

Dear Padre,

Are we required to disobey or break an evil law?

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, a just law has four characteristics. It must be (1) an ordinance of reason, (2) for the common good, (3) properly promulgated, and (4) by a legitimate authority. According to St. Augustine, evil is a lack of something that should be there. When applied to law, if one of the four characteristics is missing, the law lacks something that should be there, and thus is evil. An unjust law, in other words, is an evil law. As Christians, we are generally encouraged to obey the laws of the state. As the Apostle Paul states, “Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God” (Romans 13:1). At the same time, we also have the responsibility of forming our consciences according to God’s revelation in Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the divinely ordained teaching authority of the Church. Although we are not bound to follow an unjust law, the degree to which we should actively disobey it depends on the level of evil the law promotes. Because of its serious nature, a law promoting abortion, for example, should be actively resisted through peaceful protests and appropriate legal and civil activism. Laws that promote lesser evils need to be carefully evaluated by Church authorities and our own well-informed consciences. ●

Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR / DearPadre.org



MIND AND / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

War is back in vogue, and a zeal for war is spreading. The principle established after the Second World War, which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others, has been completely undermined. Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself.... Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one’s own dominion.



ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORE, ROME, JANUARY 9, 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

August 31

Weekday

1 Cor 2:1–5

Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday

September 1

Weekday

1 Cor 2:10b–16

Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday

September 2

Weekday

1 Cor 3:1–9

Lk 4:38–44

Thursday

September 3

St. Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor of
the Church

1 Cor 3:18–23

Lk 5:1–11

Friday

September 4

Weekday

1 Cor 4:1–5

Lk 5:33–39

Saturday

September 5

Weekday

1 Cor 4:6b–15

Lk 6:1–5

Sunday

September 6

Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7–9

Rom 13:8–10

Mt 18:15–20

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 30, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jeremiah 20:7–9 / Romans 12:1–2 / Matthew 16:21–27



I Just Told You!

MIGUEL DULICK

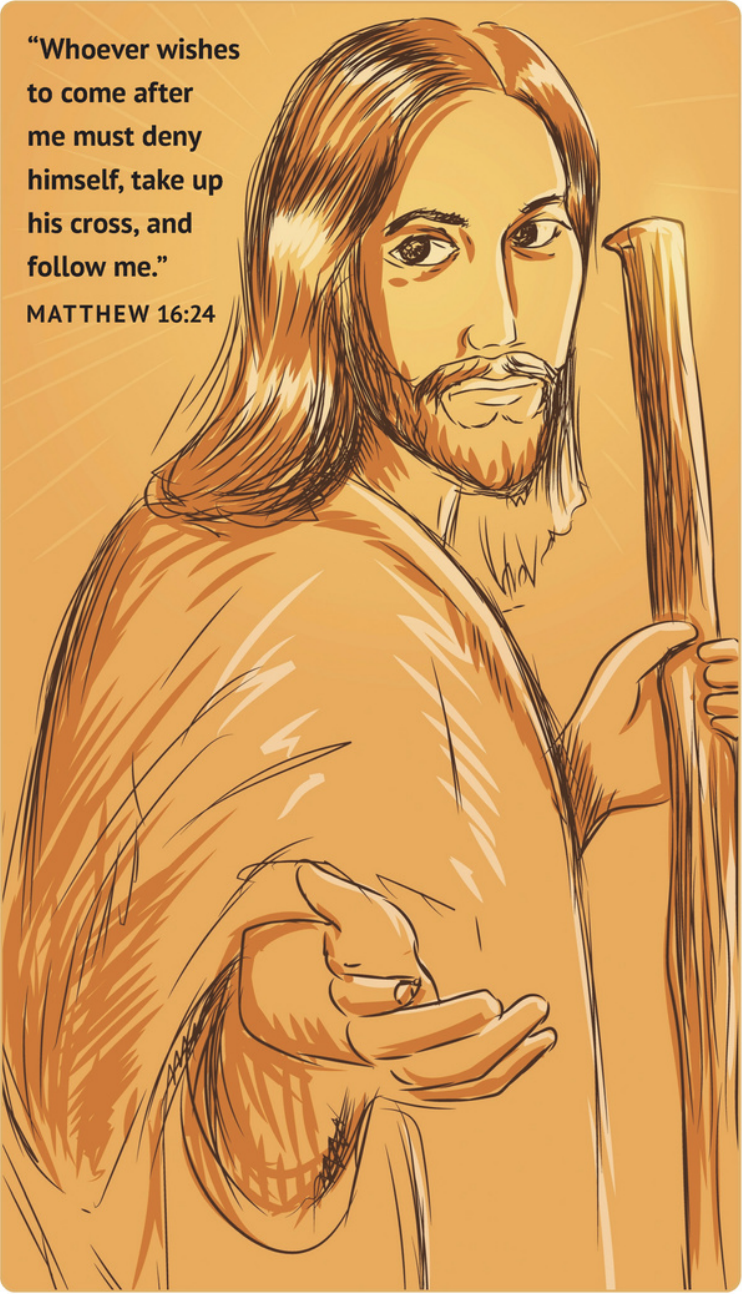
Would it surprise you to know that Jesus uses the same Greek verb to chase Peter away—“Get behind me, Satan!” (Matthew 16:23) that he used to call him in the first place—“Come after me” (Matthew 4:19)? Pity the translator who must assign opposite meanings to the same word! Jesus changed Simon’s name to Peter when he called him, and now he changes it to Satan for his demotion. But, as harsh as the rebuke is, maybe we could say Jesus does want Peter behind him, but not *too* far behind. In fact, immediately after dealing with Peter, Jesus issues a general call, using the same “trigger” word: “Whoever wishes to *come after* me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

The cross! That’s how the controversy started, when Peter “took Jesus aside” (literally, “collared” him) to forbid even the thought of any passion or any cross. (See Matthew 16:22.)

How am I tempted as Peter was to avoid any talk of a cross? I don’t even want to admit I’m a sinner, much less that there is a cross for me. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, has some advice for all of us who think like Satan: “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God,” and “Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God” (Romans 12:1–2). Everything for Jesus. ●

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

MATTHEW 16:24



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What cross are you carrying? Can you unite it with Jesus’ cross and offer it as prayer?



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

22nd SUN of O.T.
August 29 & 30, 2026

Parish Announcements

Anointing Mass

The Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 1, at the 12:00 PM Daily Mass. Anyone in need of this sacrament is welcome to receive it.

Office Closed

The office will be closed on Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day Holiday.



OCIA (formerly RCIA) classes are Starting! Do you know someone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith? Our OCIA classes offer an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and explore the possibility of becoming Catholic. Share the faith and invite someone to **“Come & See!” on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:00 PM in Gynn Hall here at St. Paul Catholic Church.** For more information contact the church office at 601-636-0140 or email stpaulvick@att.net

Hallow

The St. Michael Lent Reflection has started! St. Michael's Lent is a 40-day period of prayer and penance that goes until the Feast of the Archangels on September 29. It is available to all parishioners through the parish Hallow App. Be sure to click on the church tab and register with St. Paul. If you need help accessing the app, please contact the office. The link is: <https://hallow.app.link/98TCuXMcp5b>

ACTS Retreat

The ACTS of Central Mississippi Women's Retreat will be held October 22-25 at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Retreat Center in Osyka, MS. The retreat begins Thursday evening with departure from Holy Savior Catholic Church in Clinton, MS, and concludes there with the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. The application deadline is September 12, 2026. For more information, contact Jennifer Ratliff at jenniferrogillio@yahoo.com or Allie Roach at Alliegamble62@yahoo.com

Parish Calendar

AUG 30, SUN	Children's Church led by Natalie Kneipp
AUG 31, MON	Offertory Counters: Pam Melsheimer & Marie Renaud
SEPT 1, TUES	Anointing Mass 12:00 PM
SEPT 7, MON	Labor Day. Office Closed.
SEPT 9, WED	Adoration 5:30 PM

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget \$7,700

Online Giving

August 17 - August 23 \$1,997

Weekend Offertory

August 1 & 2.....\$5,201

August 8 & 9.....\$6,788

August 15 & 16.....\$3,316

August 22 & 23.....\$5,843

August 29 & 30.....\$ __, __

Special Collections

August 16: Solidarity Fund for Church in Africa.....\$525



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!



SEP 1 Rosary @6:30 PM followed
by Council Meeting

SEP 2 K of C Bible study after 5:30
PM Mass @ St. Michael.

SEP 5 Meals on Wheels. 8-11 AM



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

22nd SUN of O.T.
August 29 & 30, 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

AUG 31, MON	Betty Howard Brinkley, Deceased
SEPT 1, TUES	Special Intentions
SEPT 2, WED	Dan Fordice, Deceased
SEPT 3, THUR	Betty Howard Brinkley, Deceased
SEPT 4, FRI	Dan Fordice, Deceased
SEPT 5, 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.

Whoever wishes to come after me
must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.

MATTHEW 16:24



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
Emma Kelulgan

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	OCIA 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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