

# Dear Padre,

**My grandkids' parents don't want them to be baptized.  
Can I do it myself secretly so as not to cause problems?**

Your concern is understandable, but secret baptisms are prohibited in the Catholic Church. The decision to baptize a child is determined by his or her parents. To secretly usurp their decision may cause problems of its own. For an infant to be baptized, "The parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent," and "There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion" (*Code of Canon Law*, 868 §1). An exception is permitted when the child's life is in immediate danger: "An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death, even against the will of the parents" (*CCL* 868 §2). Here, the Church's pastoral concern is for the child to receive the immediate graces from the sacrament; the question of raising the child in the faith becomes moot in a life-or-death situation.

"Since the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit.... Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1282). Continue to pray that your family may see baptism as a sign of God's love, which offers true freedom for humanity. ●

Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



**The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning "social" media, we risk being ever more alone.**

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 15, 2026  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)  
Sirach 15:15-20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 /  
Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37



## Some Walk Away

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**"L**et your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No'" (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, "And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be" (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple "Yes" or "No"? Do you want to say, "Yes, but... I can't do it now." Or "I can't forgive this particular person." Or "I can't welcome this particular stranger." Or "I can't love him or her or them."

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.'"

MATTHEW 5:37

## Reflect

**What teachings of Jesus are too hard to consider?**

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 2/08/26 = \$1,058.00 Attendance = 78

Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions

02/15/26—Remembrance of Robert Letter by Lucille Letter

02/18/26—NOON Rem of Leroy & Lois Hartlaben by VanLanen Family

02/18/26—6:30 PM—Rem of James Krings by The Krings Family

02/22/26—Birthday Blessings for Irene Jarek

Mass Servers—

02/15/26—Jamesen Boerst, Landon & Natalie Fischer

02/18/26—6:30 PM Mass—Alex & Reagan Krings, Jameson Boerst

02/22/26—Alex & Reagan Krings

Ministers of the Word—

02/15/26—Troy Wegner

02/18/26—Noon—Randy Short 6:30 PM—RE Students

02/22/26—Anita Wegner

Hospitality

02/15/26—David Nowak, Annita Wegner, Pam Wetts

02/18/26—Volunteers

02/22/26—David Nowak, Charlie Herb, Bernie Weier

RE NEWS:

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

Wed. Mar 4th 6:30pm RE Class. 2nd grade Sacrament Reconciliation with Father David.

Wed. Mar. 11th 6:30pm RE Class. Confirmation class lead Stations of the Cross at 7:25pm.

Sun. Mar. 15th 10am Mass. Confirmation Student Sponsor Meeting in Church Hall after Mass.

Wed. Mar. 18th 6:30pm. Grades 3-11 Lenten Reconciliation Service.

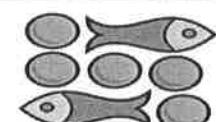
Chili Dump February 15th TODAY after Mass. Join in and play Bingo

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday, March 18 4—6 PM

Saturday, March 21 9—11 AM

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



Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026:  
April 1, 2, 3, 4; September 20, (Picnic); October 18, 25; November 19 Deer Hunter's Mass, Thanksgiving; December 20, Christmas Day, 27, and New Years. You may contact the office.

Happy Birthday!

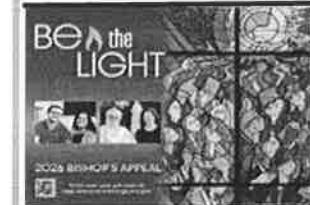
February 16 Jean Short; 18 Nicholas Renner; 19 Crystal Short; 20 David Burch, Mary Strayer; 21 Violet Martin; 25 Shelly Stascak; 26 Pat Stammer; 27 Irene Jarek, Andrew Vanrite; 28 James Jarek, Brody Maroszek, Megan Urban



## Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

18 February 2026

7:30 A.M.	St. Mary's	Black Creek
12:00 P.M.	St. Lawrence	Navarino
4:30 P.M.	St. Mary's	Black Creek (with Religious Ed families)
6:30 P.M.	St. Lawrence	Navarino (with Religious Ed families)



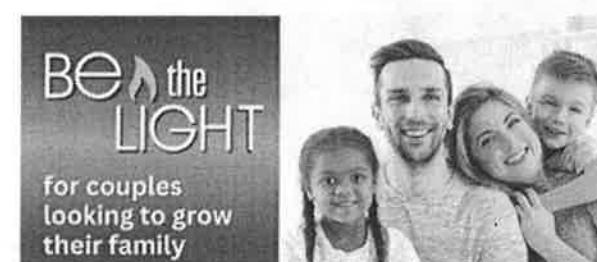
## 2026 Bishop's Appeal

**"Be the Light"**

We invite everyone who is able, to please participate in the Bishop's Appeal. Our parish goal this year is **\$14,805.00**. If you have already given, thank you so much. If you haven't given before, please consider making your first gift this year. Every gift makes a difference. Those who are able may want to join the Crozier Society with a gift of \$500 or more, which helps these ministries to reach even more people.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. You may have received materials and a pledge card at home in the mail. If you have not, we have materials at the entrances of the church. You can also visit [www.catholicfoundation.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.org/give).

Thank you for helping St. Lawrence Parish and our Diocese share the light of Christ.



Through your gift to the Bishop's Appeal, you support the loving Adoption and Pregnancy Support Services program at Catholic Charities.

Young women are able to create adoption plans, and adoptive parents are able to realize their dream of growing their family.

You are the light for so many families through your gift to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal.



Please give generously at [www.catholicfoundation.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.org/give)

Easter flower order forms and envelopes are available at the entrances of the church. Please have orders in by deadline.

## Reflection on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: *"6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Sunday February 15, 2026"* found on the "Young Catholics" website—[young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com):

### Laws on the Mountain

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that Jesus did not come to erase the law but to fulfill it. In the Gospel, he goes up a mountain, just like Moses did when he received the Ten Commandments. But Jesus does not just repeat the law—he explains its deeper meaning. He shows that following God is not just about obeying rules but about having the right heart.

Jesus speaks about important commandments, such as those against murder and adultery. He teaches that these laws go beyond actions. Anger can be just as harmful as violence, and impure thoughts can lead a person away from God. Jesus calls his followers to go deeper, to live with love and self-control.

The Old Testament law was given to guide people toward holiness. But Jesus brings something greater. He completes the law by teaching that love is at its center. The law is not just a set of rules—it is a path to a good and just life. Catholics believe that both the Old and New Testaments are part of God's plan. Jesus does not reject the old law but shows how it leads to something greater. The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges us to see the law in a new way. It is not just about following commands but about becoming the people God calls us to be.

### Not Just Rule Followers

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that faith is not just about following rules. Jesus tells his followers that their righteousness must be greater than that of the scribes and Pharisees. These religious leaders were strict about obeying the law, but they sometimes missed the bigger picture. Jesus wants more than just obedience—he wants people to live with love and sincerity.

Jesus gives examples of how to go beyond the law. It is not enough to simply avoid murder; people must also avoid anger and hatred. It is not enough to avoid adultery; people must also have pure hearts. Jesus wants his followers to live in a way that reflects God's goodness, not just follow the minimum requirements.

Rules are important, but they are not the goal. The goal is to live as children of God, treating others with kindness and honesty. When people focus only on rules, they can become judgmental or prideful. Jesus calls his followers to something higher—a life shaped by love.

Following Jesus means looking beyond the surface. The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A challenges everyone to ask: Am I just following the rules, or am I truly living the way Jesus teaches? Faith is not just about avoiding sin; it is about growing in love and goodness every day.

### Justice and Love

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that laws should lead to justice and love. Jesus does not reject the law, but he teaches that its purpose is to guide people toward what is right. The goal is not just obedience but a life shaped by goodness.

Catholics believe that salvation is a gift from God, not something earned by good deeds. But that does not mean people can ignore God's law. Jesus calls his followers to live with righteousness and mercy. A faithful life is not just about avoiding sin but about bringing justice and kindness into the world. Jesus teaches that following the law is not enough. People must understand why the law exists—to protect, to guide, and to help people love one another. When laws are used only as strict rules, they can lose their true meaning. Jesus wants people to follow the spirit of the law, not just the letter of it.

## Rite of Sending

This Sunday, 15 February, during Mass, we will have the *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election* for Tiffany Fisher as she takes this next important step to be received into the Catholic Church through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) process. Tiffany and her sponsor—Jean Fisher, will then be going to St. Francis Xavier Cathedral this afternoon to be presented to Bishop David Ricken during the *Rite of Election*. Let us keep Tiffany in prayer as she continues on her journey of faith.



Rice Bowls will be available in the church beginning on Ash Wednesday. This is a great way to observe the Lenten discipline of "almsgiving" by helping support the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in providing assistance to people overseas who need help. Thank you and God bless you this Lenten Season.



Want a good digital way to observe the Lenten Season? The FORMED website is a great way!



During the season of Lent, we will plan to have the Stations of the Cross on Sundays after Mass. We will start on **Sunday, 22 February**, and will continue to offer it on the Sundays of Lent, if enough people are willing to stay and participate in it.