

Dear Padre,

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our "Amen" to "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" means, "Truly, so be it!" It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). ●



CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOPIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 26 Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Mk 3:22-30	January 27 Weekday 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19 Mk 3:31-35	January 28 St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church 2 Sm 7:4-17 Mk 4:1-20	January 29 Weekday 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29 Mk 4:21-25	January 30 Weekday 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 Mk 4:26-34	January 31 St. John Bosco, Priest 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17 Mk 4:35-41	February 1 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a

Do you have a question for the Padre? Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 8:23-9:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 / Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



Judged or Invited?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus' words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on "repent," or is the emphasis on the announcement, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand"? Does it make any difference?

Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees" (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: "for the

kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).

In the invitation, we are challenged to see in a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What does "repent" mean to me?
A threat or an invitation?





Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com



Saturday, January 24: 4:00 pm

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

Sunday, January 25: 8:00 am

People of the Parish

Monday, January 26: 8:00 am

Repose of the soul of Heather Jenkins (Family)

Friday, January 30: 8:00 am

Repose of the soul of Charlotte Garrigan (Van & Nell Ray)

Saturday, January 31: 4:00 pm

Intentions of Josefina Maldonado (Josefina Maldonado)

Sunday, February 1: 8:00 am

People of the Parish



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

Mass at IC 8am & St. Jude 6pm

Friday, February 6:

Adoration following 8am Mass

Saturday, February 7:

1st Communion Retreat &

Parent Meeting 9am-12pm

Sunday, February 8:

PRE Class 9am

Confirmation Retreat & Parent Meeting

11am-3pm

Wednesday, February 11:

Our Lady of Lourdes Mass 8am

w/ Anointing of the Sick following

OCIA 5:30pm

Ladies Guild Gathering 6pm

Parish Offertory

Weekly Budget: \$5,400

January 18, 2026



Regular Collection: \$ 2254

Online Giving: \$ 453

(\$ 2693)

Special Projects: \$ 744

Families giving with Envelopes or Online Giving: 54 out 178

Thank you for your generosity & support!



WAYS TO GIVE



Online Giving



Eucharistic Ministers

&
Lectors



January 31 & February 1: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lector:

4:00 pm: Laura Bustos Sanchez

8:00 am: Nell Ray

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

January Birthday!

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



The Atlar 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 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

Lupita Berner
Richard Burpo
Beverly Canale
Willis Hayslett
Pamela Jenkins
Terry Johnson
James Judge
Martha Lattus
Pat Martinek
Barbara Pituch
Tom Pituch
Maria Searcy
David Sergerson
Marilyn Stigler
Del Torro
Paul Werner, Sr.
Katie Young

Friends & Family

John Akers
Heather Bacon
Butch Bugby
Karen Canale
Robert Chmielewski
Joseph Forner
Judy Gainwell
Edward & Glenda Griffith
Judy Guillory
Geri Hinson
Mayci Hogg
Frank Hutchinson
Jennie Jeffery
Dave Johnson
Rhonda Jones
Steven Kreis
Layla Karlz
Linda Lattus
Mary Jo Lattus

Nancy Long
Brian Maddox
Ma. Isabela Mandujano
Fr. Jim Martell
Josh McKinnis
Linda Moore
Gabby Moss Family
Barbara Parker
Logan Ricketts
Liliana Sanchez
Debra Spillers
Teresa Sadler
Liliana Sanchez
Ashley Taylor
Grace Townsend
Dottie Grace Tibbs
Doris Ann Toon
Doris & Van Veach
Joe Young
Pat Wade

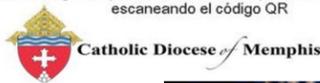
CALLED BY NAME

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



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

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



We are wanting to remind those of you who made a pledge to give to the United in Faith Campaign to please finish or continue your payments of your pledge. The office has a list of those outstanding totals if you do not remember how much is owed. Thank you to everyone for your generosity to our Diocese and our parish. You are greatly appreciated!

Queremos recordarles a aquellos que se comprometieron a donar a la Campaña Unidos en la Fe que por favor terminen o continúen con los pagos de su compromiso. La oficina tiene una lista de los totales pendientes si no recuerdan cuánto deben. ¡Gracias a todos por su generosidad con nuestra Diócesis y nuestra parroquia! ¡Los apreciamos mucho!

Come to Daily Mass on Monday, February 2 at 8am to celebrate the Presentation of the Lord Feast Day, also known as Candlemas Day.

Asista a la misa diaria el lunes 2 de febrero a las 8 de la mañana para celebrar la fiesta de la Presentación del Señor, también conocida como el Día de la Candelaria.



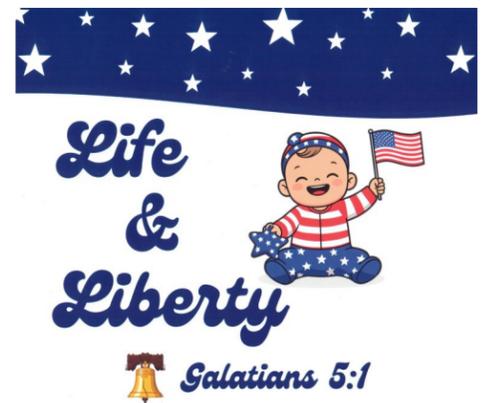
EXPLORING CATHOLICISM



THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Continue to pray for our OCIA candidates as they continue to discern to come into full communion with the Roman Catholic church.

A huge thank you to all who have helped provide snacks for the group during our classes Wednesday nights. You are all appreciated!



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.agapehousenwn.com

Join Us
DISCOVER CHRIST IN A NEW AND LIFE-CHANGING WAY!

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

MEMPHIS CURSILLO

MEN'S WEEKEND JAN 29-FEB 1
We're at full capacity! Get added to our wait list.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND FEB 26-MAR 1

LEARN MORE [QR] APPLY [QR]

For more information scan QR codes or visit our website at:
memphiscursillo.com
or email: precursillo@memphiscursillo.com

FOLLOW US @MEM_CURSILLO

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, We ask you to bless our diocese with selfless hearts that are willing to serve You, by serving Your Church.

Lord Jesus raise up from our homes those called by the Father: courageous and humble men to the Priesthood, faithful people to Consecrated Life and holy men and women to the sacrament of Marriage.

Holy Spirit, help us to live our universal vocation to holiness, by listening to the Father's voice and responding with a sacrificial love.

Holy Mary, Model of Vocations, teach us to hear and follow your Son. Holy Mary, Queen of Priests, sanctify our priests and obtain for us many more. Holy Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for our families and intercede for our children.

Amen

1st Communion Retreat
Sat. Feb. 7 from 9a-12p

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

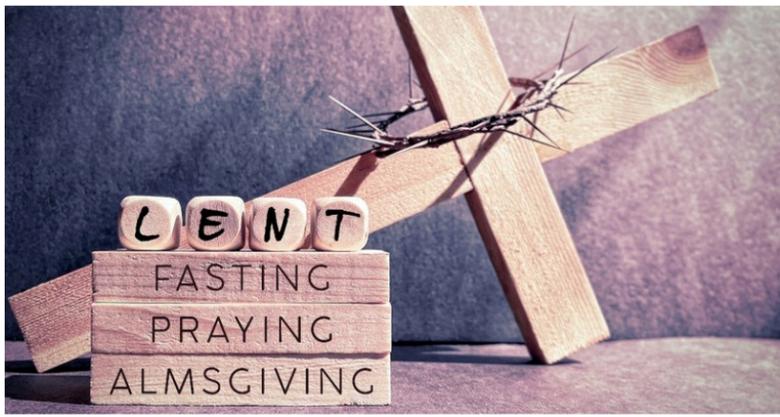
Es obligatoria la asistencia de un padre/madre y del estudiante. La reunión de padres se llevará a cabo después del retiro.

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.





Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. Here are a few items to look over to grow in your relationship with God.

How to Prepare for Lent

By Vinita Hampton Wright

How do you prepare for Lent? How have you prepared in the past? What are your ideas about what *should* happen during Lent? We have the traditional Catholic practices of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. So, we pray more than usual, or we pray with different emphases. We eat smaller or fewer meals or give up a favorite food or drink group. We give more of our resources or give them specifically to special works of mercy during Lent.

Prayer, fasting, and charitable giving continue to be quite good practices during Lent or at any time.

But, you might think, how do I prepare myself for this season? What needs to happen within so that I can practice with more integrity and intention whatever I'm doing on the outside?

There are plenty of ideas for actions and practices during Lent; coming up with ideas usually is not the problem. But we don't want to do anything simply to be doing it, even if it's a good thing. We don't want to make a list of merciful works so that we can place a checkmark beside each one as we accomplish it.

It's good to have a plan for *doing*. It's also good to have a plan for *being*.

How do I want to *be* during Lent this year? More quiet and thoughtful? More open to God's desires? Better able to sit with people who need me? More attentive to sacred readings, whether in church or in private? Do I need to be more compassionate toward my own fears and failings? Do I need to become more courageous about using the gifts God has given me?

In the days prior to Lent, try one or more of these suggestions.

- Ask God, every day, "What does my soul need?" Just ask, and wait quietly. Because we're very good at fooling ourselves about how we're doing, it might take several days of praying this question before we're truly open and humble enough to know the answer.
- Ask God, every day, "What about my life makes you happy?" Yes, when God looks at your life, some parts of it—perhaps many aspects of it—bring joy to God's heart. Think of how your children or grandchildren or other people close to you make you happy. God is in relationship with you, which means that your sins grieve God's heart, but also that your growth and love and freedom and kindness bring joy to God of the universe. Again, you will probably need to pray this a few times before you are willing to consider that you give God pleasure, that you make God happy in any way. Stick with this little prayer and keep listening.

Tell God, and yourself, every day, "I want to be open to the graces of this Lenten season." Maybe you're not open right now, or you're not as open and willing as you'd like to be or think you should be. What else is new? We can always open our lives a bit more, let go of more stuff, listen better, and do more quickly and passionately what we know helps nurture God's kingdom on earth.

This is a beginning: three short and simple prayer starters to ready yourself for the holy season.

Cómo prepararse para la Cuaresma

Por Vinita Hampton Wright

¿Cómo te preparas para la Cuaresma? ¿Cómo te has preparado en el pasado? ¿Qué ideas tienes sobre lo que debería suceder durante la Cuaresma?

Tenemos las prácticas católicas tradicionales de la oración, el ayuno y la limosna. Así que oramos más de lo habitual, o oramos con diferentes enfoques. Comemos menos o en menor cantidad, o renunciamos a una comida o bebida favorita. Damos más de nuestros recursos o los destinamos específicamente a obras de misericordia durante la Cuaresma.

La oración, el ayuno y la caridad siguen siendo prácticas muy buenas durante la Cuaresma o en cualquier momento.

Pero quizás te preguntes: ¿cómo me preparo para este tiempo? ¿Qué necesita suceder en mi interior para poder practicar con mayor integridad e intención lo que hago externamente?

Hay muchas ideas para acciones y prácticas durante la Cuaresma; encontrar ideas no suele ser el problema. Pero no queremos hacer algo simplemente por hacerlo, incluso si es algo bueno. No queremos hacer una lista de obras de misericordia para poder marcar cada una a medida que las cumplimos.

Es bueno tener un plan para hacer. También es bueno tener un plan para ser.

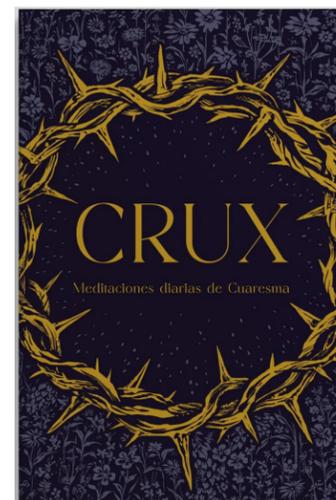
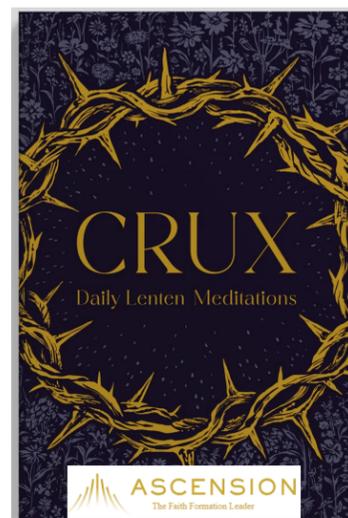
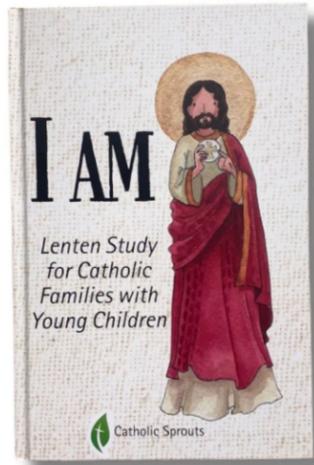
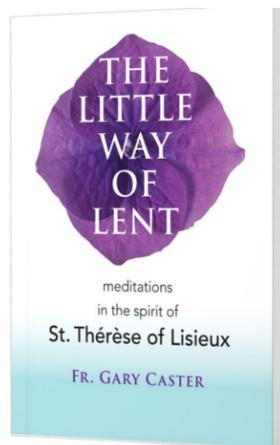
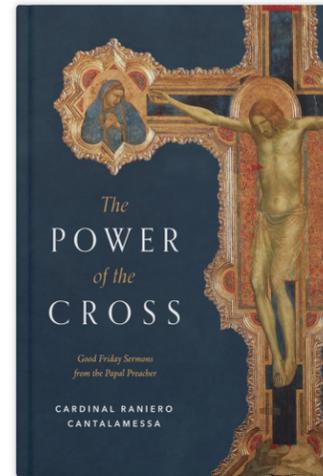
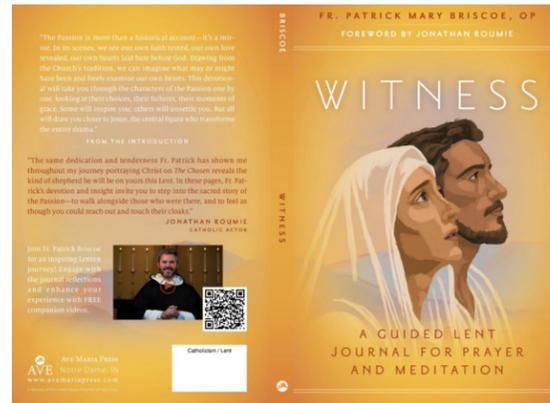
¿Cómo quiero ser durante la Cuaresma de este año? ¿Más tranquilo y reflexivo? ¿Más abierto a los deseos de Dios? ¿Más capaz de acompañar a las personas que me necesitan? ¿Más atento a las lecturas sagradas, ya sea en la iglesia o en privado? ¿Necesito ser más compasivo con mis propios miedos y defectos? ¿Necesito ser más valiente para usar los dones que Dios me ha dado?

En los días previos a la Cuaresma, prueba una o más de estas sugerencias.

- Pregúntale a Dios, todos los días: "¿Qué necesita mi alma?". Simplemente pregunta y espera en silencio. Como somos muy buenos engañándonos a nosotros mismos sobre cómo estamos, puede que se necesiten varios días de oración con esta pregunta antes de que estemos verdaderamente abiertos y lo suficientemente humildes como para conocer la respuesta.
- Pregúntale a Dios, todos los días: "¿Qué de mi vida te hace feliz?". Sí, cuando Dios mira tu vida, algunas partes de ella —quizás muchos aspectos— le dan alegría a su corazón. Piensa en cómo tus hijos, nietos u otras personas cercanas te hacen feliz. Dios está en relación contigo, lo que significa que tus pecados entristecen su corazón, pero también que tu crecimiento, tu amor, tu libertad y tu bondad le dan alegría al Dios del universo. De nuevo, probablemente necesitarás orar esto varias veces antes de que estés dispuesto a considerar que le das placer a Dios, que lo haces feliz de alguna manera. Persevera con esta pequeña oración y sigue escuchando.

Dile a Dios, y a ti mismo, cada día: "Quiero estar abierto a las gracias de esta Cuaresma". Quizás no estés abierto ahora mismo, o no estés tan abierto y dispuesto como te gustaría o crees que deberías estar. ¿Qué tiene de nuevo? Siempre podemos abrir un poco más nuestras vidas, desprendernos de más cosas, escuchar mejor y hacer con mayor rapidez y pasión lo que sabemos que ayuda a nutrir el reino de Dios en la tierra.

Este es un comienzo: tres breves y sencillas oraciones para prepararte para este tiempo santo.



EWTN Chaplain Fr. Joseph Mary Wolfe, MFVA