

Dear Padre,

Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14
<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	<i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Is 40:1–11	Is 40:25–31	Is 41:13–20	Zec 2:14–17	Sir 48:1–4,	Is 35:1–6a, 10	Jas 5:7–10
Mt 18:12–14	Mt 11:28–30	Mt 11:11–15	or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab	9–11	Mt 17:9a, 10–13	Mt 11:2–11
Gn 3:9–15, 20	Do you have a question for the Padre?			Lk 1:26–38 or		
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12				Lk 1:39–47		
Lk 1:26–38	Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about <i>Dear Padre</i> .					



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025

Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

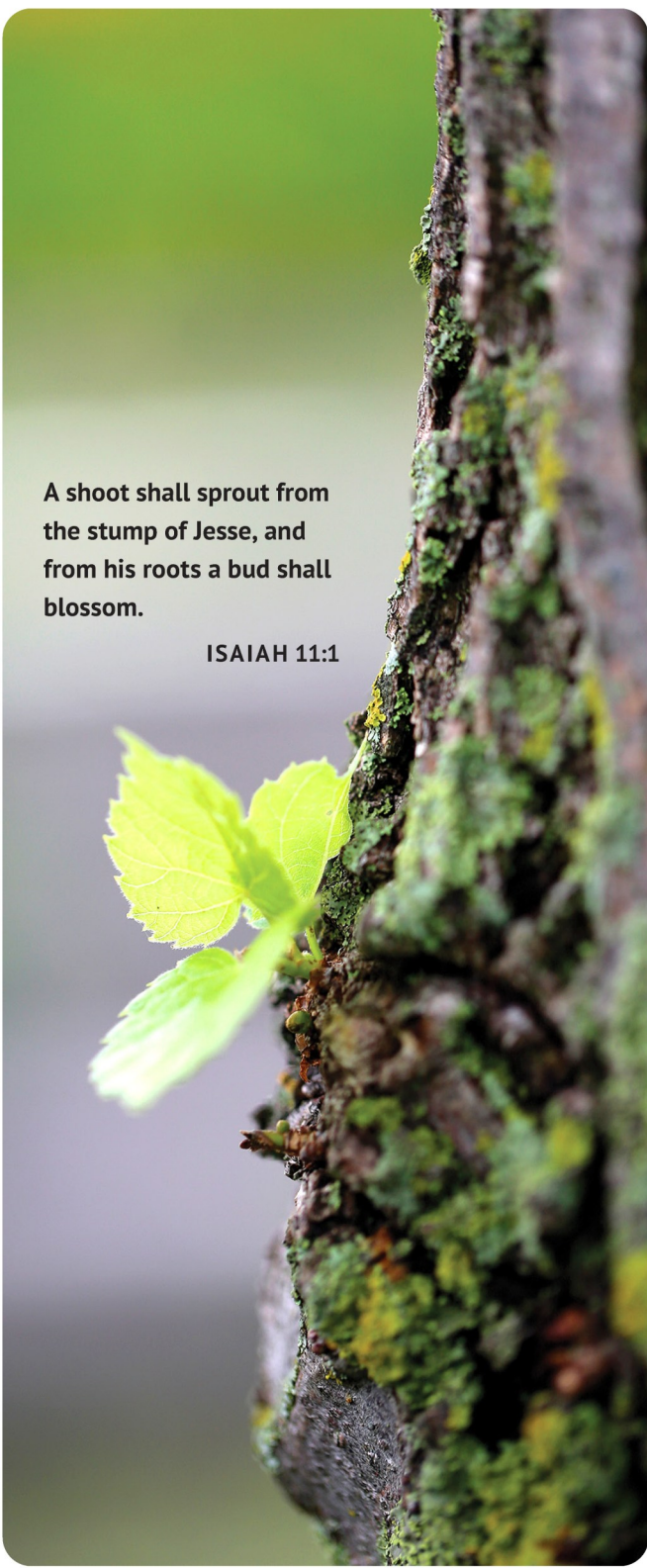
Today’s first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: “The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low” (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the “mighty” who make great noise when they fall. “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees,” echoes John the Baptist in today’s gospel. If we are looking for where God’s Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

Reflect

Are my eyes open to the small signs of God’s work in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?



A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

ISAIAH 11:1



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6 & 7, 2025



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Parish Announcements

Holy Day

There will be a Mass for the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary on Monday, December 8th at 7:00AM and 5:30 PM. This is a Holy Day of obligation. Please make plans to attend.

Adoration

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, December 10th at 5:30 PM.

Penance Service

The Parish Penance Service for the Advent season will be Thursday, December 18th at 5:30PM.

Men’s Prayer Breakfast

St. Paul is establishing a Men’s Prayer Breakfast group. If you are interested in participating, please let us know by calling the church office or emailing us at stpaulvick@att.net. Our organizational meeting will be January 11 @ 8:00 AM in Farrell Hall. Breakfast will be served.

I Give Catholic

Thank you to all who have contributed to our I Give Catholic campaign. We raised over \$7,175! With your generosity, we will be able to continue our beautification projects around the church. If you didn’t get a chance to contribute and would like to, you can still do so by donating directly to the church.

Hallow

We are excited to announce that our parish will have a subscription to the Hallow App beginning this Lent. Hallow is the #1 Catholic prayer and meditation app, offering daily reflections, Rosary, Scripture and more. Although our subscription officially begins during Lent, we encourage everyone to download it now and start exploring it’s features.

Lunch and Scripture

12PM, December 17 at Billy’s. Speaker: Syd Johnston. Topic: Catholic position regarding Jewish people and Israel. Pizza & Salad provided. Donations are appreciated. RSVP at 601-636-1040 or on Facebook.

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget\$7,700

Online Giving

Nov 24 - Nov 30 \$1,700

Weekend Offertory

Nov 29–30 \$2,403

Dec 6 & 7\$ __, __

Dec 13 & 14\$ __, __

Dec 20 & 21\$ __, __

Dec 27 & 28\$ __, __

Special Collections

December 14: Support of Retired Religious\$ __, __



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

DEC 8, MON The Immaculate Conception of Mary
DEC 9, TUES Special Intentions
DEC 10, WED Craig Stamm, Deceased
DEC 11, THUR Rad Styron, Deceased
DEC 12, FRI Special Intentions
DEC 13, SAT Craig Stamm, 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

@stpaulvicksburg

@stpaulvicksburg
@frrustyvinct

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers placed at the Ambo are in Memory of Jean Sharpe Rogillio

Parish Calendar

DEC 6, SAT Meals on Wheels
DEC 7, SUN Children’s Church led by: Shannon Lyons
Blessing of the Doors following Mass & Parish Christmas party
DEC 8, MON Advent Stations after 7 AM Mass. Offertory Counters: Renee Turner and Bruce Ebersol
DEC 10, WED RCIA 6PM in Glynn Hall. Adoration 5:30 PM
DEC 14, SUN Community Food Pantry

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>
www.ms-kofc.com/898

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



DEC 9 Rosary 6:30 PM followed by Recruitment & Retention Social
DEC 10 Bible Study following 5:30 PM Mass at St. Michaels
DEC 11 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 6PM

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 Homebound Janis Koestler Children’s Church Ashley Lawrence

Baptism Prep Barbara Hill

Confirmation Jordan Amborn