

Dear Padre,

Why do our bishops not marry? Scripture plainly says that they must be the husband of one wife and have faithful children.

This is an excellent question and brings us face to face with an important truth: for Catholics, the sacred Scripture is not the singular source of our practice and discipline. We also look, with equal authority, to the living Tradition of the Church. The magisterium is entrusted with the authentic interpretation of both Scripture and Tradition.

With this theological and historical context as a necessary background to your question, the answer to your query is this: the lived Tradition of the Church does not support a married clergy, including bishops. Although the Scripture allows for it, and provides some general guidelines, the lived Tradition of the Church does not. The Roman Catholic Church has a celibate clergy and will continue to have a celibate clergy unless and until the magisterium, in union with the pope, determines otherwise. There have been some discussions about changing this discipline, but now there is not much momentum that would suggest any imminent change.

In the wider Orthodox Catholic Church, in union with Rome, there is a provision for a married clergy, but, even in these traditions, there is no exception made for married bishops. Bishops are and will continue to be celibate regardless of what Scripture may allow. ●

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Anthony, Abbot	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 1:1-8 Mk 1:14-20	1 Sm 1:9-20 Mk 1:21-28	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Mk 1:29-39	1 Sm 4:1-11 Mk 1:40-45	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Mk 2:1-12	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a Mk 2:13-17	Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



RODRIGO DE MIGUEL / CATHOPIC



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the family, faith is handed on together with life, generation after generation. It is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 1, 2025



Catholic. Pastoral. Trusted. © 2026 Liguori Publications. Imprimi Potest: Fr. Kevin Zubeł, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 / Acts 10:34-38 / Matthew 3:13-17



Jesus, Servant Leader

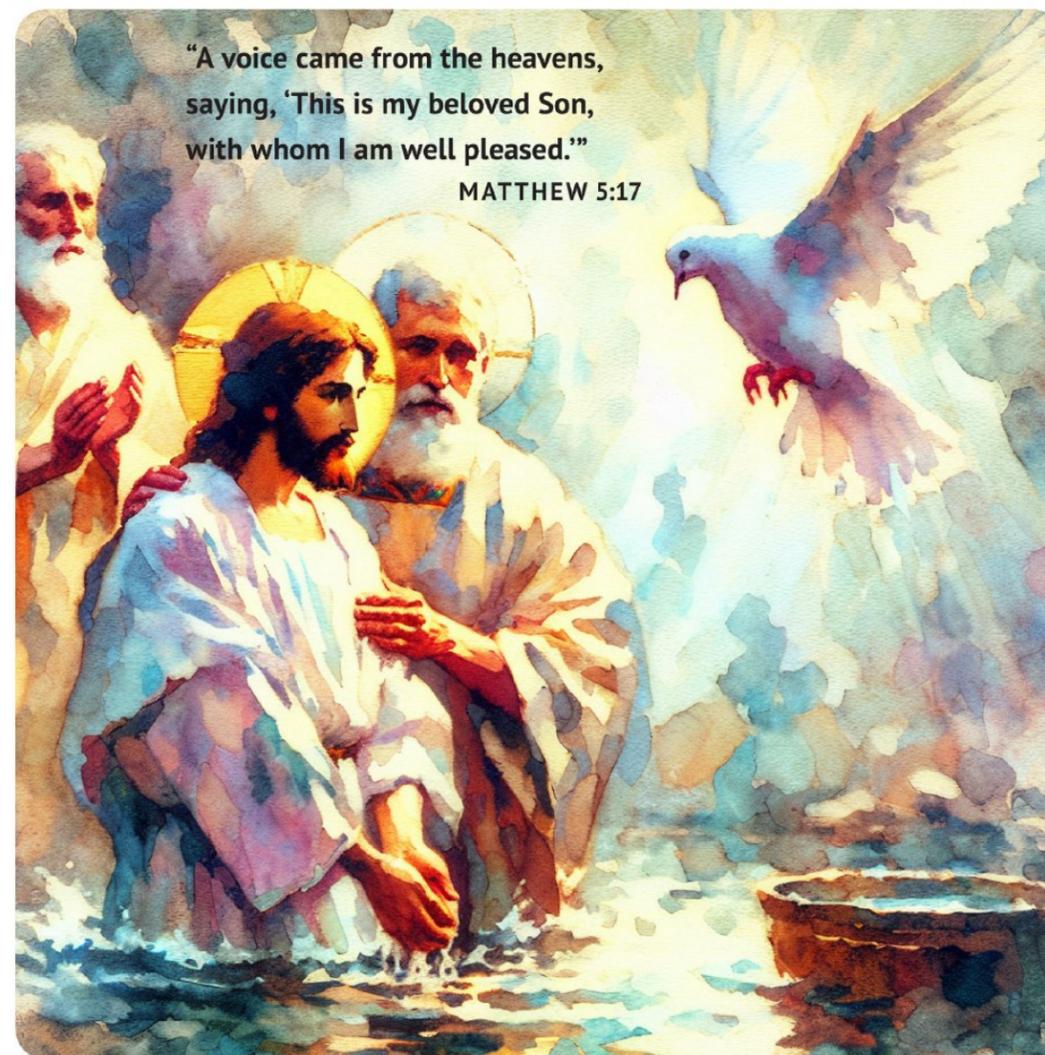
MIGUEL DULICK

John, miracle son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, cousin of Jesus and known as “the Baptist,” offers a “baptism of repentance.” Then Jesus shows up. The eternal Son of God a penitent? John is shocked and resists, saying it is Jesus who should baptize him. But Jesus insists, “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).

At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus is humbling himself, much as he did toward the end, when he washed the feet of his disciples. Then it was Peter who would resist what seemed inappropriate by the standards of this world. Jesus is giving us an example, the way of the servant leader, as described in today’s beautiful passage from Isaiah. Jesus is the servant leader, the Father’s Son, over whom the Holy Spirit danced like a dove, and the Father, with his booming voice from the heavens, said of him, “This is my beloved Son!” (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus allowing himself to be baptized may seem like a contradiction, but given all that follows, we know he is offering his followers a consistent model of what he expects from those who choose to be his disciples. As St.

Paul would later write to the Church in Philippi, “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped” (Philippians 2:5-6). ●



Reflect

This week, I'll think about my baptism, when I was called to serve as Jesus served.



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

ANTONELLA ULLAURI / CATHOPIC



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com



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)

Monday, January 12: 8:00 am

Rest of the soul of Gianna Kailanny Maldonado (Maldonado Vazquez Family)

Friday, January 16: 8:00 am

Rest of the soul of Heather Jenkins (Family)

Rest of the soul of Estrela Escobar (Maldonado Vazquez Family)

Saturday, January 17: 4:00 pm

Rest of the soul of Grace Abernathy (Frank Maceri)

Sunday, January 18: 8:00 am

People of the Parish



Sunday, January 11:

PRE 9am

Wednesday, January 14:

OCIA 5:30pm

Friday, January 16:

1st Penance 6pm

Sunday, January 18:

PRE 9am

Knights of Columbus Meeting 5pm
in the Activity Building

Monday, January 19

Church office is closed MLK Day

Wednesday, January 21:

OCIA 5:30pm

Ladies Guild Gathering 6pm

Sunday, January 25:

No PRE Classes

Parish Offertory

Weekly Budget: \$5,400

January 4, 2026



Regular Collection: \$ 1271

Online Giving: \$ 693
(\$ 3436)

Second Collection: \$1614

Families giving with Envelopes or Online Giving: 55 out 178

Thank you for your generosity & support!



WAYS TO GIVE



Online Giving



Eucharistic Ministers

&

Lectors



January 18 & 19: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lector:

4:00 pm: Mike Vallee

8:00 am: Evelyn Stigler

Eucharistic Minister:

4:00 pm: Sue Holzner

8:00am: Tony Stigler

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 Holzner 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 Comunión: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.

Confirmación: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.

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

Catholic Diocese of Memphis
 Marriage Preparation Workshop
"To Be One in Flesh"

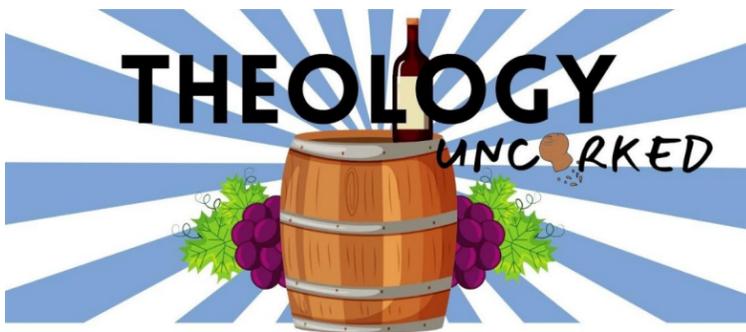
April 11, 2026
 9:00am to 3:00pm

St. Benedict at Auburndale
 8250 Varnavas Dr, Cordova, TN 38016
 Lunch will be included

Cost is \$135 per couple (paid in advance, online only)
 Register and pay using the QR code

Or go to: cdom.org, select "Events" at the top right of the page and select "To Be One In Flesh - Marriage Prep Workshop"

This workshop satisfies part of the diocesan requirement for Marriage Prep. Please check with the priest or deacon who is preparing you for Marriage to see what else is required.



JOIN US FOR
KEVIN "REV KEV" HAMILTON
 RETIRED MINISTER OF MUSIC & COMEDIAN

"THEOLOGY: UNCORKED" IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CASUAL DISCUSSION ABOUT MATTERS OF FAITH. ADULTS OF ALL AGES AND RELIGIONS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!



HOSTED AT CROWN WINERY
TUESDAY JANUARY 13, 2026

DOORS/BAR OPEN @ 6:30 PM
 7-7:30 PM SPEAKER

7:30-8:30 PM FELLOWSHIP & DISCUSSION (BAR REOPENS)

BEER, WINE, SODAS, SNACKS AND WATER ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
 ATTENDEES ARE WELCOME TO BRING FOOD

CONVERSATION AND COMMUNITY FOR BELIEVERS, SEEKERS, AND SKEPTICS

INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS:

THEOLOGY.UNCORKED THEOLOGY UNCORKED WTN THEOLOGY UNCORKED WTN



"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

God takes great pleasure in those who respond to His call. Do you hear His voice? He may be calling you to the priesthood, the diaconate, or consecrated life

Visit: www.memphisvocations.com

Call the Office of Vocations at 373-1244



Ready to answer the call? Email us at VocationsDirector@vocations.cdom.org



"Este es mi Hijo muy amado, en quien tengo mis complacencias."

Dios se complace en quienes responden a su llamado. ¿Acaso escuchas tu su voz? Quizá te este llamando al sacerdocio, el diaconado, o la vida consagrada

Visita: www.memphisvocations.com

Llama a la Oficina de Vocaciones al 373-1244



¿Listo(a) para responder al llamado? Contáctanos: VocationsDirector@vocations.cdom.org



First Penance for our First Communion class will be held on Friday, January 16 at 6pm. Parents, please arrive on time with your child. Continue to practice the Act of Contrition with your child in preparation.

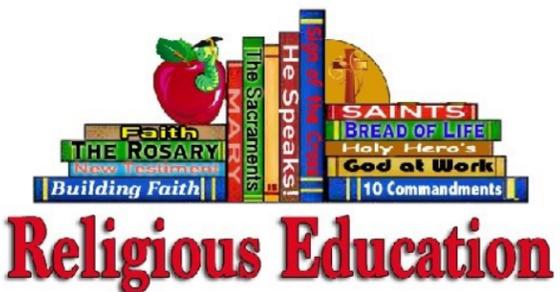
La primera confesión para los niños de la clase de Primera Comunión se llevará a cabo el viernes 16 de enero a las 6pm. Padres, por favor, lleguen puntualmente con sus hijos.

Continúen practicando el Acto de Contrición con sus hijos como preparación.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 5PM
 IN THE ACTIVITY BUILDING.**



Religious Education

PRE Classes begin this Sunday, Jan. 11 at 9am.

Las clases de preparación para el examen comienzan este domingo 11 de enero a las 9 de la mañana.

Ladies' FELLOWSHIP

Please Join us For
PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR 2026
 Finger Foods will be Provided

CONfraternidad de damas

Únase a nosotras para las oraciones por el Año Nuevo 2026
 Se proporcionarán bocadillos

21 de enero de 2026 a las 6 p. m.

January 21, 2026 @ 6 PM

Celebrating Baptismal Anniversaries

A Family Prayer Service

Here is a prayer service for celebrating the baptismal anniversary of a family member.

Materials needed: bowl with water (holy water, when possible), Bible, candle (baptismal candle, when possible)

Before beginning the prayer service, select one of these readings from the New Testament: [Romans 6:3-5](#), [Galatians 3:26-28](#), or [Ephesians 4:1-6](#). Have a Bible open to the selected passage.

Set the bowl of water onto a table. Place a lit candle near the bowl. Use the celebrant's baptismal candle if it is available. Gather around the table and select a reader and a leader for the following prayer.

Leader: Today is the day that you, [name], were baptized. On this day you were welcomed as a Christian by your family, and by the Church. Today we will again sign you with the cross, to remember that you were baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let us listen to the words of the Scriptures.

Reader: A reading from [name of book].

(Reader reads the selected passage.)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: In Baptism we have been filled with the light of Christ. May we walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts. May we live each day knowing our true identity as beloved children of God. And when the Lord comes, may we go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom to live with him forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Invite the group to make the Sign of the Cross on the celebrant's forehead; then invite everyone to sign their own foreheads with holy water. Offer hugs all around and celebrate with a special meal or treat.



Celebración de Aniversarios Bautismales

Un Servicio de Oración Familiar

Aquí les presentamos un servicio de oración para celebrar el aniversario del bautismo de un miembro de la familia.

Materiales necesarios: un recipiente con agua (agua bendita, si es posible), una Biblia, una vela (la vela bautismal, si es posible).

Antes de comenzar el servicio de oración, elijan una de estas lecturas del Nuevo Testamento: Romanos 6:3-5, Gálatas 3:26-28 o Efesios 4:1-6. Tengan la Biblia abierta en el pasaje seleccionado.

Coloquen el recipiente con agua sobre una mesa. Pongan una vela encendida cerca del recipiente. Si está disponible, usen la vela bautismal de la persona que celebra su aniversario. Reúnanse alrededor de la mesa y elijan a un lector y a un líder para la siguiente oración.

Líder: Hoy es el día en que tú, [nombre], fuiste bautizado/a. En este día fuiste acogido/a como cristiano/a por tu familia y por la Iglesia. Hoy te signaremos nuevamente con la cruz, para recordar que fuiste bautizado/a en el nombre del Padre, del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo. Escuchemos las palabras de las Sagradas Escrituras.

Lector: Lectura del [nombre del libro].

(El lector lee el pasaje seleccionado).

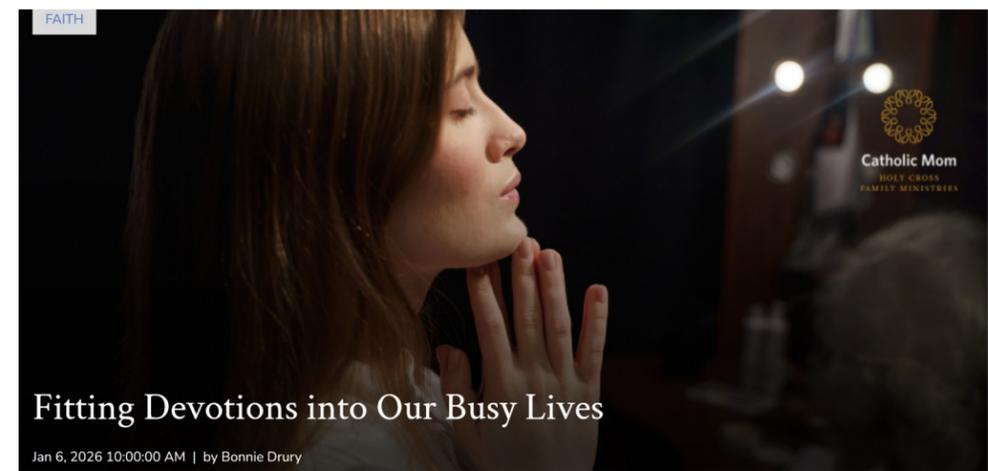
Lector: Palabra de Dios.

Todos: Te alabamos, Señor.

Líder: En el Bautismo hemos sido llenados con la luz de Cristo. Que caminemos siempre como hijos de la luz y mantengamos viva la llama de la fe en nuestros corazones. Que vivamos cada día conscientes de nuestra verdadera identidad como hijos amados de Dios. Y cuando el Señor venga, que salgamos a su encuentro con todos los santos en el reino celestial para vivir con Él por siempre y para siempre.

Todos: Amén.

Inviten al grupo a hacer la señal de la cruz en la frente de la persona que celebra su aniversario; luego, inviten a todos a signarse la frente con agua bendita. Abrácese y celebren con una comida o un dulce especial.



Do you feel like your faith is slipping away? Bonnie Drury shares seven of her favorite devotions that can fit into our daily chaos.

Pope Francis visited Fatima, Portugal in 2023, where he spoke to 200,000 pilgrims. While there, he proclaimed a new devotional title for Mary: “Our Lady in a Hurry.” While this title describes how Mary hastens to care for all her children, it also resonates with all of us because we’re always “in a hurry.” Our days are full, and we feel like we haven’t a moment to spare. Yet our souls cry out for God’s peace, and we long to be closer to Him. Here are some devotions that may fit into your daily life.

The Morning Offering

This prayer starts our day off right, offering God everything that we will experience.

“O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.”

Awaken the Sleeping Giant: A Devotion to Saint Joseph

This devotion began with South American and Filipino Catholics but is now worldwide. Since the Bible tells us that God communicated to Saint Joseph in his dreams, this devotion allows us to “sleep” on our petitions, to dream of them and offer them up to Christ.

Obtain a statue of a sleeping Saint Joseph and place your intentions under the statue. Pray this prayer once, or as a novena:

“Dear Saint Joseph, please take my petitions and place them in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When you dreamed of the coming of the Savior, you were obedient to God’s Will. Please help me to discern God’s will for me and to be obedient to it. Amen.” (CatholicTradition.org)

The Jesus Prayer

Make every breath a prayer. Recite “*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God*” while inhaling and “*have mercy on me, a sinner,*” while exhaling.

This is a beloved tradition among Eastern Catholics.

The Divine Mercy Prayer

This prayer can be used any time for any petition, and the Sacred Heart will hear you.

“On behalf of _____, O blood and water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you. Please grant _____ the grace of [salvation, healing, fortitude, wisdom, patience, and so on].”

Wearing the Miraculous Medal

The design of the Miraculous Medal originated in heaven with Our Blessed Mother. On the night of July 18, 1830, Sister Catherine Laboure was awakened by her guardian angel and summoned to the Chapel. The Blessed Mother was waiting for her and told Sister Catherine that she had a special mission for her.

Our Mother described the medal she wanted to be created. The first medals were struck on June 30, 1832. From France, the devotion spread all over the world. It became known as Miraculous because of the many miracles attached to it. It is not a superstition or “good luck” charm, but a sacramental approved by the Church. It should signify our devotion to Mary. The Church teaches that the wearer, according to Mary’s promise, will receive “great graces.” We need only ask.

Stations of the Cross

There’s a beautiful prayer in the Stations of the Cross that could enrich and strengthen our faith daily.

“I love you, Jesus. I repent of my sins. Help me to never sin again, and to love you always and to do your will.”

Night Prayer

What a beautiful way to close our day.

“Jesus Christ, my God, I adore You and thank You for all the graces You have given me this day. I offer you my sleep and all the moments of this night. I place myself and all my loved ones, wherever they may be, in Your sacred side and under the mantel of Our Blessed Mother. Let your holy angels stand watch and keep us in peace. Amen.”

Devotions and prayer add so much to our daily lives as busy as they are. By fitting them in and sharing our burden with the Lord, life becomes more peaceful and joyful.