

Dear Padre,

What is the Church's view on having crystal stones or sage in the home to bring in positive energy?

The Church does not have an official position on every possible human action or activity. The Church believes in the discerning principle of maturity and fully expects that the people of God will use the ability that has been entrusted to them by the Creator in a positive manner. The Church understands the power of mystery and the power of symbols but rightfully assigns any “energy” that mystery and symbols may generate to the power of the Holy Spirit. Inanimate objects, by the very definition of “inanimate,” do not generate energy. They may be symbols of energy, but they do not have energy in and of themselves.

If you enjoy crystals because of their beauty or because of the way they diffuse light, then there is no harm in having them in your house. If you like the smell of sage, then use it and enjoy it. All symbols have different meanings, depending on how they are understood and used by the people who gathered, collect, and store them for use. These symbols have no power in and of themselves for good or for evil. However, if you live in a culture that has identified the meaning of a symbol, and that assigned meaning contradicts Christian belief and practice, it would be best to avoid that symbol. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, 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*.



Ekaterina Bolotsova / Pexels

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Peace is first and foremost a gift. It is the first gift of Christ: “My peace I give to you” (John 14:27).... It engages and challenges each of us...demanding that first of all we work on ourselves. Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by



ERREROBERTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words. For words, too, not only weapons, can wound and even kill.

AUDIENCE OF THE
HOLY FATHER, ROME,
MAY 16, 2025

Monday

October 20
Weekday
Rom 4:20–25
Lk 12:13–21

Tuesday

October 21
Weekday
Rom 5:12, 15b, 17–19, 20b–21
Lk 12:35–38

Wednesday

October 22
Weekday
Rom 6:12–18
Lk 12:39–48

Thursday

October 23
Weekday
Rom 6:19–23
Lk 12:49–53

Friday

October 24
Weekday
Rom 7:18–25a
Lk 12:54–59

Saturday

October 24
Weekday
Rom 8:1–11
Lk 13:1–9

Sunday

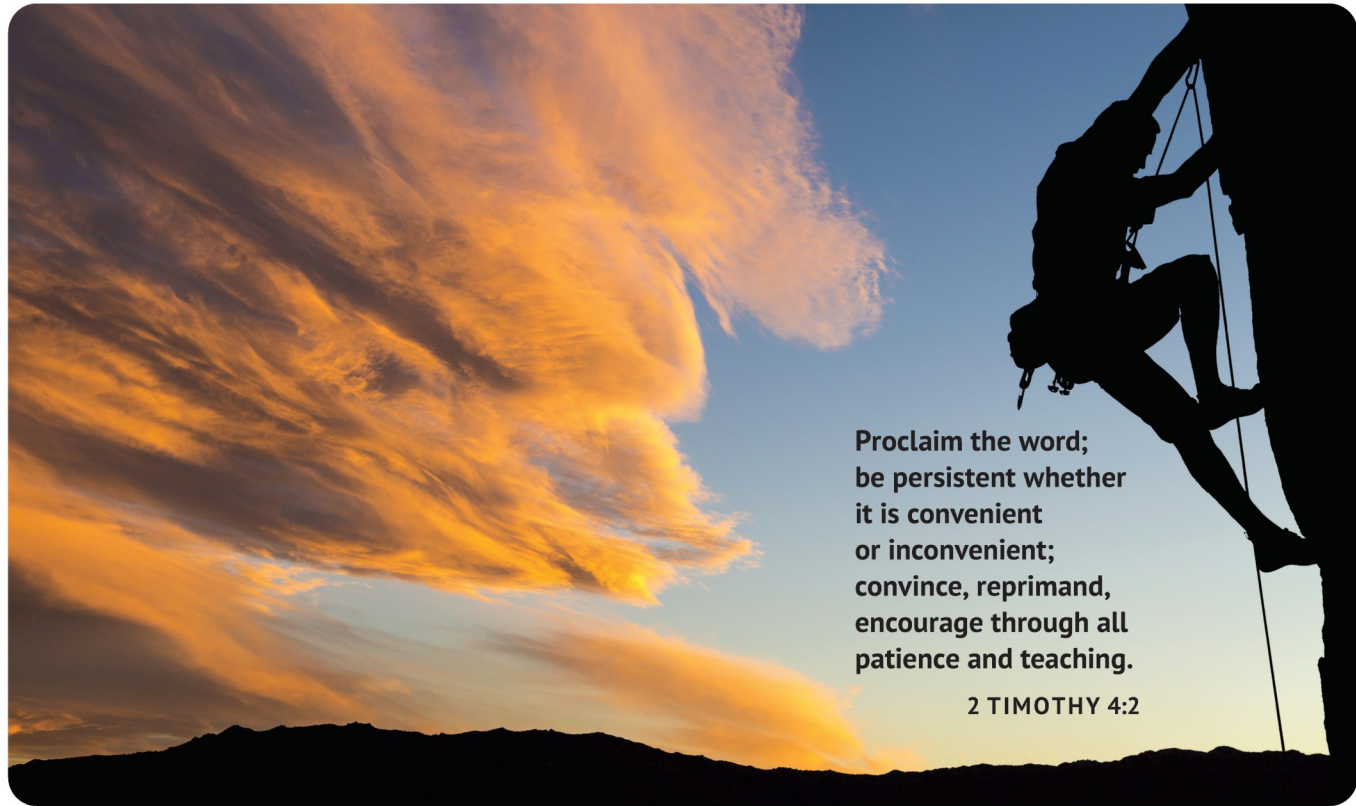
October 25
Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Sir 35:12–14, 16–18
2 Tm 4:6–8, 16–18
Lk 18:9–14

Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 19, 2025

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Exodus 17:8–13 / 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2 / Luke 18:1–8



Proclaim the word;
be persistent whether
it is convenient
or inconvenient;
convince, reprimand,
encourage through all
patience and teaching.

2 TIMOTHY 4:2

The Widow God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I have a friend who likes to say that God always answers prayers; it's just that sometimes God says “no.” He'll say that not always getting what we pray for seems to fit the way life is. My difficulty with that piece of religious folk wisdom is that God then comes off as someone who sits around sorting out answers to prayers from the billions of daily requests sent God's way. When I object to my friend's saying, he's quick to remind me that God wants us to pray. Doesn't this week's parable about the widow who plagues the dishonest judge say just that? Don't give up praying. Yet God isn't like a dishonest judge who cares not for any human being. It also presumes that the sheer multiplication of words sent God's way increases the chances that we'll get a positive hearing,

and that God needs to be convinced to do good for us, or at least what we presume is good. But then that presumes that we know better than God.

So perhaps God is not like the judge but like the widow, continually pleading that we might give him a hearing. The purpose of our prayer, then, is not to get God to do what we want, but rather to open ourselves to what God wants for us. That does take some trust, but don't we believe that God knows us better than we know ourselves? That's why the parable ends with the question, “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” ●

Reflect

When I talk to God, do I also listen?



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

29th Sunday O.T.
October 18 & 19, 2025



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Parish Announcements

Congratulations

Congratulations to Alexis Emfinger and Ryan DuBois who were married at St. Paul this weekend. May God bless their marriage with great love and joy!

Our Condolences

The St. Paul community offers our prayers and sympathies to the family of Michael Jeffrey Briggs. May he, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Community Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is collecting food for the holiday season. There are bags available in the vestibule with a list of items needed. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you can donate directly to Storehouse Community Food Pantry.

Prison Ministry

The Kairos Prison Ministry homemade cookie collection is this weekend. Cookies must be in a clear Ziploc bag. A basket will be in the vestibule for collection.

Lunch and Scripture

12:00 PM, October 22 at Billy's. Speaker: David Hosemann
Topic: The Jubilee Year 2025
Pizza and Salad lunch paid for by St. Paul's. Donations are greatly appreciated. Please RSVP at 601-636-0140 or reply to the St. Paul Lunch & Scripture on Facebook.

Ministry Drive

St. Paul will have a Ministry Drive October 25th & 26th. Please prayerfully consider serving our parish in one of the many ministries we have to offer.

Pet Blessing Update

The blessing of pets in honor of the feast day of Saint Francis has been moved to October 26th at 4 PM in front of the church. Please bring your pets for this special blessing.

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget\$7,700

Online Giving

Oct 6 - Oct 12 \$1,340

Weekend Offertory

Sept 27 & 28 \$2,448

Oct 4 & 5 \$5,782

Oct 11 & 12 \$5,548

Oct 18 & 19 \$ __, __

Oct 25 & 26 \$ __, __

Special Collections

October 19: World Missions ...

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

Weekend Mass Schedule†

Saturday

#Confession 3:15-3:45 PM

Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday

#Confession 9:45-10:15 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.



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



@stpaulvicksburg



@stpaulvicksburg
@frrustyvinct

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers placed at the Ambo are in Honor of the marriage of Alexis Emfinger & Ryan DuBois

Parish Calendar

OCT 19, SUN

Children's Church: Led by Natalie Kneipp
Community Food Pantry Collection

OCT 20, MON

Offertory Counters: Elias Arredondo & Lorraine Smithhart

OCT 22, WED

Lunch & Scripture: 12 PM @ Billy's

OCT 26, SUN

Parish Ministry Drive
Blessing of Pets @ 4 PM

NOV 1, SUN

Meals onWheels

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

www.ms-kofc.com/898

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



OCT 21 Rosary 6:30 PM followed by 4th Degree Meeting.

OCT 22 Into the Breach Bible Study 5:30 PM. All Catholic men are welcome.

OCT 24 Deadline for Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay contest.

Mass Intentions

OCT 20, MON

Special Intentions

OCT 21, TUES

Jerry Speights, Deceased

OCT 22, WED

Ainsley Grace Johnston, Healing

OCT 23, THUR

Special Intentions

OCT 24, FRI

Angela Canizaro, Deceased

OCT 25, SAT

Angela Canizaro, Deceased

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. Each Mass with no intention is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.

St. Paul Parish Staff

Pastor
Fr. Rusty Vincent

Office Manager
Ashley Roesch

Office Assistant
Janis Koestler

Bookkeeper
Beverly Connelly

Maintenance
Charles Hahn

Organist
Karen Harrison

Leadership & Ministries

Parish Council President
Kevin Mahoney

Finance Council Chair
Bill Fulcher

Bereavement
Story Ebersole

RCIA
Connie and David Hosemann, and Bruce Ebersole

Meals On Wheels
Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry

Altar Flowers
Cynthia Montalbano

Baptism Prep
Barbara Hill

Homebound
Janis Koestler

Children's Church
Ashley Lawrence

Confirmation
Jordan Amborn