

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus’ birth in Luke begins, “In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin’s name was Mary” (Luke 1:26–27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that “in the sixth month” refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, “Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months” (Luke 1:24).

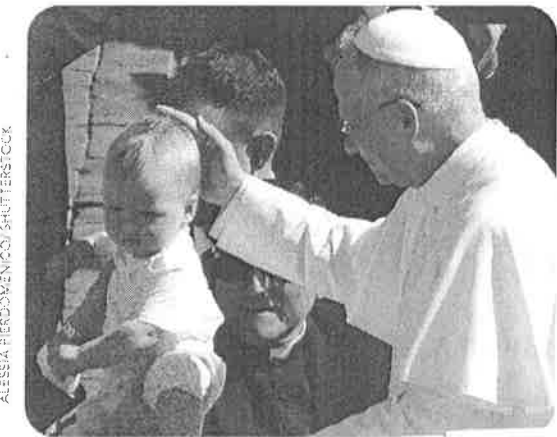
Regarding Mary’s pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, “And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren” (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a	Zep 3:1–2, 9–13	Gn 49:2, 8–10	Jer 23:5–8	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a	Is 7:10–14	Is 7:10–14
Mt 21:23–27	Mt 21:28–32	Mt 1:1–17	Mt 1:18–25	Lk 1:5–25	Lk 1:26–38	Rom 1:1–7
						Mt 1:18–24



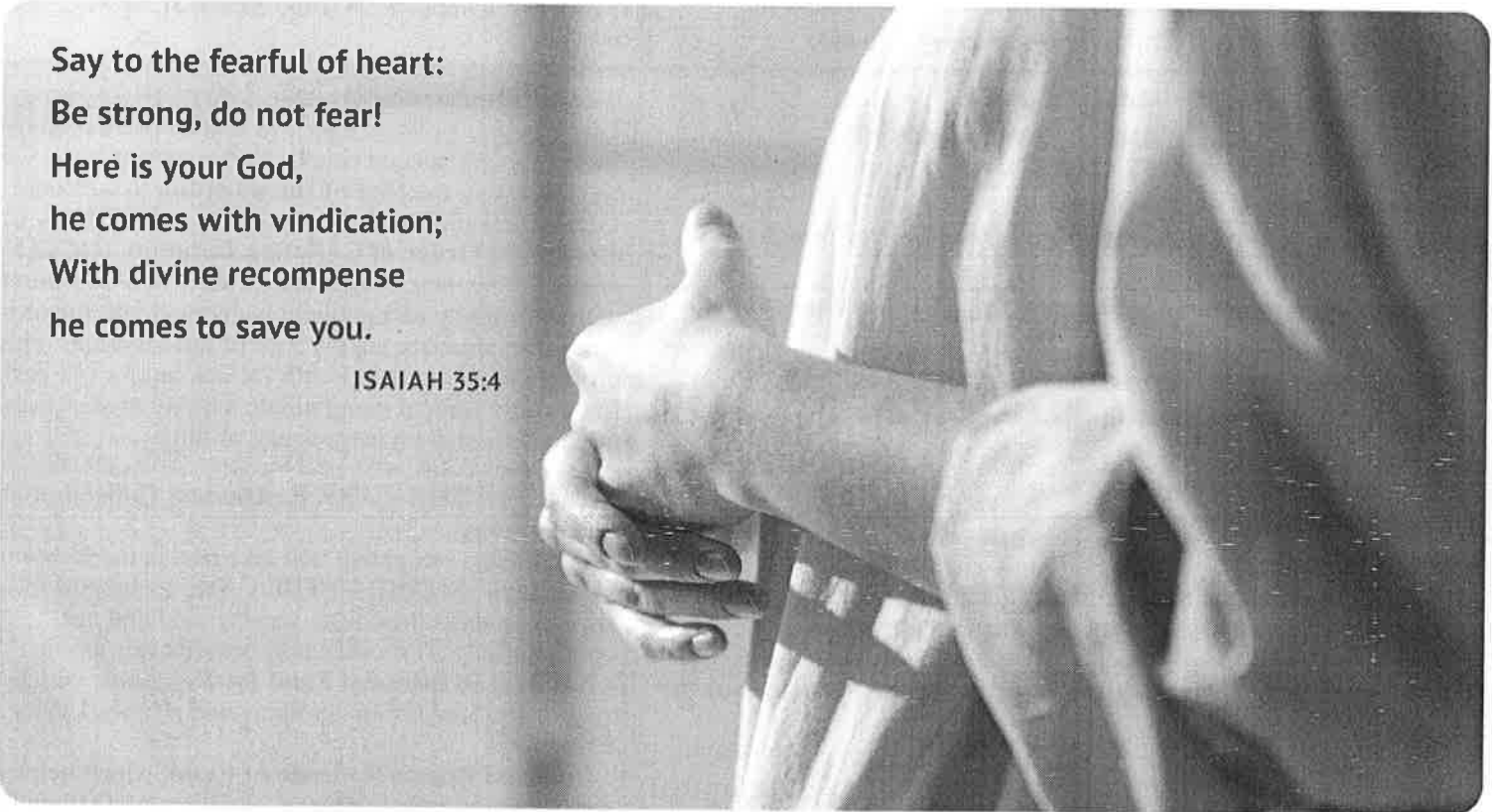
A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent (A)
Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10 / James 5:7–10 / Matthew 11:2–11



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod’s prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn’t it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, “Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand,” or, to quote an unnamed saint, “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts. Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?



SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

Office hours are Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 am—5:30 pm.

If there is an Emergency you may call Corinne at 715-250-0567 or
Father David at 920-228-1814. Thank-you.

St Mary's Mass schedule in Black Creek: Saturdays @ 4 PM,
Sundays @ 8 AM, Tuesday—Friday @ 7:30 AM

Father David Greskowiak—Administrator

Saturday 12/07/25 = \$2,160.00 Attendance = 77

Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions

12/14/2025— Living & Deceased Family Members of Tom & Carol
Weyenberg

12/21/2025— Remembrance of James Krings by The Krings Family

Mass Servers —

12/14/2025— Jamesen Boerst, Nina Drossart

12/21/2025— Alex & Reagan Krings, Nina Drossart

Ministers of the Word —

12/14/2025— Mary Peeters

12/21/2025— Kevin Peeters

Hospitality

12/14/2025— Rene LaFond, Pam Wetts, Bernie Weier

12/21/2025— Charlie Herb, Barb Erb, Karen VanLannen

Christmas flower envelopes are available at the entrances of the church.

During Advent, individuals, couples and families will be invited to light the candles on the Advent Wreath.

2026 Religious Calendars

Catholic Heritage 2026 calendars, compliments of Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home, are available at the entrances of the church.

Year-End Contributions—Please have any contributions for Tax Year 2025 into the office or in the collection by the week-end of **27/28 December**. Thank you.

RE NEWS:

Wed. 12/17 6:30PM RE Class 7:00 PM Christmas Program (Gr. 1-6)
Cookies & Milk in church hall. 10th –11th Grade class clean up. Invite Family Members

Wed. 12/24/25 — 01/01/26 Christmas Break

Wed. 01/07/26—Teacher's Meeting at 6:30 PM

Mon. 01/12/26—RE Committee Meeting at 6 PM

Wed. 01/14/26—Class resume At 6:30 PM

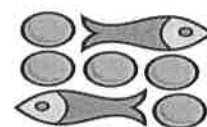
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 17 4—6 PM

Saturday, December 20 9—11 AM

Thank you for all the donations so far this year!!

Come to church early during the Christmas Season & enjoy the music. Pre-mass Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 20 minutes before mass and the other services 10 minutes before mass.



Happy Birthday!

December 14 Jared Erb; 15 Isaac Seefeldt; 16 Debbie Banker, Charlie Herb; 17 Beau Coisman, EJ Zander; 18 Tim Letter; 20 Marge Bowden, Dennis Jarek; 21 Carter Guyette; 26 Jordan Fischer, Amy Guyette; 27 Zach Reif, Carol Short; 29 Harper Strayer; 31 Pat Weier, Stacey Scott

Rite of Introduction

This Sunday, 14 December, we will be privileged to witness a very special ritual. At the start of Mass we will be celebrating the **Rite of Introduction** to welcome Tiffany Marvin into the Catholic Church. Tiffany is going through the **Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA)** process to become of member of the Catholic Church, and will be formally and publicly welcomed into the order of the Catechumenate via the Rite of Introduction. This is a proud and holy moment both for her and for our parish. Let us pray for and congratulate Tiffany as she takes this momentous step on her journey of faith.

SHARE IN THE CARE Retirement Collection—
This Sunday

This Sunday, our parish will take part in the Retirement Collection—SHARE IN THE CARE to support those who have spent their lives serving God and our communities. This collection benefits two groups:
- National Retirement Fund for Religious, which supports retired sisters, brothers and religious order Priests

- Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund, which helps care for our senior priests here in the Diocese of Green Bay. You may choose to support one or both funds using the special envelope attached to the bulletin and available at the entrances of the church. If paying by check, please make it out to the parish. Let's be as generous as we can to help these faithful servants receive the care and dignity they deserve. Thank you.

Oplatki—Christmas Wafers Orders

Assumption B.V.M. Church in Pulaski is again taking orders for Oplatki—the Christmas Wafers. Order forms are available at the entrances of the church.



God's blessings on our Jewish brothers and sisters who begin their celebration of Hanukkah at sunset this Sunday, 14 December through Monday, 22 December.



Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026: **January** 25; **February** 1, 18(Ash Wednesday); **March** 8, 22, 29; **April** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 19, 26; **May** 3, 10, 24, 25; **June** 7, 21, 28; **July** 5, 12, 26; **August** 2, 23, 30; **September** 6, 20(Picnic), 27; **October** 4, 11, 18, 25; **November** 8, 15, **Deer Hunter's Mass, Thanksgiving**, 29; **December** 13, 20, **Christmas Eve, Christmas Day**, 27, and **New Years**. You may contact Corinne at the office to reserve your dates.

The "O" Antiphons

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: "**Catholic Activity: O Antiphons - December 17 – 24**," written by Jennifer Gregory Miller, and found on the Catholic Culture website—catholicculture.org:

December 17 marks the beginning of the "**O**" **Antiphons** an ancient part of our liturgy, dating back to the fourth century, one for each day until Christmas Eve. These antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles, based on the Old Testament prophecies and types of Christ. The Church recalls the variety of the ills of man before the coming of the Redeemer...

O Sapientia or O Wisdom (December 17)

O Wisdom (Sirach 24:3),

You came forth from the mouth of the Most High (Sirach 24:3), and reaching from beginning to end You ordered all things mightily and sweetly (Wisdom 8:1).

* Come, and teach us the way of prudence (Isaiah 40:14).

O Adonai or O Lord and Ruler (December 18)

O Adonai (Exod 3:14)

and Ruler of the house of Israel (Matt 2:6; Micah 5:1; 2 Sam 5:2), You appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush (Exod 3:2) and on Mount Sinai gave him Your Law (Exod 20).

* Come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us (Jeremiah 32:21).

O Radix Jesse or O Root of Jesse (December 19)

O Root of Jesse, (Isaiah 11:1)

You stand for the ensign of mankind (Isaiah 11:10); before You kings shall keep silence and to You all nations shall have recourse (Isaiah 52:15).

* Come, save us, and do not delay (Habakkuk 2:3).

O Clavis David or O Key of David (December 20)

O Key of David, (Isaiah 22:22; Revelation 3:7)

and Scepter of the house of Israel (Numbers 24:17):

You open and no man closes; you close and no man opens (Isaiah 22:22).

* Come, and deliver him from the chains of prison who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death (Ps 107:10).

O Oriens or O Rising Dawn or Morning Star (December 21)

O Rising Dawn, (Jer 23:5; Zechariah 3:8; 6:12),

Radiance of the Light eternal (Habakkuk 3:4; Wisdom 7:26; Hebrews 1:3)

and Sun of Justice (Malachi 3:20):

* Come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death (Ps 107:10; Lk 1:78).

O Rex Gentium or O King of the Nations (December 22)

O King of the Gentiles (Jeremiah 10:7; Haggai 2:7),

and the Desired of all,

You are the Cornerstone that binds two into one (Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:42; Ephesians 2:20).

* Come, and save man whom You fashioned out of clay (Genesis 2:7).

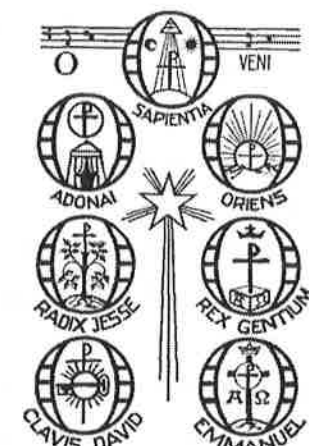
O Emmanuel (December 23)

O Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8; Luke 1:31-33),

our King and Lawgiver (Genesis 49:10; cf. Ezekiel 21:32),

the Expected of the nations and their Savior (Isa 33:22):

* Come, and save us, O Lord our God.



Christmas Season Schedule

Thursday, 18 December **Confessions—St. Lawrence in Navarino 4:30—6:00 P.M.**

Tuesday, 23 December **Confessions—St. Mary's in Black Creek 4:30—6:00 P.M.**

Wednesday, 24 December **Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Mary's 4:00 P.M.**

Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Lawrence 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, 25 December **Christmas Mass (Dawn) at St. Mary's 8:00 A.M.**

Christmas Mass (Day) at St. Lawrence 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday, 31 December **Mary Mother of God Mass at St. Mary's 4:00 P.M.**

Thursday, 1 January 2026 **Mary Mother of God Mass at St. Mary's 8:00 A.M.**

Mary Mother of God Mass at St. Lawrence 10:00 A.M.

Anyone who would like to help decorate the church for Christmas after the 10 A.M. Mass on Sunday, 21 December, will be most welcome.