

Dear Padre,

Is it appropriate to display the American flag in our church?

A diocesan bishop—who often delegates this matter to the discretion of the pastor—determines regulations on whether and how to display the American flag in a Catholic church. Displaying the flag, and a book of remembrance for those serving in the armed forces, seems to have originated in many US parishes during World War II. The practice has continued through subsequent wars and national tragedies.

A photograph showing an American flag flying on a tall pole in front of a large Gothic church with multiple spires. The sky is overcast.

JOAQUIN OSORIO CASTILLO / SHUTTERSTOCK

While the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy advised that national symbols should not be *permanent* fixtures of a worship space, they may be appropriate at worship services on a civil holiday, etc. This same committee discouraged pastors from displaying the American flag within the sanctuary itself—a space reserved for the altar, ambo, presidential chair, and tabernacle—but instead to place the flag in the vestibule of the church together with a book of petitions for the living and deceased.

Fundamentally, a church building is where the liturgical assembly gathers as one body in Christ—the same Christ of the Eucharist who is beyond time and place, who came to unite our divisions. “The church building is a sign and reminder of the immanence and transcendence of God—who chose to dwell among us and whose presence cannot be contained or limited to any single place” (US Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Built of Living Stones*, 2000). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

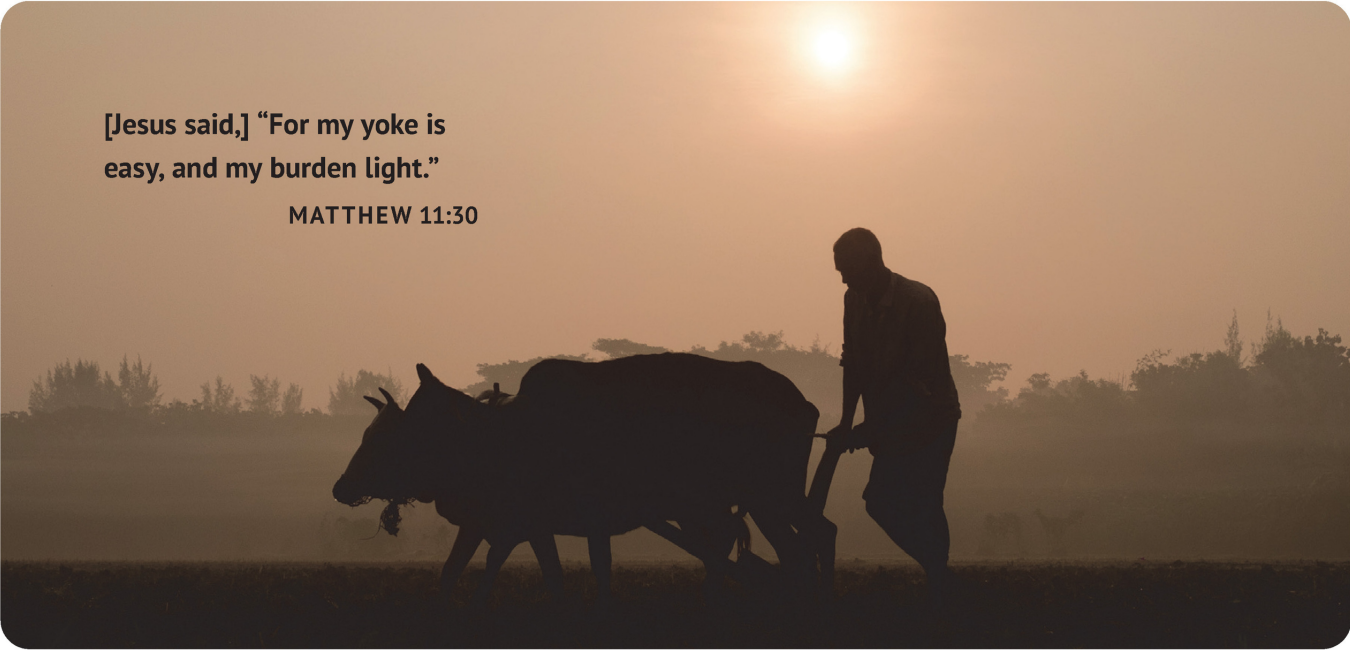
A close-up photograph of Pope Leo XIV looking upwards with a joyful expression.

There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom, and mediocrity?... We need to lift our eyes...to the “things that are above” (Colossians 3:2).

HOMILY, TOR VERGATA, AUGUST 3, 2025

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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 <i>Dear Padre</i> .		
Monday July 6 <i>Weekday</i> Hos 2:16, 17c–18, 21–22 Mt 9:18–26	Thursday July 9 <i>Weekday</i> Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9 Mt 10:7–15	Saturday July 11 <i>St. Benedict, Abbot</i> Is 6:1–8 Mt 10:24–33
Tuesday July 7 <i>Weekday</i> Hos 8:4–7, 11–13 Mt 9:32–38	Friday July 10 <i>Weekday</i> Hos 14:2–10 Mt 10:16–23	Sunday July 12 <i>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Is 55:10–11 Rom 8:18–23 Mt 13:1–23 or 13:1–9
Wednesday July 8 <i>Weekday</i> Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12 Mt 10:1–7		



[Jesus said,] “For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”
MATTHEW 11:30

Take Up the Yoke

ANN M. GARRIDO

The invention of the yoke 6,000 years ago marked one of the great advances in human history. The yoke—a wooden beam fitted across the neck—harnessed the energy of two cattle pulling in the same direction, hastening the tilling of soil and transport of goods.

It is easy to see why, among many ancient peoples, the yoke became a symbol of subjugation. When the Roman army won a battle, they forced defeated soldiers to walk beneath a “yoke” of spears to indicate they were now in a state of servitude. The prophet Jeremiah once walked through Jerusalem wearing a yoke to warn the people they were about to be conquered by Babylon.

In Judaism, however, the Torah was also sometimes referred to as a yoke. It was a law to be submitted to, but it also was a way of life that offered an alternative to the cruel “yokes” imposed by kings. The Book of Sirach encourages youth to “Take [Torah’s] yoke upon your neck; that your mind may receive her teaching.... See for yourselves! I have labored only a little but have found much” (Sirach 51:26–27).

It is unclear exactly what Jesus meant when he invited us to accept *his* yoke, but it is likely that he was echoing the invitation of Sirach. He wanted us to know that following God’s law makes it possible for us to work together, accomplishing much that we could not do on our own. And that God’s law is a gentle law—one that enables rather than oppresses. Are you willing to receive Christ’s gentle teaching and make it your own? ●

Reflect

Is there a teaching of Jesus you find challenging?



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

14th SUN of O.T.
July 4 & 5, 2026

Parish Announcements

Thank You

We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs, our Parish Council for organizing and decorating, and everyone who volunteered to help make our St. Paul celebration such a wonderful success. Your generosity, time, and support are greatly appreciated!

Office Closed

The parish office will be closed Monday, July 6, in observance of Independence Day, and there will be no Daily Mass that morning.

Anointing Mass

The Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Tuesday, July 7, at the 12:00 PM Mass. Anyone in need of this sacrament is welcome to receive it.

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.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

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

Parish Calendar

JULY 6, MON	Office Closed in observance of Independence Day. No Daily Mass.
JULY 7, TUES	Offertory Counters: Pam Melsheimer & Marie Renaud
JULY 7, TUES	Anointing Mass 12:00 PM
JULY 12, SUN	Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM
JULY 15, WED	Adoration 5:30 PM

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget \$7,700

Online Giving

June 22- June 28 \$1,505

Weekend Offertory

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

July 4 & 5.....\$____

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 7 Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by
Council Meeting.

JUL 8 K of C Bible study after 5:30
PM Mass @ St. Michael

JUL 9 Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting @
6 PM. All Catholic women
welcome



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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 6, MON	No Daily Mass
JULY 7, TUES	Dan Fordice
JULY 8, WED	Special Intentions
JULY 9, THUR	Dan Fordice
JULY 10, FRI	Dan Fordice
JULY 11, 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.

"Come to me,

All you who labor
and are burdened,

I will give you rest.

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
Mary Elizabeth Moffette

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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