



GUARDIAN ANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH **ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON**

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 487, Wallis, TX 77485-0487

Church Physical Address: 5610 Demel St. Wallis, TX 77485

Parish Website: <https://guardianangelwallis.org>

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES – FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Father Thuy (Twee) Quang Nguyen
CALL FOR Emergency: Rectory: (979) 478-2381
Deacon Carlito "Charlie" Buhay
Parish Administrator: Debbie Lambert
E-Mail: gacwallis@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Annette Rogers
Church Open: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm everyday
Grotto Open: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Parish Office Physical Address: 5616 Gresham Street
Parish Office Telephone Number: (979) 478-6532
Parish Office Fax Number: (979) 478-2735
For Bulletin Information: angels478@gmail.com
CFF: PRE-K– 5th, Jr. High: (979) 478-6532
Confirmation: Brenda Manak
Life Teen: Shelbi & Chris Chapa, Braden & Makayla
Janecek and James & Haley Pearson
Deacon Charlie & Marie Buhay: gac lifeteen@gmail.com

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Mass: 6:30 pm
Sunday Masses: 9:30 am & 11:00 am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday Mass: 9:00 am
Friday Mass: 9:00 am

Eucharistic Adoration: Following Friday 9:00 am Mass until 10:30 am

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptism: Please pick up guidelines & form
in the Parish Office.

Marriage: Contact pastor at least six months prior
to the wedding.

Confession: Friday 9:30 am during Eucharistic Holy Hour

Saturday, 6:15 pm or by appointment

Weekly Mass Schedule

Sat., Feb. 15, 6:30 pm Erin Kulhanek+; Pete & Edith Kulhanek+;
Pete Cartesio+ and Hal Briggs+ (David Kulhanek)
Bessie Kosik+ (Paula Wedegartner)

Sun., Feb. 16, 9:30 am William Dujka+ (Mary Lou Dujka)
11:00 am Parish Family

Mon., Feb. 17, Tues. Feb. 18, – NO MASS

Wed., Feb., 19 9:00 am Louis W. Peter+ (Mary Cudd)

Thurs., Feb. 20 – NO MASS

Fri., Feb. 21, 9:00 am In Celebration of Father Thuy's Birthday

Sat., Feb. 22, 6:30 pm Rugero Taboada (Adriana Taboada & Family)
Rita Lowman+ (Steve & Annette Smith)

Sun., Feb. 23, 9:30 am Daniel Prihoda+ (Evelyn Prihoda)
Annie Lezak Pavlicek+; Edith & Dennis Mlcak+
(Glen & Irene Blahuta)
11:00 am Erich Gabrys+ (Annette Rogers)

Sanctuary Lite: In Memory of Erich Gabrys (Evelyn Prihoda)

Collection, Drop Box & Mail – \$7,113.00

"THANK YOU" for your generosity!

Mail weekly donation to:
Guardian Angel Catholic Church
P.O. Box 487, Wallis, TX 77485-0487
or use the Drop Box

Make weekly donation to the church on line

Go to the Archdiocese website - archgh.org
Click on "Ways to Give" - top right of the screen
Click on "Parish Offering Support" - left side of screen
Click on the dollar amount they wish to donation
Go down to Choose Your Parish - drop down box
and click on Guardian Angel Wallis/Parish
Offering
Complete billing information;
Complete payment details. Click on Donate

Formed: The Catholic Faith on Demand

Visit **Formed.org** and click on "I belong to a parish" – use Guardian Angel Catholic Church (Zip code 77485)

KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE at HOME, in SENIOR SERVICES, NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING

Consuelo Aguilar, Thomas Aguilar Family, Don Allphin, Lupe Alvarado, Ruben Alvarado, Julie Andersen, Mikah Applin, Allan Areys, Leslie Argueta, Mary Arredondo, Jose Armando Arriaga, Caleb Avila, Orion Baldwin, Charlie Barta, Louis Bartos, Margie Bartos, Lorna Berger, Maddie Bexley, Dr. Michael Bishop, Tyler Blaschke, Louis Blazek, Dennis Bloomberg, Westley Shane Bodle, Sheri Foltz Brackman, Bary Bradshaw, Donald Breaux, Barbara Brown, Steve Brown, Sienna Buchanan, Bill Buford, Lucy Butler, Justin Cain, Don Carter, Ann Cartesio, Christine Cassada, Nancy Chastain, Virgil Chastain, Kathleen Clough, Dennis Connelly, Johnathan Conner, Jason Cook, Sally Coolidge, Sam Cribbs, Jr., Karen Cunda, Jan Daenen, Margie David, Mac Davidson, Joseph Distefano, Mike Doerge, Shawn Dolezal, Homer Charles Doty, Jr., Scott Dougherty, Emma Dusek, Kenneth Dusek, Charles Earley, David Emswiler, Charles Erdelt, Kenneth Emis, Larry Foltz, Frank Ferrell, Mary Ferrell, Steve Ferrell, Angie Flores, Anna Forsythe, Emily Forsythe, Lori Gagne, Ann Gallagher, Bobby Garcia, Jake Garcia, Jacko Garrett, Dan Gertson, Jim Gibson, Ryan Gillson, Guadalupe Gonzalez, Gabi Gray, Johnny Griffin, Jim Grigar, Joe Gutierrez, Jr., Monica Gutierrez, Victor Gutierrez, Margaret Gwosdz, Stephen Haas, Joe Hake, Jim & Lee Hansen, Pat Hanzelka, Edmund Hedge, Sharon Heimann, Linda Heinta, Tristan Heller, Josie Helton, Eulalio Hernandez, Mary Hernandez, Victor Hernandez, Kelly Hobbs, Katherine Hoelscher, Roselyn Holub Sluis, Pat Horak, Sheryl Hubart, Amado Iglesias, Lauren Janecek, Levi Janecek, Marvin Janicek, Terry Jenkins, Leslie Jez, Mark Johnson, Diane Jones, Katherine Jones, Peggy Jones, Kenneth Jordan, Vlasta Jurek, Rachel Kellner, Evelyn Kieke, Carolyn King, Annie Mae Korenek, Rachel Kostecka, Annette Kovar, Tina Kovar, Geraldine Krampota, Irene Krenek, Eleanor Alvarado-Krosen, Lisa Kruger, Tracer Kruzel, Patrick Kubena, Joyce LaFleur, Lois Latham, Gil Lazo, Frank Longoria, Mark Longoria, Elvira Luna, Scherri Macha, Kendall Manna, Laken Manna, Ann Marek, Bonnie Marek, James Mark, Alexia Marquez, Catalina Martinez, Edgar Martinez, Jose Luis Martinez, Lila Martinez, Guy Matula, Melony Mazuca, James McCain, Ron McCain, McKenna McCormick, Lance McLean, James McMann, Matthew Medina, Ann Merry, Lenell Michalsky, Stanley Michulka, Alvin Minarcik, Charlie Minks, Cheryl Minks, Joey Minks, Robert Minks, Daniel Montalvo, Mary Montalvo, Hilda Morris, Jesse Nanes, Jr., Dave Nicholson, Karen Noblitt, Janie Norris, Larry Norris, Lawrence Novak, Charlene Nowak, Sherry Nowak, Buddy Oldag, Dorothy Orsak, Ricky Padilla, Jason Park, Michael Pateman, Peyton Perez, Ronnie Peters, Jerome Petrosky, Mark Phillips, Eric Pierce, Mark Plott, Susan Plowman, Joan Poenitzsch, Vicki Poorman, Edith Pruitt, Ray Ramirez, Carolyn Rash, Arlen Reese, Joanie Stryk Rethlake, Kelly Reznicek, Roy Reznicek, Matthew Ridgway, Doris Ritter, Karen Robinson, Cesar Rodriguez, Riley Rodriquez, Carter Rogers, Linda Rose, Kodie Rosniak, Nardina Russo, Ripp Ryan, Yandel Salgado, Katy Sciba, Terra Schooler, Cherrel Scott, Cindy Sherman, George Sherman, Maxine Sherman, Dianne Sliva, Roman Sliva, Ed Smith, Jean Smith, John Smith, Cynthia Smyth, Curt Sorenson, Amanda Sowa, Doug Spinks, Lois Stahl, Robert Stone, Hailey Svoboda, Irene Svoboda, Shauna Teague, Herbert Thamm, Riley Thomas, Terry Thomas, Lillian Thormaehlen, Melissa Trahan, Joy Turman, Irma Urias, Gene Valenta, Sherri Vavricka, Virginia Verm, Connie Vest, Larry Vitek, Rita Walger, Nancy Walker, Robert & Janaee Walston, Dottie Watthuber, Bonnie Wilcox, David Wilson, Bethany Wines, Roberta Wishon, Patty Witte, Melinda Witte, Juan Zacala, Mark Zurdovich

GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER BLANKET RECIPIENT

To make arrangements for a blanket, contact: Tommy Hammermiller 979-478-630



**Please pray for the following priests whose anniversaries of death
are during the month of February:**

February 1, 1904 Rev. Vac Chlapik
February 1, 1915 Rev. F.M. Huhn
February 2, 1930 Rev. F. Nona
February 2, 1995 Rev. Abraham Sy Thuyen Ho, OP
February 2, 2004 Msgr. Jack B. Jones
February 3, 1968 Rev. Joseph C. Morrell
February 3, 1968 Rev. Thomas A. Ryan
February 5, 1978 Rev. Joseph Coll
February 6, 1955 Rev. N.T. Domanski
February 7, 1935 Msgr. John Nicholson
February 7, 1935 Rev. Christopher Preker
February 8, 1995 Rev. A. Wayne Elkins
February 9, 1996 Msgr. Cornelius P. Flynn
February 10, 1936 Rev. John Baptist O'Leary
February 10, 1991 Msgr. Frank D. Urbanosky
February 10, 1997 Rev. John Prill
February 11, 1957 Rev. Fabian Stindle
February 11, 1957 Rev. Joseph Klobouk
February 11, 1978 Rev. John Zimmer, CSsR
February 12, 1906 Rev. J.J. Costello, CSB
February 12, 1923 Rev. Pete J. Clancy
February 13, 1988 Rev. Richard Johnson, CSsR
February 13, 2001 Rev. Charles Ferguson
February 13, 2011 Msgr. Joseph H. Crosthwait

February 14, 1916 Rev. D.F. Berberich
February 14, 1951 Rev. Emil Landry
February 14, 2078 Msgr. Jerome J. Tydlacka
February 14, 1979 Rev. E.C. Fowler
February 15, 2018 Rev. Aureliano Santa-Olaya
February 16, 1951 Rev. Walter Fraher, MS
February 17, 1879 Rev. Theodore Greyenbuhl
February 17, 2017 Rev. Bruce H. Noble
February 18, 1933 Rev. Otto Niekamp
February 19, 1883 Rev. Joseph Mosiewicz
February 19, 1960 Msgr. George A. Wilhelm
February 19, 1965 Rev. Henry V. Parmentier
February 20, 1968 Rev. Florimond B. Vanholme, SSC
February 20, 1984 Msgr. William D. Steele
February 21, 1983 Rev. Leonard C. Quinlan, CSB
February 21, 2005 Rev. Robert A. Bordenkircher, OP
February 22, 1879 Rev. Martin Weinzaepflen
February 22, 2001 Rev. Ed Baur, SVD
February 24, 1974 Rev. Henry J. Saxon
February 24, 2011 Rev. David H. Noble
February 25, 1973 Rev. Vincent J. Guinan, CSB
February 27, 1980 Rev. Alfred P. Caird, CSB
February 28, 1913 Rev. Pierre C. Saint-Onge

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time:

February 16 That we have the strength and courage to joyfully proclaim our faith, especially in uncomfortable situations. *"Blessed are you when people hate you...exclude and insult you and denounce your name...on account of the Son of Man."* – Luke 6:22

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time; the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

**"When they brought their boats to the shore,
they left everything and followed him."**

– Luke 5:11

Notice: We are updating our church files and would ask if there have been any changes to your name, address, phone number or marital status please call the parish office so we can update our files. Thank you!

Guardian Angel Catholic Church Scholarship Applications

Applications for high school seniors are in the narthex of the church, YRC, or parish office.
Completed scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 4, 2025

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2024 CHURCH CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS
are now available. Please call the Parish Office
to request a statement.

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Happy Birthday Fr. Thuy!
February 21



**May you be gifted with many blessings from
God, today and always. Praying that the Holy
Spirit continues to strengthen and protect you
as you serve our Parish. Have a wonderful
birthday!**

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**The parishes of Immaculate Conception and Sts. Peter and Paul
invite you to a Pre-Lenten Parish Mission**

***Responding to the Spirit:
In the Soul, In the Church, In the World
with Fr. Bruce Nieli, C.S.P.***

Venue: Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Bellville, Texas

Monday, 2/24 – Responding to the Spirit in the Soul
Tuesday, 2/25 – Responding to the Spirit in the Church
Wednesday, 2/26 – Responding to the Spirit in the World

Confessions: 5:00-6:15 PM
Mission: 6:30 PM



ASH WEDNESDAY BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

GUARDIAN ANGEL - WALLIS

10:00 am Mass

4:30 pm Mass

Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent
7:00 PM

ST. MARY'S - FRYDEK

8:00 am Mass

6:30 pm Mass

Stations of the Cross - Fridays of Lent
7:00 PM

GUIDELINES FOR LENTEN OBSERVANCE

Entering more deeply into the Lenten season of penance and renewal

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th, 2025. Below are the guidelines of Lenten observance for the faithful in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of *fast and abstinence*.

Fridays of Lent are days of *abstinence*.

As outlined on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website on Lenten fasting and abstinence, "fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year and have not yet reached their 60th year. Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken, not to equal one full meal. Abstinence (from meat) is obligatory for all who have reached their 14th year.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the 'paschal fast' to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of complete abstinence (from meat) for all who have completed their 14th year.

Through our works of prayer, fasting, and abstinence, let us heed the prophet Joel's exhortation to return to God with our whole heart (2:12)."

Lent is a penitential season and as such religious practice such as daily Mass, reception of the Sacrament of Penance, the devotion of the Stations of the Cross, works of charity and justice, and acts of self-denial are highly encouraged.

Magnify 2025

All young adults are invited to join us for Magnify at St. Mary's Seminary (9845 Memorial Dr., Houston) on Saturday, March 22 from noon to 8:15 p.m. Magnify, formerly known as the Archdiocesan Young Adult Day, will include a keynote speaker, small group discussions, workshops, Mass, and time for social activities. Our English Keynote is Sr. Albert Marie Surmanksi, OP, an Associate Professor of Theology at the University of St. Thomas in Houston and St. Mary's Seminary. Our Spanish Keynote is Mari Pablo, a national speaker through Ascension Press. This year's theme is "Journey to the Father's Heart" (Luke 15: 20, 31). Early bird registration is \$45 (register by February 17) or regular cost is \$55 (register by March 17). At the door registration is \$65 (register by March 22). All details for the day are available online at: www.archgh.org/magnify. This is a bilingual event with offerings available in English and Spanish.

Charis Retreat for Young Adults

All young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to the upcoming Charis What Next? Retreat. The What Next? Retreat is designed for young adults who are interested in taking time out from their busy lives to prayerfully reflect on the transitions they have faced or are currently facing. This retreat allows young adults the opportunity to reflect on how their experiences of transition influence their faith, and how their faith can guide, comfort, and support their journey of transition. This is a 3-day, 2-night retreat based on Ignatian Spirituality and will be held on April 25-27, 2025, at the Circle Lake Retreat Center (19000 Circle Lake Dr., Pinehurst, TX). The cost is \$185 per person (includes food and lodging). Register online by Sunday, April 13. No refunds will be given for cancellations after the April 13th deadline. We have housing available for married couples, please select the option at registration. For more information and to register, visit: www.archgh.org/charis.

Imposter Priest Email/Texting Scams

Recently, there have been several reports of fraudulent email solicitations for financial support, usually in form of gift cards coming from email accounts identifying as Archdiocese priests, including Cardinal DiNardo. Please be advised that Father Thuy would never make such appeals to the parish community requesting gift cards, bank account changes or any financial assistance.

There has also been a report from a Deacon that a different type of phone scam tried to victimize him. The caller told the Deacon that the caller was with the Harris County Sheriff's Department and that the Deacon had warrants out for his arrest for missing jury duty. The Deacon was told by the caller that he could go to a local grocery store and buy \$5,000 in gift cards for his bail. If he failed to do that he would be arrested. The caller insisted the Deacon remain on the line. The caller sounded authentic, but the Deacon refused to cooperate. We were able to confirm there were no warrants out for his arrest whatsoever.

Additionally, there are **new artificial intelligence (AI) generated scams** to be on the lookout for. If you receive an email, text or phone call please notify the parish office immediately. You can also visit the Attorney General, Ken Paxton's website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov. Click on Scam Alert: "AG Paxton Warns Texans about Text Message Scam"

FIGURES ON FRONT OF ORIGINAL ALTER



The central image is the face of Jesus with a crown of thorns on ruffled fabric. The symbol of **St. Veronica** is a veil bearing the face of Christ with a crown of thorns. Veronica, one of the women who followed Christ on His way to Calvary, is said to have offered Christa her veil to wipe the sweat from His face. Tradition has it that the imprint of His features remained on the cloth. There is no historical or scriptural reference to this event. Nonetheless, the story remains part of Christian lore.

The figures on either side of Christ's face most likely represent the four evangelists, **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John**. Ezekiel 1:1-10 tells of a vision: "...figures resembling four living creatures...their form was human...but each had four faces and four wings...each of the four had the face of a man...a lion...an ox and...an eagle." These four beings have become symbols of the evangelists, who are often represented as winged versions of their symbol. Here the artist uses the man with the creature (not a winged creature) to help the viewer identify the evangelist.

Each of the four evangelists is depicted with a book. In religious symbolism, a book represents the Word of God. When the book is held by an evangelist, it represents the book(s) he wrote. A book in the hands of an apostle represents his learning or being a teacher of Christian faith. When a work of art includes both evangelists and apostles, books are carried by the evangelists; the apostles carry scrolls. Books in the hands of other saints show they were well educated in the Scriptures.

Matthew is shown as a man, in this case with a boy, perhaps Jesus. This is because the opening of his gospel contains the genealogy of Jesus. Matthew's gospel focuses more on Jesus' humanity than on his divinity.





The lion is **Mark's** evangelist symbol. This refers to the opening lines of his Gospel that speak of a voice crying in the wilderness. The lion is also a symbol of resurrection because of an ancient document called *The Bestiary*, an interesting mix of facts and fable. According to *The Bestiary*, lion cubs are born dead and after three days are brought back to life by the lioness. Though *The Bestiary* was condemned by Pope Gelasius in 492 AD, some of the symbolism continues to be used. Mark's gospel account focuses heavily on Jesus' resurrection.

When portrayed in art, **Luke** is an ox. The ox refers to how Luke's gospel opens, with Zacharias sacrificing an ox. Luke's gospel focuses on the atoning work of Jesus. This involves His fulfilling the office of priest--being a mediator between sinners and God the Father. The ox, a sacrificial animal, represents the atonement message found in Luke's gospel.

The eagle is **John's** evangelist symbol. John was likened to the eagle because he aspired to soar ever higher seeking the truths of God.



This is the continuation of a series on the history of our historic church.



CFF CORNER

Classes begin at 8:00 am

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Kindergarten
First Grade
Second Grade
Third Grade
Fourth Grade
Fifth Grade
Sixth Grade
Seventh Grade
Eighth Grade

The Ten Commandments Teaches to do Right, Reviewed Prayers
Jesus Does Wonderful Things
The Mass, Part 1
The Communion of Saint, St. Valentine
The Spiritual Works of Mary
Holy Orders
Baptized for Mission
Sacraments of Initiation
Baptism

CFF Class Schedule:

Classes begin at 8:00 am

February 16, 2025

February 23, 2025

March 2, 2025

March 9, 2025 (NO CLASS)

March 16, 2025 (NO CLASS)

March 23, 2025

March 30, 2025

Life Teen Schedule: (YRC)

Classes begin at 9:30 am

February 23, 2025 – Fundraiser

February 28, 2025 – Lock In 6:30-10:00 pm

March 23, 2025

April 6, 2025

April 13, 2025

April 18, 2025 – Live Stations of the Cross

April 27, 2025

May 4, 2025

May 18, 2025

CONFIRMATION I CLASS SCHEDULE: (YRC)

Classes Begin at 6:45 pm

February 19, 2025

March 5, 2025

March 19, 2025

April 2, 2025

April 16, 2025

CONFIRMATION II CLASS SCHEDULE: (Fr. Richard's Bldg.)

Classes Begin at 6:45 pm

February 19, 2025

March 5, 2025

March 19, 2025

April 2, 2025

April 16, 2025

OUT-OF-SEQUENCE CLASSES: (CCE Bldg., 5th Grade Classroom)

Classes Begin at 6:30 pm

February 18, 2025

February 25, 2025

March 4, 2025

March 11, 2025

April 1, 2025

April 8, 2025

Guardian Angel Catholic Church is welcoming tours



Come and experience a piece of history that dates back to 1913. Beautiful life size statues and stained-glass windows.

Guardian Angel Catholic Church is listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The church is a fine example of wood-frame, Gothic Revival architecture. Both its interior and exterior reveal an attention to the appropriate Gothic detailing.

Our Prayer Garden located next to the church reveals: A powerful and traditional image of Jesus breaking Bread while seated at the center of a contemporary installation of "The Last Supper". The twelve empty seats invite YOU to sit at Christ's table and become His disciples of today.

Life Size (bronze) statue of Jesus
by Timothy P. Schmalz



The Grotto:
being a place of
peace, prayer and
natural beauty for
you. Also, you
would like to
light a candle to
pray for your
loved one.



**Please call our parish
office (979) 478-6532,
Monday-Friday from 9:00
am to 1:00 pm to book a
tour.**



Saint Teresa of Calcutta is a symbol of love and compassion. Come sit down with her, have a conversation with her, and she surely will show you a special way to serve and love the Lord your God and your neighbors.



And raising his eyes
toward his disciples
he said: "Blessed are
you who are poor, for
the kingdom of God
is yours."

LUKE 6:20

It's All about the Roots

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Where we put down our spiritual roots matters. For some, the old adage "Bloom where you are planted" may offer wisdom; however, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that if we find ourselves planted in a lava bed or a salty and empty land, we won't do much blooming. We'll be no more than a shriveled, barren bush. So, where we plant our inner spiritual lives makes a difference.

This week's gospel may seem to sap all the joy out of life. Woe if you have money to spend, a banquet to feast on, fun and laughter to dress up your days. Woe to you, it seems to caution, because when you die, the opposite will be your lot. What's so wrong, we wonder, with having cash in our pockets, food on our tables, and a good time once in a while? Life can be downright dreary otherwise.

The answer, of course, is that there is nothing wrong with any of that—unless that's where we put down our roots. In other words, if that's what life is all about, sooner or later, we are likely to discover we have become a barren bush standing in lava waste. Jesus didn't come to suck the joy out of life but to give us a heads up on how to live a life that is full. He hoped we might avoid the lure that can become a wasteland. He hoped we might become "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream" (Jeremiah 17:8). ●

Reflect

Where are your roots? Are you growing and thriving?

Dear Padre,

I have always been an “every Sunday” Catholic. My problem is that holy Communion doesn’t feel that special. I believe that it’s the Body and Blood of Christ, but receiving feels “routine.” Sometimes I’m even distracted while receiving. Help?

Do you remember the story of the transfiguration of Jesus? (See Luke 9:28–36.) Jesus took his three special disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountain, and while Jesus was praying, what did they do? They fell asleep! In the very presence of Jesus, their Lord and Master.

Human beings cannot maintain feelings of awe and ecstasy for long periods of time. We would be exhausted. Feelings don’t always reflect the specialness of the moment. That is why good habits are so important. Feelings may elude us, but we can fall back on the habit of Sunday Mass. Just as two contented, long-married people don’t feel like they did on their honeymoon, they still quietly enjoy the habit of each other’s company.

Lent is coming soon. You might consider shaking up your routine a little. Attend one weekday Mass. Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures for that Sunday and praying the entrance antiphon or the psalm. If you don’t already, consider volunteering as a choir member, lector, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Meanwhile, continue to receive holy Communion, giving thanks that it is readily available, and perhaps offer a prayer for communities where Communion every Sunday is not possible. ●

The Redemptorists / 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*.



REIMER / SHUTTERSTOCK



STUDIO ROMANTIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus says [his people] are blessed because they are poor. In what sense? In the sense that Jesus’ disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Monday

February 17

Weekday

Gn 4:1–15, 25

Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday

February 18

Weekday

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10

Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday

February 19

Weekday

Gn 8:6–13, 20–22

Mk 8:22–26

Thursday

February 20

Weekday

Gn 9:1–13

Mk 8:27–33

Friday

February 21

Weekday

Gn 11:1–9

Mk 8:34–9:1

Saturday

February 22

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1–4

Mt 16:13–19

Sunday

February 23

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 26:2, 7–9,

12–13, 22–23

1 Cor 15:45–49

Lk 6:27–38