

Dear Padre,

I've been to Latin Masses, and people do not socialize in church and seem more respectful than at a regular parish Mass, where people are leaving before Mass is finished, and there seems to be constant talking. Why is there such a contrast?

I'd like to caution you about two assumptions. The first is about judging people who leave Mass early. We can't know what is in a person's heart. Some people work on Sundays or have other unavoidable commitments that require them to leave at a certain time.

The second assumption is that socializing before and after a parish Mass is disrespectful. The celebratory and welcoming culture of a Christian community that has gathered together to celebrate the Eucharist gives glory and praise to God. It is not disrespectful of the Eucharist, but rather a powerful witness to the unity, the community, and the faith of the people of God who gather with their Lord and Savior.

There are Eucharistic gatherings that encourage silence, such as the Latin Mass you have experienced as well as Eucharistic Adoration and Forty Hours Devotion. We need both—silence as we worship together and joyful interaction with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Both give glory to God.

All that being said, to those who enjoy socializing or who must leave the Mass before the final note of the final hymn: do be considerate of those praying near you. They might be praying for you! ●



PROFESANT / CATHOLIC

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MARCH 2	MARCH 3	MARCH 4	MARCH 5	MARCH 6	MARCH 7	MARCH 8
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent
Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-38	Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12	Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-28	Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	Ex 17:3-7 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

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

We must also cry out for peace in the world. Let us all say, "We want peace in the world!"

Let us pray for peace. Let us pray for peace and be witnesses of the peace and reconciliation of Jesus Christ, the light that we are all seeking for today's world.

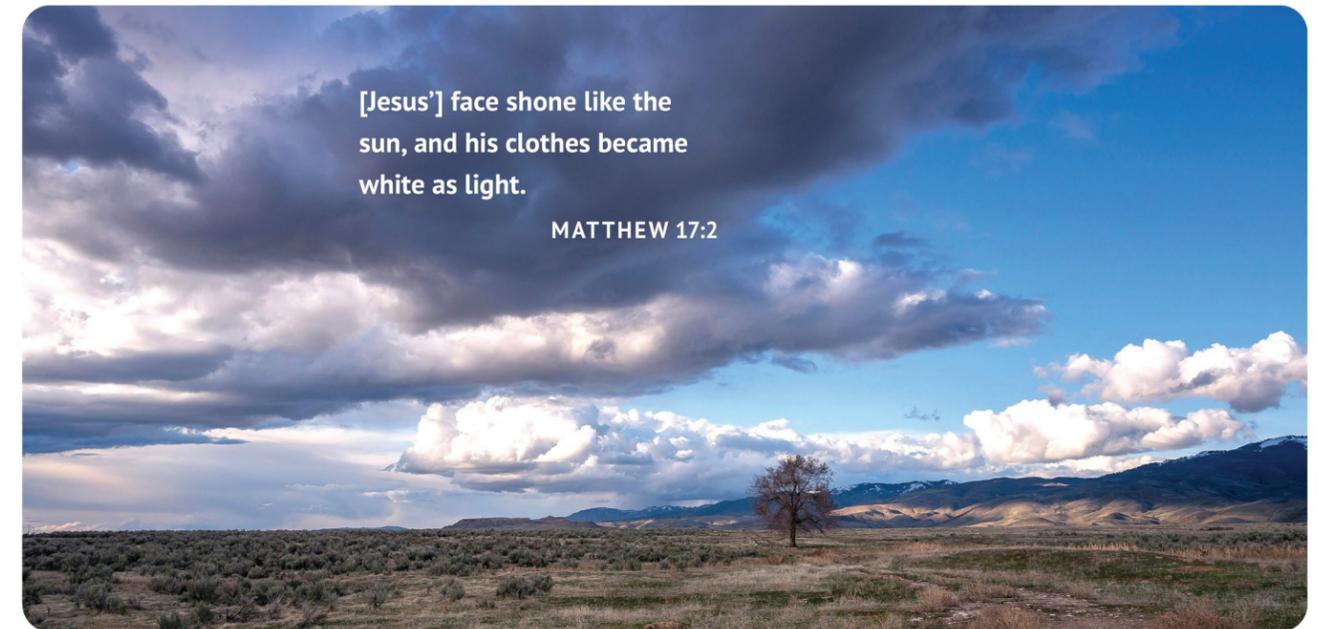
GREETING TO YOUNG PEOPLE, ROME, JULY 29, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 12:1-4a / 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-9



[Jesus'] face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

MATTHEW 17:2

Where Heaven and Earth Meet

ANN M. GARRIDO

Have you ever noticed that mountains and clouds seem to “go together”? When I was a child, I thought it was because the mountains’ height pierced the sky. Turns out, it’s a bit more complicated. Mountains “create” their own clouds. When moving air comes across a mountain front, it forces the warm air to rise to cooler zones and water droplets in the air to condense. The phenomenon is so common that these clouds have their own name: lenticular. They are known for being bright—even colorful—with rays of light peeking out from behind.

It’s no wonder why, throughout history, people have sought to ascend mountains as part of their spiritual journey. It was a way to get closer to the “heavens”—to those radiant clouds. Recall the prophet Elijah, who climbs Mount Sinai seeking a face-to-face encounter with God. Or Moses, who, with three of his closest friends, ascends Mount Sinai to meet God in a radiant cloud that hovers over the top of the peak.

So, it’s also no wonder why Jesus, with three of *his* closest friends, might also climb a mountain and meet Elijah and Moses there. No wonder why that mountain would be covered in a bright cloud that thunders with God’s voice, and why, in that moment, Scripture describes heaven and earth as mysteriously yet visibly mingling in the person of the transfigured Jesus.

The story of the transfiguration reminds us that just like mountains and clouds were meant for one another, heaven and earth were meant for one another. Jesus stands at the point where the two meet. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What places or moments in my life have made me feel close to heaven?



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

Second Sunday of Lent
February 28 & March 1, 2026



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Parish Announcements

Prayers for our future Deacon

Please join us in offering our prayers and best wishes to Gerardo Velazquez and his wife Vivian as Gerardo begins his journey toward becoming a deacon. May God bless and guide them during this formation, discernment, and service.

Congratulations

Congratulations to David & Connie Hosemann and to Hayden Bell for receiving the Bishop Chanche Service Award. We thank them for their faithful service and dedication to our parish.

Parish Affiliation

VCS Parish Affiliation forms are due March 1. The forms need to be turned in to Fr. Rusty in person. You can give them to him after Mass or call the office to see when he will be available to drop them off.

Anointing Mass

The Anointing Mass will be on Tuesday, March 3 at 12 PM.

Knights Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus will host a Fish Fry each Friday night during Lent from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. Dine-in or carryout available.

Lenten Penance Service

Our Penance Service for Lent will be Thursday, March 5 at 5:30 PM. The following priests will be available to hear confessions: Fr. Dore from St. Michael's, Fr. Marvin from St. Mary's (Vicksburg), Fr. Joseph from St. Mary's (Yazoo City), Fr. Lincoln from Holy Savior, Fr. Ryan from St. Edward's, and Fr. Curley from St. Michael's.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be at 5:30 PM each Friday during Lent.

Hallow

Our Lenten Challenge, Lent Pray40 has started. Join us for this daily reflection if you have not done so already. This is a great way for us all to dive deeper into Lent and begin building community within our parish. <https://hallow.app.link/L3FslwWPOb>

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget.....\$7,700

Online Giving

Feb 9 - Feb 15 \$1,475

Weekend Offertory

Jan 31 & Feb 1.....\$5,283

Feb 7 & Feb 8..... \$4,585

Feb 14 & 15 \$7,055

Feb 21 & 22 \$6,755

Feb 28 & Mar 1\$, ____

Special Collections

February 22: Black and Indian Missions\$235



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.

Mass Intentions

MAR 2, MON Hazel Mascarella, Deceased

MAR 3, TUES David Bridges, Deceased

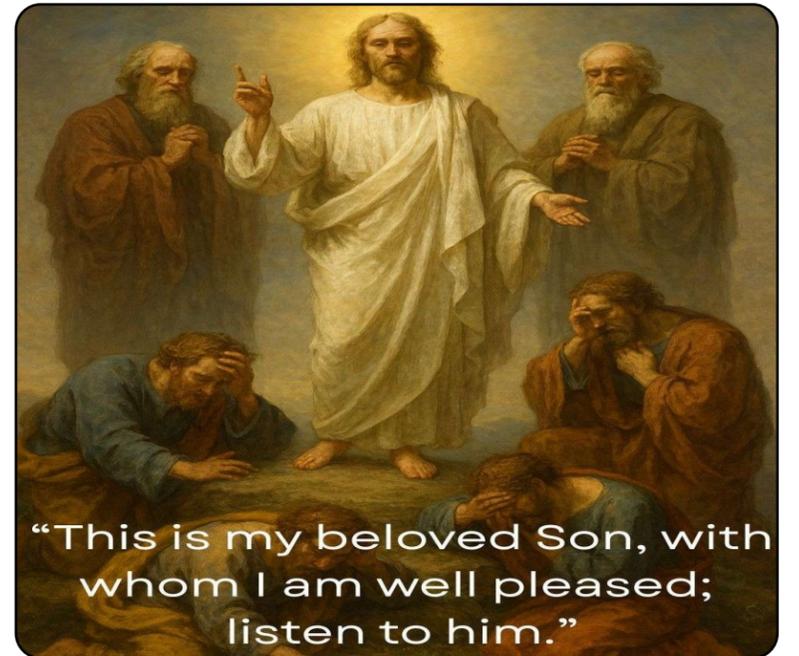
MAR 4, WED Nancy Dolan, Deceased

MAR 5, THUR Special Intentions

MAR 6, FRI

MAR 7, SAT Thomas Kelly, 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.



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

Sanctuary Flowers

In observance of the Lenten season, no flowers are placed at the Ambo

Pastoral Care

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

Parish Calendar

MAR 1, SUN	Children's Church led by: Ashley Lawrence.
MAR 2, MON	Offertory Counters: Renee Turner & Bruce Ebersole
MAR 3, TUES	Anointing Mass 12PM
MAR 4, WED	RCIA will meet at 6PM in Glynn Hall
MAR 5, THUR	Penance Service 5:30PM
MAR 6, FRI	Stations of the Cross 5:30PM

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

www.ms-kofc.com/898

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



MAR 3 Rosary 6:30PM followed by Council Meeting.

MAR 4 K of C Bible study after 5:30 PM Mass @ St. Michael's

MAR 6 K of C Fish Fry @ 5:30 PM

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 Travis Thornell	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	Homebound Janis Koestler	Children's Church Ashley Lawrence
Baptism Prep Barbara Hill	Confirmation Jordan Amborn	