

Dear Padre,

Why do our bishops not marry? Scripture plainly says that they must be the husband of one wife and have faithful children.

This is an excellent question and brings us face to face with an important truth: for Catholics, the sacred Scripture is not the singular source of our practice and discipline. We also look, with equal authority, to the living Tradition of the Church. The magisterium is entrusted with the authentic interpretation of both Scripture and Tradition.

With this theological and historical context as a necessary background to your question, the answer to your query is this: the lived Tradition of the Church does not support a married clergy, including bishops. Although the Scripture allows for it, and provides some general guidelines, the lived Tradition of the Church does not. The Roman Catholic Church has a celibate clergy and will continue to have a celibate clergy unless and until the magisterium, in union with the pope, determines otherwise. There have been some discussions about changing this discipline, but now there is not much momentum that would suggest any imminent change.

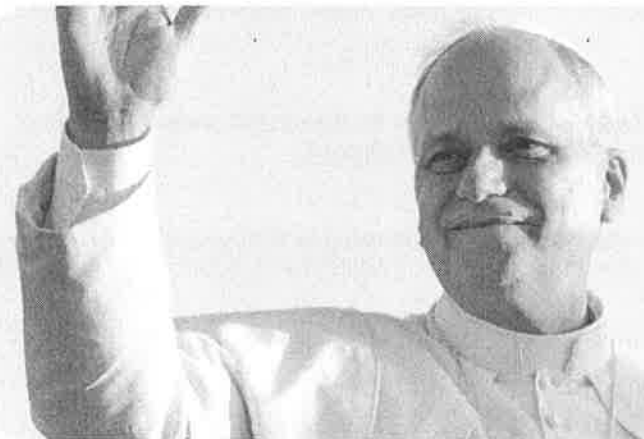
In the wider Orthodox Catholic Church, in union with Rome, there is a provision for a married clergy, but, even in these traditions, there is no exception made for married bishops. Bishops are and will continue to be celibate regardless of what Scripture may allow. ●

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Anthony, Abbot	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 1:1-8	1 Sm 1:9-20	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20	1 Sm 4:1-11	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a	Is 49:3, 5-6
Mk 1:14-20	Mk 1:21-28	Mk 1:29-39	Mk 1:40-45	Mk 2:1-12	Mk 2:13-17	1 Cor 1:1-3
						Jn 1:29-34

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the family, faith is handed on together with life, generation after generation. It is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 1, 2025



Jesus, Servant Leader

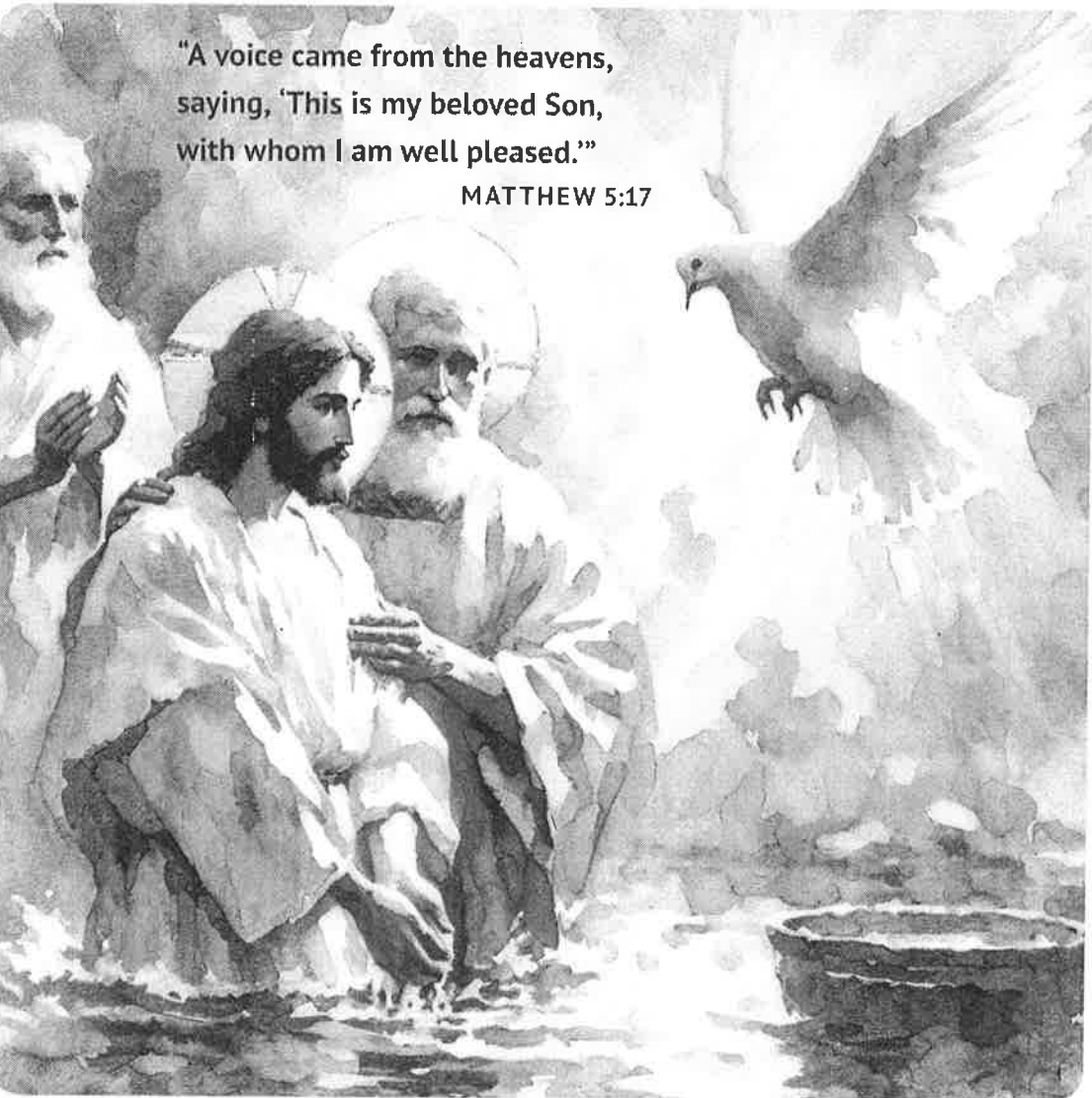
MIGUEL DULICK

John, miracle son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, cousin of Jesus and known as “the Baptist,” offers a “baptism of repentance.” Then Jesus shows up. The eternal Son of God a penitent? John is shocked and resists, saying it is Jesus who should baptize him. But Jesus insists, “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).

At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus is humbling himself, much as he did toward the end, when he washed the feet of his disciples. Then it was Peter who would resist what seemed inappropriate by the standards of this world. Jesus is giving us an example, the way of the servant leader, as described in today’s beautiful passage from Isaiah. Jesus is the servant leader, the Father’s Son, over whom the Holy Spirit danced like a dove, and the Father, with his booming voice from the heavens, said of him, “This is my beloved Son!” (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus allowing himself to be baptized may seem like a contradiction, but given all that follows, we know he is offering his followers a consistent model of what he expects from those who choose to be his disciples. As St.

Paul would later write to the Church in Philippi, “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped” (Philippians 2:5-6). ●



Reflect

This week, I'll think about my baptism, when I was called to serve as Jesus served.



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 12/21/25 = \$1,778.00 Attendance = 78

Wednesday 12/24/25 = \$992.00 Attendance = 100

Thursday 12/25/25 = \$1,386.00 Attendance = 61

Sunday 12/28/25 = \$3,601.00 Attendance = 67

Thursday 01/01/26 = \$139.00 Attendance = 33

Sunday 01/04/26 = \$1,268.00 Attendance = 90

Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

#### Mass Intentions

01/11/26—Remembrance of Carol Herb by The Herb Family

01/18/26—Remembrance of Lew Erb by Barb Erb

#### Mass Servers—

01/11/26— Landon & Natalie Fischer, Beau Diemel

01/18/26— Alex & Reagan Krings, Nina Drossart

#### Ministers of the Word—

01/11/26— Troy Wegner

01/18/26— Sam Krings

#### Hospitality

01/11/26— Steve & Sheila Hartlaben, Rene LaFond

01/18/26— Karen VanLanen, Daid Nowak, Anita Wegner

#### Upcoming meetings

Finance meeting Thursday, January 15 @ 6 PM with  
Parish Council meeting @ 7 PM.

#### RE NEWS:

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

Wed. 01/14/26—Class resume At 6:30 PM

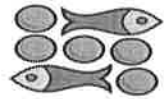
#### Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday, January 21 4—6 PM

Saturday, January 24 9—11 AM

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

December Report = 40 Families, 100 People, and 15 Kids.



Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026:

**February** 1, 18(Ash Wednesday); **March** 8, 22, 29; **April** 1, 2,3, 4, 5, 19; **May** 3, 25; **June** 28; **July** 12, 26; **August** 30; **September** 6, 20 (Picnic), 27; **October** 4, 11, 18, 25; **November** 8, 15, **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.

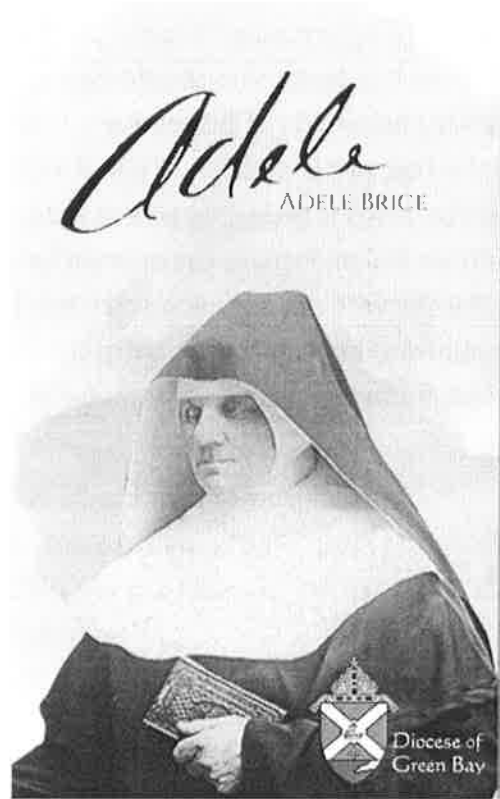
#### Happy Birthday!

**January 11** Ariel Hartleben; **12** Cole Diemel, Jeff Peters; **14** Sara Bohm, David Nowak; **15** Sharon Hasser, Gerald Nowak; **16** Amy Gray; **18** Norbert Short; **19** Charles Beschta; **21** Jamie Martin; **22** Joanne Heinemayer; **26** Jared Peters; **28** Eli Inman; **29** Landon Fischer, Ami Hanus, Sierra Peeters; **30** Jack Banker, Keith Pennings

#### A Message from Fr. Mark Vander Steeg, Vicar for Priests and Pastoral Leaders

(On Sunday, 28 December) during the 9:00 am Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Bishop Ricken took an important step forward in the process toward sainthood for Adele Brice, the seer who reported Marian apparitions in 1859 on the grounds of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.


Bishop Ricken issued an official Edict, asking anyone with information about Adele Brice to share it with the Diocese of Green Bay. This is a normal and important part of the Catholic Church's careful process when studying the life of a person being considered for sainthood.



## Public Call

for Testimony & Information

Share your stories and experiences regarding the holiness of Adele Brice.




Submissions requested by  
**Jan. 30, 2026.**  
(Adele's birthday)

**Learn More**

Scan the QR code or go to

[dioc.io/adele](https://dioc.io/adele)



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

#### Reflection on the Baptism of the Lord

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: *“Baptism of Our Lord, Year A, Sunday January 11, 2026”* found on the “Young Catholics” website—[young-catholics.com](https://young-catholics.com):

The Baptism of the Lord...shows us the moment when Jesus is revealed as the Son of God... This moment tells us who Jesus is and why He has come. He is not just a teacher or a prophet. He is the Son of God, sent to bring salvation to the world. The baptism marks the beginning of His mission, showing that He is ready to follow the Father's plan.

At our own baptisms, we were given the light of Christ, symbolized by the baptismal candle. This light is not just a symbol but a mission. We are called to bring hope and goodness to those around us. We do this by showing kindness, standing up for what is right, and sharing our faith.

Baptism is not just a one-time event but a way of life. It reminds us to follow Jesus and shine His light in our homes, communities, and workplaces. When we live this way, we fulfill our baptismal call and become lights for the world.



#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR TESTIMONY REGARDING ADELE BRICE (TWO OPTIONS)

Thank you for sharing your personal testimony regarding Adele Brice, recipient of the approved apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Champion, Wisconsin, in 1859. Your submission is an important contribution to the official inquiry into her cause for canonization. Please know that every testimony is carefully reviewed, catalogued, and may be included in the investigation of Adele's life of heroic virtue.

#### STEP 1: WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY

Please prepare your testimony in writing. Written testimonies can be comprised in two ways. Please only choose one option when writing your testimony:

Option 1: Handwrite your testimony

Option 2: Write your testimony digitally and print a copy

Written testimonies can include personal experiences, experiences of intercession, favor received, or possible miraculous events associated with Adele Brice. Include as much detail as possible, including dates, circumstances, and any supporting evidence or witnesses.

At the end of your written testimony, please add this statement (or similar wording) and sign it: "I declare that the above testimony is true to the best of my knowledge and belief."

Then, you must also include the following signature block:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make sure the signature is clearly visible and legible.*

#### STEP 2: SUBMIT YOUR TESTIMONY

##### OPTION 1 - SUBMISSION VIA DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL MAIL

If choosing this option, your testimony should be mailed to:

Adele Brice Cause for Canonization Testimony  
c/o Chancellor Tammy Basten  
Diocese of Green Bay  
PO Box 23825  
Green Bay WI 54305-3825  
USA

#### OR

##### OPTION 2 - DIGITAL SUBMISSION

If choosing this option, you must upload a signed PDF version of your testimony.

If you handwrote your testimony - please scan your document (via printer) and upload your document.

If you wrote your testimony digitally – please print your testimony and sign it on the signature line. Then scan your document (via printer) and upload your document. Upload your testimony to this page by choosing the "Submit Digitally" option below and following the instructions given.

#### PLEASE NOTE

This is the required and preferred method of submission for the official cause. Unsigned or typed-only submissions cannot be accepted as formal testimony.

#### THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful for your cooperation and for entrusting us with your experience. Every testimony, large or small, helps paint a fuller portrait of Adele Brice's holiness and the graces associated with her intercession.

May God bless you abundantly, always. Our Lady of Champion, pray for us.

**Tammy Basten**  
Chancellor, Diocese of Green Bay

*If you have further questions or need assistance, please contact the Office of the Chancellor at +1 920 437-7531.*