

# Dear Padre,

*I am struggling with our new pastor. He has been in our parish for less than six months, and nothing seems to please him. Everything has to change, and the parishioners have no input. I thought the days of “pray, pay, and obey” were over.*

The *Code of Canon Law* identifies the pastor as the shepherd of the parish. His duties require him to teach, sanctify, and govern the people entrusted to his care. However, canon law also envisions that the pastor will engage in pastoral care “with the assistance of lay members of Christ’s faithful” (CCL 519).

The intention of the law is to encourage the building up of a community using the “knowledge, prudence, and integrity” of every member (CCL 228, §2). Many issues, feelings, and even theologies make up the personalities of a parish. The one constant that needs to be present is the presumption of goodwill. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2478). If that is missing, then conflict, hard feelings, and many misunderstandings will result.

Without taking sides, I suggest that everyone take a deep breath. Then each of you—the pastor included—ask yourself, “Have I attempted to interpret this person or situation favorably? Have I made any rash judgments?” If honest and prayerful reflection reveals less-than-good intentions, now is the time for an attitude change and to acknowledge that a new start is needed. ●



GEMINI

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 2	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6	February 7	February 8
<i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Mal 3:1–4	2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a, 30–19:3	2 Sm 24:2, 9–17	1 Kgs 2:1–4, 10–12	Sir 47:2–11	1 Kgs 3:4–13	Is 58:7–10
Heb 2:14–18	Mk 5:21–43	Mk 6:1–6	Mk 6:7–13	Mk 6:14–29	Mk 6:30–34	1 Cor 2:1–5
Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32						Mt 5:13–16

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*The desire to work together for a common purpose reflects an essential reality: no one is Christian alone! We are part of a people, a body established by the Lord.... The Christian life is not lived in isolation.... It is lived with others, in a group and in community, because the risen Christ is present wherever disciples gather in his name.*

ADDRESS, ROME, JUNE 6, 2025



RICCARDO DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12–13 / 1 Corinthians 1:26–31 / Matthew 5:1–12a



“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:12a



## The New Evangelization

MIGUEL DULICK

**T**his season of the Church we call “Ordinary Time” is full of Jesus’ teaching about how to live our Christian lives. Today’s readings are especially rich. When Jesus takes his place as the New Moses to deliver his Sermon on the Mount, he begins, fittingly, with a new version of the commandments, but instead of “Thou shalt not,” they are blessings! And they are paradoxical; always a sign of the divine touch. The “poor in spirit” get the kingdom of heaven; mourners are blessed, for they shall be comforted.

Now, who is supposed to do the comforting? *We* are. If the beatitudes are new commandments, we disciples are to obey them, even rejoicing in the blessing of persecution. What kind of people sign up for this? Saint Paul describes to the Christians in Corinth what kind of people God chooses: the foolish, the weak, the lowly and despised, the nothings of this world, to shame and confuse those who seem to run things. The wisdom of God seems like nonsense in a world where power reigns supreme. That sweet soul Zephaniah, author of today’s first reading, saw the shift coming, from “don’ts” to “dos,” from bossy to beatitude: “Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land” (Zephaniah 2:3). You will be “a people humble and lowly” who will pasture your flocks (and do the work God intends you to do) with “none to disturb” you (Zephaniah 3:12, 13). Sign me up for that! ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

### Reflect

How do Jesus’ teachings work in the “real world”?



# Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com



**Saturday, January 31: 4:00 pm**

Intentions of Josefina Maldonado (Josefina Maldonado)

Intentions of Frank G. Canale (Beverly Canale)

**Sunday, February 1: 8:00 am**

People of the Parish

**Monday, February 2: 8:00 am**

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

Rest of the soul of Patsy Maceri (frank Maceri)

**Friday, February 6: 8:00 am**

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

**Saturday, February 7: 4:00 pm**

Rest of the Soul of Heather Jenkins (Family)

**Sunday, February 8: 8:00 am**

People of the Parish



Sunday, February 1:

PRE Cancelled due to roads

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

Sunday, February 15:

NO PRE Class—President's Day

Monday, February 16: Church Office closed

## Parish Offertory

Weekly Budget: \$5,400  
January 18, 2026



Regular Collection: \$ 574  
Online Giving: (\$ )

No Regular Collection counted due to inclement weather

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



WAYS TO GIVE



Online Giving



Eucharistic Ministers  
&  
Lectors



February 7 & 8: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lector:

4:00 pm: Donnie Bearden  
8:00 am: Tony Stigler

Eucharistic Minister:

4:00 pm: Joanie Boucher  
8:00 am: Brenda Pizza

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**

*February Birthday!*

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



*The Atlar Candles are for the Norman & Kathy Davis families.*

*Altar Linens Month of February: Pat Harmon  
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

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

On the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 25, 2026), we celebrate the "Sunday of the Word of God." This special day, established by Pope Francis in September 2019, is intended to remind us of the gift that sacred Scripture is to all of us.



In his apostolic letter "Aperuit Illis," Pope Francis said, "The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet, the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible."

Pope Francis envisioned that special attention would be paid to the word of God during Masses celebrated on this day, as well as by catechists and all the faithful. While he left it up to priests and individual communities to best determine how they wanted to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God, he noted the importance of enthroning the sacred text on the day in order to focus the attention of the assembly on it. In "Aperuit Illis," the pope also suggested that priests use their homilies to help people better appreciate the gift that has been passed to us in sacred Scripture, and he suggested introducing people to *lectio divina*, which is a contemplative method of reading the Bible.

"The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity," the pope said. "The word of God unites believers and makes them one people."

Although he established this special celebration, the pope emphasized that appreciation for sacred Scripture should not be limited to just one day.

"We should never take God's word for granted but, instead, let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters," he said.

The Sunday of the Word of God is a beautiful opportunity to find your Bible, open it to a favorite passage, and appreciate the words and faith that have been passed on to us, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

El tercer domingo del Tiempo Ordinario (25 de enero de 2026) celebramos el «Domingo de la Palabra de Dios». Este día especial, instituido por el Papa Francisco en septiembre de 2019, tiene como objetivo recordarnos el don que la Sagrada Escritura representa para todos nosotros.

En su carta apostólica «Aperuit Illis», el Papa Francisco afirmó: «La relación entre el Señor Resucitado, la comunidad de creyentes y la Sagrada Escritura es esencial para nuestra identidad como cristianos. Sin el Señor, que nos abre la mente para comprenderlas, es imposible entender las Escrituras en profundidad. Sin embargo, lo contrario es igualmente cierto: sin las Escrituras, los acontecimientos de la misión de Jesús y de su Iglesia en este mundo permanecerían incomprensibles».

El Papa Francisco deseaba que se prestara especial atención a la Palabra de Dios durante las Misas celebradas en este día, así como por parte de los catequistas y de todos los fieles. Si bien dejó a los sacerdotes y a las comunidades la libertad de determinar la mejor manera de celebrar el Domingo de la Palabra de Dios, destacó la importancia de entronizar el texto sagrado ese día para centrar la atención de la asamblea en él. En «Aperuit Illis», el Papa también sugirió que los sacerdotes utilizaran sus homilias para ayudar a las personas a apreciar mejor el don que se nos ha transmitido en la Sagrada Escritura, y propuso introducir a los fieles a la lectio divina, un método contemplativo de lectura de la Biblia.

«La Biblia es el libro del pueblo del Señor, que, al escucharla, pasa de la dispersión y la división a la unidad», dijo el Papa. «La Palabra de Dios une a los creyentes y los convierte en un solo pueblo».

Aunque instituyó esta celebración especial, el Papa enfatizó que la valoración de la Sagrada Escritura no debe limitarse a un solo día.

«Nunca debemos dar por sentada la Palabra de Dios, sino que debemos dejarnos nutrir por ella, para reconocer y vivir plenamente nuestra relación con Él y con nuestros hermanos y hermanas», afirmó.

El Domingo de la Palabra de Dios es una hermosa oportunidad para buscar nuestra Biblia, abrirla en un pasaje favorito y apreciar las palabras y la fe que se nos han transmitido, bajo la guía del Espíritu Santo.

truly restored there must be internal rebuilding.

**1 Maccabees** - The First Book of Maccabees concentrates on the human initiative in the Jewish struggle against oppression known as the Maccabean Revolt. The Second Book of Maccabees concentrates on the spiritual aspects of that struggle.

**Luke** - Luke's Gospel, just like his Acts of the Apostles, gives special attention to the power of the Holy Spirit. God's plan of salvation sets a new standard for the people of the world.

**Acts of the Apostles** - In this book, the Apostles are fully active and engaged in the work of Jesus Christ. Unlike in the Gospels, the Apostles are completely without fear as they preach the Good News and face all sorts of obstacles. How do we account for this startling change? The Holy Spirit is the key.

## Getting Started

Try tackling the Bible by concentrating on these 14 books first.

**Genesis** - As everyone knows, this book tells us about the beginning of heaven and earth. But most importantly, Genesis is about the beginning of God's relationship with us.

**Exodus** - The title of this book means "way out." In this book, the way out is the one that takes Israel out of Egypt. Still later, God shows the people the way out of exile. And, of course, in so many pages of the Bible, God is showing them the way out of sin.

**Numbers** - This fourth book of the Bible tells the story of Israel's journey to the Promised Land and reflects the physical and spiritual challenges that face the people on this journey.

**Joshua** - As successor to Moses, Joshua leads Israel to Canaan. God's promise to the patriarchs is now fulfilled.

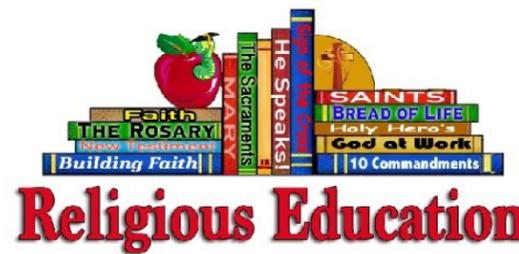
**Judges** - It is clear by the end of this

book that unless the people learn to focus on God first, they will be caught up in an endless cycle of death and destruction.

**1 and 2 Samuel** - These two books offer us some of the most captivating narratives of the Bible. The principal character is Samuel, who is a priest, judge and a prophet. At God's command, Samuel anoints Saul as the first true king of the Israelites. The Second Book of Samuel covers the kingship of David.

**1 and 2 Kings** - In these books there are two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. But there is really just one king for the people - the Lord God.

**Ezra and Nehemiah** - These two books are busy with rebuilding: the altar and temple in Jerusalem, the reestablishment of religious traditions overseen by Ezra, and the rebuilding of the walls of the city overseen by Nehemiah. But rebuilding is not enough. For the people to be



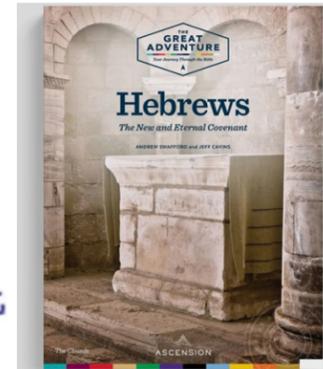
## Religious Education



### 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.



Tuesdays at 10 am

This study will be \$40 per person  
Sign up by Sunday, February 8 to order the books.

This will be 8 sessions, about an hour & a half long. Plan to begin February 17.



Join us for

**Ladies' FELLOWSHIP**

Wednesday, February 11th @ 6 pm in the Activity Building

Bring something chocolate for a fun Valentine's game!



**POPGORN BINGO**

Comité de Damas

Únete a nosotros

para la CONFRATERNIDAD de Damas

Miércoles 11 de febrero a las 6 p. m. en el

Edificio de Actividades.

¡Trae algo de chocolate para un divertido juego de San Valentín!



**BINGO DE PALOMITAS DE MAÍZ**

No PRE classes on Sun. Feb. 1 due to icy road conditions.

No habrá clases de PRE el domingo 1 de febrero debido a las condiciones de las carreteras, que están cubiertas de hielo.

### 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.



## How to Prepare for Lent—Before It Arrives

Don't blink. Lent will be here before you know it. Isn't that how it always is? The Christmas season is behind us and it feels like Ordinary Time has only just begun—But suddenly it's Ash Wednesday, and we're scrambling to decide what we're doing for [Lent](#) and wondering whether our choice of penance is too hard or too easy. This year, don't let Lent take you by surprise—have your plan in place. Here's how.

### How to Make a Plan for Lent

Before Ash Wednesday catches you unawares, make a point of sitting down—at the kitchen table, or at the chapel—and give some thought to how you want to spend this Lent. If you have no idea where to begin, rest assured: there is a solid foundation to work from. The Church doesn't leave us to figure things out ourselves. There are three holy practices which Catholics are called to embrace in penitential seasons such as Lent and Advent. These three practices are **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. When you make your Lenten plan, choose something specific from each category—and you're set for a grace-filled journey to Easter.

#### 1. Prayer

Lent is the perfect time to build virtuous habits. It gives us the grace to tackle what we couldn't otherwise. Since daily prayer is difficult for anyone who isn't a living saint, now is the time to counter this by developing consistent habits of prayer. Start by asking yourself: *what are my prayer habits now?* As Catholics, we ought to pray every day. Prayer is conversation and communion with the God who made us and loves us. No relationship would flourish if we failed to spend time in the presence of a loved one, conversing with them and offering them genuine attention.

If you are praying once a week at Sunday Mass or saying only a quick "Good morning, God!" as you head to work, make a simple commitment to daily prayer—and don't overdo it, in case you set yourself up for failures and guilt trips. How much time should we set aside for daily prayer? Holy priests and spiritual advisors say that fifteen minutes is the absolute minimum. That's a solid goal for all of us.

**Time spent in prayer should be adequate...A quarter of an hour is the absolute minimum, and anyone who is able should not hesitate to spend an hour on prayer, or even more every day...[But] A relatively short time (twenty minutes or half an hour), spent faithfully on mental prayer every day, is better than two hours now and then.**

Fr. Jacques Philippe, [Time for God](#) Prayer is not always easy. It can feel dry, distracted, or lonely. Don't get discouraged—there are things that help inspire, nourish, and strengthen prayer.

Find a really engrossing spiritual book or sign up for a devotional series such as [Journey to Easter](#) or [The Life of Christ](#). These things can bring about spontaneous prayer from the depths of our souls.

**In summary:** This Lent, try spending at least fifteen minutes in prayer a day. If you already do this, make the Rosary a daily habit. If you already do that, maybe add a Divine Mercy chaplet or a Holy Hour before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Give it some thought, and write down your commitment.**

#### 2. Fasting

Fasting is largely misunderstood today. Most Catholics think that fasting is a broad category of abstinence that includes giving up social

media, music while driving, Netflix, and so on. That's not really fasting, however. **Now, don't get me wrong: it's important to practice discipline and self-control over the things mentioned above.** When you do, you are strengthening your will and overcoming the desire for instant gratification and constant mind-numbing pleasure. Absolutely be encouraged to incorporate such disciplines into your life! **True fasting, however, relates to food—to our physical appetite—and cannot be replaced by anything.**

On all Fridays throughout the year, Catholics are requested to abstain from meat (thought outside of Lent, this can be substituted with another penance). However, on the Fridays of Lent, Catholics aged 14+ are **required to abstain from meat**. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (with exceptions for expectant women, for example) are required to fast. We do this by having only one full meal that day and two smaller meals that, added together, do not amount to the full meal. Of course, this itself is a *moderate* form of fasting. Fasting formerly meant taking *no food*.

Due to our structure and habits of eating today, many of us find this practically impossible. However: there is a way to build an ability to fast that is simpler than you might think. **Not easy—it does take a firm decision**—but simple, with the right help: Dr. Jay Richards wrote about it in his book [Eat, Fast, Feast](#). I sincerely recommend it. I discovered that it's *amazing* what the human body is capable of when it comes to fasting—and the benefits are truly God-given. As Mike Aquilina wrote in his article "[Introduction to Lent: Why do Catholics have to fast?](#)":

**The Bible spells out specific spiritual benefits of fasting. It produces humility (Ps 69:10). It shows our sorrow for our sins (1 Sam 7:6). It clears a path to God (Dan 9:3). It is a means of discerning God's will (Ezr 8:21) and a powerful method of prayer (8:23). It's a mark of true conversion (Jl 2:12).**

**Fasting has its health benefits, but it's not the same as dieting. Fasting is something spiritual and far more positive. Fasting is a spiritual feast. It does for the soul what food does for the body.**

If fasting still sounds intimidating, be encouraged. Keep yourself going strong all forty days by *not* fasting on the Sundays of Lent. In fact, Sundays in Lent are not officially part of the forty days. (If they were, Lent would be forty-six days long.)

**In summary:** Consider taking on some hardcore fasting. Maybe pick a few more days during Lent to practice the Ash Wednesday/Good Friday fast. Maybe have one or two meals a day on one particular day of the week. Some people manage to do a bread-and-water fast at least once a week. If all this sounds too overwhelming, you can simply stick to the requirements of the Church as mentioned above and do them *well*—with your whole heart and soul.

**Give this some thought, and write down your commitment.**

#### 3. Almsgiving

In all the excitement over fasting and giving things up, almsgiving is often forgotten. Yet almsgiving is a crucial work of charity that we Christians are called to participate in. Jesus praised the poor widow who gave "all she had" to the temple treasury (Luke 21:1-4). St. James reminded us that faith must go hand-in-hand with good works, such as care for the poor:

**What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?**

James 2:14-16

Lent is an important time for almsgiving, and each of us must give according to our situation. I was reminded by my parish priest that **almsgiving is not the tithing you're already doing**—it's giving above and beyond what you normally give. It is a true penance. This isn't easy to say, but when we give alms, we are supposed to give not merely from our "plenty," but enough to make it hurt—or at least pinch. But who to give to? Do you have trouble finding trustworthy causes? When it comes to monetary gifts, *we do have to be cautious about where our funds go*. Some organizations support things that contradict Church teaching and harm souls—and some are not transparent about their use of funds.

Thankfully, the Lepanto Institute has created [a helpful report on trustworthy causes](#). I have found it to be a good resource. [The Knights of Columbus](#) give 100% of your donation to charity—since they cover their own fees. You can specify which cause you want your money to go to, or leave it to them to put towards the cause that is most in need at that moment.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary caring for the poor, from the main altar of St. Elisabeth Cathedral in Košice, Slovakia. I have had the joy of knowing some of the women who work at [Be Not Afraid](#)—a non-profit that provides total support to parents whose unborn child has received a prenatal diagnosis. These can be the most forgotten families, and their babies are often denied proper care by doctors. Any amount we can give them is a huge gift.

For those who can't give money, we can seek to give our talent (making baby blankets for [Be Not Afraid](#), as one lady does) or our time (volunteering at a homeless shelter or pregnancy center).

**In summary:** Pray about what alms you can give and to who. Discuss it with Jesus. "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

**Give it some thought, and write down your commitment.**

#### Be Encouraged

*St. John the Apostle, teach us to love Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

It's going to be a fruitful Lent. When we're mentally and spiritually prepared, it's easier to stick with our resolutions. Do things that help you. If you need visual reminders, consider making some for yourself. Many people benefit from the "note-on-the-bathroom-mirror" tactic. Choose a Bible verse for Lent and stay inspired that way.

And let's pray for each other.

*What are you doing for Lent this year? If you want to have a powerful Lenten experience, you need a plan.*

*Check out our digital series, [A Holy Lent](#), as your guide from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Each day of this Lenten retreat is simple, insightful, and actionable, so that you can have the best Lent of your life. [Sign up](#) and take the journey with us!*



## Mass Times

Immaculate Conception:

8am & 7:15pm

St. Jude: 5:30pm



The Knights are asking the Ladies of the parish to help provide desserts for the upcoming Fish Fries.



February 27th,  
March 13th, &  
March 27th

Los Caballeros piden a las Damas de la parroquia que ayuden a proporcionar postres para el próximo Pescado Frito.



27 de febrero,  
13 de marzo y  
27 de marzo