

# Dear Padre,

*I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?*

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, "Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...") weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It's because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

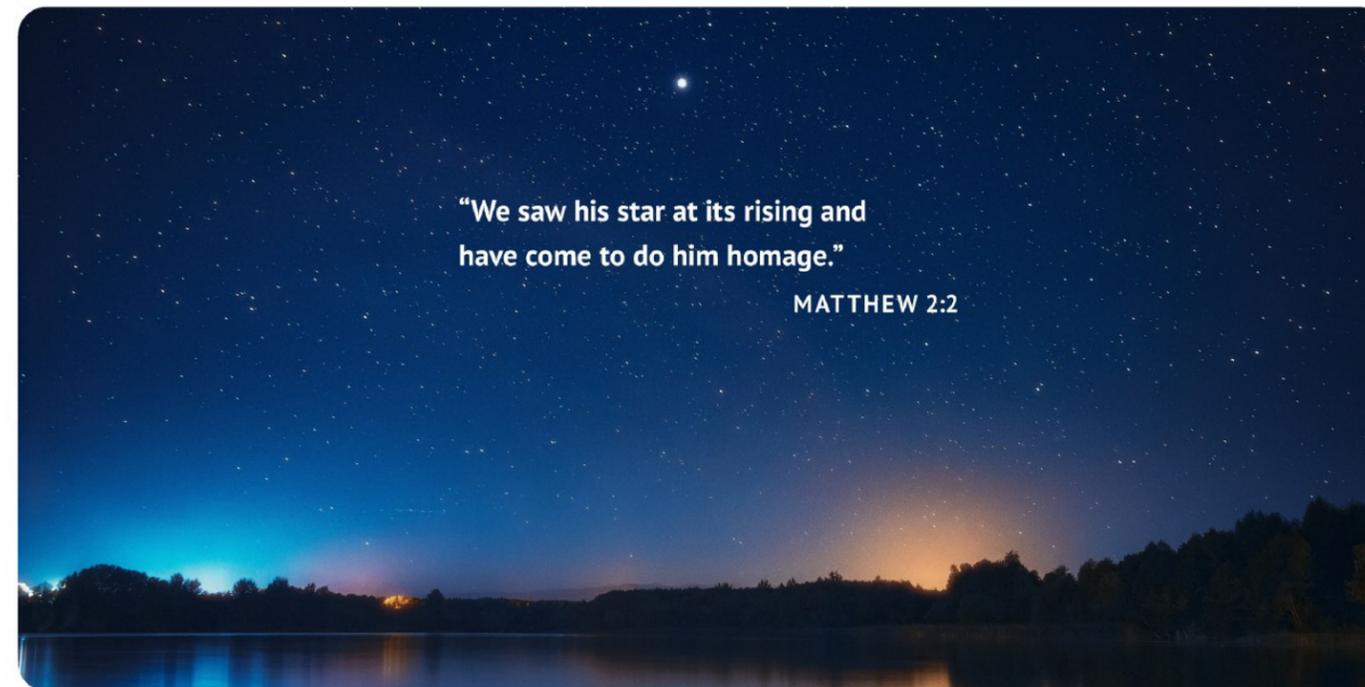
<b>Monday</b> January 5 <i>St. John Neumann, Bishop</i> 1 Jn 3:22–4:6 Mt 4:12–17, 23–25	<b>Wednesday</b> January 7 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:11–18 Mk 6:45–52	<b>Saturday</b> January 10 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:14–21 Jn 3:22–30
<b>Tuesday</b> January 6 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:7–10 Mk 6:34–44	<b>Thursday</b> January 8 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 4:19–5:4 Lk 4:14–22a	<b>Sunday</b> January 11 <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i> Is 42:1–4, 6–7 Acts 10:34–38 Mt 3:13–17
	<b>Friday</b> January 9 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:5–13 Lk 5:12–16	

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 4, 2026

*The Epiphany of the Lord (A)*

Isaiah 60:1–6 / Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6 / Matthew 2:1–12



*"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."*

MATTHEW 2:2

## Following Jesus Without a Star to Guide Us

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage"** (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God's universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God's grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—"in the weeds," so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more "gray" than "black and white." There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God's grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God's will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●

### Reflect

**How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions?**



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



# Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com



**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

**Monday, January 5: 10:00 am**

Rest of the soul of Howard Burke (Kathy Jo Roberts)

**Friday, January 9: 8:00 am**

Rest of the soul of Mena Fitts (Winnie Logan)

**Saturday, January 10: 4:00 pm**

People of the Parish

**Sunday, January 11: 8:00 am**

Rest of the soul of Heather Jenkins (Atwill Family)

## 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



**Monday, January 5:**

**Church Office opens 9am-2pm**

**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**



Eucharistic Ministers

&

Lectors



**January 10 & 11: The Baptism of the Lord**

Lector:

4:00 pm: Donnie Bearden

8:00 am: Julie Cunningham

Eucharistic Minister:

4:00 pm: Joanie Boucher

8:00 am: Paul Cunningham

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

## January Birthday!

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



*The Altar Candles are for the Holzner & Krueger families.*

*Altar Linens Month of January: Kathy Davis  
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 Comunion:** Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educacion Religiosa.

**Confirmacion:** Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educacion Religiosa.

**Confesion:** Sábados 3:15pm—3:45pm

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

**Bendición Matrimonial:** Comuníquese con el párroco.  
**Anulación de Matrimonio:** Póngase en contacto con el párroco.

**Unción 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