

PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

PARISH OFFICE: 7411 W. CLEARWATER AVE, SUITE A, KENNEWICK

OFFICE: 509-735-8558

email: office@holyspiritkennewick.org

website: www.holyspiritkennewick.org

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

FR. MICHAEL BRZEZOWSKI

509-735-8558

pastor@holyspiritkennewick.org



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"People will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." - Lk 13:29-30

DEACON KEN ELLS

509-948-4355

deaconkeneth@charter.net

DEACON ERIC SHABER

208-521-7846

ecshaber@gmail.com

DEACON MIKE GAULKE

509-551-7626

micaejere@msn.com

Parish Staff:

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

Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator	Michele Umamoto	735-1743
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Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade	Karen Gorham	735-8558
6th to 8th Grades/Edge	Danielle May	528-9780
	& Kim Barany	308-3328
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen	Jennifer Moore	492-6209
	& Joe Bliss	216-402-3118
	email: lifeleerhs@gmail.com	

Confirmation	Deacon Mike & Carol Gaulke	551-7626
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Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	Joe & Sherry Schroeder	405-2242
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Ministers of Music:

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass	Julianne Bamaby	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 Urutia	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 Bohmann	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
Scout Troop #275	Teddy Herrera	778-0505

Natural Family Planning:	Carol Gaulke	619-5464
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AUGUST 24, 2025

Weekend Masses:

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

Weekdays:

Monday: Mass at 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday: Mass at 5:30 p.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.
or by appointment.

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)



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)

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 24, 2025

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

Sunday, August 24:

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Pack-a-Picnic sponsored by Elizabeth Ministry, on the lawn in the shade on First Avenue, following Mass.

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

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



Monday, August 25:

Weekday

Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest

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

Tuesday, August 26:

Weekday

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

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

Mass in the church at 5:30 p.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Scout Troop 275, PCC hall and room 5, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

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

Wednesday, August 27:

Saint Monica

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

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

Thursday, August 28:

Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

Friday, August 29:

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

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, August 30:

Weekday

Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Sunday, August 31:

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Rosary led by Knights of Columbus, following Mass, in the church near the tabernacle.

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

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



From the Pastor's Desk ...

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA):

Next weekend at all Masses, Joe Schroeder and members of the catechetical team will re-introduce the OCIA process to us during announcement time.

The OCIA process is the means by which adults—that is, anyone over the age of 7 (according to Church Law)—are received into the Catholic Church. Some adults, youth, and children over the age of 7 have never been baptized. Individuals in this category who wish to become Catholic prepare to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist—the *Sacraments of Initiation*—all at once; in that order. Their preparation usually culminates in the reception of these sacraments at the Solemn Vigil of Easter (Holy Saturday) each year.

The OCIA is also the process by which Christians, already validly baptized in other churches, are received into the Catholic Church (also at the Solemn Vigil of Easter). A Christian baptized in the Lutheran Church, for example, would become Catholic by making a Profession of Faith (*"I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes, teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God."*) and then receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist; in that order.

The first stage of the OCIA process is called *Inquiry*, whereby those interested in the Catholic Church are invited to "come and see"—free of any obligations or pressure. The OCIA process is all about helping people to discern God's will for them. For some, the process itself, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the support of our prayers will lead them to becoming Catholic. Let us continue to inspire and assist those who are seeking faith and salvation from God in the *one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church* (Nicene Creed).

God's Blessings,

E. Michael

Holy Spirit Parish Stewardship



Did you know that the Parish of the Holy Spirit is a tithing parish? We are; and so are a few other parishes in the Diocese of Yakima. What this means is, we offer 10% of our Sunday income each month to assist worthy charitable causes—both locally and worldwide. The members of the Parish Council advise Fr. Michael regarding the charitable organizations that we choose to help, and these vary from month to month.

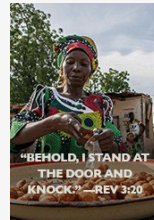
Based on the Sunday collections we received in the month of July, we are assisting the following organizations with financial help: **St. Joseph Catholic School, Tri-Cities Food Bank, Hope Medical, PREPARES**, our **St. Vincent de Paul Conference, FOCUS** (assisting Jeremiah Nguyen and Jackie Gazewood in their lay missionary work with university students), **Grace Clinic, Holy Family Catholic Church** in Gaza, and the **Missionaries of Charity** (St. Mother Teresa's religious order).

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje with Fr. Richard Sedlacek

Fr. Richard Sedlacek, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Selah, announces a pilgrimage to Medjugorje **November 3 - 11, 2025**, including time with visionary Mirjana Soldo.

Please find brochures on the bulletin board in our church hallway. For more information contact the Our Lady of Lourdes parish office at 509-697-4633, call Joseph or Beverly Gouveia at 509-961-4750 or 509-952-8925, or visit the Triumph Pilgrimages web site at triumphpilgrimages.com.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION



Thank you for your support of the Catholic Relief Services Collection and for revealing Christ's love to those who are poor and marginalized in the U.S. and around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. There are collection envelopes in the vestibule or visit <https://www.usccb.org/national-collection/catholic-relief-services-collection> to learn more and to donate online.

We are thrilled to announce that the long-awaited **Parish Pictorial Directory** has finally been completed. All participants whose photos are in the directory should stop by the table in the vestibule after Mass to pick up their free copy. Anyone who did not participate but would like a copy is welcome to purchase one for \$10 in the parish office beginning in September.



Heartfelt thanks to **Wynona Vaz** for directing and completing this huge project and to everyone who volunteered their time to make this publication possible:

Father Michael, Deacon Eric, Deacon Ken, Deacon Mike, Debbie Forgette, Karen Gorham, Jim Brennan, Linda Rego, Dieter Bohrmann, Rich Breshears, Stephanie McDaid, Courtney Hunter, Rachel Courson, Trish Feeney, Mary Zilar, Donna Osborne, Jay Osborne, Camille Henneberry, Christine Miller, Denise Wimett, Kristine Vaz, Zena Vaz, Spectrum Studios, and the Parish Council.

STEWARDSHIP: Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself—my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God—is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

July 20: \$11,937.55 Recorded givers: 108

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, 7409 W. Clearwater Ave., 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.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Do You Know Him, or Just Know About Him?

Facebook, Twitter, and other forms of social media can be powerful tools of communication. They allow people to stay in touch. They provide an avenue for fresh ideas. People can be engaged in conversations and be exposed to issues of the day in ways few could have dreamed of just a few decades ago. But social media can also give us a false sense of really knowing someone, when only the surface has been scratched about who a person is in reality.

You don't really know someone just because you know a lot about him or her and are linked to that person's profile online. Unfortunately, people develop emotional attachments to the *idea* of a person all the time. If they do find themselves fortunate enough to meet the person face-to-face one day, they often find out that they never really knew the person in the first place.

There are people who believe they know Jesus so very well. They can readily share their view of what Jesus would do or wouldn't do in a given situation. They own items like crosses and Bibles that seem to provide evidence that they know the Lord well. Sometimes, they even strongly admonish others because their view of Jesus is in opposition with their own.

In Luke 13, Jesus speaks about those who *claim* to know him, but they really do not belong to him at all. They make their claims based upon what they have seen and heard, but they have never allowed Jesus to truly change them. They are like Facebook followers; seemingly close, but with no real relationship at all.

Do you know Jesus? Then don't just be a fan. Invite Jesus into your life and let the real relationship with your Lord and God begin.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

LPI

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative.

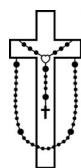
Monday	August 25	Patricia M. Go RIP
Tuesday	August 26, 5:30 p.m.	Eli Ziegler
Wednesday	August 27	Duc & Kim Nguyen
Thursday	August 28	Bev McCabe
Friday	August 29	Walsh Family
Saturday	August 30, 4:00 p.m.	Leila Brown RIP
Sunday	August 31, 5:00 p.m.	Mick Bence RIP

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.

5th SUNDAY ROSARY



The Knights of Columbus will lead the recitation of the Holy Rosary on the 5th Sunday of this month, **August 31, following the 9:30 a.m. Mass**—in the church near the tabernacle. Knights, their families and all other parishioners are encouraged to pray the Rosary as a group every time a 5th Sunday occurs on the calendar. Please join us!

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT THE PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Our parish is in need of an **Edge Coordinator** to lead the middle school (grades 6-8) catechesis program on Sunday evenings. The coordinator will be responsible to plan, organize, and facilitate middle school religious education, youth activities, and events. The Edge Coordinator is a paid staff position accountable to the Pastor of the Parish of the Holy Spirit for the execution of assigned responsibilities. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

Working to ensure qualified Core Team members staff the Edge program by:

- Recruiting and assigning Edge team members (catechists and volunteers)
- Coordinating training for team members
- Maintaining compliance with diocesan safe environment requirements

Maintaining a fully functional Edge program to include:

- Establishing a calendar of weekly Edge sessions during the school year
- Working with Core Team members to plan Edge Nights
- Leading Edge Nights
- Order and maintain teaching resources
- Prepare a budget for the Edge program.

Maintaining student attendance records, and other documentation as required.

Performing logistical responsibilities:

- Unlocking and locking buildings (church and Parish Community Center)
- Overseeing the set-up of rooms and facilities to be used
- Submitting bulletin notices as required

To express your interest in this position or for additional details, call the parish office at 509-735-8558.



Are you surprised to learn that Catholicism is on the rise among Gen Z men?



- Are YOU interested in becoming Catholic, or learning more about the Catholic faith? Or do you know someone you could invite to church?
- On **Thursday, September 4**, our parish will begin **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)** classes for adults who are considering joining the Catholic Church.
- These Thursday evening classes will cover the basics of our Catholic beliefs, prayer, and community life in a welcoming and supportive environment.
- All are welcome! For more information or to register, contact Joe (509-405-2242) or Sherry Schroeder (509-521-3782.)

Next weekend, August 30-31, we will take up a second collection (after Holy Communion) for our parish's **St. Vincent de Paul Conference**. Thank you in advance for your generosity. We meet the first and third Thursdays each month at 10:00 a.m. in PCC room 7. If you are seeking a way to serve the poor, grow spiritually, and make new friends, please stop by to see what we are about or contact the parish office at 735-8558.



Blessed Francis Faà di Bruno was born in Alessandria, Italy on March 29, 1825, the youngest of twelve children. After earning a doctorate in mathematics and astronomy at the Sorbonne (Paris), he joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Francis was ordained a priest in 1876 at the age of fifty-one. He died in Turin (Italy) on March 27, 1888, and was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II on September 25, 1988.

HAVE FUN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE VOLUNTEERING IN OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES



Please consider helping in our pre-K through 5th grade religious education classes this fall. Volunteers in this ministry play a vital role in teaching and nurturing faith and spiritual growth in the lives of the young people of our parish. Curriculum and materials are provided and extensive support and guidance is available. Classes meet Tuesdays from 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. September through April. Please contact our Religious Education Director Karen Gorham at 509-735-8558 or karen@holyspiritkennewick.org to see how you can help.

Surviving Divorce (12 Sessions - Ascension Press)

Christ the King Catholic Church in Richland
Monday Nights, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. in the Youth Center, Room B
Starts on Monday, September 1st
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. 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 ckadultre@gmail.com.

HELLO
my name is

Name Tag Sunday

The Stewardship Committee continues to encourage and promote the growth of Holy Spirit Parish. Whether you are a parishioner or a visitor to our parish, thank you for participating in our **name tag wearing** at all our Masses this weekend. Let's strive to get to know more of our parishioners by name, both during Mass and during our social time afterward.

JOB OPENING: Pastoral Assistant for Administration

St. Joseph Parish in Kennewick is seeking a full-time Pastoral Assistant for Administration. The successful candidate will report directly to the pastor and assist in tasks including administration, and the management of office personnel, finances, facilities, and technology. For information, contact Fr. Jose Herrera or Deacon William Mich at the parish office at (509) 586-3820 ext. 103. Applications and related information can be obtained at: <http://www.applitrack.com/yakimadiocese/onlineapp>.

The position is currently open: resumes and letters of intent will be accepted until the position is filled.

WE NEED YOU

Join the Altar Linen Ministry

Our parish is in need of volunteers in our **Altar Linen Ministry**. Volunteers in this ministry wash, iron, and fold the purificators, hand towels, and corporals that are used during our daily and weekend Masses. The laundering and care of the altar linens is an essential ministry in our parish. Working from home on a rotating schedule, the Altar Linen Ministry team collects the purificators, corporals, towels and other soiled altar linens weekly and takes them home to launder and iron them so that the altar on which the celebration of the Eucharist takes place is beautifully appointed. The current schedule has each minister collect and return the linens weekly for one month at a time. Current ministers will provide training and assistance. Call the parish office at 509-735-8558 to express your interest or for more information.

St. Paul Cathedral and the Diocese of Yakima will welcome, honor, and especially pray for all teachers, students, and all who support them at the **First Tuesday Jubilee Year Masses on Tuesday, September 2, 2025**. There will be two evening Masses at the Cathedral—at 5:30 p.m. (English) and 7:00 p.m. (Spanish). The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes prior to each Mass. Reception following in the Assembly Place.

Bible Study Coming Soon Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom, a twenty-four-part Bible study, explores how Jesus is challenging and empowering us to a new level of holiness. We will be completing the study in three 8-week sessions as follows:

- September 24 – November 12, 2025
- January 28 – March 18, 2026
- September 30 – November 18, 2026

Registration will take place in the vestibule after all weekend Masses September 6-7.

This Bible Study will meet Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the PCC; however, anyone interested in facilitating an evening session of this study, please contact Judy Turner at 509-438-7938.

A NOTE FROM ST. SERRA CLUB OF TRI CITIES

"Go out to all the world and tell the Good News." (Response to Psalm 117) Is God calling you to proclaim His Gospel to the world as a priest, permanent deacon, brother, monk or nun?



Please come to Volunteer and Shop at the
HOLY SPIRIT RUMMAGE SALE

**Thursday and Friday, September 4-5
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the PCC**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SORTING AND SETUP:

Tuesday and Wednesday, September 2-3, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SORTING AND CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE:

Thursday and Friday, September 4-5, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**RUMMAGE DONATIONS can be brought to the PCC
on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 2-3,
between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.**

Please bring rummage donations through the PCC parking lot door only.



Lunch will be provided to volunteers
Tuesday through Friday.



Please call or text Linda Rego at 253-370-6368
with any questions or to volunteer.

Thank you. Holy Spirit volunteers are THE BEST!



School is starting this week and here at the Parish of the Holy Spirit we are getting ready for our Religious Education classes as well! Registration forms were emailed to those who attended our classes last year. If you did not receive one, please look on the table in the vestibule, download one online at www.holyspiritkennewick.org or come into the office and pick one up. **Please register by Tuesday, September 2nd** so that we can be prepared for your child to participate in our classes. Thank you!

Elementary School:

Preschool (age 4-5) through Grade 5 - Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. starting September 16th

Middle School:

Edge - Sundays following the 5:00 p.m. Mass through 8:00 p.m. starting September 14th with a Parent Meeting and fun night for the kids

High School:

LifeTeen - Sundays following the 5:00 p.m. Mass through 8:00 p.m. starting September 14th

** Dinner is provided after 5:00 p.m. Mass before Edge and LifeTeen!*

** Parents are requested to sign up to help serve dinner at least twice during the year.*


Looking for your child to receive the **sacraments** like First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation?

Our sacrament preparation program is **two years long** so that each student first has a year of regular religious education, followed by a year of focused sacrament preparation (in addition to the regular classes). This is consistent with the *Sacramental Preparation Policies* of the Diocese of Yakima.

For parents of 8th or 9th grades students who would like to receive **Confirmation** this year please attend the Parent Meeting on September 7th at 2:00 p.m. in the PCC hall.

We are also looking for **volunteers** to help with our youth programs. No experience is needed, just a set of willing hands, a willing heart, and a willing spirit to share your time, talents and faith with our parish's children and youth.

Any questions, please contact Karen Gorham at the parish office (509) 735-8558 or at karen@holyspiritkennewick.org.

A photograph of a man with a beard and a young child sitting together, reading a book. The man is holding the book open, and the child is looking at the pages with a joyful expression. The background is softly blurred, showing indoor plants and a window.

[Jesus said to the crowd,]
“Strive to enter through
the narrow door, for many,
I tell you, will attempt
to enter but will not be
strong enough.”

LUKE 13:24

The Narrow Gate

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some people find love in their lives; others complain of loneliness. Some find peace, while others seem to be perpetually angry. Some live comfortably amid human diversity, yet others insist that the rest of the world be like them. There are those who are able to forgive and compromise and offer compassion and those who cannot. The difference seems to be the ability to forgo one’s own desires for the sake of a greater good or the common good. Such may be the narrow gate through which some may not be strong enough to enter.

Phrases like *the kingdom of God* or *the kingdom of heaven* are not just references to places to which we go

but also ways of being or states of existence. They all refer to God’s presence, to life with God. You’ve heard people say they were so happy that they felt it was like heaven on earth. It wasn’t a place they went but an experience of being filled with joy and peace. It’s pure gift. No one ever finds it by focusing on oneself. It is the narrow gate by which we find our way into such a life. It is the doorway of caring for others. ●

Reflect

What is the “narrow gate” before me now—the most difficult challenge as a follower of Jesus?

Dear Padre,

My wife mentioned that neither the Book of Mormon nor the Catholic Bible mentions purgatory. Please comment.

A not-uncommon frustration is when a person searches the Bible for a particular word or phrasing. Frankly, it is expecting too much from the religious text to be able to faithfully record a particular word or phrase that originated hundreds of years after the ancient text was composed. Purgatory is one such example of this frustration. The concept of purgatory is referenced in the biblical text, particularly in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 7:1, Hebrews 9:27 and 12:14, and 2 Maccabees 12:46, but the word is never used.

This should come as no real surprise because it was not until the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) that the concept was expanded and formed into a theological statement of belief that has become central to Roman Catholicism. And what is that belief? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is clear: “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned” (CCC, 1030, 1031a). The Book of Mormon never references purgatory, but it does speak about the afterlife and the experience of “waiting” in the spirit world for the completion of earthly time. ●



SOULS IN PURGATORY BY LORENZO PERETTI / RENATA SEDMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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



LOSSERVATORE ROMANO / CNA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The narrow door is an image that could scare us, as if salvation is destined for only a select few, or for perfect people. But...a little further ahead, [Jesus] confirms, “Men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.”

Therefore, this door is narrow, but is open to everyone!

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 21, 2022

Monday

August 25

Weekday

1 Thes 1:1–5, 8b–10

Mt 23:13–22

Tuesday

August 26

Weekday

1 Thes 2:1–8

Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday

August 27

St. Monica

1 Thes 2:9–13

Mt 23:27–32

Thursday

August 28

St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Thes 3:7–13

Mt 24:42–51

Friday

August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

1 Thes 4:1–8

Mk 6:17–29

Saturday

August 30

Weekday

1 Thes 4:9–11

Mt 25:14–30

Sunday

August 31


Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time


Sir 3:17–18, 20, 28–29

Heb 12:18–19, 22–24a

Lk 14:1, 7–14

MELISSA MONTGOMERY
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