

Dear Padre,

My former boyfriend died recently. He was very abusive and caused me a lot of pain. Should I pray for him even if I believe that no amount of prayer could help him?

Yes, you should pray for him and, despite your lingering hurt from the relationship, resist the urge to make a judgment about him. This decision is not only a healthy spiritual choice, but it will also help you heal the wounds that you still carry. Praying for him does not mean that you are denying any of the hurt that he inflicted on you but rather that you are capable of maturity and choices that were seemingly beyond his ability. Praying for him really says more about you than it says about him. It is also an act of grace-inspired honesty and faithfulness. It is a statement that you believe wholeheartedly in the merciful and forgiving God who is capable of healing the deepest hurts and is even capable of helping his faithful people ultimately forgive those who have inflicted harm upon them. ●

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



VASYUCHENKO NIKITA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

While unity attracts, division scatters.... Therefore, in order to be a truly missionary Church, one that is capable of witnessing to the attractive power of Christ’s love, we must first of all put into practice his commandment, the only one he gave us after washing his disciples’ feet: “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”



EXTRAORDINARY CONSISTORY, ROME, JANUARY 7, 2026

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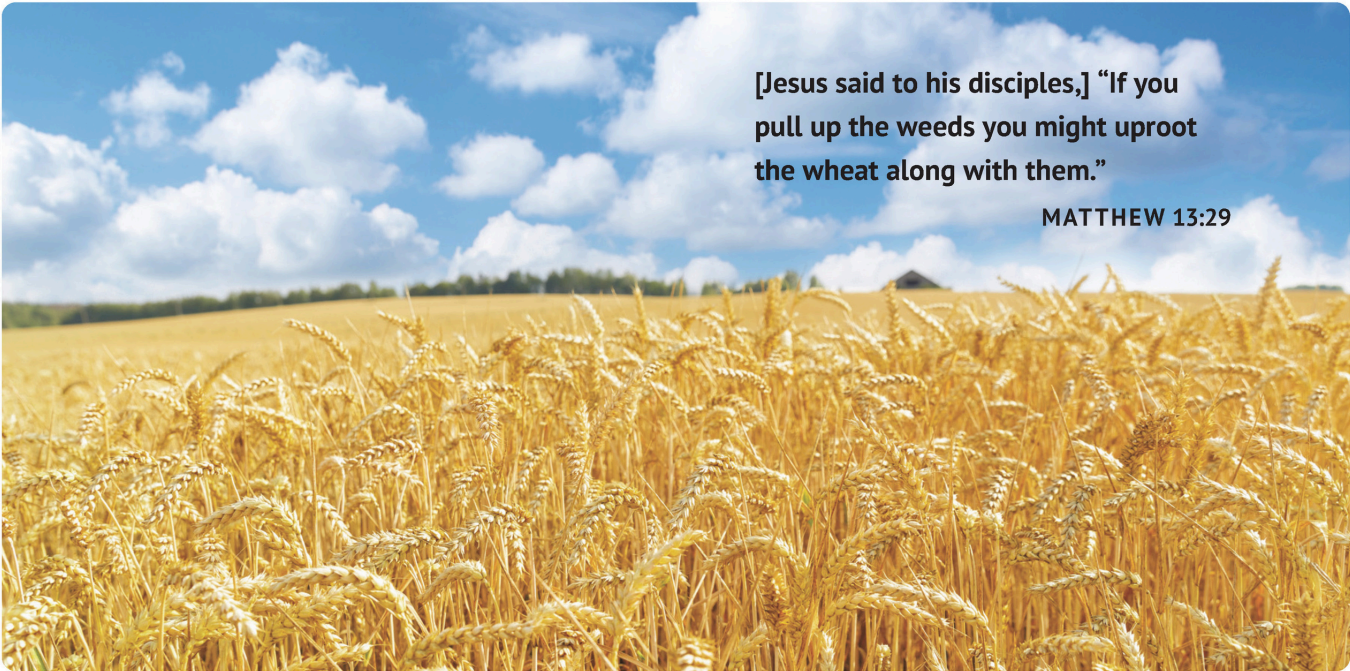
Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday July 20 Weekday Mi 6:1–4, 6–8 Mt 12:38–42	Thursday July 23 Weekday Jer 2:1–3, 7–8, 12–13 Mt 13:10–17	Saturday July 25 St. James, Apostle 2 Cor 4:7–15 Mt 20:20–28
Tuesday July 21 Weekday Mi 7:14–15, 18–20 Mt 12:46–50	Friday July 24 Weekday Jer 3:14–17 Mt 13:18–23	Sunday July 26 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kgs 3:5, 7–12 Rom 8:28–30 Mt 13:44–52 or 13:44–46
Wednesday July 22 St. Mary Magdalene Sg 3:1–4b or 2 Cor 5:14–17 Jn 20:1–2, 11–18		

Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 19, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Wisdom 12:13, 16–19 / Romans 8:26–27 / Matthew 13:24–43 or 13:24–30



[Jesus said to his disciples,] “If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them.”

MATTHEW 13:29

Weeds in Wheat

MIGUEL DULICK

Jesus loved parables. “He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: ‘I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]’” (Matthew 13:34–35).

Indeed, parables spring from creation itself. Wheat and weeds grow, a natural process, just waiting for Jesus to read the kingdom of heaven hidden within. Jesus doesn’t force an interpretation on these elements; he, more than anyone, follows his own advice: “Whoever has ears ought to hear” (Matthew 13:43).

Matthew is the only gospel writer who records this parable. Maybe he liked it because it’s his own story. Among the beautiful wheat of the chosen people, he was an ugly weed, a tax collector for the Roman Empire. Once Jesus plucked him from obscurity to follow him, Matthew might have thought, *Why didn’t God just strike me dead for all the poison I spread among my own brethren?*

Now, in the parable, the weeds never become wheat, and they indeed meet a terrible fate, but the point is to let the wheat and weeds grow together, lest we uproot the wheat when we pull up the weeds. Oftentimes, it’s difficult to tell the difference. Those who are “wheat” should not find excuses to separate from those judged to be “weeds.” The risk is too great for the damage we may do. Let God do the separating in God’s own time. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Are you tempted to give up on someone? Or yourself?



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

16th SUN of O.T.
July 18 & 19, 2026

Parish Announcements

Lunch and Scripture

When: July 22 at 12:00 PM
Speaker: Rebecca Harris
Topic: Medical Directives and Funeral Planning.
Location: Billy's. Pizza and salad lunch provided by St. Paul; donations are greatly appreciated. Please RSVP by calling the office at 601-636-0140 or replying to the Lunch & Scripture post on the St. Paul Facebook page.

Daily Mass Schedule

There will be no Daily Mass on Monday, July 27 through Thursday, July 30, due to Fr. Rusty being out of town. The office will be open.

Fraud Prevention Hotline

The Diocese of Jackson's Department of Temporal Affairs has engaged Lighthouse Services to provide an anonymous financial fraud, compliance, ethics, and human resources hotline. This hotline allows for an appropriate method to report occurrences related to the temporal administration within parishes, schools, and the chancery office. www.lighthouse-services.com/jacksondiocese

English speaking USA:
888-830-0004
Spanish speaking USA:
800-216-1288

Parish Calendar

JULY 19, SUN	Community Food Pantry Collection.
JULY 20, MON	Offertory Counters: Renee Turner & Bruce Ebersole.
JULY 22, WED	Lunch & Scripture 12:00 PM.
JULY 27, MON	No Daily Mass (Mon - Thur)
JULY 31, FRI	Daily Mass will resume at 7:00 AM.

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget \$7,700

Online Giving

July 6- July 12 \$1,780

Weekend Offertory

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

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

July 11 & 12.....\$4,197

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

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

Special Collections



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 21	Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by 4 th Degree Meeting.
JUL 22	K of C Bible study after 5:30 PM Mass @ St. Michael.
JUL 28	Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by Recruitment & Retention Social, all Catholic men welcome.



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

16th SUN of O.T.
July 18 & 19, 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 20, MON	Alice Hund, Deceased
JULY 21, TUES	Dan Fordice, Deceased
JULY 22, WED	Mary Nell McMaster, Deceased
JULY 23, THUR	Special Intentions
JULY 24, FRI	Dan Fordice, Deceased
JULY 25, SAT	Special Intentions

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.

*Then the righteous
will shine like the sun.
in the kingdom of their Father.*

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
Marie Antoine Davis

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