

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



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 2	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6	February 7	February 8
The Presentation of the Lord	Weekday	Weekday	St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr	St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs	Weekday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mal 3:1–4	2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a,	2 Sm 24:2, 9–17	1 Kgs 2:1–4, 10–12	Mk 6:1–6	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



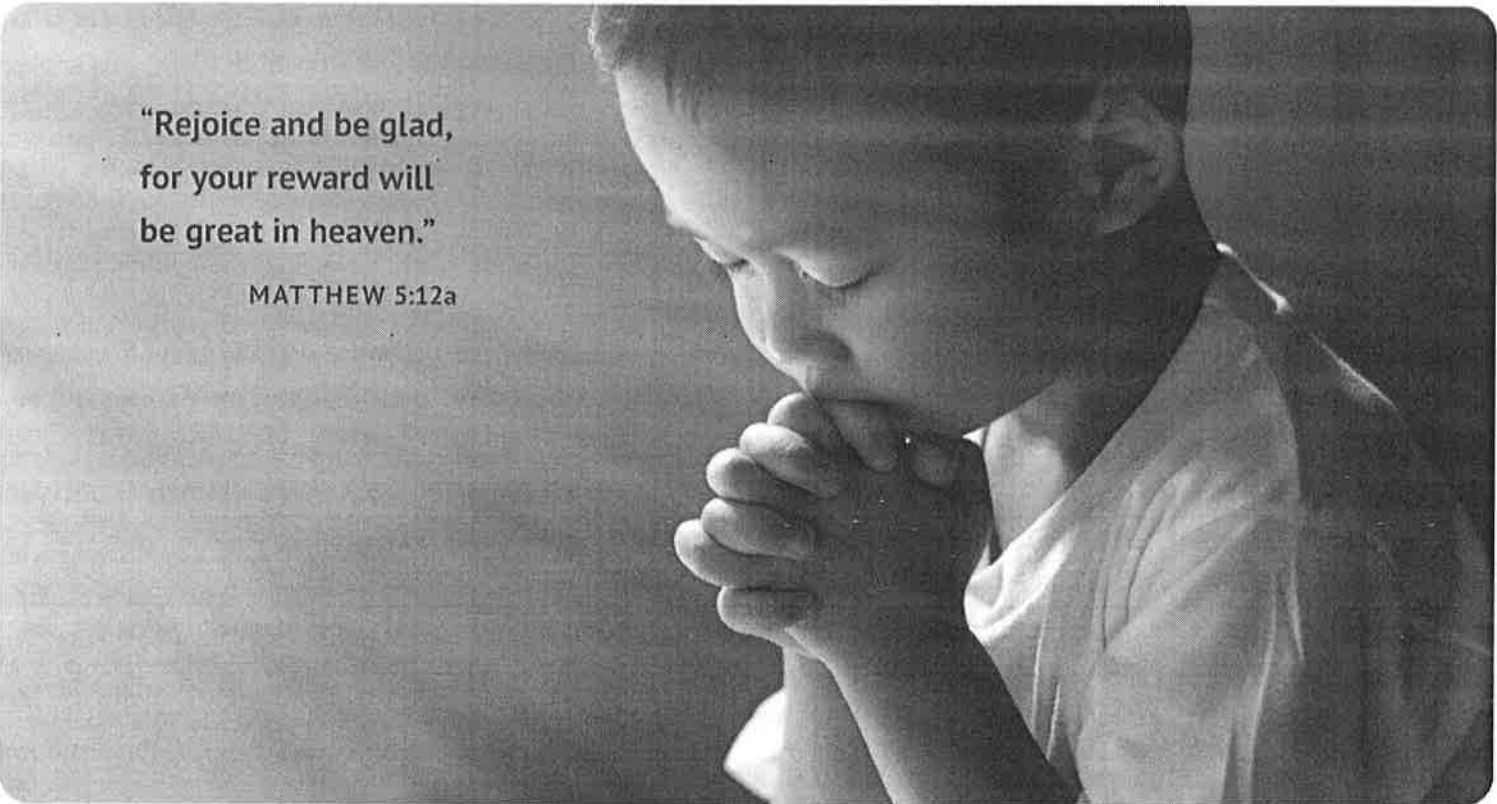
A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

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.

ADDRESS, ROME, JUNE 6, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12–13 / 1 Corinthians 1:26–31 / Matthew 5:1–12a



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

MATTHEW 5:12a

The New Evangelization

MIGUEL DULICK

This 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”?

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

Sunday 1/25/26 = \$974.00 Attendance = 79

Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions

02/01/26— Remembrance of Ron Hartleben by Tom & Carol Weyenberg

02/08/26— Don & Mickey Hartleben by Lori Mackowiak

Mass Servers —

02/01/26— Alex, Reagan Krings, Nina Drossart

02/08/26— Malachi Gray, Beau Diemel, Jared Peters

Ministers of the Word —

02/01/26— Sam Krings

02/08/26— Kevin Peeters

Hospitality

02/01/26— Barb Erb, Rene LaFond, Amy Guyette

02/08/26— Karen VanLanen, Bernie Weier, Charlie Herb

Safe Haven sent a "Thank You" letter for the donation of \$79.00 from "Lick Family Violence". It is on the bulletin board North Entrance

RE NEWS:

Every Wednesday RE Classes 6:30 PM—7:45 PM

Wed. Feb 18th 6:30pm Ash Wed Mass. Attendance will be taken. Parents please attend with your students.

Chili Dump February 15th after Mass
Join in and play Bingo

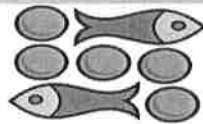
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday, February 11 4—6 PM

Saturday, February 14 9—11 AM

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

January Report = 34 Families, 93 Individuals, 17 Kids



Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026:

April 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; May 25; September 20, (Picnic), 27; October 4, 18, 25; November 15, 29 Deer Hunter's Mass, Thanksgiving, 29; December 20, Christmas Day, 27, and New Years. You may contact Corinne at the office to reserve your dates.

Happy Birthday!

February 2 Tony Eggers; 4 Harold Lorenz; 5 Isaac Tepolt, Jayden Balthazor; 8 Gary Urban; 9 Collin Guyette; 11 Wendy Meeuwse; 13 Mason Herb; 16 Jean Short; 18 Nicholas Renner; 19 Crystal Short; 20 David Burch, Mary Strayer; 21 Violet Martin; 22 Stanley Heinemeyer; 25 Shelly Stascak; 26 Pat Stammer; 27 Irene Jarek, Andrew Vanrite; 28 Eleanor Couch, James Jarek, Brody Maroszek, Megan Urban



Funeral Plans for Bishop Robert J. Banks

26 February 1928—25 January 2026

10th Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay

5 December 1990—10 October 2003

With unwavering faith in the Resurrection, I share with you that the Most Reverend Bishop Robert J. Banks, Bishop Emeritus of Green Bay, died peacefully on Sunday, January 25 at 7:51 AM at St. Paul Elder Services, Kaukauna, WI, where he resided at the time of his death. Bishop Banks was 97 years of age, having been a priest for 73 years (1952) and a Bishop for 40 years (1985). At the time of his death, he was among the nation's oldest Bishops.

Reception of the Body and Solemn Vespers will be celebrated for family, priests, deacons and consecrated religious of the diocese on **Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, 139 S. Madison St, Green Bay, WI. The Most Reverend David L. Ricken will preside with Fr. Willard Van de Loo offering a homily.

Visitation for All the Faithful will be held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, 139 S. Madison St. Green Bay, on **Friday, February 6, 2026, beginning at 8:00 AM**. The Mass of Christian Burial **will begin at 11:00 AM**, following visitation, with the Most Reverend David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, as celebrant and the Most Reverend Robert F. Morneau as homilist. Burial will follow in the Allouez Catholic Cemetery.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Robert J. Banks who was an outstanding shepherd of the flock entrusted to his care.

Grateful for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay

2026 Bishop's Appeal

The 2026 Bishop's Appeal will kick-off next weekend—7/8 February with the theme of **"Be the Light."** Our parish goal this year is \$14,805.00. Materials may have been sent to your homes, and will be available in the church. More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks. Thank you for your support of the Bishop's Appeal.



National Marriage Week / February 7-14, 2026

Join us in celebrating National Marriage Week from February 7-14!

National Marriage Week is a special time to reflect on the beautiful gift of the sacrament of matrimony. This year's theme from the USCCB is **"Man and Woman He Created Them: Together with Purpose"**, inviting couples to strengthen their bond and deepen their lifelong commitment to each other. Materials are available. Contact Fr. David.



Reflection on the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: **"4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Sunday February 1, 2026"** found on the "Young Catholics" website—young-catholics.com:

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites us to reflect on what it means to be blessed in God's kingdom. The world often values power, wealth, and success, but Jesus teaches a different way. The Beatitudes show that God blesses those who are humble, merciful, and seek righteousness. The first reading from Zephaniah calls us to trust in God and live simply. Paul reminds us that God chooses the weak and lowly to carry out His work. These reflections help us understand how we can follow Christ's teachings and live according to His kingdom.

God's Blessings Are for Everyone

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that God's blessings are not just for the powerful or successful. In the Beatitudes, Jesus shows that the promise made to Abraham is fulfilled in Him. God's kingdom is different from the world. He blesses those who are poor in spirit, meek, and merciful. This is not what people usually expect. The world values power, wealth, and status. But Jesus teaches that true happiness comes from humility and trust in God. Those who suffer, seek peace, and do what is right will receive God's blessings.

The Beatitudes call us to live in a new way. They show that God's kingdom is for all who follow Him with a sincere heart. The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges us to let go of selfish ambition and embrace the way of Christ. God invites us to live with faith and humility. By following the Beatitudes, we find true joy in His kingdom.

Humility and Trust in God

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time...highlights the importance of humility. In the first reading, Zephaniah calls people to be humble and do what is right. He reminds them that God watches over those who trust Him. Living humbly means letting go of pride and relying on God. Many people try to prove themselves through success and recognition. But true strength comes from trusting in God, not in our own power.

Zephaniah's message is a call to live simply and faithfully. Those who seek justice and kindness will find refuge in the Lord. The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teaches that God's ways are not about gaining power but about serving others. When we live with humility, we open ourselves to God's grace. He lifts up those who rely on Him, and He blesses those who walk in His ways.

God Chooses the Lowly

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that God does not look at people the way the world does. Paul tells the Corinthians that God often chooses the weak and lowly to do His work. He does not pick people based on their status or achievements.

This is a powerful message. Many people think they need to be strong, rich, or important to make a difference. But Paul shows that God works through those who seem unimportant. He lifts up the humble and makes them part of His plan.

Jesus Himself lived this way. He was not born into power or wealth, yet He brought salvation to the world. The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls us to follow His example. God does not ask for perfection or greatness. He asks for faith and humility. When we trust in Him, He can use us in ways we never expected.



Registration for Camp Tekakwitha

Registration is open for summer at Camp Tekakwitha for our parish youth! If you're looking for a Catholic summer experience spent soaking up God's great creation through outdoor adventure, blessed fun and great community, Camp Tek is for you! Please visit www.camptekakwitha.org or call 715-526-2316 for further information and joining us this summer. Summer Camp brochures are available at the entrances of the church.

Blessing of Candles and Blessing of Throats

We have a table in the sanctuary this Sunday for anyone who would like to bring candles to be blessed for use in your homes. Please attach your name and phone number to them.

We will have the Blessing of Throats in honor of St. Blaise after Mass this Sunday, 1 February.

Banns of Marriage

Max Fisher and Tiffany Marvin—7 February 2026