

Dear Padre,

I look at what’s going on in our world today, and I start to lose faith. How can I keep my faith strong in a time that seems faithless?

Evil isn’t a new phenomenon. The Book of Judges, for example, presents a faithless time that may rival what’s happening in our world today. Judges’ twenty-one chapters are so full of vandalism and war, murder and assassination, fratricide and suicide, that it makes a grim statement on the worst of humanity. Judges reminds us of humanity’s need for salvation. In *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*, author Oscar Lukefahr writes, “Left to itself, humanity degenerates into a frightful caricature of what we ought to be. We see such lessons repeated in recent history.... In the Book of Judges, we see our need for God.” It’s easy to lose faith when our focus is on how bad the world is rather than on how we can do our part to make it holy. Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, “Awareness of our own sinfulness, including that which is inherited, is the first condition for salvation; the next is the confession of this sin before God, who desires only to receive this confession so that he can save man. To save means to embrace and lift up with redemptive love, with love that is always greater than any sin.” Don’t lose Christian hope! While Christ already triumphed over sin and death, the reality of evil remains until God’s kingdom is fully realized on earth as it is in heaven. (See 1 John 5:18–20.) ●



GUSTAVO RAZAO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

July 13
Weekday
Is 1:10–17
Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday

July 14
St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Is 7:1–9
Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday

July 15
St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Is 10:5–7, 13b–16
Mt 11:25–27

Thursday

July 16
Weekday
Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19
Mt 11:28–30

Friday

July 17
Weekday
Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8
Mt 12:1–8

Saturday

July 18
Weekday
Mi 2:1–5
Mt 12:14–21

Sunday

July 19
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 12:13, 16–19
Rom 8:26–27
Mt 13:24–30 or 13:24–30

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Mission is not so much about “departing,” but instead “remaining” in order to proclaim Christ through hospitality and welcome, compassion and solidarity. We are to remain...so as to look upon those who arrive from lands that are distant and violent; to remain and open our arms and hearts to them, welcoming them as brothers and sisters, and being for them a presence of consolation and hope.



HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 5, 2025

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 12, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:10–11 / Romans 8:18–23 / Matthew 13:1–23 or 13:1–9



Leaving Room for the Unexpected

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The Father is the reckless Sower. He sows not only in the good soil, where a harvest might be anticipated, but also in the difficult soil, where nothing seems to take root. He sows with abandon, seemingly wasting good seed, for no other reason than to experience the joy of creation and the endless possibilities of expecting to be surprised.

There is nothing wrong with well-laid-out plans and careful, methodical use of the resources available. However, planning should not exclude the possibility of the creative manifestation of the power of God in an unanticipated manner. Our planning should not restrict and constrict but rather enable and encourage. We have all experienced the unexpected flower that somehow lives surrounded by pavement. Or the hardy tree that clings to the side of the mountain. They should not be there. It should not be possible. Nothing can grow there. Yet, there they are, doing the impossible and proclaiming the improbable.

Thankfully, we serve a God who sees more than we are ever able to see. Who imagines for us more than we have ever dreamed possible. Who not only sows but also tends and waters, enabling stupendous growth, until it is time for the abundant harvest. ●



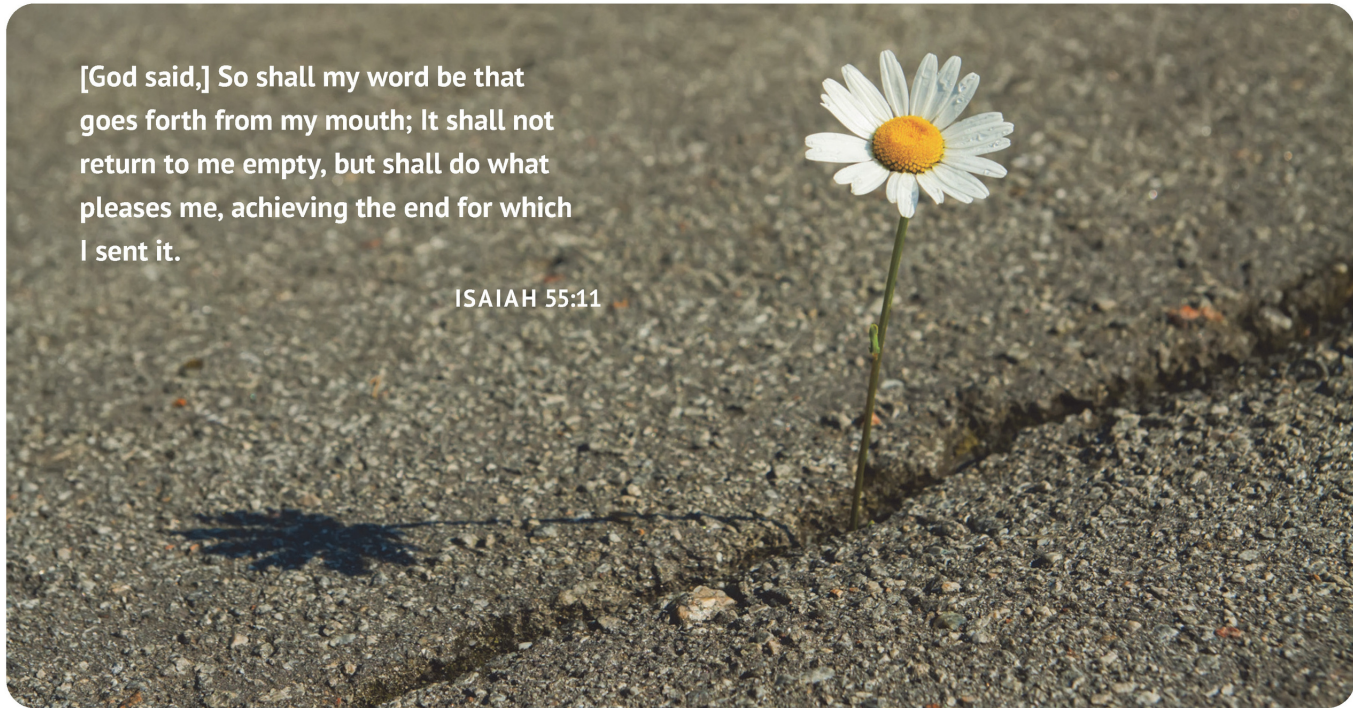
LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Have you ever been surprised by grace? Could you have missed it?

[God said,] So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me, achieving the end for which I sent it.

ISAIAH 55:11





St. Paul Catholic Church
713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

15th SUN of O.T.
July 11 & 12, 2026

Parish Announcements

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Sunday, July 12, at 8:00 AM in Farrell Hall. All men of the parish are invited to attend. For any additional information, contact Bill Fulcher at wfulcher19@gmail.com

Adoration

Please join us on Wednesday, July 15, at 5:30 PM for Eucharistic Adoration and the Liturgy of the Hours. Come and spend time in the peaceful presence of the Lord through prayer, silence, and reflection.

Lunch and Scripture

Lunch and Scripture will be held at Billy's Italian Restaurant on Wednesday, July 22 at 12:00 PM. Join us for lunch, fellowship, and faith-filled conversation.

Daily Mass

There will be no Daily Mass on Friday, July 17. Fr. Rusty will be out of town for a baptism.

Protection of Children

The Diocese of Jackson is committed to ensuring that children served by the church are not at risk of sexual abuse by the church personnel. Diocesan policies and procedures currently in place seek to protect, enhance and, in some cases, restore the trust that our faith calls for between agents of the Church, and the children and adolescents entrusted to our care. In accordance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People passed by the U.S. bishops in Dallas, the Diocese of Jackson wishes to encourage any victim of sexual abuse by a member of the Catholic Clergy to come forward and begin the healing process. *We encourage any victim to contact Jenifer Jenkins, Coordinator of Victim Assistance, at 601-960-8471*

Parish Calendar

JULY 11, SAT	Meals on Wheels
JULY 12, SUN	Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM
JULY 13, MON	Offertory Counters: Jan Jackson & Paul Banchetti
JULY 15, WED	Adoration 5:30 PM
JULY 17, FRI	No Daily Mass

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget \$7,700

Online Giving

June 22- June 28 \$2,295

Weekend Offertory

June 27 & 28.....\$2,859

July 4 & 5.....\$6,884

July 11 & 12.....\$____

July 18 & 19.....\$____

July 25 & 26.....\$____

Special Collections

June 28: Peter's Pence.....\$240



Sign up for automatic online giving at www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>
www.ms-kojc.com/898

Become a KNIGHT.
Scan this QR code to
join the Knights today!



JUL 14 Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by Recruitment and Retention Social.

JUL 15 K of C Bible study after 5:30 PM Mass @ St. Michael

JUL 21 Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by a 4th Degree Meeting



St. Paul Catholic Church
713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

15th SUN of O.T.
July 11 & 12, 2026

Weekend Mass Schedule†

Saturday

‡Confession 2:30-3:30 PM
Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday

‡Confession 9:30-10:00 AM
Mass 10:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule†

Monday 7:00 AM
Tuesday 12:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 AM
Thursday 12:00 PM
Friday 7:00 AM

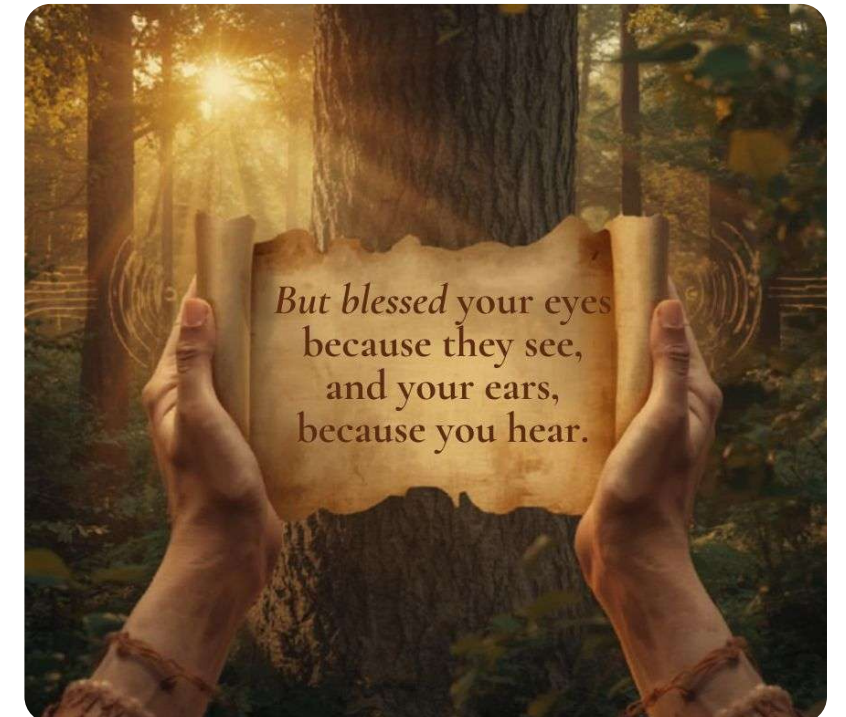
† All schedule updates can be found in the Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

‡ For Confessions during the week, please call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions

JULY 13, MON	Dan Fordice, Deceased
JULY 14, TUES	Special Intentions
JULY 15, WED	Dan Fordice, Deceased
JULY 16, THUR	David Michael Lane, Deceased
JULY 17, FRI	No Daily Mass
JULY 18, SAT	Mary Nell McMaster & Barbara Dwyer, Deceased

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. *Sunday Mass is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.



Today's Readings

Visit bible.usccb.org or scan this QR code to find the readings



Check out our Social Media!

St. Paul Catholic Church of Vicksburg



Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers placed at the Ambo are in memory of
Ira Ellis

PastoralCare

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in urgent need of anointing, please call the church office Emergency Ext. 106

St. Paul Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Rusty Vincent pastor@stpaulvicksburg.org	Office Manager Ashley Roesch stpaulvick@att.net	Office Assistant Janis Koestler stpaulvick@att.net
Bookkeeper Beverly Connelly stpaulvickbkkeeper@att.net	Maintenance Charles Hahn	Organist Karen Harrison

Leadership & Ministries

Parish Council President Travis Thornell	Finance Council Chair Bill Fulcher
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Bereavement Story Ebersole	RCIA Connie & David Hosemann Bruce Ebersole	Meals on Wheels Jan Jackson Christy Guizerix Rae Perry
Altar Flowers Cynthia Montalbano	Homebound Janis Koestler	

Baptism Prep Barbara Hill	Confirmation Jordan Amborn	Children's Church Ashley Lawrence
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