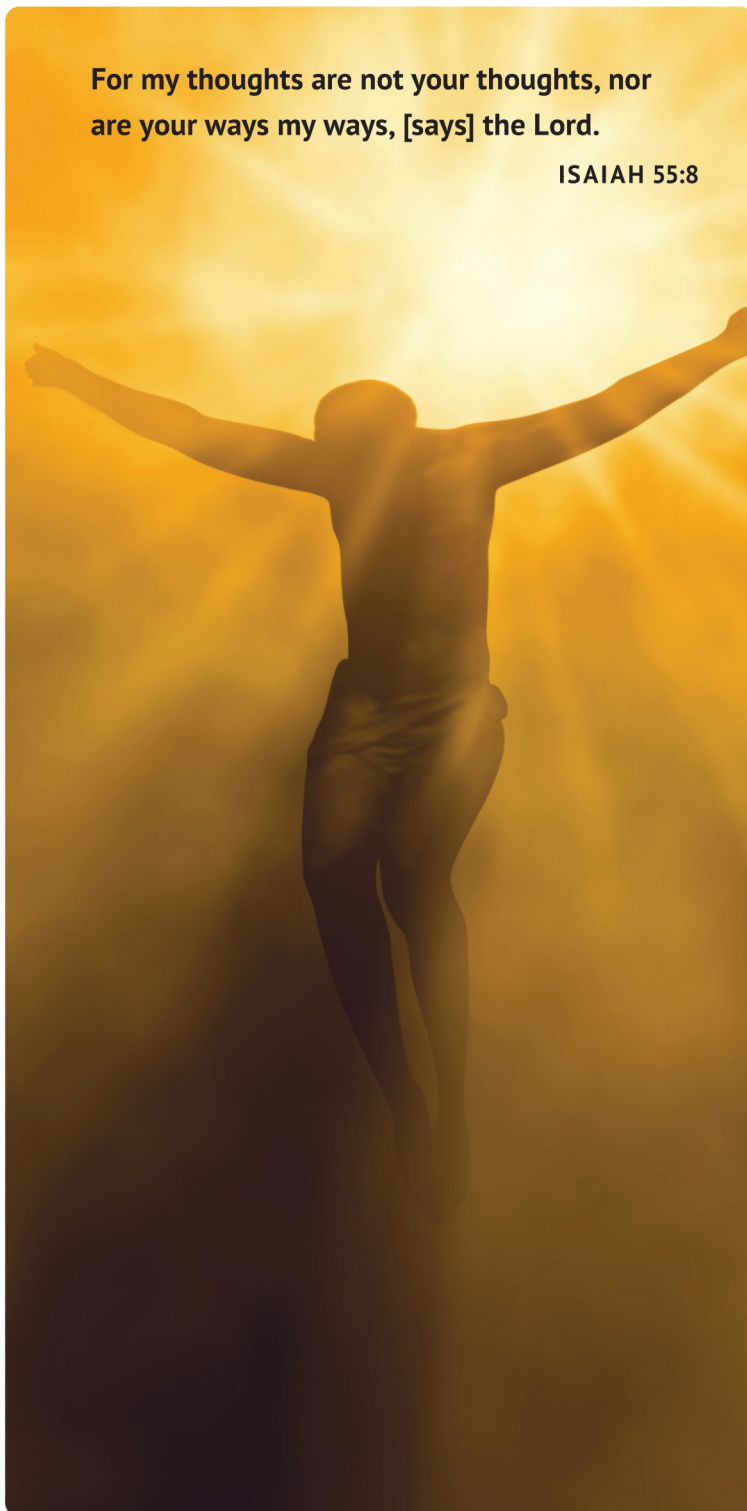


LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

If you don't like standing in line, you could be like Paul, who wants to just skip to the end: “I long to depart this life and be with Christ” (Philippians 1:23). As he says, “To me life is Christ, and death is gain” (Philippians 1:21). We should all be so eager. Just concentrate on the “fruitful labor” of service to others. Put everyone else ahead of you, and don't be afraid of some hard work. Any vineyard is a challenge, even when that vineyard is the Church. ●

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor
are your ways my ways, [says] the Lord.

ISAIAH 55:8



Reflect

Do I feel more deserving than others or struggle with envy?

Dear Padre,

Adam and Eve had two sons and maybe others not mentioned in the Bible. How were others born without having committed incest?

This is a perfectly valid question, and one that I think many people have probably asked themselves at one time or another. Unfortunately, it is the wrong question, because it does not reflect the true meaning of the story.

The story about Adam and Eve is not a literal story or, in other words, a story that would be reported by CNN or FOX News. It is a teaching story, intended to encourage belief in the creative power of God at work in his creation. It is not, nor has it ever been, a literal step-by-step tutorial of the early days of the human race.

The bible includes different literary forms: narrative or history, poetry and songs, parables, letters, genealogies, and more. Knowing what form is being used, the purpose of the passage, who is writing or talking, and the intended audience is the work of Scripture scholars. The story of creation is not intended to be literal; it is inspirational. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



OSCAR IVAN ESQUEVEL / UNSPLASH



FADHIL ABHIMANTRA / UNSPLASH

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

It is a great sign of hope—especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars—to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages, and cultures live together in faith: it is...a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 11, 2026

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

September 21

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Eph 4:1–7, 11–13

Mt 9:9–13

Wednesday

September 23

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Prv 30:5–9

Lk 9:1–6

Saturday

September 26

Weekday

Eccl 11:9–12:8

Lk 9:43b–45

Sunday

September 27

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25–28

Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5

Mt 21:28–32

Tuesday

September 22

Weekday

Prv 21:1–6, 10–13

Lk 8:19–21

Thursday

September 24

Weekday

Eccl 1:2–11

Lk 9:7–9

Friday

September 25

Weekday

Eccl 3:1–11

Lk 9:18–22



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