

Dear Padre,

I thought only priests and bishops should distribute Holy Communion at Mass. In my parish, the priest allows laypeople to help him, and I thought laypeople couldn't because our hands are not consecrated.

You're not the only person with this concern, so thank you for taking the time to write. The distribution of holy Communion has nothing to do with "consecrated hands." Ordinary ministers of Communion include bishops and priests, as you rightly identify, but also deacons and installed acolytes. Of the four ordinary ministers, only the hands of bishops and priests are consecrated. Laypeople are extraordinary ministers and are installed to help the priest so that everyone can receive holy Communion without long lines or wearying the (sometimes elderly) priest. Most extraordinary ministers of Communion approach this ministry very prayerfully.

Your question brings up the subject of the full participation of the laity in the Mass, which is part of a highly contentious theological discussion on social media. There is an unfortunate conflict between so-called "traditional Catholics" and "Vatican II Catholics" or, as they are often misrepresented, "Novus Ordo" Catholics. Some Catholics are led to believe that the "new Mass" is not authentic, even though it has been the ordinary form of the Mass for well over fifty years—that is, since the authoritative Second Vatican Council. Many good and faithful people suffer with doubt and anxiety as a result of this confusion. ●

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



THOMAS ORRICO / CATHOPIC

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 19	January 20	January 21	January 22	January 23	January 24	January 25
Weekday	Weekday	St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	Weekday	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 15:16-23 Mk 2:18-22	1 Sm 16:1-13 Mk 2:23-28	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Mk 3:1-6	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Mk 3:7-12	1 Sm 24:3-21 Mk 3:13-19	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Mk 3:20-21	Is 8:23-9:3 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



FRANCISCO XAVIER ESPINOZA / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Ours is a time marked by a growing search for spirituality, particularly evident in young people, who are longing for authentic relationships and guides in life. Hence, it is important that the Christian community be farsighted in discerning the challenges of today's world and in nurturing the desire for faith present in the heart of every man and woman.

MESSAGE TO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS, ROME, MAY 28, 2025



Behold the Lamb of God!

ANN M. GARRIDO

Of the many names Scripture provides to help us ponder the mystery of Jesus, one of the most intriguing is the name that John the Baptist offers at the opening of today's gospel: "Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:29).

Scripture scholars debate what John means here. Is he alluding to the Passover lamb—that unblemished lamb whose blood the enslaved Israelites were to post over their doorways? The angel of death knew to "pass over" these homes. Perhaps John was saying that by Jesus' blood, the people would be freed from death.

Or was John thinking about the guilt offerings mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures when priests offered animal sacrifices to God as a way of seeking the removal of their sins? Leviticus mentions use of a scapegoat who would carry the sins of the people away into the desert. (See Leviticus 20-28.) Could John have understood that Jesus would bear the sins of the world?

Or did John have in mind the great constellation Aries, the ram, considered the prince of the stars of the sky, the center from whom all the other constellations were mapped in ancient times? Perhaps John was pointing out that Jesus was the center around whom heaven and earth revolve, like the ruling lamb mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

Today at Mass, when the host is elevated and you hear John's words again—"Behold the Lamb of God!"—take a moment to savor these words anew. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Which understanding of the "Lamb of God" resonates with me?

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

JOHN 1:29





Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com



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

Monday, January 19: 8:00 am

Intentions of Maria Maldonado (Maldonado Vazquez Family)

Intentions of Antonio Silva (Josephina Maldonado)

Friday, January 23: 8:00 am

Rest of the soul of Howard Burke (Mike Vallee Family)

Rest of the soul of Vince Ray (Van & Nell Ray)

Saturday, January 24: 4:00 pm

Rest of the soul of Betty McNeill (Kathy Jo Roberts)

Sunday, January 25: 8:00 am

People of the Parish



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

Friday, January 23:

Church office closed

Sunday, January 25:

No PRE Classes

Wednesday, January 28:

OCIA 5:30pm

Sunday, February 1:

PRE Class

2027 Confirmation class meeting 10:30am

Monday, February 2:

Candlemas Day/Presentation of the Lord

Parish Offertory

Weekly Budget: \$5,400
January 4 & 11, 2026



Regular Collection: \$ 6394
Online Giving: \$ 893

Families giving with Envelopes or Online Giving: 68 out 178
Thank you for your generosity & support!



WAYS TO GIVE



Online Giving



Eucharistic Ministers

&

Lectors



January 24 & 25: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lector:

4:00pm: Winnie Logan
8:00am: Clare Atwill

Eucharistic Minister:

4:00pm: Mike Vallee
8:00am: Jane Wall

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.

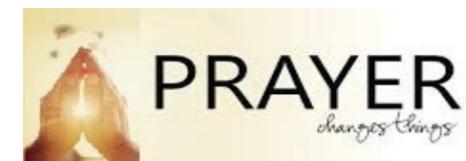
Altar Linens Month of January: Kathy Davis
Thank you for your service to our parish!

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	Nancy Long
Richard Burpo	Heather Bacon	Brian Maddox
Beverly Canale	Butch Bugby	Ma. Isabela Mandujano
Willis Hayslett	Karen Canale	Fr. Jim Martell
Pamela Jenkins	Robert Chmielewski	Josh McKinnis
Terry Johnson	Joseph Forner	Linda Moore
James Judge	Judy Gainwell	Gabby Moss Family
Martha Lattus	Edward & Glenda Griffith	Barbara Parker
Pat Martinek	Judy Guillory	Logan Ricketts
Barbara Pituch	Geri Hinson	Liliana Sanchez
Tom Pituch	Mayci Hogg	Debra Spillers
Maria Searcy	Frank Hutchinson	Teresa Sadler
David Sergerson	Jennie Jeffery	Liliana Sanchez
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
		Pat Wade

Join Us

DISCOVER CHRIST IN A NEW AND LIFE-CHANGING WAY!

Embrace faithfully and effectively following Him, living in God's grace. This 3-Day experience aims to ignite your faith, deepen your relationship with God, and connect you with a vibrant community believers.

Learn More



Apply



SPRING 2026 LINEUP
BE SURE TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EARLY!

LENT RETREAT
FR. BEN + DCN. STEVE
FEB 20-22

VISIO DIVINA
DEREK ROTT
MAR 27-29

MARRIAGE WEEKEND
DCN. JEFF
MAY 1-3

FAMILY SUMMER STAYCATION
JUNE 12-14

SILENT RETREATS in 2026

YOUR RETREAT ON YOUR TERMS

JAN 22-25 JUN 25-28

APR 9-12 NOV 12-19



SCAN to get more information + REGISTER TODAY!

olqpretreats.com

MEMPHIS CURSILLO

English
MEN'S CURSILLO
Jan 29-Feb 1

Spanish
MEN'S CURSILLO
Apr. 16-19

WOMEN'S CURSILLO
Feb 26-Mar 1

WOMEN'S CURSILLO
May 14-17

MEMPHIS CURSILLO

We're at full capacity! Get added to our wait list.

MEN'S WEEKEND
JAN 29-FEB 1

WOMEN'S WEEKEND
FEB 26-MAR 1

For more information scan QR codes or visit our website at:

memphiscursillo.com

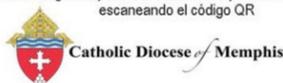
CALLED BY NAME

Parishioners throughout the Diocese are encouraged to consider who in our midst might have a calling to serve the People of God as a priest, a deacon, or a religious brother or sister, and submit his/her name and information on this card or online by scanning the QR Code



Te Llame por tu Nombre

Exhortamos a los feligreses a lo largo y ancho de nuestra Diócesis a considerar si conocen a alguien en medio de nosotros que podría servir a Dios como sacerdote, diacono o consagrado, y someter su nombre y datos al reverso o en línea escaneando el código QR



VOYAGE RETREAT

January 30-February 1, 2026
*Can satisfy Diocesan Requirements of Confirmation Retreat

ALL 7TH & 8TH GRADE STUDENTS WELCOME

Journey to Discover Who God Created You to Be!

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2026 (Overnight Retreat)
St. Benedict at Auburndale Catholic High School
Cost: \$100.00

Questions: sharon.kowalke@cc.cdom.org (901)373-1234

Scan to Register

Ladies' FELLOWSHIP

Please Join us For **PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR 2026**

Finger Foods will be Provided

January 21, 2026 @ 6 PM

CONfraternidad de damas

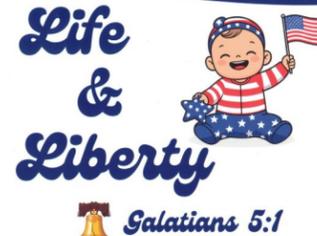
Unase a nosotras para las oraciones por el Año Nuevo 2026

Se proporcionarán bocadillos

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



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



Baby bottles are in the Narthex. Take one and fill with coin change or cash or check to benefit the Agape House in Martin, TN. Please return to church by March 1, 2026.

www.agapehousenwtn.com



Church office will be closed on Monday, Jan 19 & Friday, Jan. 23.

La oficina de la iglesia permanecerá cerrada el lunes 19 y el viernes 23 de enero.

No PRE classes on Sun. Jan 25.
No habrá clases de PRE el domingo 25 de enero.



The Mass for the Unborn will be held at St. Jude on Thursday, Jan 22 at 12:10pm.



1st Communion Retreat

Sat. Feb. 7 from 9a-12p

A parent & student must attend. Parent meeting to follow Retreat.

Es obligatoria la asistencia de un padre/madre y del estudiante. La reunión de padres se llevará a cabo después del retiro.

Confirmation Retreat

Sun. Feb. 8 from 11a-3p

Confirmation Students must attend. Following the Retreat is the Parent/student meeting. A parent must attend.

Los estudiantes de Confirmación deben asistir. Después del retiro, se llevará a cabo una reunión de padres y alumnos. Es obligatoria la asistencia de uno de los padres.



Pope Leo proclaims special Jubilee year for the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's death



In commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed Jan. 10, 2026 – Jan.

10, 2027, an extraordinary Jubilee Year during which the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions by making a pilgrimage to a Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to the saint.

The Franciscan Friars Minor announced the proclamation in a Jan. 10 press release, stating that during this Jubilee year “the Christian faithful are invited to follow the example of the Saint of Assisi, becoming models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace.”

The release states that the extraordinary jubilee “represents an ideal continuation of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025,” which encouraged the faithful to go on pilgrimage and orient their lives toward God. The See of the Apostolic Penitentiary gave the decree Jan. 10. “Following in the footsteps of the Poverello of Assisi, let us transform the hope that made us pilgrims during the Holy Year into fervor and zeal of effective charity,” the release states. “May this Year of St Francis be for each one of us a providential occasion for sanctification and evangelical witness in the contemporary world, for the glory of God and the good of the whole Church.”

This Jubilee Year is especially addressed to Franciscans of the first, second, and third regular and secular orders, the release notes, as well as religious institutes, societies of Apostolic Life, and associations inspired by Franciscan spirituality or that follow the Rule of St. Francis.

However, the Franciscans add that “the grace of this special year is also extended to all the faithful without distinction who, with their spirits removed from sin,” make a pilgrimage to an applicable holy place.

The release notes that those who are sick, elderly, or cannot leave home for grave reasons can also obtain the plenary indulgence through offering their prayers and sufferings to God and spiritually participating in the Jubilee observation.

The Franciscans state that they invite all the faithful to participate in the Jubilee, adding: “May the shining example of St. Francis, who knew how to make himself poor and humble in order to be true alter Christus on earth, inspire

our hearts to live with authentic Christian charity towards our neighbor and with sincere longings for concord and peace among peoples.”

This month, Pope Leo also sent a [letter](#) to the Ministers General of the Conference of the Franciscan Family, the heads of the Franciscan religious orders, recognizing the eighth centenary of St. Francis’ death.

Pope Leo recalled how when he first began his religious life, St. Francis said the Lord revealed to him that the friars should greet people by saying, “May the Lord give you peace.” Pope Leo said that these words communicate how the Gospel brings peace into the life of those who embrace it.

St. Francis’ life, which “points to the authentic source of peace,” offers insight amid this age marked with many divisions and wars, according to the Pontiff.

“The Franciscan vision of peace is not limited to the relations between human beings, but also embraces the whole of creation,” he continued. “Francis, who calls the sun ‘brother’ and the moon ‘sister’, who recognizes in every creature a reflection of divine beauty, reminds us that peace must be extended to the entire family of Creation.”

Before concluding and offering his Apostolic Blessing, the Pontiff offered a special prayer, which mentions the 800th anniversary of the saint’s passing, asking St. Francis’ intercession in helping the faithful to become peacemakers.

“In this Year of Grace, I wish to offer you a prayer that Saint Francis of Assisi may continue to instil in all of us perfect joy and harmony:”

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

Amen

El Papa León proclama un Año Jubilar especial con motivo del 800 aniversario de la muerte de San Francisco de Asís

En conmemoración del 800 aniversario de la muerte de San Francisco de Asís, el Papa León XIV ha proclamado el período comprendido entre el 10 de enero de 2026 y el 10 de enero de 2027 como un Año Jubilar extraordinario, durante el cual los fieles podrán obtener la indulgencia plenaria bajo las condiciones habituales, realizando una peregrinación a una iglesia conventual franciscana o a un lugar de culto dedicado al santo.

Los Frailes Menores Franciscanos anunciaron la proclamación en un comunicado de prensa del 10 de enero, afirmando que durante este Año Jubilar “se invita a los fieles cristianos a seguir el ejemplo del Santo de Asís, convirtiéndose en modelos de santidad de vida y testigos constantes de paz”.

El comunicado afirma que el jubileo extraordinario “representa una continuación ideal del Jubileo Ordinario de 2025”, que animó a los fieles a peregrinar y a orientar sus vidas hacia Dios. La Penitenciaría Apostólica emitió el decreto el 10 de enero.

“Siguiendo los pasos del Poverello de Asís, transformemos la esperanza que nos hizo peregrinos durante el Año Santo en fervor y celo de caridad efectiva”, afirma el comunicado. “Que este Año de San Francisco sea para cada uno de nosotros una ocasión providencial de santificación y testimonio evangélico en el mundo contemporáneo, para la gloria de Dios y el bien de toda la Iglesia”.

Este Año Jubilar está dirigido especialmente a los franciscanos de la primera, segunda y tercera orden, tanto regulares como seculares, señala el comunicado, así como a los institutos religiosos, sociedades de vida apostólica y asociaciones inspiradas en la espiritualidad franciscana o que siguen la Regla de San Francisco.

Sin embargo, los franciscanos añaden que “la gracia de este año especial se extiende también a todos los fieles sin distinción que, con el espíritu libre de pecado”, peregrinan a un lugar santo apropiado.

El comunicado señala que quienes están enfermos, son ancianos o no pueden salir de casa por motivos graves también pueden obtener la indulgencia plenaria ofreciendo sus oraciones y sufrimientos a Dios y participando espiritualmente en la celebración del Jubileo. Los franciscanos afirman que invitan a todos los fieles a participar en el Jubileo, y añaden: «Que el brillante ejemplo de San Francisco, que supo hacerse pobre y humilde para ser un verdadero alter Christus en la tierra, inspire nuestros corazones a vivir con auténtica caridad cristiana hacia nuestro prójimo y con sinceros anhelos de concordia y paz entre los pueblos».

Este mes, el Papa León también envió una carta a los Ministros Generales de la Conferencia de la Familia Franciscana, los superiores de las órdenes religiosas franciscanas, con motivo del octavo

centenario de la muerte de San Francisco.

El Papa León recordó que, al comienzo de su vida religiosa, San Francisco dijo que el Señor le había revelado que los frailes debían saludar a las personas diciendo: «Que el Señor les dé la paz». El Papa León afirmó que estas palabras comunican cómo el Evangelio trae la paz a la vida de quienes lo acogen.

La vida de San Francisco, que «señala la auténtica fuente de la paz», ofrece una valiosa perspectiva en esta época marcada por tantas divisiones y guerras, según el Pontífice.

«La visión franciscana de la paz no se limita a las relaciones entre los seres humanos, sino que abarca a toda la creación», continuó. «Francisco, que llama al sol "hermano" y a la luna "hermana", que reconoce en cada criatura un reflejo de la belleza divina, nos recuerda que la paz debe extenderse a toda la familia de la Creación».

Antes de concluir y ofrecer su Bendición Apostólica, el Pontífice ofreció una oración especial, que menciona el 800 aniversario del fallecimiento del santo, pidiendo la intercesión de San Francisco para que ayude a los fieles a convertirse en artífices de la paz.

«En este Año de Gracia, deseo ofrecerles una oración para que San Francisco de Asís continúe infundiendo en todos nosotros la alegría perfecta y la armonía:»

San Francisco, hermano nuestro, tú que hace ochocientos años fuiste al encuentro de la Hermana Muerte como un hombre en paz, intercede por nosotros ante el Señor.

Tú reconociste la verdadera paz en el Crucifijo de San Damián, enséñanos a buscar en Él la fuente de toda reconciliación que derriba todo muro.

Tú que, desarmado, cruzaste las líneas de la Guerra y la incompreensión, danos el valor para construir puentes donde el mundo levanta barreras. En estos tiempos de conflicto y división,

intercede por nosotros para que seamos constructores de paz: testigos desarmados y pacificadores de la paz que proviene de Cristo.

Amén

