

Dear Padre,

A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.

Yes, your friend should most certainly receive a Catholic funeral and burial. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2283).

A person who is suffering with a mental illness or disorder, certainly a prerequisite for suicide, may not have the necessary mental freedom to choose something that is understood as grave or mortal. In other words, he or she does not have the necessary requirements for full and free consent of the will.

Not that long ago, suicide was often misunderstood. Thankfully, today we understand the havoc and suffering of mental illness, and that a person can be a victim, even if it might look like he or she is not. The great suffering of those who take their own lives must not be dismissed or discarded. The family members and friends of a person who suffers suicide should also not be judged but should only receive compassion and understanding. They, too, are victims, in the fullest sense of the word and in the truest understanding of what it means to be a fragile human being. ●

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



AMY STOUT / CATHOLICA

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (A)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 / Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



Embracing a Spirituality of Listening

ANN M. GARRIDO

The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●



SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT AUTHOR ANN M. GARRIDO

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



Young people of our time, like those of every age, are a volcano of life, energy, sentiments, and ideas. It can be seen from the wonderful things they are able to do, in so

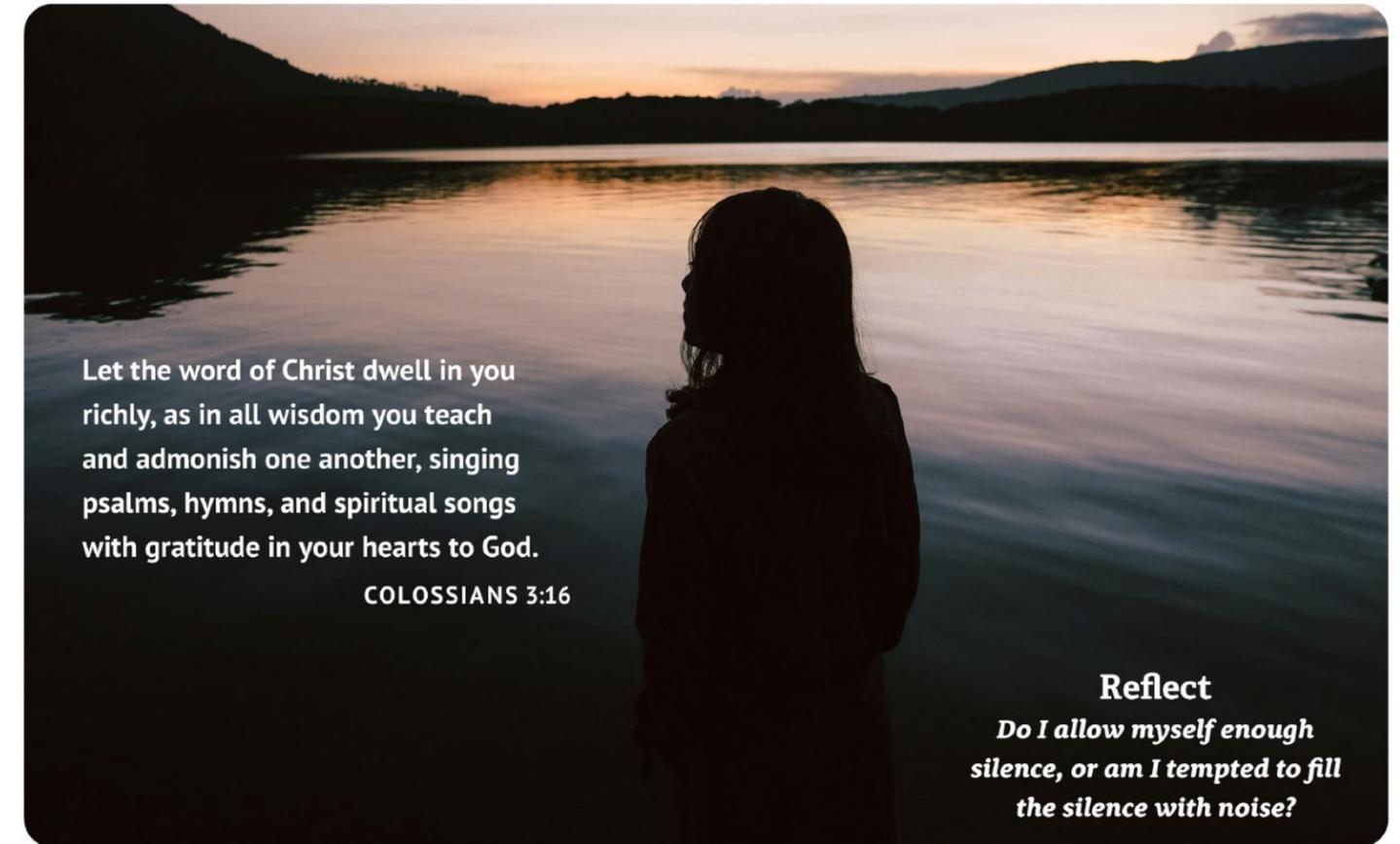
many fields. However, they also need help in order for this great wealth to grow in harmony and to overcome what...can still hinder their healthy development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 15, 2025

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday December 29 <i>Octave of Christmas</i> 1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35	Thursday January 1 <i>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i> Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21	Saturday January 3 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Jn 1:29-34
Tuesday December 30 <i>Octave of Christmas</i> 1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40	Friday January 2 <i>Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</i> 1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28	Sunday January 4 <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i> Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12
Wednesday December 31 <i>Octave of Christmas</i> 1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18		



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Reflect

Do I allow myself enough silence, or am I tempted to fill the silence with noise?



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com



Saturday, December 26: 4:00 pm

Rest of the soul of Grace Abernathy (Frank Maceri)

Sunday, December 27: 8:00 am

People of the Parish

Monday, December 28: 8:00 am

Rest of the souls of Carl & Charlotte Toon (Toon Family)

Thursday, January 1: 10:00 am

People of the Parish

Friday, January 2: 8:00 am

Rest of the souls of Jack & Thresea Haddad (Atwill Family)

Rest of the soul of Kaye Maceri (Frank Maceri)

Saturday, January 3: 4:00 pm

Rest of the soul of Howard Burke (Atwill Family)

Sunday, January 4: 8:00 am

People of the Parish



Sunday, December 28: NO PRE

Wednesday, December 31:

Holy Day of Obligation Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass 4pm @ St. Jude

Thursday, January 1:

Holy Day of Obligation Mary, Mother of God Mass 10am @ IC

Monday, January 5:

Church Office opens

Wednesday, January 7:

OCIA 5:30pm

Sunday, January 11:

PRE 9am

Wednesday, January 14:

OCIA 5:30pm

Friday, January 16:

1st Penance

Sunday, January 18:

PRE 9am

Parish Offertory

Weekly Budget: \$5,400



The Bulletin was printed early. Do not know what the collection is yet.

Families giving with Envelopes or Online Giving:

Thank you for your generosity & support!



WAYS TO GIVE



Online Giving



Eucharistic Ministers

&

Lectors



January 3 & 4: The Epiphany of the Lord

Lector:

4:00 pm: Dawn Lattus

8:00 am: Austin Atwill

Eucharistic Minister:

4:00 pm: Jane Wall

8:00 am: Brenda Piazza

Please call the church office if you are interested in being a Lector or Eucharistic Minister while growing in your faith.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Assumption Memorial Garden Cemetery

Columbarium Niches for Cremains \$1,600.00 per Niche
contact parish office (731) 885-0963 Niche Face Plate
Engraving Compliments of Edmaiston-Mosley Funeral Home (731) 885-1033 Curtis Monument Company (731) 352-5769 & The Wall Family

Immaculate Conception Parish Staff:

Office Hours: 9:00am—2:00pm

Pastor: Fr. Carl Gregorich

Bookkeeper/Reception: Leticia Maldonado

Tuesday & Thursday 9am—2pm

Religious Education Director: Teresa Vallee

Communications/Technology: Lillie Vallee

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays 5pm

Knights of Columbus: 3rd Degree: Mike Morel
4th Degree: Jason Batchelor

Ladies Guild: Janell Gegg

Meal Ministry: Brenda Piazza

Rosary Prayer Group: Sundays 7:30am Lillie Vallee

Sick Card Ministry: Sue Holnzer 731-335-0502

Flocknote: icuctn.flocknote.com/register

FORMED.org: Sign up as a parishioner & use the church zip code franciscanathome.com
Catechetical Institute: Sign up under the Memphis Diocese

Facebook: facebook.com/icuctn

Bulletin Deadline: Noon on Monday

Wishing all of you a Happy and

BLESSED

December Birthday!

May your special day be filled with joy, sweet memories, relaxation, and God's blessings.



The Altar Candles are for Billy T & Winnie Logan.

*Altar Linens Month of December: Beverly Canale
Thank you for your service to our parish!*

Holy Sacraments Offered

Baptism: Arrange by appointment three (3) months before the desired date of baptism with the Office.

First Eucharist: Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.

Confirmation: Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.

Confession: Saturdays 3:15pm—3:45pm

Matrimony: Arrangements must be made six (6) months before the wedding date with the Parish Office.

Marriage Blessing: Contact the parish Priest.

Marriage Annulment: Contact the parish Priest.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Office.

Holy Orders: Contact the Parish Priest.

Sagrados Sacramentos Ofrecidos

Bautismo: Organizarlo por medio de una cita con la oficina parroquial tres (3) meses antes de la fecha deseada de bautismo.

Primera Comuni3n: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educaci3n Religiosa.

Confirmaci3n: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educaci3n Religiosa.

Confesi3n: Sábados 3:15pm—3:45pm

Matrimonio: Los arreglos deben hacerse seis (6) meses antes de la fecha de la boda con la Oficina Parroquial.

Bendici3n Matrimonial: Comuníquese con el párroco.
Anulaci3n de Matrimonio: Póngase en contacto con el párroco.

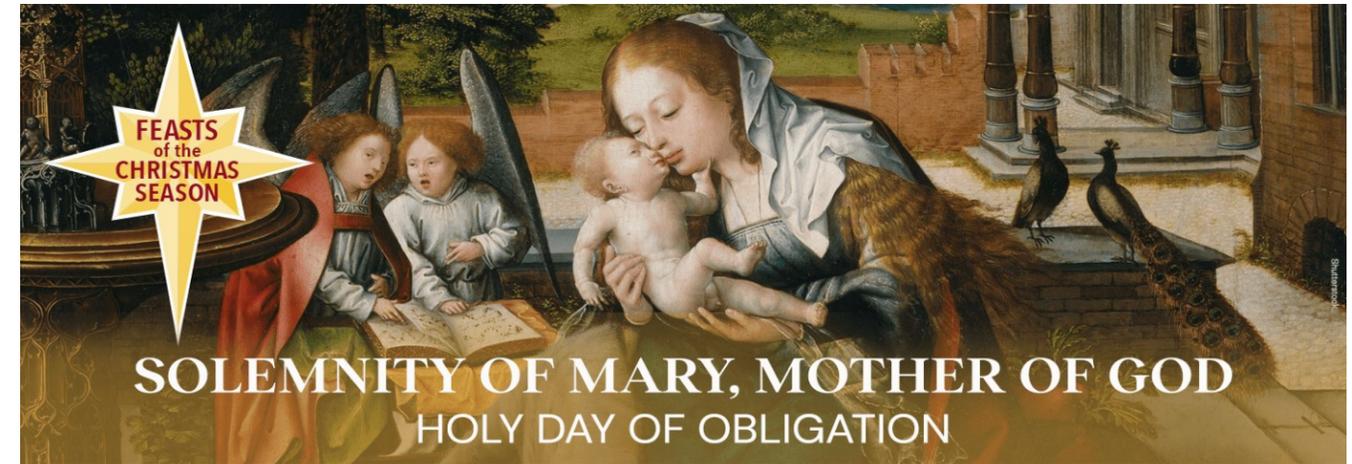
Unci3n de los Enfermos: Comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial.

Órdenes Sagradas: Póngase en contacto con el párroco.



Names on the prayer list for family and friends will be removed on monthly basis. They will not be put back on until requested. Please notify church office to remove or add a person or email: icuctnmaster@gmail.com

Parishioners	Friends & Family	
Lupita Berner	John Akers	Mary Jo Lattus
Richard Burpo	Heather Bacon	Nancy Long
Beverly Canale	Linda Boucher	Brian Maddox
Willis Hayslett	Butch Bugby	Fr. Jim Martell
Terry Johnson	Karen Canale	Josh McKinnis
James Judge	Robert Chmielewski	Linda Moore
Martha Lattus	Joseph Forner	Gabby Moss Family
Pat Martinek	Judy Gainwell	Barbara Parker
Barbara Pituch	Edward & Glenda Griffith	Logan Ricketts
Tom Pituch	Judy Guillory	Liliana Sanchez
Maria Searcy	Jean Haynes	Debra Spillers
David Sergerson	Geri Hinson	Teresa Sadler
Marilyn Stigler	Mayci Hogg	Gary Stephens
Del Torro	Frank Hutchinson	Allan Stevens
Paul Werner, Sr.	Dave Johnson	Ashley Taylor
Katie Young	Rhonda Jones	Grace Townsend
	Steven Kreis	Dottie Grace Tibbs
	Layla Karlz	Doris Ann Toon
	Linda Lattus	Doris & Van Veach
		Joe Young



- Wednesday, December 31: Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Mass @ St. Jude - 4pm
- Thursday, January 1: Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation Mass @ IC - 10am
- Miércoles 31 de diciembre: Misa de precepto en la parroquia de San Judas, Día de la Santa Virgen María, Madre de Dios, a las 4pm
- Jueves 1 de enero: Misa de precepto en la parroquia de IC, Día de la Santa Virgen María, Madre de Dios, a las 10am



EWTN



Ascension



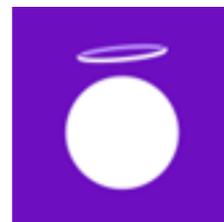
Laudate



Magnificat



Truth & Life Bible App



Hallow



These are just some of the free apps available to help with your spiritual growth.



10 Catholic New Year's Resolutions

Do you make New Year's resolutions? Most people focus on bettering their physical health in the New Year, but what about spiritual health? Here are 10 Catholic New Year's Resolutions for your consideration:

1. **Attend weekly or daily Mass:** If you haven't been to Mass in a while, the new year is a great time to come back! God is waiting for you. If you already attend Sunday Mass, consider going to Daily Mass.
2. **Grab your Rosary:** Some pray the rosary daily, others occasionally, and others rarely. Try to incorporate the rosary into your routine until it becomes a habit. Start by praying it weekly and increase frequency.
3. **Abstain from meat every Friday:** Abstaining from meat is only required on Fridays during Lent, but it is encouraged throughout the year. Observing meatless Fridays is a great way to increase in spiritual discipline and frequently recall Jesus' Passion.
4. **Begin your day with a Morning Offering:** If you struggle in your prayer life, consider saying the Morning Offering as soon as you wake up. This is short, old prayer that gives God everything we do throughout the day. If you recite it upon waking, it will become a habit.

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all our Associates, and in particular for the intention of the Apostleship of Prayer.

5. **Resurrect an old Church custom:** Just because something has fallen out of practice doesn't mean it's useless. There are many old Church customs that are no longer practiced, but they can help us increase in reverence. Some practices include bowing your head whenever you hear Jesus' name, keep silent while in the sanctuary, kneel when "...and by the power of the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man" is said during the Creed, recite an Act of Contrition before receiving Holy Communion, and more.
6. **Choose a saintly intercessor:** Make a point to pray for a particular saint's intercession throughout the year. Learn more about them by reading about their life and reading their writings/sermons if applicable.
7. **Read the Bible:** It's crucial for Catholics to be well-versed in Holy Scripture. Be sure to use a Catholic Bible and read a little bit each day.
8. **Do an Examination of Conscience before you go to sleep:** This is often done before Confession, but it's a good practice to get into at the end of your day. Not only do we recall the sins we may have committed, we also recall how God was with us throughout the day and we ask for His grace to be better the next day.
9. **Perform a Corporal Work of Mercy:** The Corporal Works of Mercy are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit prisoners, harbor the harborless, visit the sick, and bury the dead. Begin the new year by helping a neighbor or stranger in need.
10. **Bless your house:** Ask a priest to perform a blessing on your house and then, make a habit of sprinkling your home with Holy Water daily.

Buona fortuna and may you all have a happy and holy 2026!



10 Propósitos Católicos de Año Nuevo

¿Haces propósitos de Año Nuevo? La mayoría de las personas se centran en mejorar su salud física en el Año Nuevo, pero ¿qué hay de la salud espiritual? Aquí tienes 10 propósitos católicos de Año Nuevo para tu consideración:

1. **Asiste a Misa semanal o diariamente:** Si hace tiempo que no vas a Misa, ¡el Año Nuevo es un buen momento para regresar! Dios te está esperando. Si ya asistes a Misa los domingos, considera ir a Misa diaria.
2. **Toma tu Rosario:** Algunos rezan el rosario a diario, otros ocasionalmente y otros rara vez. Intenta incorporar el rosario a tu rutina hasta que se convierta en un hábito. Comienza rezándolo semanalmente y aumenta la frecuencia.
3. **Abstente de comer carne todos los viernes:** La abstinencia de carne solo es obligatoria los viernes de Cuaresma, pero se recomienda durante todo el año. Observar los viernes sin carne es una excelente manera de aumentar la disciplina espiritual y recordar con frecuencia la Pasión de Jesús.
4. **Comienza el día con una Ofrenda Matutina:** Si tienes dificultades con tu vida de oración, considera rezar la Ofrenda Matutina tan pronto como te despiertes. Es una oración corta y antigua que entrega a Dios todo lo que hacemos durante el día. Si la recitas al despertar, se convertirá en un hábito.
Oh Jesús, por el Inmaculado Corazón de María, te ofrezco mis oraciones, obras, alegrías y sufrimientos de este día por todas las intenciones de tu Sagrado Corazón, en unión con el Santo Sacrificio de la Misa en todo el mundo, en reparación por mis pecados, por las intenciones de todos nuestros asociados y, en particular, por la intención del Apostolado de la Oración.
5. **Rescata una antigua costumbre de la Iglesia:** El hecho de que algo haya caído en desuso no significa que sea inútil. Hay muchas costumbres antiguas de la Iglesia que ya no se practican, pero que pueden ayudarnos a aumentar nuestra reverencia. Algunas prácticas incluyen inclinar la cabeza cada vez que escuchas el nombre de Jesús, guardar silencio en el santuario, arrodillarse cuando se dice "...y por obra del Espíritu Santo, se encarnó de María, la Virgen, y se hizo hombre" durante el Credo, rezar un Acto de Contrición antes de recibir la Sagrada Comunión, y más.
6. **Elige un santo intercesor:** Propóntele orar por la intercesión de un santo en particular durante todo el año. Aprende más sobre él leyendo sobre su vida y sus escritos/sermones, si los hay.
7. **Lee la Biblia:** Es fundamental que los católicos conozcan bien las Sagradas Escrituras. Asegúrate de usar una Biblia católica y lee un poco cada día.
8. **Haz un examen de conciencia antes de dormir:** Esto se suele hacer antes de la Confesión, pero es una buena práctica para incorporar al final del día. No solo recordamos los pecados que pudimos haber cometido, sino que también recordamos cómo Dios estuvo con nosotros durante el día y le pedimos su gracia para ser mejores al día siguiente.
9. **Realiza una obra de misericordia corporal:** Las obras de misericordia corporales son dar de comer al hambriento, dar de beber al sediento, vestir al desnudo, visitar a los presos, dar posada al peregrino, visitar a los enfermos y enterrar a los muertos. Comienza el nuevo año ayudando a un vecino o a un desconocido que lo necesite.
10. **Bendice tu casa:** Pídele a un sacerdote que bendiga tu casa y luego, acostúmbrate a rociarla con agua bendita a diario.

¡Buena suerte y que todos tengan un feliz y santo 2026!

