

Dear Padre,

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our "Amen" to "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" means, "Truly, so be it!" It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops	Weekday	St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Weekday	Weekday	St. John Bosco, Priest	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Tm 1:1-8 or 2 Tm 1:1-8 or 2 Tm 1:1-5	17-19	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 2 Sm 7:4-17	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13
Mk 3:22-30	Mk 3:31-35	Mk 4:1-20	Mk 4:21-25	Mk 4:26-34	Mk 4:35-41	1 Cor 1:26-31
						Mt 5:1-12a

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

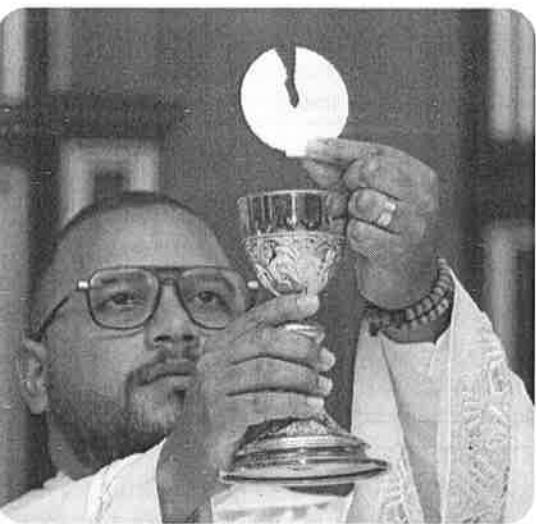
A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 8:23-9:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 / Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



Judged or Invited?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus' words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on "repent," or is the emphasis on the announcement, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand"? Does it make any difference?

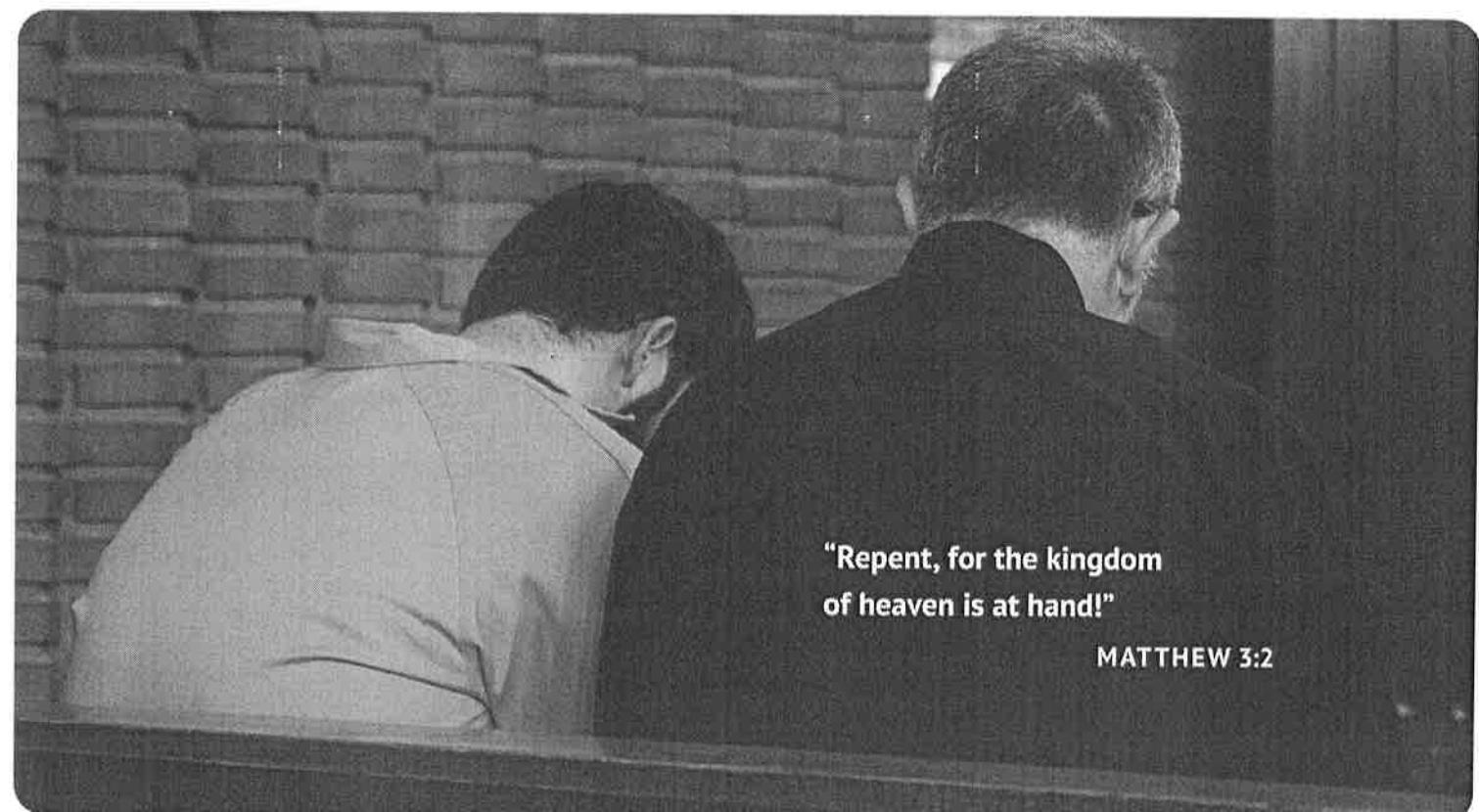
Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees" (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: "for the

kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). In the invitation, we are challenged to see in a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●

Reflect

What does "repent" mean to me?
A threat or an invitation?



"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

MATTHEW 3:2



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

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 1/18/26 = \$804.00 Attendance = 70

Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions

01/25/26— Elaine Letter (86th Earthly Birthday) by Letter Family

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

Mass Servers —

01/25/26— Malachi Gray, Jamesen Boerst, Beau Diemel

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

Ministers of the Word —

01/25/26— Randy Short

02/01/26— Sam Krings

Hospitality

01/25/26— Bernie Weier, Amy Guyette, Keith Pennings

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

Upcoming meetings

Social Concerns Meeting—Sunday, January 25 after Mass

RE NEWS:

Wed. Jan. 28th 6:35pm Eucharistic Holy Hour starts for RE Parents, Teachers and Students. RE Classes will alternate every 10-15 mins.

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

Chili Dump February 15th after Mass

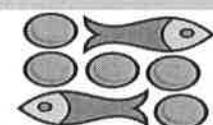
Join in and play Bingo

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday, February 11 4—6 PM

Saturday, February 14 9—11 AM

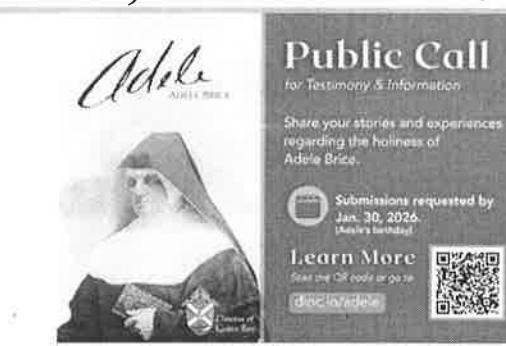
January Report - 34 Families, 93 Individuals, 17 Kids



Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026:
March 22; 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 13, 20, Christmas Day, 27, and New Years. You may contact Corinne at the office to reserve your dates.

Happy Birthday!

January 26 Jared Peters; 28 Eli Inman; 29 Landon Fischer, Ami Hanus, Sierra Peeters; 30 Jack Bunker, Keith Pennings **February 2** Tony Eggers; 4 Harold Lorenz; 5 Isaac Tepolt, Jayden Balthazor; 8 Gary Urban; 9 Collin Guyette; 11 Wendy Meeuwsen; 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



Please note that the deadline for submitting testimonials to the Chancellor has been removed, as persons can now submit testimonials at any time.

Adoration for the Nation—An opportunity to pray for our country!

Dear Pastors and Pastoral Leaders,

Bishop David L. Ricken invites your parish to join Adoration for the Nation in 2026—a Eucharistic prayer initiative seeking our nation's healing and renewal as we prepare for its 250th anniversary.

All parishes are encouraged to dedicate a Holy Hour (or longer period of adoration) during the first 26 weeks of the year, culminating in adoration on July 3 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. An Adoration for the Nation Team will help promote the effort and encourage participation, especially among young adults.

Thank you for your prayerful leadership of the faithful during this time.

We will be having these Holy Hours on **Wednesday, 28 January 2026** at the following times:

St. Mary's 3:30—4:30 P.M.

St. Lawrence 6:30—7:30 P.M.

(In case of bad weather, or school cancellation, the backup dates will be Wednesday, 4 or 11 February.)

These time periods are intended to coincide with the times of Religious Education instruction in our respective parishes, so that our Religious Education students can participate in them. These Holy Hours are open to everyone in our parishes who would like to come and pray for our nation as we approach its 250th birthday. Thank you, and God bless America!



Banns of Marriage

Max Fisher & Tiffany Marvin—7 Feb 2026

Reflection on the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: "3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Sunday January 25, 2026" found on the "Young Catholics" website—young-catholics.com:

Light in the Darkness

The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds people that God brings hope even in difficult times. The first reading speaks of Zebulun and Naphtali, lands that suffered under foreign rule. The people there lived in fear and uncertainty, but God promised to bring them light.

Jesus fulfills this promise by beginning His ministry in Galilee. The land that once knew suffering now hears the message of hope. Jesus teaches, heals, and calls people to follow Him. He shows that God has not forgotten His people.

Many people feel like they are in darkness at times. Life can be full of struggles, disappointments, and uncertainty. The message of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds people that God's light is still shining. Jesus is present, bringing hope and calling people to trust in Him.

Jesus Calls Ordinary People

In the Gospel for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Jesus calls fishermen to follow Him. This is surprising because most rabbis would prefer students who were already well-educated in the law. But Jesus does not look for the best or the most important people. He calls ordinary workers who are willing to follow Him.

Simon, Andrew, James, and John leave everything behind to follow Jesus. They do not ask questions or make excuses. They simply trust Him. They do not have special knowledge or great skills, but Jesus sees their potential.

God does not ask people to be perfect before they follow Him. He calls people just as they are. The Gospel of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A encourages people to trust that God can use them, no matter their background or abilities. All that is needed is a willing heart.

Unity in the Church

Paul's letter to the Corinthians in the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A warns about divisions in the Christian community. Some people were following different leaders instead of staying focused on Jesus. Paul reminds them that faith should unite people, not divide them.

The Church is made up of many different people with different backgrounds and talents. This diversity should be a strength, not a reason for arguments. Instead of focusing on differences, Paul encourages believers to work together for the good of the whole community.

The message of unity is still important. People can have different opinions, but they should not let disagreements weaken their faith or relationships. The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds people to focus on Jesus and build a Church where all are welcome and valued.

The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A encourages people to listen to Jesus and respond to His call. He invites everyone to follow Him, no matter their background or abilities. He also calls people to work together in faith, not letting differences cause division. As people reflect on these readings, they can ask themselves how they can bring light, follow Jesus, and build unity in their own lives.



A Message from the Diocese of Green Bay

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, Bishop Ricken promulgated his pastoral invitation "Sent on Mission: A Pastoral Invitation to Share Jesus with Others." A few copies are available by request at the parish office, and the invitation can also be accessed on the diocesan website at dioc.io/sent (S.E.N.T.) Bishop Ricken is calling upon the entire diocese to entrust ourselves to the Holy Spirit in a profound way. In a diocesan act of trust and unity in the Holy Spirit, we will pray this traditional "Prayer to the Holy Spirit" together following the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful).

Blessing of Candles and Blessing of Throats

In Honor of Candlemas Day, on 02 February, we will have a table in the sanctuary next 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 next Sunday, 1 February.

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.