

Dear Padre,

At a recent gathering, a relative questioned my family's continued participation in the Catholic Church because of the sexual abuse cover-up. What is the best way to address this question?

Resist the temptation to argue or make any response that is not respectful. Choose to respond with empathy and understanding; perhaps something like this: "I understand and respect your feelings. Some have made the difficult choice to leave the Church. Others find the choice to remain also difficult."

"As a mature and discerning person, I am not making excuses for behaviors that are inexcusable. I cannot and will not defend behavior that should not be defended. I choose to remain in the Church because I choose to remain in a relationship with Jesus, and that relationship includes my reception of the sacraments of the Church. I value the sacraments even as I remain vigilant about the conduct of those who have been entrusted with celebrating those sacraments. I retain my practice of the sacraments and, at the same time, I retain my responsibility to be alert to abusive behavior. This is not acceptance or approval of what most certainly happened. It is continuing to participate in what is beautiful and wise and true so that, in the company of other believers, I may become more like Christ."

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

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



JOHN MC ELLROY

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 21, 2025
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Amos 8:4-7 / 1 Timothy 2:1-8 / Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



Wanting to Be Wanted

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

More than anything, we want to be wanted. As infants, we reach out, wanting to be wanted. When we begin school and discover others who might be friends, we want to be wanted. As teenagers discovering the stirrings of something new and deep, we want to be wanted. And when we grow old, then still we want to be wanted.

The parables Jesus told were always about how God moves in our lives, how God is powerfully intertwined in all that is. Jesus told parables to give us a hint of where to find God. This Sunday's parable is about a rich man with a steward about to be dismissed. The steward then finds ways to ingratiate himself into others' lives so when he is dismissed, he won't be left

out in the cold. It's not the rich man who is the God-person in the parable. The rich got rich by abusing the poor. Rather, it is the steward who is the image of God—a God who, like the steward, is desperate to be accepted, to find a way into our lives. We might say clever...or even sneaky. It is God who finds a way into our lives when we are afraid, when we face the loss of love, when our worlds are falling apart, when we go looking for him. There, then, is God, eagerly wanting to be wanted.

Reflect

What do I do when I'm feeling unwanted?
Do I recognize that God wants me?

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world. [We see] too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference, and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalizes the poorest.

HOMILY, ROME,
MAY 18, 2025



JULIA-M-CAMERON / PEXELS

Monday

September 22
Weekday
Ezr 1:1-6
Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday

September 23
St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20
Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

September 24
Weekday
Ezr 9:5-9
Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

September 25
Weekday
Hg 1:1-8
Lk 9:7-9

Friday

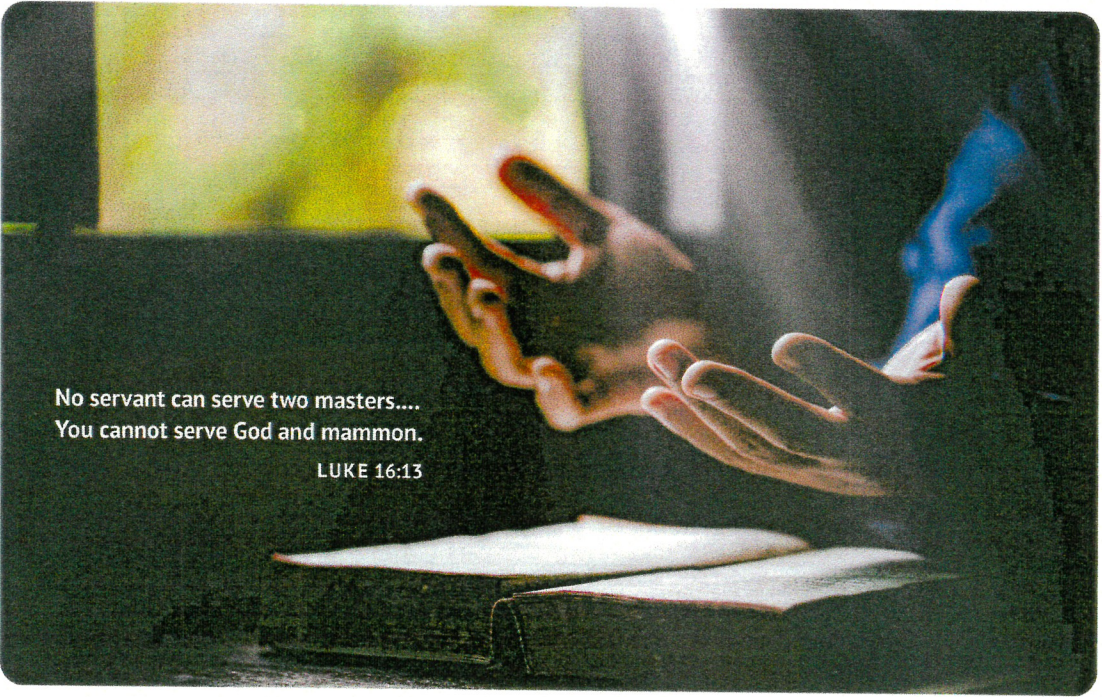
September 26
Weekday
Hg 2:1-9
Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

September 27
St. Vincent de Paul, Priest
Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a
Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday

September 28
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 6:1a, 4-7
1 Tm 6:11-16
Lk 16:19-31



No servant can serve two masters....
You cannot serve God and mammon.
LUKE 16:13



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September 21, 2025, Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time



ST. JUDE PARISH

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WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR: Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass CELEBRANT:

Sunday	Sep. 21, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Mass	Fr. Flickinger
Thursday	Sep.25, 2025	9:00/10:00 a.m.	Adoration and Mass	Fr. Pinto
Sunday	Sep. 28, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Mass	Fr. Flickinger
Thursday	Oct. 02, 2025	9:00/10:00 a.m.	Adoration and Mass	Fr. Pinto

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Sep. 21, 2025	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Thursday	Sep. 25, 2025	Bob Lewis	By: Claire Miller
Sunday	Sep. 28, 2025	Fran Sage	By: Laura Woods
Thursday	Oct. 02, 2025	Jim & Marilyn Cusack	By: J. & D. Cusack

TODAY: SUNDAY: 9-21-2025

NEXT SUNDAY: 9-28-2025

Reader	CCD Teachers	Reader	Bruce Herschleb
EO Ministers	J. Price & T. Karsen	EO Mins	K. Boyer & D. Herschleb
Servers	Bo, Noah, Alexa	Servers	Bella, Emma, Alanah

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Sep. 14, 2025	Target	\$ 2,100	Offered	\$ 1,904.00	\$ 200 .00
Year to Date		Target	\$ 18,100		\$ 19,764. 00	\$ 1,694.00
Attendance		105	Year-To-Date Attendance			1388

CHOOSE TO SERVE GOD DAILY.

No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other or be devoted to one and despise the other. The two masters Jesus is referring to are wealth, or earthly possessions, and God. The truth Jesus seems to be pointing out to us is that we must make a choice; we can't serve both. And clearly, our choice should be to serve God.

What does choosing to serve God require of us? It requires us to surrender control of our lives to God and trust Him completely. Our lives include our family, loved ones, livelihood, safety, and health. It calls us to trust God no matter what happens. When things go well, that can be easy. But when bad things happen, we might start questioning whether that trust is justified and begin looking for other options.

Choosing to serve God isn't a one-time decision; it's a daily choice. Earlier in the Gospel, Jesus highlights another truth relevant to this point: the person who is trustworthy in small matters is also trustworthy in big ones. In other words, the choices we make when the stakes are small will shape the kind of person we become and determine whether we succeed or fail as followers of the Lord.

Before facing that big moment when our trust in God is truly tested, there will have been many smaller tests: when we were tempted to act in an un-Christian way but chose to listen instead to the voice of our conscience; when we were tempted by vice but remained strong in virtue; when we forgave and prayed for the person who hurt us. All these are ways we choose daily to serve God.

And we must choose, because we might be tempted to straddle the fence—serving both God and our earthly interests. This is a strong temptation because our temporal, physical needs are deeply rooted. Plus, we live in a culture that values and rewards pursuing worldly goods. But, as Jesus warns, trying to pursue both won't work. We will end up choosing by default, and that default choice might not be the best one.

Fortunately, the Lord understands that these temptations exist and knows our weaknesses. He is always there to help us. If we realize we've been making many small wrong choices, the Lord waits for us at the sacrament of reconciliation to offer forgiveness, healing, and a fresh start. And here in the Eucharist, He gives us Himself as spiritual nourishment to strengthen us so we can choose to serve God today and every day.

FROM THE DRE

CCD started today. You can still sign up if you haven't already.
See Jen Price with any questions.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Sonny Laughlin, Julie Haley, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, and those on our prayer chain.

We are delighted to share that on Saturday, October 4th, at 1:00 p.m., Taylor Price and Dylan France will be joined in marriage at St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo. We warmly invite our church family to celebrate with us at the ceremony.
Sincerely, Jennifer and Brian Price

LIFE CHAIN - October 5, 2025, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on Westnedge Ave., between Meijer and Kilgore Road. HUMBLE. PRAY. SEEK. TURN. (2 Chronicles 7:14-15) Since 1987. Building Prayer Chains for the Unborn. Abortion hurts women – Jesus forgives and heals – peace begins in the womb – women deserve better than abortion – adoption is a loving option. Contact Deacon Jim or Betsy Wahmhoff Perales (269-330-0879) for more information. **There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway if you wish to participate.**

ROSARY COAST TO COAST – Date: Sun., Oct. 5, 2025. Location: K of C, Red Arrow Hwy., Paw Paw, MI. Time: 4 p.m. est (prayed in unison all across the USA). Contact Deborah Leath 574-210-1706 by text or email at dmcnab51@hotmail.com for more information. We in the United States share the conviction seen and acted on in Poland, Ireland and the British Isles. We hear the Holy Spirits call to pray for this country and all of its people through the Immaculate Mother Mary. *We have the power in our hands...will you join us?*

COMMUNAL ANOINTING – at St. John Bosco Church, 23830 Front Ave., Mattawan, MI 49071, on Sunday, September 28, 2025, at 3 p.m. There will be a communal Anointing of the Sick. Any Catholic who is sick, chronically ill, anticipating surgery, or in need of healing is encouraged to come to receive this sacrament.

ST. JUDE PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun., Sept. 21, 2025: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Blessing of the CCD Teachers, First Day of Class, Coffee & Donuts.
Thurs., Sept. 25, 2025: Adoration at 9 a.m. & Mass at 10 a.m.
Sun., Sept. 28, 2025: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thurs., Oct. 2, 2025: Adoration at 9 a.m. & Mass at 10 a.m.
Sun., Oct. 5, 2025: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Rosary at 9 a.m.
Thurs., Oct. 9, 2025: Adoration at 9 a.m. & Mass at 10 a.m.
Sun., Oct. 12, 2025: Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Rosary at 9 a.m.
Thurs., Oct. 16, 2025: Adoration at 9 a.m. & Mass at 10 a.m.
Sun., Oct. 19, 2025: Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Rosary at 9 a.m.
Thurs., Oct. 23, 2025: Adoration at 9 a.m. & Mass at 10 a.m.
Sun., Oct. 26, 2025: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Thurs., Oct. 30, 2025: Adoration at 9 a.m. & Mass at 10 a.m.

FROM THE DIOCESE

Jubilee Mass for Charitable Workers - September 26, 2025 - The Jubilee Mass for Charitable Workers will be celebrated with Bishop M. Lohse on **Friday September 26 at 6 p.m.** at St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Along with recognition of all charitable workers in the diocese there will also be special recognition of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo's 50th anniversary.

Diocesan Blue Mass - September 28, 2025 - The Most Rev. Edward M. Lohse cordially invites people of all faiths to celebrate a Blue Mass honoring all first responders: Police, Fire, EMT and Military Personnel. Mass will be celebrated at St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, at **11:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 28, 2025.**

Bishop Lohse has committed to providing professional counseling or therapy to victims of clergy sex abuse in the Diocese. Victims can access 24-hour support through the crisis hotline established by Catholic Charities at 800-873-8336.